



**NUMBER 43**

## **THE LRRP/RANGERS**

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



**SEPTEMBER 2004**

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)  
[vetvet1@adelphia.net](mailto:vetvet1@adelphia.net)

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**FROM LARRY CURTIS**

Greeting Fellow Rangers!

On behalf of the LRRP/Ranger Chapter, I want to thank the 1st Cav. Division Association, and the Kettle Moraine Chapter for an excellent job of hosting this year's reunion. I know a great time was had by all the rangers who attended.

At the luncheon we had two special guests just back from Iraq. SPC Paul HASSET with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div. and SGT. Dan CARPENTER of the West Virginia 459<sup>th</sup> Engineers Army Reservist. Welcome home guys. Job well done!

At this year's reunion we had 20 Rangers present of which two were first-time attendees. I would like to commend the new attendees for their effort. I know it can be very hard to make the first reunion not knowing what to expect after so many years. I hope you felt welcome and will be joining us in the future.

Now let's have a roll call on who made it to this year's reunion. Sam and Cathy DIXON; John LEBRUN and Barb; Doc GILCHREST; Benny and Sandy GENTRY; Keith and Frankie PHILLIPS; John and Judy TRUMBULL; Bob GILL; Danny and Beverly SVOBODA; Bill and Pam CARPENTER, their son Dan, daughter Stacy, and their two grandchildren; Peter EISENTRAGER; Bob and Barbara RAAB; Doug and Debbie MATZE; Lee and Vicki FIX; Ken WHITE; Stan and Danita FREEBORN; Larry and Jeannie CURTIS with son Chris and wife Rochelle; Mike and Beverly BRENNAN; Howard SHUTE; James and Geri ROVANO; and Doug PARKINSON.

At the breakfast Col. Pete BOOTH honored Bob GILL with a life membership to the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> BLUES. Congratulations Bob!

This year was an election year. The new officers for the next two years are: President-Larry CURTIS; Vice President-Keith PHILLIPS; Treasurer-Doug PARKINSON; Secretary-Dave KLIMEK; Sergeant at Arms-Doc GILCHREST; Trustees-Sam DIXON, Forest DECKER, Benny GENTRY, and Walter SEYMOUR.

Bill ANTON is our contact with the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association. Writing for the *Saber* will be Keith PHILLIPS and Larry CURTIS. I am looking forward to serving our chapter in this new capacity and to continue working with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Association.

5187

## **BACK TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED**

*Dear Friends,*

*I know you all have seen news clips of senior veterans returning to visit the places overseas that provided the intense experiences and memories of their youth. I'm starting to understand their feelings as I find myself wondering what Viet Nam has become since we struggled there decades ago. More and more, I think I would like to revisit that land, the people and places that have had such an impact on my life. More to the point, I want to do it with my friends and comrades who shared the same experiences. Thus, I asked at our annual business meeting if there was any interest in holding our 2007 reunion in Viet Nam. The members present voted to form a committee of two (myself and Ken White) to determine if enough (or any) members would be interested.*

*We picked 2007 because we thought it would take a few years to put this together. We also know this would be expensive. Ken has already done a little research and received estimates of around \$3,000. Three years from now it would certainly be more.*

*So, now we need some feedback from you. We don't need a commitment to go, but rather some indication of whether this is something you would be interested in. If enough are, we will keep working on the project. Please share your thoughts with Ken or me, either by e-mail or a note.*

*Best wishes,*

*Bob Gill  
6920 Kabekona Lane NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
E-Mail: rcgill@tds.net*

*Ken White*

## **FROM PAST-PRESIDENT SAM DIXON**

Hello everyone:

I'm like a bad penny. I just keep coming back. If you thought I was going to melt into the background, wrong. I have two pet projects I will be working on for some time. The first is getting more of our group to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association. I will be continuing to make a personal appeal by letter to persons who have not joined the Association.

My second project is a new one. I am working on the "Trooper Support Program" for sending care packages to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, attached brigades, and the National Guard units attached to the Division. I set a goal for myself to get someone to send a care package to all 56 contact names provided by the Association. If you get the Saber, all the contacts are listed and the instruction on how to mail a care package. My first request for enlisting support was at this year's reunion. I would like to thank everyone at the reunion for helping get this program started. My second request for enlisting support went out by email. I received a good number of requests for kits. I again want to say thanks for those persons who responded.

If you would like to do a care package and don't really know how to get started, call me or email. I will send a starter kit to you. The starter kit idea went over well enough at this year's Chapter Presidents' meeting. Two other chapter presidents asked for help in starting a program. My kits are set up for those who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry or anyone who wants to be a supporter of Cavalry troops. Guys, a care package can be as simple as a phone card or a handful of notes from children. Anything greater than this is up to you.

Thanks, Sam

## RON HALL MEMORIAL RIDE

From Doc Gilchrest

The Ron Hall Annual Memorial Poker Run has come and gone. Ron died in August of 2002. His life was celebrated with a memorial at "Sandy's", and each year afterwards with a Memorial Poker Run for the Killeen Free Clinic.

This year, the 2nd annual Ron Hall Memorial Run brought forth hundreds of fellow bike riders for a hot but very successful poker run. The final count was near the \$2000.00 mark.

The weather was rudely hot and even an occasional rain didn't cool it off. The attending Rangers functioned well in the rain. The rain didn't dampen any spirits. There were no injuries noted. An impromptu lynching party for Bennie Gentry was quelled by an attending law enforcement agent and the pleading cries for mercy from Bennie's wife.

In attendance this year was Bennie GENTRY and wife Sandy, Keith PHILLIPS and wife Frankie, Brian Edwards and wife Jennifer (the daughter of the legendary Doc Gilchrest), and of course yours truly, Doc GILCHREST. We have made many friends at the annual memorial run and it has given us an opportunity to renew our brotherhood as Rangers on more than just a few occasions each year.

Ride in peace, Ron, ride in peace.

## FROM STEVE CAMP'S DAUGHTER

My name is Emily and I am looking for anyone who served with my father in Vietnam. His name is Steve CAMP "Okie", and served in 1970-71, team number was 5-7. His first FSB he worked out of was Bear Cat then worked out of an airbase in Bien Hoa. His Team Leaders were Capt. Peter DENCKER, Dan SEDILLO, FAULKNER, and Frank OLIVAS. Some of his Team Members were, Jeff LAUX, Timothy BEBEE, William POOLE, and David HOLLOWAY. There were 4 team Members and a Kit Carson scout.

If any of this rings a bell or sounds familiar please contact me at [aviationwife@earthlink.com](mailto:aviationwife@earthlink.com) or [cinderella\\_081579@yahoo.com](mailto:cinderella_081579@yahoo.com). I do have pictures of my father in Vietnam that I have found on the LRRP/Ranger web-page so I can email them to you if need be.

I am doing this because my father was diagnosed with PTSD and is just now wanting to touch base with old buddies and find out all the info he can. This is my way of helping him. You never understand PTSD until you watch your Hero go through it, I LOVE YOU DADDY.

My husband is active duty Army and with the 82nd AA Airborne Div. (2/82 AVN REG) so I can honestly say from the bottom of my heart I fully recognize the sacrifice you all have made for our country and for that I am very gratefully and appreciate every minute you gave. Thank you, each and every vet for paving the way for my family and me. HOOAH!

My father and I can be contacted at:

Steve Camp  
10113 Kirk Dr.  
Yukon, OK 7309

Emily Buzzard  
105 Wonju Ct.  
Raeford, NC 28376

## Secretary's Report

By David Klimek

Initially I sent out 202 membership cards. Starting in February 2001, I began issuing cards to new members of our LRRP/Ranger organization. We now have 261 members. Someday, I hope we can all get together. Any new members should contact Sam DIXON (our former president), 302-328-0892, for an application and processing. Sam has agreed to continue working on our roster. Our latest new members are: Terry COMBS, Jeffrey JOHNSON, William KIEL, and Geoff KOPER.

I understand that Doc GILCREST (254-836-1382) is working on a VA help website for us. Until then, since he works for the VA, I'm sure he could help anyone with information on medical care or submitting a claim for benefits or compensation. I'm urging everyone to go to the VA now, at least for a free medical check-up and medication.

God Bless,  
David KLIMEK ('70-'71)

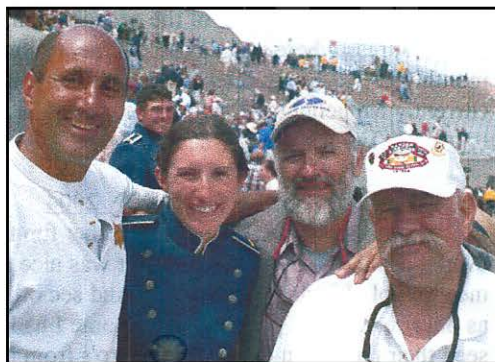
---

### 2<sup>ND</sup> LT. ANKONY NEXT GENERATION BUTTER BAR

Gentlemen: Thank you to the LRRP's that preceded us for the training and guidance that we benefited from that permitted this young lady to graduate in the 2004 Class at the Air Force Academy (she had an offer from West Point-probably decided on Air Force after listening to her father's (Bob ANKONY) stories. This is a product of your efforts some 37 years later.

PARKINSON and CARR were trained by Doug FLETCHER, who was a member of the first team to pull the first 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP mission. PARKINSON was the TL on ANKONY's first mission. So the lineage from the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP continues in some way in this next generation warrior.

Pictured are Bob ANKONY, Catherine ANKONY, Doug PARKINSON, Bob CARR (on the Atkins Diet), team leaders all. Thank You, Doug





## WEB SITE

### [www.tomah.com/lrrp\\_rangers](http://www.tomah.com/lrrp_rangers)

I think it's time to make some changes to the web site. I have been sitting on my thumb for the past year..... or is it my head ..... anyway.... with some input from our new board of directors, and anyone else who cares to make suggestions, I will begin to upgrade the site with a new look. I am currently looking for a tutor for a little one-on-one for Microsoft's FrontPage web builder. This, I hope, will help make the adjustments easier for me. The additions I think should be on the site are a list of our merchandise, a guest book, a list of the officers of the organization, an email address where people can contact us, and a monthly LRRP/Ranger news spot for anything currently happening with any of us or families.

Let me know what you want.

### MILWAUKEE REUNION 2004

This years reunion was another fun time, even if it did rain the whole time. It was nice to meet people I hadn't seen before. And see others as old friends from past reunions. Some I had seen their names on emails and photo's from the web site but much better seeing in person. I had a wonderful dinner with Bill Carpenter and his family. It was nice to get to know his son Dan, just back from Iraq, and to see his wife, Pam, daughter Stacy and her children Rhett and Alex, again.

It always amazes me how well we all get along with each other after all these years. It shows what a close Company we always were and still are today.

I wasn't feeling too chipper on Saturday but after I had a couple of phone calls inquiring how I was, I felt that, at least, I was in good hands. At the reunion were Dr. Mike Brennan MD, Dr. Bill Carpenter DVM, Doc Gilcrest and Ken White, both medics. I figured I was in the best of care with any of them. Although Bill might have given me a complementary neutering

with his sense of humor. With that thought in mind, I quickly recovered.

After Sunday's breakfast I asked Bob Gill if I could ride back with him. I had taken the train to Milwaukee but Bob was driving right by my house. A very enjoyable time to see and talk with Bob again. Last fall I surprised him and his wife at his lake home in northern Minnesota and had a nice visit for the evening. Bob and I made plans to drive to Kentucky in two years for the reunion. We also talked about maybe a reunion in Vietnam some day.....something to think about.

Peter "Dutch" EISENTRAGER  
[petesphotos@charter.net](mailto:petesphotos@charter.net)

## **OBITUARY**

**John "Doc" D. DEMPSEY**, Laredo, TX, passed away on May 7, 2004. He was one of few members of the LRRP/Rangers who was a true combat medic. He served in the unit in 1967.

A memorial service was held for him in Laredo, and the funeral was in New York.

The family asked that donations be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital in James Dempsey's name, a trust may be set up.

---

### **from Mike DIESSO**

I wanted to pass on a recommendation for Randy Kimes book "One Zulu", we served together in E/52. More than just a story of a mission gone wrong, it's about what the war did to all of us and a tribute to our brothers Whitten and McConnel. I think it should be listed for easy purchase right under the hats and pins in every newsletter along with any book written by any member. That was our war, these are our stories and the after effects.

Mike Diesso

Great idea Mike, check out the merchandise page. Let me know if there are any books I missed.

## **GOLD STAR MOTHERS**

**From Bill Anton**

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association has a "Gold Star Mothers" organization. They are contacted by the head of this organization, a Ranger Mother who lost a son. There is a certificate and a mailing list. It is the intent of all the Ranger Companies in Vietnam to take care of the Mothers who lost sons. I would also like to get the Mother of our MIA involved, for only God knows when and if his remains will be found.

When we have all the names and current addresses of our gold Star Mothers, then the certificates will be sent to me or Larry and then we want one of our H/75 LRRP Rangers who lives close to them to present this to them personally. It is the least we can do - I think you will agree.

If any of you should know the current address of any of Gold Star Mothers, please let us know. You can be a big help in getting a better response and current addresses. I think our members will support this worthwhile endeavor.

Bill "Polar Bear" Anton

**FROM "WILD BILL" ELLIOTT**

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: DAV CAN Members  
FROM: Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director  
SUBJ: **SPENDING CAPS PROPOSED BY THREE NEW BILLS**  
DATE: June 4, 2004

Three new bills have been introduced in the House—H.R. 3800, H.R. 3925, and H.R. 3973, which would impose mandatory and discretionary spending caps and force deep cuts in veterans programs. Such cuts would be devastating to an already overburdened Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and will impose cuts in compensation for disabled veterans and their survivors—people who have already sacrificed greatly for our nation.

Billions of taxpayer dollars are spent every year on pork barrel projects that are designed to help members get reelected. Such projects should be the target of budget enforcement, not VA programs. Disabled veterans have earned the benefits due to them, and they should not have to compete with pet projects.

Please urge your member of Congress to vote against these bills.

---

JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE  
National Legislative Director

Bill ANTON contributed this little speech.  
I think it's worth a page in our newsletter.

### **THIS LADY KNOWS AND CARES**

#### **Vietnam Survivors Day**

**May 7, 2004**

**Linda Jenness – McClellan, Ph.D.**

Thank you South Carolina Combat Veterans Group for inviting me to participate in Vietnam Survivors Day. I am very honored to be here with you.

I would like to talk to the Vietnam Veterans here today for a few minutes about what you have taught me that Survivor Day means, because it is about so much more than just escaping death in Southeast Asia. More than 58,000 troops did not make it home alive, and over the last thirty years, many of you have asked yourselves, "Are they the lucky ones? What if my name was on The Wall? Would I have been better off if I never made it back?"

Most of the generation who served in Vietnam grew up in the wake of World War II. We learned as children that soldiers had earned a special respect. Soldiers were our fathers, our uncles, our neighbors. They were individuals who were appreciated, cared for, and accepted – even though they were "different." Some were quiet and withdrawn; others drank and spent rowdy nights at the Veteran's Club. They jumped too quickly when they were startled. They were always up early, because they didn't sleep well. As children, when we asked these things, we were told in loving and kindly words, "He was in The War."

And so, it was only natural that when you went off to serve your country, you believed that if you returned home, if you fought and you lived, that same appreciation, caring and respect, would be yours.

There were times in Vietnam that you wondered if you would make it back to The World. Your imagination told you that if you

did, you could be you again. You could pick life up where it had left off. You could laugh, and dance, and kiss the girls, and it would be better than ever, because when you got back to The World, you would be a soldier returned from War.

And that is how it should have been. That is what should have happened. America should have understood. We should have welcomed you, loved you, and above all, respected you.

In Vietnam you learned, if you saw the sun come up in the morning, you have made it through yesterday. You learned in Vietnam that the only ground you could trust was the ground on which your feet stood that moment. There was no safety, no rest, no peace. Back in The World it was going to be different.

But it wasn't. There was no safety, rest, or peace for the returning Vietnam Veteran, because the stereotype of The Crazy 'Nam Vet made it home before most of you.

The cheers that greeted you when you stepped on the ground of your homeland were not cheers of welcome and joy. They were cries of insult and derision. The cheers were hurtful and alienating.

You traded your uniform at first chance for civilian clothes, many of you told to do so by those military figures still in charge of you lives. You were told, "If anybody asks about your tan, tell them you were on vacation in Hawaii." In other words, you were cued, "There is no Welcome Home for you. Get back to where you came from, and don't say much about where you have been."

For the Vietnam Veteran, the fight for survival did not end when the Freedom Bird touched down Stateside. The Vietnam Veteran made it home only to learn there was another battle to be fought, another battle to be won. Respect, caring and acceptance were not yours – you would have to find and capture them.

You quickly realized putting Veteran of Vietnam on a job application was as likely to hurt you as it was to help. There were some employers who welcomed you, but many employers turned you away. You figured this out, and you learned, "Just don't tell anyone."

But your mothers knew, your fathers knew - and even many of them were frightened by the child who came home. The child who hid in his room by day, and chased danger on the streets at night. Danger was your friend. It helped you feel alive.

When you did finally work, you found some balance. "I can work to stay awake, to put something else on my mind, to try to forget. And, I can drink to go to sleep, if even only for an hour or two."

The fortunate among you had wives, wives who anchored themselves to you and anchored you to them, and rode out the storm. The less fortunate found that divorce was an option that would leave him feeling alone for years, perhaps for decades, because the little trust he had in others was shattered when he was left behind by the person who was supposed to love him most.

Your friends from childhood, from high school? They had moved beyond, in some way, some path, you could not see. Ironically, they were growing up, you were just old. Old beyond your years for you had seen too much to ever know innocence again.

What about your buddies from The War? They might have understood. They might have helped you find yourself, and let you do the same for them. But how do you find a guy in some state hundreds of miles away, when all you know of him is "His name was Action - he came from Detroit."

Actually, it was very perceptive, very adaptive, of all of you to figure that Vietnam was a good place to be some other guy. Not Joe, not John, not Willie, but Lucky, Sarge, or Doc. By having another name, you were able to leave

someone else's footprints in the Delta, in the mountains and jungles, and up along the DMZ. The price? You could not easily find each other when you returned home. Worse yet, many of you could not "prove" you'd seen combat because when Oklahoma was killed, his name was Oklahoma - and you couldn't identify him on stressor form.

Perhaps the saddest and most deeply troubling reality of the Vietnam Veterans who survived that war is that they couldn't survive the battle that awaited. Statistics tell us that too many Vietnam Veterans took their own lives in the decades following The War.

Today we still see the premature passing of too many Vietnam Vets, for now they are dying quietly from illness related to Agent Orange, and from hearts that can no longer handle the stress of sleepless nights and anxious days.

Yet, still there are Survivors. YOU have survived. And you have created a ceremony, a recognition that you are proud and that you are able to live life on life's terms no matter how much those terms differed from the expectations of the kid who went off to fight for his country.

And so, I welcome you home. Not only because you made it back to The World, because you never were able to come back to the world you left. I welcome you home because you have found new ground under your feet. You have found each other. And in each other, you have found the respect, appreciation, and caring for which you have waited so long.

But more importantly, you have found self-respect, self-love, and the ability to be who you are - a brave, strong, and earnest young man who put his country before himself. You have survived the odds, and have become what you always should have known you were - a Proud Veteran.

I love you all for hanging in there, and for being who you are. I welcome you back to YOUR World.

5194



**LRRP/RANGER  
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST**

T-Shirts: (black and white all sizes)	\$13.00
Sweatshirts: black, S and M only	\$25.00
Hats: (black or white)	\$12.00
Decals: (Interior/Exterior)	\$2.00
Ranger Ring 9.5 10 10.5 only	\$35.00
Belt Buckles: (numbered)	\$20.00
Training Video (Bear Cat)	\$10.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts: all sizes	\$30.00
Windshirt, Pullover: (black only XL)	\$36.00
Windshirt: (converts to sleeveless) Black with khaki trim. (XXL only)	\$48.00
Cloth scroll patch: (Co H 75 <sup>th</sup> Inf.)	\$4.00
Cloth logo patch	\$4.00
Wooden Nickel	\$1.00
Ranger Lapel pins	\$4.00
Novelty T-shirt. (all sizes)	\$10.00
<b>Annual Dues</b>	\$15.00
<b>Shipping per order</b>	\$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 decals, patches, lapel pins, wooden nickel or the ring.

The novelty T-shirts includes postage

Take care and see you in Texas 22-26 June 2005.

**BOOKS  
by and about LRRP/Rangers**

The Ghosts of the Highlands by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. This is about the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1966-67

LRRP Company Command by Gregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ballantine Books. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1968-69

Acceptable Loss by Gregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. Gregg's autobiography, 1969-70.

MIA RESCUE LRRPs in Cambodia by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. One mission gone bad during the Cambodian Invasion.

Above All Else by Ron Christopher, PublishAmerica. Ron's autobiography about being the TL of the first team to pull a mission as the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's LRRP/Rangers.

One-Zulu by Curtis "Randy" Kimes, published by author. About one mission, May 7-9, 1968.

**OTHER BOOKS**

For What It's Worth by David Klimek, published by author. Dave's experiences during the Cambodian Invasion before he joined H-75<sup>th</sup>.

A Troop, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry by Ron Christopher. PublishAmerica. Ron's experiences with the "Blues" A-1-9 before he joined LRRP.

## JOHN LEBRUN REPORT

Greetings and salutations from the Pacific Northwest. Hope all have had a great summer. For those that missed the reunion: you missed a great one. Was well attended and I believe most had a fantastic time. I'm sure that somewhere else in the newsletter someone will go into great detail about the reunion so I will forgo saying too much.

I would like to start by thanking everyone for the many items that were donated for the raffle. Almost everyone that came brought something and a number of individuals mailed items to the hotel. I sent thank yous to those that I couldn't thank personally. So if you didn't get something in the mail or by e-mail let me know, for now thanks for your generous offerings. Some of the items that were raffled included wooden scale models of helicopters, knives, paintings, pictures, autographed pictures, undergarments, rations, headphones, autographed books from some of our very own and many other fantastic items. Hopefully everyone left the luncheon with a prize and looking forward to next years. Speaking of that there were lengthy discussion by some of the members to pay for Mike to come to the next reunion if he would bring a bigger supply of his raffle items. Either brand, Mike, that's what I heard anyways.

Sold a ton of items at the reunion. Have been restocked on golf shirts and sold out of all the mediums. These ones are one size larger than the last batch. I made everyone try the golf shirt on before purchase and EVERYONE took at least one size smaller. Don't know why but I have gone from a large to a medium. So if you need some cheering up or just need to replace that worn golf shirt place your order early and one size smaller than you normally wear.

You can see from the order form that a few items have been deleted. Have had some of the items for so long that we finally had to give them away at the reunion raffle. We are looking at restocking with a few different items but as of yet do not have a delivery date or the specifics of which items we will purchase and sell. I borrowed a t-shirt from Lee Fix with the Recondo logo on. They are a basic grey t-shirt with the Ranger and Recondo logo. I will be getting those made up and begin selling them hopefully by the time you get this newsletter. There are not that many of us that attended recondo school so am having only a limited number made in sizes large and X-large only. Initial estimates would indicate that they will sell for \$10.00 each plus postage. If you attended Recondo and want a t-shirt send me a e-mail and let me know. Don't want to be ordering 50 of the shirts and find out that there is only a need for 10.

I also have a number of Ranger white t-shirts that did not print correctly, white where the black should be, they are great novelty items and are being sold for \$7.00 and that includes the postage. I have them in all sizes for now, so place your order early.

Christmas is fast approaching. I would appreciate that you all place your orders early so that I may avoid the long lines at the post office as well as ensuring that you get your items in time.

Until next time take care and if you have any comments or recommendation please drop me a line.

PS> Just attended the 75th reunion at Ft Lewis and ran into Bill ANTON. For those that have asked he looked great and is currently living in Las Vegas. Drop him an e-mail he would like to hear from you.

## *Meet Your New Officers*

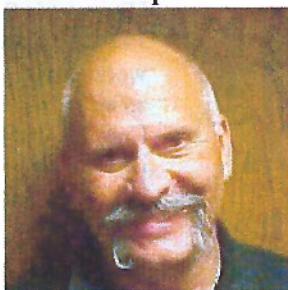
President

Larry Curtis



Vice-President

Keith Phillips



Secretary

Dave Klimek



Treasurer

Doug Parkinson



Merchandise

John LeBrun



Sergeant-At-Arms

Joe (Doc) Gilcrest



Board of Trustees

Forrest Decker



Bennie Gentry



Walter (Spanky) Seymour

## Reunion Business Executive Meeting

Minutes, June 12, 2004

Meeting called to order by Sam Dixon, President:  
Attending: Sam, Doc, Bob, Stan, Mike, Doug P.  
and Howard

Treasures report submitted and approved.  
Secretary's report misplaced but discussed

### Old Business:

Ranger Association contact: Bill Anton.

New president will contact association.

Brick fund discussed as to how to apply  
for funds for a brick. Name will be submitted to  
executive board. Member must be in good  
standing. Board will direct amount of funds to be  
allotted.

A donation of 5% will be made to the  
First Cavalry Scholarship fund at the conclusion  
of this year's reunion.

### Web site update

### New Business:

Bob Gill will chair a committee about a  
visit to Vietnam in 2007.

From John LeBrun: a member has  
offered to pay for one member and spouse to  
attend a reunion. John will get further  
clarification and report to the president. There  
will be an explanation in the newsletter and how  
to submit names.

A concern about eligibility of candidates  
wishing to become members was discussed. The  
by-laws were read and referred to. The board  
determined to do an investigation into the  
document presented and to interview current  
members that are from that time frame.

The action has been identified as 2  
(two) areas:

1. Eligibility: An investigation into concern by a  
sub-committee with results presented to board for  
action.
2. Review of by-laws as to behavior of members.

Interviews from current members asking to speak  
to the board:

1. John Lebrun
2. Bill Carpenter suggested additional  
names for interview: Torres, Ross,  
Suggs and Campbell.

## Treasurer's Final Report

Reunion 2004

Balance forwarded: \$4451.03

### Reunion Income:

Dues	\$ 270.00
Donations	\$ 460.00
Merchandise	\$1115.00
Raffle	\$ 625.00

TOTAL \$2470.00

### Reunion expenses:

Hospitality room	\$ 687.60
Postage	\$ 95.89
Beverages	\$ 292.54
UPS	\$ 114.00

TOTAL \$1190.03

Balance \$5731.00

to the 1st Cav Scholarship fund: \$245.00

Brick fund: in total below \$400.00

Balance transferred to Doug Parkinson:  
\$5486.00

FedEx of records \$10.00

BALANCE July 29, 2004 \$5476.00

It has been a pleasure to serve the organization  
thanks to all for your help.

Howard Shute

## **RUNNING SLACK**

By  
Bill Carpenter

Well, I attended my second LRRP/Ranger reunion this summer, it was interesting putting faces to what has been names on emails for the last two years.

There were several young soldiers there who have been in Iraq. I talked to one who spent some time in our reception room. He is an E-5 who looked like he wasn't out of high school yet. Gee, is that a familiar picture? Anyway, I ask him if spending some time with us "old soldiers" had affected his opinion of the army. He said it strongly reinforced his decision to career the army. Quite a compliment.

My son picked up an H-75<sup>th</sup> windbreaker at the reunion. He had it on in a bar one night when an "older man" ask him if he was a ranger. He said no, but he had been in Iraq. He explained that it was for a Viet Nam era unit. The man then proceeded to give the fifteen minute, those-people-were-crazy talk. My son said that he never met any crazy people at the reunion.

Some beautiful, hand carved wood, choppers were on display at the reunion. A family in Viet Nam makes them. They also have several other hand-carved items for sale. If you are interested you can contact the importer:

Carved Imports  
31050 S. 4223 Road  
Inola, OK 74036  
918-809-0009

This business is run out of a home, so don't be surprised if a little girl answers the phone. No, I do not get a commission for putting this note in the newsletter.

**Two More Next-Generation Warriors**  
My 21 year old son -infantry- 1st ID has been in Balad, Iraq since February. Hope to see him home on R and R in a couple of months.

Cheers!  
Darrell "Smitty" Smith

A news release from the family of Doug & Debbie MATZE...Debbie's son, Ben Pellum, was the Honor Graduate of Platoon 2066 2nd BN "H" CO when he graduated from Boot Camp at Parris Island, SC on Friday, July 30, 2004. While in training, he refused doctor recommended bed rest for a respiratory infection and a knee injury and continued with his scheduled training. He qualified as Expert on the firing range. As an Honor Graduate he was promoted to the rank of Private First Class. Ben volunteered for the Infantry and will attend the Marine Corps School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, NC beginning August 17. He sends a special "Thank You" for the card that was sent to him from the Reunion in Milwaukee. Good luck with your military career, Ben!

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE IS FROM  
John "Greek" SIMONES:

Regardless of anybody's political persuasion, vote!!! I think it was Ben Franklin who said, "People get the government they deserve."

And SIMONE'S LRRP teammate, Art GUERRERO was seen on the big screen at the Democratic National Convention during a live-feed-from-Denver introduction of a speaker. Artie, are the Hallowed Halls of Congress in your future?

If you like real maple syrup, from Minnesota north woods, contact Bob GILL, try it, you will like it.



### **This came from the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA web page guest book**

Dan SWYNDRO was from Illinois. He served with H Co. 75th Rangers, Team 72, I believe, and was in Vietnam from approximately late 1968 to 1970. Dan passed away in 1999 and I was a personal friend of his. I'm currently deployed in Iraq flying a Blackhawk.

Dan Swyndro and I shared a lot of times when I was younger. We talked a lot and I was an aspiring soldier at the time, all about "Special Forces" and then I got accepted to flight school. We became very close and I saw him at some of his worst and his best. Very sad, but he was a special person, but couldn't let go. He was a "hero" of mine and I respected him very much. He is buried at the Joliet, IL Arnsenal Veteran's Cemetery.

I always wanted to talk to some people that served with Dan SWYNDRO in Vietnam. If any of you out there have any information about him, please email me at

[keith.koca@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.koca@us.army.mil)

Thank you, God bless

### **CHIROPRACTIC CARE BY VA**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced that as of the fall of 2004 US Veterans will be able to receive chiropractic care at 26 selected Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities. According to the release, the VA will hire or contract with doctors of chiropractic to provide the care. In consultation with VA primary care providers, doctors of chiropractic will offer patient evaluations and chiropractic care for neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

For those eligible veterans who live in areas distant from these locations, the VA will allow them to receive chiropractic care through VA's outpatient fee-basis program after a referral by their primary care provider and prior authorization by the VA department.

I was talking to a person who works at the local VA hospital. We have two Ivory Tower type hospitals in this area. She said that at least three specialists have left the Ivory Towers and gone to work at the VA hospital in the last year. They all gave the same reason: they were tired of the assembly line, thirty bodies a day type of practice. They all want to care for about thirty patients a week, and get to know them as a person. The VA hospital may not have all the expensive machines, but the doctors feel they are providing better patient care, (holistic medicine). Is this happening at other VA hospitals? Quality vs. quantity.

### **FROM A CHOPPER JOCK**

Just in case the Commander-In-Chief decides to recall any of us military retirees, I have been trying on the old uniforms. I want to be ready.

*So far only the socks fit!*

Trivia: The last issue of the "Saber" listing of reunion attendees had some of us listed as 52INF, others 75Inf **and some** more as LRRP. Division still doesn't **know what** to do with us.

Next year's reunion is in Killen, TX on June 22-26. The LRRP/RANGERS will be staying once again at the former Park Inn, now the Howard Johnson. The rooms are \$69.00, double occupancy, plus 13% tax making the total \$77.97. We have a block of twenty rooms. LRRP/Rangers making reservations need to call the Howard Johnson at 1-254-526-4343. Ask for the block of rooms under Keith Phillips, that way our HOSPITALITY ROOM will be complementary. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR; ALL OF THE REUNION INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER AND THE SPRING ISSUE OF "THE SABER".**

### **STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER**



# THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



## LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS 2004-2006

### **PRESIDENT**

Larry Curtis  
1719 Mutz Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
317-894-2947  
[lcurtis123@comcast.net](mailto:lcurtis123@comcast.net)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Keith Phillips  
18288 Acre Lane  
Kemp, TX 75143  
903-498-4194  
[darby7172@earthlink.net](mailto:darby7172@earthlink.net)

### **SECRETARY**

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

### **TREASURER**

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

### **MERCHANDISE**

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

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

Joe (Doc) Gilchrest  
253 Jackson Ln.  
China Spring, TX 76633  
254-836-1382  
[gilchrest@hotmail.com](mailto:gilchrest@hotmail.com)

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Bennie Gentry  
1347 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-4830

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

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Sam Dixon  
4 Warwick Lane  
New Castle, DE 19720  
[samuel.dixon@comcast.net](mailto:samuel.dixon@comcast.net)

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

Bill Anton  
999 West Katie Ave., Unit 2238  
Las Vegas, NV 89147-8371  
[polar\\_bear\\_01@runbox.com](mailto:polar_bear_01@runbox.com)