



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



NUMBER 31

JULY 2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings One and All!

The delay in receiving this newsletter is my fault. I need to apologize to Sam for holding him up. There is no good reason other than I have been extremely busy, but so has everyone else. Since this will be my last opportunity to address you as the president of this organization, it is my wish and desire to make some profound remarks to recap my tenure; but profound I am not, so you will just have to indulge me.

The first reunion that my family and I attended was in Killeen in 1989. Since that time, I have been able to attend every reunion, each creating their indelible mark in my memory. We have always been able to have a good time no matter where we have been and who the attendees have been. A lot of you have become the closest friends that I have. It has been an extreme pleasure for me to be able to meet every one of you.

I realize that we continue to tout the reunions as a must-do event. I also realize that I have been very fortunate to have been able to attend the ones that I have. My job and family responsibilities have always been able to be adjusted to suit the scheduling of the reunions. I also realize that not everyone is that fortunate. The one issue that I will continue to bring forth, however, is that until you do finally experience the reunions, I truly believe you are missing out on some of the rewards from having served in this unit.

Do NOT ever let the thought that you may see anyone whom you served with stop you from joining in. I have seen several people I served with over the years; but more importantly, I have met a lot of great people who served at other times than I who make my journey to these reunions more and more enjoyable as time has continued to move on. There of, of course, some very real-life situations that come to pass from these experiences. New friends that are made can just as easily slip away from you. More importantly, the camaraderie that is developed in these gatherings seems to intensity and expand with time. Ron Hall has opened his home and hometown hospitality to us on several occasions. Mini-reunions take place all over that do not get reported. These are what make

being involved in this organization so vital. It is not a once-a-year experience. It happens every day.

Bruce Judkins continues to revamp and update the information, photos, and just plain "stuff" on the website; and I hope all of you are able to take advantage of it. We knew that there were some issues that we would have to deal with if we went "on-line" with our organization, and we are dealing with them. We have a lot of "wannabes" out there; but if they do not pass the litmus test, they will not be afforded membership. There are also a lot of people "out there" who are highly opinionated about what we do and should have on our site. I think they probably drive Bruce nuts; but since I'm rather opinionated myself, they do not bother me.

Two years ago when I became president, I told you all it would be for only one term. Nothing has changed this situation. I had the opportunity to learn this job from my three predecessors; and, hopefully, I have measured up to their standards. There are, however, two individuals that I must recognize that have made these past two years less stressful than they would have been without them and that is Sam and Cathy Dixon. Sam has not only taken on the responsibility of the vice-president's office, but together he and Cathy have produced this newsletter for each of you over the last two years. They have done a phenomenal job and are to be commended.

Elsewhere in the newsletter will be the information you need to vote for new officers. My last conversation with Sam revealed that most of you contacted were less than enthusiastic about accepting the responsibility to serve. If there appears to be no willing candidates prior to the reunion, this issue will be addressed and handled at the reunion. If you have not been contacted, but attend reunions and are willing to serve, please let us know.

Since I am late and I'm not convinced that any of this makes much sense, let me end this article by thanking each and everyone of you for the opportunity to have served as vice-president and president of this organization. I ask that each of you show the same courtesies and support to Sam in the future as you have to me in the past. Sam will do a great job. On behalf of the entire organization, I would also like to thank

Bob Gill for his years (12) of service to this organization in one fashion or another. As I join the board as immediate past president, Bob will be stepping down. I hope that his commitment will continue as in the past.

On behalf of my family and myself, thank you one and all. Remember, take care, and take the time to get in touch with one another.

Stan

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	\$12.00
Hats (black or white)	10.00
Decals (interior or exterior)	1.75
Watches (Man's or Woman's)	35.00
Belt Buckles	20.00
Ranger Training Video (now in stock)	10.00
Lapel Pins	3.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	24.00
Wind Shirt Pullover (black or khaki) M, L, XL, XXL	36.00
Cloth Scroll Patch (CO H 75th INF)	4.00
Cloth Logo Patch	4.00
Shipping (Additional)	3.00

Please mail check or money order Payable to LRRP/Ranger and mail to Doug Matze, Jr., 9623 Springhouse Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832.

ANNUAL DUES \$15 PAYABLE TO LRRP/RANGER

LRRP/RANGER FINANCIAL REPORT 8/1/99-4/30/00

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$5294.46
INCOME FROM REUNION 1999	\$1945.50
LESS REUNION EXPENSES	(816.10)
NET FROM REUNION	1129.40
INCOME:	
DUES, MERCHANDISE, DONATIONS	836.00
EXPENSES:	
INVENTORY PURCHASES	494.61
SHIPPING	55.40
NEWSLETTER, WEB PAGE	\$69.76
LOCATING EXPENSES	500.00
FLOWERS	49.59
TOTAL EXPENSES	(1609.36)
ENDING BALANCE	\$5650.50

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MATZE, JR., TREASURER

WEB NEWS

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5346>

Web page activity is strong. We now have over 27,000 hits on the web site. That's more than I would ever have expected, and it's nice to know that folks are checking out our page. Many folks from outside our organization have signed the guest book and the comments are, without exception, good. Many have expressed thanks to us for the services we provided and the sacrifices that we made during the war. It's nice to know that what we did was not looked down upon by everyone and that many were concerned about us more than the enemy. I'm not begrudging the fact that we did not come home to parades and fanfare. I don't think many of us expected a hero's welcome, but scorn was tough to bear in light of what we had gone through in service to our country. I, for one, REALLY appreciate the kind words that many folks have written in our guest book.

The email page continues to grow. As I write these words, there are 139 names on that page. I just wish it was three times that number. Not everyone listed actually served with our unit. Some of the names belong to relatives or close associates of LRRP/Rangers. If you, as a LRRP/Ranger, have email at work (and the boss won't fire you for it), let me know, and I'll put your name on the email page and your email address in a group folder so that you can receive the info regarding our members that I send out from time to time.

There are 34 names of LRRP/Rangers listed as going to Fayetteville on our "Next Reunion Page". That time is fast approaching, and I get more excited about it as it draws closer. The LRRP/Rangers who are committed to attending are: Paul Alfaro, Bill Anton, Ernest Bosarge, Mike Brennan, Waylon Chappell, Sam Dixon, Trevor England, Harry Elston, Chuck Fogg, Stan Freeborn, George "Cecil" Gentry, Joseph "Doc" Gilchrest, Ron Hall, Bruce Judkins, Jim Kraft, Bob Larson, John LeBrun, David Matthews, Glen McCrary, Doug "Parky" Parkinson, Gary "Pat" Patterson, George Richardson, Dan Roberts, Howard Shute, John Simones, Gene Sprague, Danny Terrio, Jon Varesko, Al Voelkel, Bennie Gentry, Jim McIlntyre, and Ted Yoshimura. There's only five weeks to decide to attend. Already, I predict that this will be the most heavily attended reunion that we have had. There are many first-time attendees. Also, as is always the case, there will be some last minute mind changes and folks who have not announced they are going will show up. Please, if you know you are going, let me know. You can email me, call me at (540) 889-4974, or write to me at P.O. Box 2124, Lebanon, VA 24266. We want to tell everyone that you are coming!

Finally, some advice about registering for the reunion. You can go to "Our Next Reunion" page and get to the Reunion Registration page from there. Print it out as you cannot register online. I would not advise signing up for too many activities. The two that all LRRP/Rangers attend are the unit

luncheon on Saturday and the unit (farewell) breakfast on Sunday. Other than those two events, Jeannie and I will most likely be found hanging around the LRRP/Ranger hospitality room at the Hampton. It's a fun place to be and you can come and go as you please where you want to go, when you want to go, and with whom you want to go! See you there!

Bruce

NEWSLETTER REPORT

For the March 2000 mailing, I sent out 420 newsletters and another 5 at a later date. I had 2 letters come back, of which 1 was remailed with address correction. Our number of lost addresses is down to one. Please, everyone, stand up and clap. I would like to thank everyone for their timely input to Bruce Judkins in this effort.

1st Cavalry Division Association 53rd Reunion 9 to 13 August 2000 Fayetteville, North Carolina

To be hosted by North Carolina-Tar heel Chapter

Mike Brennan is offering to be our local historian.

REUNION INFO

This year's reunion will be in Fayetteville, NC from August 9 to 13, 2000. Our hotel of **Area of operation** is the Hampton Inn at 1700 Skibo Road in Fayetteville, Phone Number 910-487-4006. The Chapter has reserved a meeting room at no cost to be used as the Reunion Room. Rooms for the reunion are block reserved by the 1st Cav Association.

Please reserve early so you will be able to get your room of choice. Be aware that the Cav will be working out of the Holiday Inn which is about 5 miles from the group of three other hotels (including the Hampton Inn).

Our unit luncheon and breakfast on Sunday will be at the Holiday Inn, Bordeaux

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET YOUR
RESERVATIONS IN FOR THE LUNCHEON
ON SATURDAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Holiday Inn, Bordeaux **FULL**

Hampton Inn **FULL**

Days Inn \$64.95/night, Phone 910-874-9541

Innkeeper—Cross Creek \$62.99/night, Phone 910-867-7659

Hope to see you all in NC. Sam

ELECTION BALLOT

Please mail ballots two weeks before the reunion (before July 24) to Doug Matze, Jr., 9623 Springhouse Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832. You must be current with your LRRP/Ranger membership dues. You can mail the dues with this ballot, if necessary.

President

_____ Sam Dixon

Secretary

Vice President

Sergeant at Arms

_____ John LeBrun

Treasurer

_____ Doug Matze, Jr.

Board of Trustees

_____ ☒ Stan Freeborn
Three Members at Large..

_____ Forrest Decker

_____ Larry Curtis

_____ Dennis Smith

REUNION REMINDER FROM 1ST CAV ASSOCIATION

LRRP/Ranger members attending activities at 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunions are required to be a life member or associate member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Life member's family (spouse and children) are covered under the single registration fee. All other family or friend attending activities are required to be a yearly (\$15.00) associate or life (\$150.00) associate membership.