



NUMBER 39

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



APRIL 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 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THESE UNITS ARE: LRRP DET., 191ST M.; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CO. E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CO. H, (RANGER) 75TH INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3RD BGE.

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PASSING THE FLAG



FROM ONE HERO TO ANOTHER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Sam Dixon

Hello fellow LRRP/Rangers:

Reunion week is fast approaching us. I really would like to see a good turnout by our group in support of the active duty Cav troopers. The Cav troopers are on their way to the war. Right now, non-essential air freight is limited to family and close friends. If you know a family who has someone overseas, please offer them some support. Maybe you know where that special item that is needed can be located. Many radio stations have been recording messages that will be sent to the troops. There are several internet online sites provided by some very good organizations taking messages for the troops. The Red Cross and USO are also in need of support.

In the past, when most of the Cav Div has been away, their wonderful show and tell has been smaller. Getting on the fort will be a little restricted this year. I work on an army base so I am used to the restrictions. No matter what, all those troopers still have a big heart and love to meet someone new. If you get a chance to do something special for a Cav trooper, do not pass up the chance.

Please, if you are going to the reunion this year, send in your registration early. Do not forget to sign up for the Saturday luncheon. The luncheon number is based on the number of tickets sold by the cut-off date. After that, there will be no more tickets or seating provided. Every year, someone waits till they get there to buy a luncheon ticket and someone's family member ends up not getting to eat with the group. We are staying at our regular hotel which has changed its name to a HoJo.

We are still losing far too many addresses after each newsletter mailing. The post office is not trying very hard to get mail forwarded. If something little changes in your address, please let Bill Carpenter know. Several of us are trying to keep up with the email addresses. Email addresses seem to change quite often. If you would like a copy of the list, let me know and I will get one to you.

I would like to give Doc Gilcrest a big thanks for saving one of our belt buckles. Last month, while Doc was checking out EBAY for some raffle ideas, he found one of our belt buckles up for sale. To make a long story short, Doc did save the buckle from going out to a collector. Doc is also trying to keep a second buckle off the market. If someone has a buckle that needs a good home, let John Lebrun know. There are other members in our group who would like one.

Ron Christopher has a second book coming out soon. It is titled "Above All Else". I really admire someone who can produce a book. Sometimes it takes me the best part of a day to a week just to write a newsletter. Talking I can do. Writing has always been hard for me.

In the last year, many people have been asking about our official website. I am still looking for a person who has the time it will take to operate the website. This person must be willing to operate the website within a narrow set of guidelines. A good computer with a zip drive is required. The program is in Microsoft Front Page.

I hope to see all our regulars in Texas and it would be twice as good to see new faces also. Our reunions are very much centered around the whole family. In the past 15 years, I have seen a few of the children grow up.

Till next time
Sam

EDITORIAL
By Bill Carpenter

I got the following from Peter "Dutch"
EISENTRAGER about agent orange:

I hadn't seen a doctor in 20 years until last July. I went to the VA here in Wisconsin. During an examination for exposure to Agent Orange, I found out that I have had Diabetes 2 for a number of years. There is no family history of it. It was a direct result of exposure to AO and you will be compensated from the VA. Big deal, thanks a lot.

I now take 5 different kinds of medication for it because of the complications it causes. I think most of us don't like the VA or going to a doctor but the end result is not a good one if you don't. I'm not a real happy "camper" but at least they caught it in time, I hope.

This is Bill now:

I understand that Ron HUNT and Howard SHUTE have the same disease. I am sure there are more. A lot of us were exposed to that stuff.

The most recent, for me, information about AO is that it also causes chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). It is also known that AO causes Hodgkin's Disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Maybe if we live long enough, the VA will get around to accepting all of this.

Maybe the reason you don't feel too spiffy is not due to being beyond middle age. Get to the local VA hospital and have it checked out.

Another thing that I am hearing is, lost records. Request, or demand, a copy of everything in your file, and keep it. The "we have no record of that" seems to be occurring too often.

And we thought that all we had to worry about while "in country" was pieces of metal flying through the air.

What has agent orange done to the people of South Viet Nam?

**** I've Got Your Back ****

*I am a small and precious child,
My dad's been sent to fight...
The only place I'll see his face
Is in my dreams at night.
He will be gone too many days
For my young mind to keep track.
I may be sad, but I am proud.
My daddy's got your back.*

*I am a strong and loving wife,
With a husband soon to go.
There are times I'm terrified
In a way most never know.
I bite my lip and force a smile
As I watch my husband pack...
My heart may break,
But I am proud...
My husband's got your back.*

*I am a caring mother.
My son has gone to war...
My mind is filled with worries
That I have never known before.
Everyday I try to keep my thoughts
From turning black.
I may be scared, but I am proud...
My son has got your back.*

*I am a soldier...
Serving proudly, standing tall.
I fight for freedom, yours and mine,
By answering this call.
I do my job while knowing
The thanks it sometimes lacks.
Say a prayer that I'll come home.
It's me who's got your back.*

By Autumn Parker, Fort Campbell

WHY I ATTEND REUNIONS

By John LeBrun

I have been asked a number of time why I continue to attend the reunions. Well there are the usual suspect reasons: getting to see long lost friends and meeting new friend. The reunions also give me a bit of time each year to get away from the usual pace of life and for a few weeks each year travel some part of the country and see just how great it is to live were we do. If that wasn't enough there is also something else that provides reason to come as often as I do. I will try and explain what has happened to me at two different reunions.

The first had to do with my photo albums. Every time I attend a reunion I bring along my photo albums and as other members are looking and commenting about the people and places in the photos a number always ask about the photo with purple smoke. My story now. It's a photo taken from a chopper as I was going in to extract a team after a mission. The team had been out for four days and because they had two new team members they decided to give them the opportunity to practise with the M-79. One of the rounds went off close to the team, wounding a member. As the team got on board the wounded ranger collapsed. I could not see any blood and as he started to go into convulsions I frantically searched for the reason why. I finally found a small entry hole in his chest right at his heart. I relayed the information to the pilot and he flew immediately to an Evac hospital were the he went into surgery. We flew off and were told later that this guy died from shrapnel that pierced his heart. What a tragedy, how did the team members feel, the aircraft crew, the hospital workers, etc. How did it effect the rest of their lives? I known how it affected mine. Now I've told this story a number of time. To other ranger members, in high schools when I talk about my Vietnam experience. It's the truth and it had a profound affect on me after my return. As I was telling the

story for the tenth time at a reunion this guy looks me in the eye and says Bullsh-t. It me and I didn't die. Something that I believed for so long, because I had seen it with my own eyes and now greatfully, untrue.

The other incident that I would like to mention happened at the last reunion in Colorado Springs. Craig and I were eating breakfast on the final day when Craig asked me who that Colonel over there was. I told him it was Colonel Booth an "old" commander from the 1/9th. Craig said. John that's the pilot that pulled us out on your first mission. My first mission with the company and there was little question how we all were leaving the site, probably in a body bag. "Insert a war story here". Craig you only seen that guy's face for a few seconds and at that he was wearing a helmet and he was thirty years younger. Craig repeated his assertion: John that was the guy. I couldn't let that go so I went over to Colonel Booth and asked him what he was doing thirty years ago on that date. You could see it in his eyes. It was him. How do you thank a guy who gave you the rest of your life.

There are a lot of reasons why I continue to attend reunions. These are some of mine. I hope every member. at some time, has the opportunity to attend a reunion. The trip reaffirms, for me, the reasons for our service to our country and with a little luck they provide the opportunity to find some answers to some long held beliefs. Take care and if you attend the reunion check out my photo albums.

RUNNING SLACK

By
Bill Carpenter

A, very late, personal thanks to Sandy GENTRY and Riki CARR for the pictures from the '02 reunion. They were very nice Christmas presents.

A big thanks to Bill ANTON, our 75th RRA rep, for taking seriously the inquiry about a Ranger Walk Brick for Lurp, The Wonder Dog. The answer was the expected "NO" but it never hurts to try. Maybe something can be worked out with the War Dogs Memorial Assn.

Jim ROSS sent me a picture of him grinnin' n grinnin' with Oliver North. The air is a little thin up there isn't it, Jim?

The water buffalo purchase for the Montagnards is dead in the water. It took a lot of very frustrating communications to find out that there is no organization in place to do this. I had been lead to believe otherwise. For those of you who contributed to this, sorry about that. Maybe you can get something out of "Vietnam Highlands Assistance Project", they don't respond to my e-mails.

The VHAP helped relocate over 600 Montagnard refugees from Cambodia to the US last summer. I am sure your money will help our "forgotten comrades in arms" get started in this country.

I got a phone call from John "Doc" SUGGS, '67, one of "The Original 18". He had extended after his first tour. All of his Viet Nam pictures were stolen. He would appreciate any pictures anyone could send him. He doesn't even have to be in them. Life is not good for Doc, he has serious degeneration of the backbone.

You can contact him at:

John Suggs
1101 School House Rd. NE
Calhoun, GA 30701-9742
706-602-4480

FROM EARL McCANN

This mishap happened on my first mission as team leader. GENTRY was my RTO. We got on gun target line. They never told us. The 105 landed about 8 feet behind us. Gentry laughs about it now, but sure done some cussing over the radio then. It got too foggy for medivac to pick us up. But the XO came out. We had to burn C-4 for them to see through the fog. Next day they took us up on the hill, and made sure we knew how to call it in. We had to call it in one night. 25 meter all around us WP KID. Earl

LRRP/RANGERS,

Herbert "Buddy" Bradley (68-69) a fellow LRRP/Ranger has been having kidney problems. The chemo leaves him weak and too tired for phone calls and he doesn't have a computer. If those who served with him would like to send him a card I'm sure it would lift his spirits.

Herb Bradley
575 Church Rd.
Avondale, Pa. 19311

Last month before his treatments started Herb came from Pa. to visit with me a couple days. He got bald and I got fat. We looked at pix, remembered missions, we talked about being retired, our farms, and how that after 35yrs. Our paths came full circle crossing again at.....The Dollar Store. ... lol

The first night Herb got up to get a drink of water(being the considerate guy that he is he didn't turn on a light so not to wake anyone up) next morning he told me my R.O. water tastes bad he had drank some miracle-gro mixed up for house plants..... BIG LAUGH was had by all. We had a short but great time.

Thanks,
Wild Bill Elliott

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

5154

MERCHANDISE

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest.

Well with the reunion coming up it looks like I need to start planning on what items to take and how many. I am going to restrict myself to only one bag. I have to attend another reunion mid May in Alabama. Then find something to do for a month before heading over to Texas for our reunion. (Lets see a month on the beach at Panama City) Any of you who have seen my car will understand why I don't want to be carrying the items with me. I will probably end up hitchhiking some portion of the trip but am determined to run this car until its bitter end. I will Fed-Ex the items to the hotel to ensure some product is available. With that said if you are planning on going to the reunion and know what items you want let me know and I will ensure that they will be there for you.

We have the rings and lapel pins in stock now. Check the order form. The rings and lapel pins turned out excellent. More a true lapel pin as opposed to the larger ones we had and still have a few left. The rings turned out better than I had hoped for. Detail is excellent and it looks like I didn't order enough. We own the mould now so the next batch should be cheaper. I was told that with wages and materials costing more we would be lucky to be able to maintain the same price. Oh well, will cross that bridge when we come to it.

As those who have attended the reunions in the past know we have a raffle in conjunction with the breakfast. This raffle is one of our main sources of revenue for the next year. **I need some help.** It would be nice if we could offer one or two really nice items for the raffle. I could purchase the items for the raffle but that would kind of/sort of deplete the meager resources that we currently have. I was hoping that a member or members would have an item or items that would be worthy of the raffle. In the past we had items donated including a saber, paintings, knives and other items to numerous to mention. We will continue in our high tradition to

offer the assortment of helmets and rations but are hoping to expand. **If you can help please do.**

Well enough for this newsletter. I hope to see a lot of you this year at the reunion. If not the next time you're out on the freeway look twice that old guy with the rucksack might be someone you know.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

NEW Ranger rings: size 9 ½, 10, 10 ½, 11	\$40.00
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 75th 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.



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



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