



**NUMBER 38**

# THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



**FEBRUARY 2003**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED ON FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1 (REUNION INFORMATION ISSUE) AND SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS FOR THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE LONG RANGE PATROL UNITS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THESE UNITS ARE: LRRP DET., 191<sup>ST</sup> MI; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CO. E (LRP), 52<sup>ND</sup> INF.; CO. H, (RANGER) 75<sup>TH</sup> INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3<sup>RD</sup> BGE.

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO ALL OF THESE MEN FOR WHICH AN ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE. FUNDING FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS BY THE LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TWO WEEKS BEFORE DISTRIBUTION DATE TO:

BILL CARPENTER  
713 DIAMOND STREET  
FAIRMONT, WV 26554  
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)  
[vetvet@iolinc.net](mailto:vetvet@iolinc.net)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Sam Dixon

Hello to you all:

Happy New Year to everyone in this great LRRP/Ranger family.

In every organization, may it be large or small, there is someone who stands out among his brethren. We all know how it goes. The person who helps pull things together, the one who comes early and stays late to get the job done; the one who always goes the extra mile or the one who no one has harsh words about. In the fifteen plus years I have been a part of this group, I have seen the group honor two of such members who have passed away. The first was the passing of David MACWILLIAMS.

The second has been centered around the passing of Ron HALL. As the word spread throughout the LRRP/Ranger family, too many members for me to count wanted to do something. With Ron not having a wake to go to, many of the LRRP's and Ranger's still wanted to do something. One of these members was Jim Ross. The following is a quote from Jim's final email message on completion of his mission.

"Sam: I am pleased to provide the final accounting of funds from our ranks toward the purchase of a Ranger Memorial Stone for Ron. \$240 was spent on the stone which will be etched with Ron's name and 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP '66-'67 designation and laid within the Ranger Memorial walkway at Ft. Benning sometime next June. We have the official confirmation in hand. The remaining \$445 was been sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's Scholarship Foundation, as a contribution to that fund in Ron's name. Ron would be proud to know that a deserving young student will benefit from his memory. Here is the final listing of the contributors: Bill CARPENTER, Russ CARON, Ron CHRISTOPHER, Art GUERRERO, Jim JAMES, Gregg JOREGENSON, Geoff KOPER, Michael MCCOY, Richard MODOLO, Robert OAKES; Pat "OB" O'BRIEN, Jim ROSS, Ted SCHERCK, Howard SHUTE, John SIMONES and Johnny SUGGS. Sam, I request that you do us the honor of passing this along so that all will know the final outcome. Thank you for

5143

the ongoing assistance you have provided. I am reminded in times such as this that our loyalty for one another hasn't diminished over several decades. I don't suppose that it ever will. I find that truly amazing and yet very special. Best Regards! Jim ROSS"

Anyone interested in getting more information on the Ranger Memorial Stone may go to the website <http://rangermemorial.org>. Any LRRP Ranger personnel wishing information or answers to questions and who do not have access to internet may write to Bill ANTON at 11918 Hall Shop Rd, Clarksville, MD 21029 or the Secretary of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA, Ron EDWARDS, P.O. Box 921, Heflin, AL 36264 or call Ron at 256-831-7146. Basically, anyone who has served in a LRP, LRRP or Ranger unit or earned a Ranger tab should at least look into having a Ranger Memorial Stone.

With the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association at the forefront, I want to explain how almost all of our members received a free copy of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA magazine "PATROLLING". There are a small number of our members who already receive "PATROLLING" yearly. For many years the 75<sup>th</sup> has been trying to get hold of our mailing roster. There has always been a rule since the first LRRP/Ranger reunion that no one outside of our own people will have access to our membership roster. The only exception being the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association, which must have a fresh list each year of our Chapter membership. That list is not everyone on the roster. The Cav no longer gets a copy of the full roster. Since I hold to not letting the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA have a copy of our roster, I would only agree to one option. The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA had to put the postage on each of the 460 magazines and ship them to me. I have Larry CURTIS send me a full set of address labels and I put one on each magazine. The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA sent me a list of current LRRP/Rangers already receiving a copy. I pulled those names from the set of labels. I then took the labeled magazines to the post office for mailing. The only addresses the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA have are the bad addresses and those who have joined their membership. The copy that everyone got has an article written by Bill ANTON and myself. I am planning on helping Bill at keeping some kind of an article in each issue. If anyone would like to submit material, send it to Bill or myself. I hope everyone took the time to enjoy the free copy. Please feel free to subscribe/join membership in the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA has recently been trying very hard to work with us. I have three extra copies of someone needs one.

By the way, Larry CURTIS and I each get five copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association "SABER". If you have never seen one, I have many back issues that would give you a chance to read one. When you keep your address current with the Cav and pay the \$10 yearly fee, the "SABER" comes four times a year. For a few years now, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Association also sends out a really nice calendar (donations would be appreciated) plus first chance at ordering other 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Association books and items that will be coming out. Another great idea is to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association's Scholarship Foundation. It's the best way I know for remembering friends from the past.

For all you guys who like to read or collect books, one of our chapter members and a 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Trooper has had a book published: A Troop, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry: The Boldest Cavalrymen the World Has Ever Known by Ronald Lee CHRISTOPHER. Ron's book is available through Publish America online or call toll free at 1-877-333-7422. Please do not forget that Gregg P.J. Jorgenson and David Klimek have also had books published about the Vietnam era.

The LRRP/Ranger chapter has had two active reunion members retire. Bob GILL, one of our past chapter presidents, has taken up retirement and now lives by the lake most people dream about. David KLIMEK, our current Secretary for the chapter, took an offer for early retirement and has been spending sometime seeing friends, doing some golfing and traveling.

May everyone have a great New Year and practice safety every day.

Till next time, Sam Dixon

5144

## MERCHANDISE UPDATE

By John LeBrun

Greetings from the Pacific North West. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years. As the new year progresses we will be adding and deleting a few items from the inventory. Larry Curtis has contracted for more Ranger lapel pins. I haven't a delivery date but they should be here soon. I haven't seen the finished product so am unable to relay how they compare to the other pins. I'm sure they will be better.

Another item will be added; Ranger rings. I have contracted with a supplier in Canada who claims that they will be exact replicates of the original rings that we had. They used mine to copy the design and artwork. I do not have a firm price because of the exchange rate, current price of sterling silver, etc, etc. However, it will be less than \$50.00. They are making 25 rings in standard sizes. We incur a one-time charge to make the mould for the ring, which then becomes our property. I would like to get an idea of how many members would like one and if the need is greater I can order more at a reduced price for the lot.

The listed merchandise items of watches, sweat shirts, windshirts pullover, windshirts convertible, and Polo shirts will probably not be reordered until we sell off some of the stock we currently have on hand. We need to replenish our bank account. A decision will be made at the next ordering time on what sizes to maintain and if in fact some items be discontinued based on past sales. Put your order in now or-----.

I have mailed all of our orders out using the Postal Service. It appears to be a little cheaper (shipping costs continue to go up) but have had little feed back about timely receipt of the items and the condition they were received in.

If you have an opinion on this, ideas for new products, ideas for old products or just want to chat drop me an e-mail or letter.

## LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts: (black and white) S M L XL XXL XXXL	\$12.00
Sweatshirts: black, S & M only Grey, S M L XL only	\$25.00
Hats: (black or white)	\$10.00
Decals: (Interior/Exterior)	\$2.00
Watches: (man's or lady's)	\$35.00
Belt Buckles: (numbered)	\$20.00
Training Video (Bear Cat)	\$10.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts: (black or white) M L XL XXL	\$24.00
Windshirt, Pullover: (black only) L XL XXL	\$36.00
Windshirt: (converts to sleeveless) Black with khaki trim L XL XXL	\$48.00
Cloth scroll patch: (Co H 75 <sup>th</sup> Inf.)	\$4.00
Cloth logo patch	\$4.00
Ranger lapel pin	\$5.00
Annual dues	\$15.00
Shipping per order	\$4.50

Please mail check or money order payable to LRRP/RANGER to:

John LeBrun  
8080 Harborview Drive  
Blaine, WA 98230

The \$4.50 shipping charge covers only one or two shirts. Donations are gladly accepted. There is no shipping charge for pins or decals only.

Take care and see you all in Texas this summer.

5145

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Howard Shute

Transferred money from past treasurer:

\$5500.00  
\$3216.14 expenses  
\$2283.86 Total after expenses  
\$ 402.80 Income (sales, dues donations)  
\$2686.66 Account balance as of 1/6/2003

Expenses:

\$296.05- fall newsletter  
\$600.00- Sheraton bill hospitality room  
\$1052.26- Merchandise, Vantage clothing  
\$680.00- New rings silver  
\$500.00- Pins, Rex and Larry  
\$ 57.83- Postage, merchandise shipping  
\$ 30.00- Bank charges  
\$3216.14- Total expenses

Hello everyone: hoping everyone had a peaceful holiday. The new set up with John LeBrun is working well and I thank him for his hard work. Our inventory is well stocked with the addition of rings and pins. Thanks to Rex McElroy and Larry Curtis for the pin effort and John LeBrun for the rings. Good work.

When purchasing merchandise or paying dues please make checks out to LRRP/Rangers. This is how the account is made out. You may send the merchandise request directly to John; with payment, dues and any donations to me directly. I have been in touch with Dave Klimek and congratulate him on becoming retired, good luck Dave.

I hope the new year brings health to all, including family. The rest, at this point in our lives, is only secondary. The reunion will be here soon, please make plans to attend.

Respectfully Submitted  
Howard Shute

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Dave Klimek

I got lucky. There was a window of opportunity at work and I retired. I'm going to be a hobo. The term "hobo" was coined in the Civil War when some 90,000 men had no home to go to and traveled the country. I'm going to take my flashbacks and dreams with me to Florida until spring and try to write some stories. If anyone needs me or wants to see me down there call my cell phone at 724-554-5738. There is a lot of America to see and I hope to see some of you along the way. One word of advise, take better care of yourself and go to the VA for a physical and free meds, time is all we have left.

This is Slashing Talon 71 - over.  
Dave Klimek

Dave, look out for Bennie GENTRY's blue semi with the ranger tab on the side.

### THE UNOFFICIAL LRRP/RANGER WEBPAGE

By Leo Corey

At [www.tpub.com/ranger](http://www.tpub.com/ranger)

I just want to say that I'm working on this web site and it is going slowly but it will cost no one anything and it will be completely interactive and uncensored!!!

It is for anyone who served in our group to do as they please without censorship. You want to put a picture of a Sin City girlfriend on it, do so. You want to bitch someone out, do so. I will give access codes to all on our roster. They will be mailed as soon as I finish with the web site. If you give your access code to someone to use, so be it. It will be user friendly and there will be advertising on it as well.

Anyway, that is all I have to say.

Leo

5146

# RUNNING SLACK

by  
Bill Carpenter

Thanks for all of the compliments from you about the newsletter, appreciate it. Yes, I know that the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav patch and the VN ribbon are yellow, not pink or blue or whatever color as was on some copies of the last newsletter. It's the computer's fault, ok. I am learning, but commercial printer costs a bunch.

My son will be in Kuwait by the middle of February. He is with a combat engineer company (bridging unit). His kind of people will need to put the bridges across the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers before the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav tanks can cross. Today's cavalry rides a little different horse than we did. Now I have an idea what my parents went through some 36 years ago.

-----  
The reunion info issue of this newsletter will be going out in about a month. If you have an offspring, or relative, in harms way let me know and I will put it in the newsletter. I don't think it will be a threat to national security if their unit is included in the information.

**Let this be the official notice to submit anything you want in the reunion issue NOW. It doesn't have to be an email; the US Post Office is still in business.**

-----

John ROWLAND is no longer among us. I am sure there are a couple of you who have very vivid memories of when he won the DSC.

Would someone who knew him please write a more fitting obituary, and send it to me so I can put it in the next newsletter.

-----

A big "ata boy" to Jim ROSS for all of the work he did for Ron HALL's brick, as Sam reported.

In addition to the ones Sam listed, Glen McCrary and Ron Holte, made donations to

the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division Association in memory of Ron HALL. Dale Markovich made a donation "In honor of LRRP's everywhere". I think that Ron would wonder what all of the fuss was about.

-----

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers  
For he today that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother  
(Shakespeare: Henry V)

As Bruce JUDKINS put it, "Shakespeare must have been a LRRP."

=====

The following is from Jim BOYLES:  
I was wondering if any more Viet-Nam Rangers are on active duty. My National Guard unit has been active since last August. I am the CSM for the 3/144 Infantry, 49<sup>th</sup> Armor Division, Texas National Guard. We are stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA.

I took basic here and was back in 1974 with B Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers, before going to the 1/75<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Benning then moving to Ft. Stewart. I served in L Co. 75<sup>th</sup> with the 101 and H Co. 75<sup>th</sup> with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. The guys here at Ft. Lewis are giving me a hard time about being so old. I tell them 51 is not old. Anyway, just trying to find any more Viet Nam rangers on Active duty.

Rangers lead the way

-----

## LURP, THE WONDER DOG STORIES

FROM Ron CHRISTOPHER:

Lurp, the dog, was brought to me by Mike Hammer. He got Lurp down in An Khê. Lurp looked like a miniature Shepard and is seen in most of those LRRP photos. Lurp made his day review on Lurp Hill in Dec '66. Lurp is the taller one of the two seen in the earlier photos. It is a fact that Lurp chased rats. I then picked them off with my Air Force survival rifle which was a 410/.22 (jet round) over and under.

5147

FROM Jim REGAN:

I can't remember exactly when, but sometime in '69, a real lazy "dog day afternoon", things were exceptionally quiet around the compound. As we all know, Lurp would not allow certain folks and other dogs in our AO. I was goofing off, as most Platoon Sergeants did when they had a chance.

Can't remember who else was in the area, but we all looked up and saw that Lurp's back was raised up and bristling. A dog from the neighboring area, Charlie Troop or some other area, had wandered into the Company area.

Well, the teeth were bared back. As I recall, this other dog was dark or black and a "Heinz 57" just like Lurp. The other dog challenged Lurp and we backed off to see a good dog fight.

It didn't happen. Lurp made a couple of feints and turned around to run. The other dog set after him in a chase. Lurp ran through the area and crossed into the motor pool adjacent to our AO. He ducked under the barbed wire fence and took off thru the motor pool. The other dog was in hot pursuit.

We all got up on sandbags and watched the chase. If you recall, perimeter road ran alongside that motor pool. Well, Lurp got under the fence on the other side and stopped. He looked left and right as if he was watching for trucks/traffic. Needless to say, the black dog caught up with Lurp. Lurp looked once again and took off across the road with the other dog right behind him. At the same time here comes a GI, traveling at more than the appropriate speed, in a 2 1/2 ton. The outcome was unbelievable. The black dog got run over by the 2 1/2.

The dust cleared, Lurp, on the other side of the road, looked both ways, recrossed the road and I swear that he had a smile on his face. I know that this is thirty years ago, but I still remember Lurp's smile/smirk/ look of joy for "baiting" that dog.

---

FROM Pete "Dutch" EISENTRAGER:

Strange isn't it, that a lot of us guys can't remember names or missions, but we all remember that strange looking dog.

My fondest memory of "LURP" was when I was an "old" guy. While the rest of the guy's at Camp Evens were in bunkers, "LURP" and I would sit and watch the airfield being mortared in the early evening.

---

Give me some more Lurp stories and I will put them in the newsletters. What happened to him at the end?

---

Sam commented about Ron CHRISTOPHER's book that is available through [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com) and Amazon.com. I understand Chris has another one in the making about his time with LRRP.

---

Dave KLIMEK and I went to the University of Pittsburgh vs. West Virginia football game last November. West Virginia won, of course.

After the game, it took us 1 1/2 hours to get from the stadium to the interstate. During this time, Dave explained how he wants to restore the tradition of tearing down the goal post after a game. Use Styrofoam goal posts. If they went back to wood goalposts, someone would get a splinter and sue the school. Styrofoam will break easy without splinters. Dave got two engineering degrees from WVU after VN, so he understands tensile strength, elasticity, and all of that stuff. He can figure out how to keep the posts strong enough for game bumps, but fragile enough to be busted up after the game. Dave is retired now, so he will have time to work on this.

---

**STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER**

---





# THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



## *LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS* *2002-2004*

### **PRESIDENT**

Sam Dixon  
4 Warwick Lane  
New Castle, DE 19720  
302-328-089  
[samueldixon@msn.com](mailto:samueldixon@msn.com)

### **TREASURER**

Howard Shute  
242 Emerson St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412-363-1884  
[shute@aiu3.net](mailto:shute@aiu3.net)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Larry Curtis  
1719 Mutz Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
2317-894-2947  
[lcurtis123@comcast.net](mailto:lcurtis123@comcast.net)

### **MERCHANDISE**

John LeBrun  
8080 Harborview Dr  
Blaine, WA 98230  
604-764-9634  
[caabnranger@yahoo.com](mailto:caabnranger@yahoo.com)

### **SECRETARY**

Dave Klimek  
183 Delaware Trail  
Venetia, PA 15367  
724-941-2377

### **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Joe (Doc) Gilcrest  
253 Jackson Ln.  
China Spring, TX 76633  
254-836-1382

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Forrest Decker  
627 S. Hall St.  
Princeton, IN 47670  
812-386-6418

Doug Parkinson  
PO Box 131  
Bayside, CA 95524  
707-822-8421  
[dpa@humboldt1.com](mailto:dpa@humboldt1.com)

Spanky Seymour  
521 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. #104  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
425-317-8085  
[Spanky\\_JS@hotmail.com](mailto:Spanky_JS@hotmail.com)

### **75<sup>th</sup> RRA REPRESENTATIVE**

Bill Anton  
11918 Hall Shop Rd.  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
[polar\\_bear\\_01@runbox.com](mailto:polar_bear_01@runbox.com)