



NUMBER 47

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



JANUARY 2006

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 MI; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CO. E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CO. H, (RANGER) 75TH INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3RD 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 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

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BILL CARPENTER
713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)
vetvet1@adelphia.net

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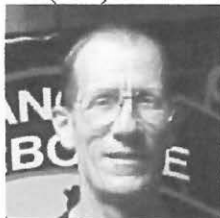
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Sergeant-At-Arms

Joe (Doc) Gilchrest



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Walter (Spanky) Seymour

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would first like to start off by wishing everybody a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope this coming year will bring happiness and joy to you all. As we start the New Year off it's time to start thinking about making your plans to attend this years reunion in Louisville, KY. The reunion format this year is a little difference than in past years as it starts on a Sunday and ends on Thursday. This means our luncheon will be on Wednesday, so plan accordingly. The dates are Sunday, July 9 – Thursday, July 13, 2005. We are going to have a guest speaker at this year's luncheon. He is one of our own - MG Michael W. Davidson (retired). In 1971 Gen. Davidson was a 1st LT with H. Co. in Viet Nam. He is looking forward to seeing the men that were in his Platoon then and talking to all of the L.R.R.P. / Rangers. I think it would be great if we could get all of the Company Commanders to the reunion. You can help by contacting them directly or providing me with the information. I know they would like to hear from you.

Gair Anderson is planning a golf outing at the reunion for anyone who wants to play. The guys that played last year said they had a good time. Bring your clubs and sign up in the hospitality room. This year is an election year for officers. If there is anyone who would like to run for an office please contact Bill Carpenter. He will be glad to put you on the ballot. In order to vote your dues must be paid.

In other news, Rex and Julie McElroy are grandparents. Their daughter Erin gave birth to a baby boy the first of December. Mother and baby are doing fine. Doug and Debbie Matze's son Ben just finished a tour of duty in Iraq with the Marines. Welcome home Ben! Ben said his unit is to be redeployed back to Iraq in September. Bob Ankony has a book coming out about his time in Vietnam with the Rangers. It's at the publisher now and should be out in February or March 2006.

By the way, for those who don't know I had a hunting accident (more like equipment failure). My tree stand gave way forcing me to cut my safety harness and make a controlled drop. The drop was fine, if I do say so myself, but on landing I broke my leg! At the hospital the doctor said, "It looks like your deer hunting days are over. There will be no more tree climbing." I told the doctor he was wrong. I'd already ordered a new tree stand and was planning on hunting next year! It looks like I'll be off work for about four months. I am already driving Jeannie nuts!! As you know you can't keep an old Ranger down for long!

Larry Curtis

Rangers Lead The Way

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LRRP/RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report
28 December 2005

Balance forwarded: \$195.40

INCOME:

Dues	\$225.00
Merchandise	\$352.50
Donations	\$316.00
Postage	\$19.50
Brick Fund Donation	\$35.00

Subtotal **\$948.00**

EXPENSES:

First Cav Div Scholarship Fund	\$693.00
Roster Production	\$57.00

Subtotal **\$750.00**

Bank Savings Account \$50.00

Brick Fund to Date \$435.00

Subtotal 28 December 2005 **\$6393.40**

I wish to also extend a high level of gratitude towards several anonymous 'angels' that contributed to the LRRP/Ranger Association.

Thankful in Arcata

Doug Parkinson, treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY DAVE KLIMEK

Our membership now stands at 262 members. Our latest new applicant is Joe SIMMONS (1970-71) who lives in Panacea, FL. I remember him and also a Roger SIMMONS being in our unit in Nam. Joe says he plans to attend our reunion this year in Louisville. By the he should have received his special order for some 4X merchandise to wear. For some reason, I guess location, I expect a very good turn-out this year.

Speaking of Louisville, howse 'bout dem Mount'neers, when they played Louisville. Few people were left to see the greatest football comeback I have ever seen. Down 24-7 with 12 minutes remaining, more people left after the WVU starting quarterback got knocked out of the game. Ironically, the Louisville coach would later say that is how they lost the game. The WVU replacement was a freshman running-style QB, who, including good defense and recovering the niftiest on-side-kick, sent the game into triple overtime with WVU winning 46-44 after they stopped Louisville going for two points. As I stood to cheer I was done hyper-ventilating when the sweet smell of ammonia took over my senses. In a way it was an adrenaline blast from the past. WVU is going to the Sugar Bowl and I'm going too. I like it when I get an adrenaline rush.

Have all of you gone to the VA to get registered and a free check-up? I know you all know the many good reasons to do so - so go.

Concerning our Brick Fund, since asking for any responders in our last newsletter, no one has contacted me. I guess this means no one has anybody to nominate at this time and we should expect on a few applicants in the future. That being said, the brick fund will remain under its existing guidelines. This concludes our research for future use of our brick fund.

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BOOKS

by and about LRRP/Rangers

In closing, I plan to nominate SSG Timothy HARPER, KIA 2/17/71 as a brick fund applicant. I pledge to complete all the paperwork and submit all the funding. Tim was a good friend of mine in-country and many others who served with him. I believe he was the best Ranger in our unit during my time. Not being an officer or a career person, it's hard to gain acceptance into the Ranger Hall of Fame in Ft. Benning, GA. But I think being KIA after serving on more than seventy missions and being our most decorated Ranger will prevail. I hope many of you who remember Tim will support his nomination. This is probably the least I could do for him and his family.

Dave Klimek

WEB PAGE

Help Help Help

Pete EISENTREGER has handled the web page for the last few years, but it has become more than he can handle alone.

So, one of you out there step up and give him a hand. He will thank you if you want to take it over all together.

If you are interested, contact Pete at:

petesphotos@charter.net

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

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

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

MIA RESCUE LRRPs in Cambodia by Kregg 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 1st 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-75th.

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

Bumblebee Mountain by Ron Christopher Publishamerica. A fiction about what soldiers lived through.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts: Black and white all sizes	\$13.00
T-Shirts Novelty white all sizes	\$10.00
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 M, L, XL	\$36.00
Sweaters: Black M LR XL	\$50.00
Jackets: Black M LR XL	\$60.00
Windshirt: (converts to sleeveless) Black with khaki trim. (M, L XL only)	\$48.00
Cloth scroll patch: (Co H 75 th Inf.)	\$4.00
Cloth logo patch	\$4.00
Wooden Nickel	\$1.00
Ranger Lapel pins	\$4.00
Recondo T-Shirts all sizes	\$15.00
ANNUAL DUES	\$15.00
Shipping per order	\$4.50

Please mail check/money order payable to
LRRP/RANGER and send 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 nickels, novelty T-shirts, Recondo shirts, or the ring. Take care and you missed a great one in Texas. Start planning for next year's reunion now, you owe it to yourself.

Welcome once again from the Pacific Northwest, actually the very far Pacific Northwest. For once again I have opted to spend the winter at Big White. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Since the last newsletter I have bought a house ... Blaine and have been attempting to move into it over the last two months. Should be completely moved in by Christmas, I hope. My new address is contained within the newsletter so I won't repeat it. I want to apologize now to those people that have ordered black hats and haven't had their order filled. I am hoping to have them in shortly and to you before you receive this newsletter. I dropped the ball.

The other items for sale remain the same. I tried to get ahold of someone who was selling license plates but I have not received an answer after numerous e-mails. I was hoping to order in bulk and get a discount on them. No luck so far. He has a site on E-Bay.

The next reunion is fast approaching. This should be another event you put on your calendar and plan to attend. For those that are coming remember the raffle and for those that can't make it but would like to donate items for the raffle you can forward them to me, somebody else that is planning on attending or ship them direct to the hotel in care of me. All items are greatly appreciated.

Well until next time take care and talk to you soon.

John LeBrun

OUR PRESIDENT IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET THE OFFICERS TO COME TO A REUNION. WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO HAVE ALL OF THE OFFICERS IN ONE PLACE, AT ONE TIME?

*SO HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS WHO PUT ALL
OF THE TEENAGERS WITH AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS ONTO THE CHOPPERS? NEXT
JULY WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO GET
TOGETHER.*

OBITUARY

RICHARD CRAMER

Richard CRAMER's brother informed us that Richard had died on 19 Sept 2002. He did not mention the cause of death. Richard's favorite picture was of him receiving a medal while with H-75th. He sent a copy of the picture to put on the web page. He commented that Richard often talked about the men he served with in Viet Nam and enjoyed the updates in the newsletter. If interested, Richard's brother may be contacted at:

Daniel Cramer

4108 Redondo Beach Blvd, Apt C

Torrance, CA 90504

askmissevie@msn.com

LOUISE GILCHREST

(Mrs. Doc Gilchrest)

Louise Gilchrest died on Tuesday, December 20, 2005 in Waco, TX. Graveside services were on Friday, December 23 at Restland Cemetery in Gatesville. Emma "Louise" Wamsley born June 4, 1948. She married Larry Gilchrest on April 27, 1968 in Sharon, Pa.

Louise and Larry moved to Texas in 1971. Her family always came first in her life, and she was the foundation for the love found in her immediate and extended family. She will be remembered for her quiet sense of peace, her strong sense of compassion, and for lovingly guiding her family through good times and bad. Her heart and her home were always open to those in need.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Larry Gilchrest; five daughters, one son and nine grandchildren.

Our Personal Thanks

The Gilchrest family wants to thank the LRRP/RANGERS for their flowers and support during the illness and death of Louise Gilchrest. The floral spray sent by the Rangers was a perfect match to the casket spray picked by the family. A special thanks to Bennie and Sandy Gentry, and Keith and Frankie Phillips, for leaving their families to support mine. I really feel that behavior to be "above and beyond", especially on the 23 of December.

They were like Hueys on the horizon. A real boost to me and my family.

Doc Gilchrest and Family

The Eagle



The Eagle is an Angel
Watching over this fair land,
Spreading hope to all the people
So together we might stand.

The Eagle is a guide
Representing strength and love,
One Nation bound together
Under God above!

The Eagle holds a message
That inspires us to agree:

**We're proud to be Americans,
United, Blessed and Free!**

Veterans Day 2005 at The Wall, Washington, DC

By Ken White

The Veteran's Day Observance at The Wall (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) on the National Mall in Washington, DC drew a very large crowd this year, as expected, due to the fact that Veteran's Day fell on a Friday and that it coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the 1st Cav's battles in the Ia Drang Valley. The National Park Service, which co-sponsors the annual observance, together with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, no longer provides estimates of crowd size for events on the Mall, due to the controversy that these estimates have caused in recent years. My estimate, which is strictly a 'seat-of-the-pants' estimate, is 35,000.

Sam Dixon, past president of our LRRP/Rangers Chapter, and his wife Cathy, were in attendance, as were Glenn Merritt, Vienna, VA ('67-68); Terry Smith, Springfield, VA ('70-71); and, Jim Wright, Poquoson, VA ('67). Although I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Glenn, Terry, and Jim at The Wall, I did see that they had signed the LRRP/Ranger Register at the sign-in desk at the hospitality suite hosted by the 1st Cav Div. Association at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel, Arlington, VA.

The 1st Cav was especially well represented at this year's observance, again due in part to the Ia Drang Association. The observance began with retired General Hal Moore, who commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Cav in the Ia Drang Valley, leading a procession of about 200 Ia Drang veterans along The Wall to Panel 3E, where they stopped briefly to pay their respects to those who died in the Ia Drang fighting in 1965. The division's Color Guard from Fort Hood was there, as were the U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard -- Military District of Washington and 82nd

Airborne Division Color Guard from Fort Bragg. About 45 minutes into the observance, a member of the 1st Cav Color Guard fainted and was unable to continue. Fortunately for him, he fell backwards and a fellow color guard member was able to grab him and help break his fall. I shutter to think what would have happened if he had fallen forward from the top of The Wall.

This year's keynote speaker was General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). General Pace is a first-generation American who grew-up in Brooklyn, New York - the son of an Italian (Sicilian) immigrant. He commanded a Marine rifle company in Vietnam in 1970-1971 and is the first Marine to hold the position of Chairman of the JCS. Other speakers included retired Army General Peter M. Dawkins, who won the Heisman Trophy at West Point as the nation's outstanding football player in 1959 and served as a paratrooper in Vietnam; retired Army General Barry McCaffrey, who served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded three purple hearts for wounds sustained in combat; and retired Army General Evelyn "Pat" Foote, who served in Vietnam in 1967 and was instrumental in raising funds for the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the Mall. As a sidenote, the Celtic tribal band, Clann An Drumma, from Glasglow, Scotland, which was scheduled to play their rendition of "Sergeant MacKenzie" at the observance, failed to make it to Washington. "Sergeant MacKenzie" is the Scottish song that is played in the background in several of the scenes in the movie *We Were Soldiers*. It is both creepy and captivating.

After the observance, 1st Cav veterans, family members, and friends, headed over to the hospitality suite at the Crystal City Hilton, where General Moore and Joe Galloway, authors of the book *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young*, graciously autographed copies for everyone who

was interested in having their book autographed. Joe Galloway was the UPI reporter from El Paso, TX who in November 1965 at age 23 finagled his way into LZ XRay and spent the next three days alongside troopers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cav battling the NVA.

Numerous other 1st Cav veterans were at the hospitality suite as well, including Ed "Too Tall" Freeman, the helicopter pilot from the 229th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopters) who twice had his helicopter shot-out from under him while ferrying troops and ammunition into LZ XRay. He then commandeered other helicopters back at the rear area and continued flying supplies into XRay for the next three days. For his actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Interestingly, Ed was also in the battle at Pork Chop Hill in Korea in the summer of 1953, where he earned a 'battlefield commission' battling Chinese Communist Forces.

Next year's observance at The Wall will be on a weekend, which should make it easier for people traveling to Washington from out-of-town. Again, it is expected to be a special time. Hope to see you there.

THE DEERSTALKER

A story about our president
Larry Curtis

I have heard several versions of the following story, so I will try to consolidate them. Larry CURTIS is known for his hunting ability and woodsmanship.

On his latest deer hunt (he went alone) he selected a tree to hang his deer stand. He did not

notice that the tree was dead, and rotting, until after he climbed into the deer stand. Part of the tree broke and the deer stand moved. The sudden shift of his weight (Larry, you are not as light as you use to be) broke the deer stand he was sitting in (always check, and recheck, your equipment before a mission). So, Larry is hanging about 25 feet off the ground, upside down, by his safety line (it worked). Remember that Larry is hunting alone.

Larry dropped his weapon to the ground (did it have a round chambered when it hit the ground?). He then planned his PLF before taking his sheath knife and cutting the safety line (recon ahead before proceeding). Well, he did not see the stump in the weeds on the ground until after cutting the safety line. One foot hit the stump, messing up the leg. There are different variations to the story as to how much damage was done to the leg, so you can decide on that.

He knew not to take off his boot to check the damage, but kept it on as a cast. He then walked out of the woods (the distance varies from a few 100 yards to a half mile, depending on the story teller). I didn't hear how much equipment Larry left in the woods, did he use the rifle as a crutch or cut himself a crutch? You can create your own version of that story.

After getting out of the woods, Larry then drove about 120 miles home before having the leg examined by a medic. After all, the mission and the debriefing are more important than the Ranger.

If you should ever want to go hunting with this Ranger who has been called a model for "a Dutch Master artist", you may want to know how to contact the local medivac before proceeding with the mission.

MEMORIES

By Keith Phillips

Shoot low Rangers, they're ridden Shetlands!

I would think everyone is in agreement on one fact. It is hard to believe that Christmas 05 has come and gone and the Reunion in Kentucky is staring us in the face. Where does the time go?

Back in September I received the heart wrenching news that Danny SVOBODA'S son had passed away in his sleep. It was some time before Danny could talk about it or notify any of us. Recently I spoke with him and He said to tell everyone he and his family are OK. Please pray for the comfort of Danny and his family.

I also, with the deepest regret, inform all, that Doc GILCHERST'S wife passed away just before Christmas. She had courageously fought against a number of cancers for some time. Please keep Doc and his family in your prayers as they come to grips with their loss. Benny and Sandy GENTRY, myself and my wife Frankie, were able to be with Doc during the funeral. Benny and Sandy made it down to China Springs, Texas, from Indiana in one day, attended the wake the night of December 22, the funeral on the 23rd and were back home in time to spend Christmas Eve with their family. I am very proud to call Benny and Sandy friends of mine.

It seems that our country has experienced one tragedy after another since 9/11/01. After 9/11 we had the Space Shuttle, then Hurricanes repeatedly hit Florida and most recently Hurricane Katrina and then Hurricane Rita. In my capacity as a Special Agent I have had the opportunity to provide assistance in all except the Florida hurricanes. Katrina, though, takes the cake. I was providing protection for EPA's sampling teams and involved with search and rescue. I spent nine days experiencing a stench that would make the burning of diesel fuel and human waste, in a cut off 55 gallon drum, by

a mountain Yard with black teeth, seem like a bouquet of fresh cut flowers.

At one moment a Huey came over the top of us while the smell of decaying bodies invaded all my senses. As I looked up my ears were filled with the sound of the popping blades and all I could see was the large red cross on the nose of the Huey. Just for a split second I was thousands of miles away. Later that day as we were making our way through the Ninth Ward, a round hit my government ride. I was with a former Marine (Gulf War vintage). We never heard the report of the shot nor did the coward take a second shot so we could get a fix on his location. If we could have identified a target that "nit wit" would of realized it is not wise to shoot at a Ranger and a Marine each trying to out do the other. It should be noted that once the busses started taking survivors out of New Orleans we stopped getting shot at. I'll let you ponder that one.

During my time in New Orleans with all the helicopter traffic I began thinking about a mission I pulled just before I went on R&R in early February 72. The Team consisted of Smitty (Thomas E. Smith, KIA 02/20/72) Team Leader, I was Assistant Team leader, Elvis Osborne (KIA 6/9/72) was walking Rear Scout. I believe "Stubby" and "Jackson" (David W. Jackson) were with us. The sixth person I can't remember.

We had been paralleling a hard packed trail, which ended up going through a defoliated area. The underbrush had regrown and the trees were sticking up out of it like toothpicks. Due to the thickness of the underbrush we were forced to start walking the trail. We had just crossed a high-banked stream (creek by Texas standards) when we heard movement in the direction we were traveling. Elvis and Smitty went on a point recon, which resulted in contact with a small contingent of VC. As soon as the firefight started I was on the horn bouncing the "birds". By fire and movement, Smitty and Elvis were making their way back to the Team. Once we had visual

on their location we began providing covering fire. At that point Elvis stood up and threw a grenade yelling of course, "GRENADE"!!!!!!! As fate would have it, the grenade hit the only, toothpick of a tree, in that direction. As we all watched the grenade was coming back at Elvis like a Smart Bomb by today's standards. Elvis seemed frozen as if he had got to close to a curb on a bicycle and could not pull away. At the last moment Elvis disappeared into the underbrush and fortunately the grenade fell short of his position. In hindsight that was just the prelude of what was to come.

By the time we got Smitty and Elvis back with the Team the Gun Ships were on location. We popped smoke and the gun ships identified. As we watched the Cobra Climb and then lay over to start his gun run we realized he was rolling in on our smoke. Without hesitation we all went into the high-banked stream. As I was going underwater I observed Elvis diving into the approximate four-foot deep stream with at least a foot of mud in the bottom, HEAD FIRST.

The gun Ship's rockets were sure enough dead on our smoke. As the rockets exploded and we came up out of the water all I could see was Elvis' feet sticking about six inches out of the water. We grabbed him and pulled him out. He didn't need "camie" after that. He had mud in every orifice of his face. We all made it out with only *torn flesh* from underbrush. Ain't life Grand.

Keep Your Powder Dry

WE MADE IT!!!

By Al Volkel

We're still here!!! The Weather Service told us to prepare for a Category 3 but predicted a Category 2. It was a Category 3, and the back side of the storm was much worse than the front. We had no damage from the front of the storm; after they eye passed through and the back side came on was when we had all our damage

(and it wasn't really so bad; just a lot worse than we got last year from the two back-to-back storms).

At one point during the storm, we were looking out the front window and Al said, "Look at that. It's hailing!" Well, we didn't find out until the next day when we got out and about that it wasn't hail we saw; it was tiny little pieces of glass from the solar panel on the roof. I spent the whole first day after the storm picking up bits of glass from our front lawn and our neighbor's!

We got phone service back, at least on the line where we have a land phone, on Friday. We just got power back about 7:30 last night--a chorus of cheers and some people were setting off fireworks. Our neighborhood, we learned, is on three separate electrical grids. The biggest one came up on Saturday and the majority of the neighborhood came back on then (including my son Charley and pregnant wife and baby). The last three streets, of which ours is one, are on another grid and they got that going partially last night, though when we went out to look, the two streets beyond us were still dark and I still heard generators coming from there this morning. The third grid has lines down that no one has even looked at yet, so they may be a long time coming. Still no school today. They decided yesterday that there was just too much damage to too many schools. They'll announce today whether they think they can open tomorrow.

Today is our wedding anniversary; we didn't even realize it before Al left for work this morning and I called him on his cell phone to wish him a happy anniversary. That's how frazzled we've been! We've been to Albuquerque twice in the last two years; I have a girlfriend from high school there who keeps telling us how much she loves Albuquerque and she would never go back to Wisconsin nor to California, where she lived for many years. It's sounding better and better all the time . . .

Leo Corey may have been affected by Rita, but have not heard. Leo, you there?

HISTORICAL OCCURENCES

SCARY NITE

By

Jim Regan

Long ago and far away... here we go again!
It was one of the unusually "quiet" nites in the "Rear". One team in the bush, lagered down, ambush position, no movement. The C.O. and Opn's NCO, John Barnes, and I were going to solve the problems of the world. Not many places to go when all's quiet and you hope for the best.

Because we monitored the radio calls from the 1/9 Cav, we heard the activity. "Got a Bird down!!!" The Cav had an operation going on down on the Son Be River AO. All our ears perked up and we plugged in to the FMs. Seems as if a "Charlie" model got shot down during an operation. All hell was breaking loose! Bad terrain, lots of ground fire, the makin's of a real fight.

We listened and the C.O. CPT "P" said, "Get some stuff together." Barnes and I looked at each other and took off. John went to the supply tent to grab gear. I went to the hooch to roust out the guys that CPT "P" had told me to round up. Up and at 'em, saddle up, lock and load, and stand by!

CPT "P" hustled to the Squadron HQ and "Volunteers" the Rangers. We prepare for a "Recovery". We had not done that before!!!! We have our McGuire Rigs, a team of three. The C.O. will round out the team. He looks at me and says, "Sgt. Regan, you are our Jumpmaster!" Off we go on the mule, with all the gear, lots of adrenaline, and probably too much bravado!

We reach the pad and I begin to "rig" the bird. The Crew Chief tried to hurry me. I brush him off and slow down. Rig the bird, check my rappellers, talk to all and ensure that we know what the heck is going on. The rigging goes

well, the ropes are not the usual rappelling ropes, but the "daisy chained" McGuire extraction ropes in sandbags. I already knew that twists would slow the rappel.

Lift off! I have my usual web gear and 20 mags, 10 frags, and a Car 15. The team is "lite", no rucksacks, but heavy on small arms. Along with my PRC 25, I have my (previously requisitioned) flight helmet, plugged into the bird's freqs, et al. I hated to have surprises while flying!

As we are inbound to the AO I give the team sitreps. The chatter on the FM is unreal, "Cavalier ---, I'm taking fire!!! Rolling Hot!!! Back to Papa Victor to refuel and rearm." I looked out the right door as we approach the AO and all I see are NAV lites. Gunships rolling hot!!! Green tracers!!! Everyone who has a helicopter gunship is AIRBORNE and SHOOTING!!!

Then I monitor a call on the Cavalier "Push", "THE RANGERS ARE HERE AND GOING IN ON THE BIRD!!! GIVE THEM COVER!!!" The entire world erupted with miniguns, rockets, and door gunners going crazy around us.

As we hovered over the downed bird, rockets cooked off and green tracers reaching for us, the Ol' Man gives me a thumbs up, I put him and the other Rangers on the skids, and off they went ...into double canopy, at nite, burning wreck below, gunships firing 360 degrees!!! PUCKER FACTOR!!! The rappel progresses... the pilot gets anxious, the Ranger RTO keeps me posted on the progress of the team.

Too long over the AO... green tracers still seeking us out! One line "slack"... two lines "slack" three ropes "slack"! Pilot gets "goosey" starts to LIFT/pull pitch! "NO, NO" I slap him on the helmet with my "K" bar! "NO NO!" The RTO calls and we have a guy hung up. I cut the rope and the slick bounces into the air!!! All the guys are safe and sound on the ground.

5257

Commo is good, AO is secured. Three bodies are recovered. A long vigil securing the crash site begins. The fourth body is found/recovered when the team moves around the crash site. The Blues go in on the area at First Light. Team is extracted. End of TALE??? NO way!!!

Prior to this night, there had been many, many episodes of confrontation, aggravation, and even animosity between the Rangers and the Troopers of the 1/9, Real Cavalry. 'Til this day, there is a bond between our units that is to be envied by other Combat Units. That nite, the Rangers literally "Hung it out!" for the Troopers of Charlie Troop 1/9 Cav.

OK, who went down the ropes with the captain? Let's hear your side of the story.

A PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Dear Lord,

There's a young man far from home,
called to serve his nation in time of
war;

sent to defend our freedom
on some distant foreign shore.

We pray You keep him safe,
we pray You keep him strong,
we pray You send him safely home ...
for he's been away so long.



There's a young woman far from
home,

serving her nation with pride.
Her step is strong, her step is sure,
there is courage in every stride.

We pray You keep her safe,
we pray You keep her strong,
we pray You send her safely home ...
for she's been away too long.



Bless those who await their safe
return.

Bless those who mourn the lost.
Bless those who serve this country
well,

no matter what the cost.
God, Bless America!



PULLING SLACK

By
Bill Carpenter

RANGER MEMORIAL BRICKS

There has been some changes in the procedure for acquiring a brick on the "Ranger Walk". Among other things, I understand that the price has gone up. If I read things right, the information on the Ranger Memorial webpage is out of date.

So if you plan to purchase a brick, it would probably be best to contact the Memorial personnel directly to eliminate confusion.

GETTING AUTHORIZATION FOR A MEDAL YOU FEEL YOU DESERVE

The following website provides information on how to apply to The Awards Branch of your former Military Service Branch for a medal you were never authorized but feel you deserve.

All applications for authorization of a medal must be made using Form DD-149 and mailed (not faxed and not emailed) to The Awards Branch of your Service.

DD-149 is downloadable in .PDF format from this website:

<http://members.aol.com/forvets/htom.htm>

VA Warns of Telephone Prescription Scam

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"Some unscrupulous scammers have targeted America's veterans, especially our older veterans," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "VA

does not call veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone."

The latest scam, currently centered in the Midwest, comes from callers who identify themselves as working for the "Patient Care Group." They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the veteran's credit card number.

"VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Nicholson said. "And we've definitely not changed our long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of our veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

TEXAS GOLF RULES

From John LEBRUN

Advise from last year's reunion
To be considered for future golf outings

There was some confusion at the last reunion on the Texas Golf Rules. Maybe these will work better.

1. No smoking.
2. You may not touch the ball from the time you tee up to the moment you remove it from the hole.
3. When you are in the bushes, keep clapping your hands; and don't bend over when you are in the rough.
4. Ball is considered in the hole when it is within the length of the string attached to the pin.
5. There is a 12 shot rule. After 12 strokes, pick up your ball and proceed to the next tee.
6. After encountering the 12 shot rule, and you feel the need to light up, commit to memory rule # 1.
7. Use only your 7 iron to kill rattlesnakes.
8. If a coyote picks up your ball, you subtract one stroke, but you must play it from where ever the

coyote drops the ball. Only one coyote bonus per hole allowed, multiple pick-ups don't count.
9. If a gopher steals your ball, it's legal to retrieve it from the gopher hole.

10. Cow compost/dung counts as a "loose impediment".

11. The no golf cart rule will be in place at all times (It would cut playing time down to five minutes).

FROM JOHN CRIPE'S SON

Hello there. My name is Travis Vermillion and my dad served in Vietnam. He passed away several years ago and we never really had a chance to talk. In any case, I've undergone the task of gathering as much information as I can about the time he served. It's been quite an ordeal...Anyway, according to one of the documents that I have, he seems to have been in Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, and Company E, 52nd Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division. I don't know if you can point me in the right direction and/or provide any additional information. His name was John CRIPE and I'm just trying to find out where he was, what he did, and if anyone might know who he is. I so appreciate what you all have done and continue to do here. This is my wife's e-mail address, but I can be reached at travis.vermillion@storeservicesgroup.com. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Travis Vermillion
4518 Pendock Court
Charlotte NC 28226

Doug PARKINSON checked this guy out and he is legit.

FROM JIM REGAN

Lou CARISTA could stand a couple of encouraging phone calls. He's been plagued with heart and artery problems. He and I started out together about 1959 in the same Airborne Infantry Company at Fortress Campbell. Jim RLTW

Lou can be contacted at: mglow@flash.net
phone 903-677-3827

JIM BARRETT

I understand that Jim "Peewee" BARRETT is having it a little rough right now. He may appreciate some contact with some old teammates. His address is:

James Barrett
76 Gardner St.
Worcester, MA 01610

FROM PETE "DUTCH" EISENTRAGER

My ex-wife and I took a trip to Italy last fall. I worked it out with a travel agent here in town to go to Rome, Florence, a villa and then Venice and fly out of Venice. A ten day trip. Pretty much going as first class as I could....drivers to Hotels, trains, etc. I canceled the villa and stayed an extra day in Florence....one of the most beautiful city's in the world. Blue sky in the 70's, room on the Mugnone River, just a great time.

We had a little snag in our trip when Vangi had her passport stolen at the train station in Florence and from Venice we had to go to the embassy in Milan and get a new one....what an adventure and a couple of extra days. I took over 300 photo's and I know for a fact that she will never forget it.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

5260



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

VICE PRESIDENT

Keith Phillips
18288 Acre Lane
Kemp, TX 75143
903-498-4194
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

MERCHANDISE

John LeBrun
8080 Harborview Dr
Blaine, WA 98230
604-764-9634
caabnranger@yahoo.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Forrest Decker
627 S. Hall St.
Princeton, IN 47670
812-386-6418
Fedecker@wmconnect.com

Bennie Gentry
1347 20th St.
Tell City, IN 47586
812-547-4830
macv495soglrp@sbcglobal.net

Walter (Spanky) Seymour
521 7th Ave. #104
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-317-8085
Spanky_JS@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Sam Dixon
4 Warwick Lane
New Castle, DE 19720
samuel.dixon@comcast.net

75th RRA REPRESENTATIVE

Bill Anton
9999 West Katie Ave., Unit 2238
Las Vegas, NV 89147-8371
polar_bear_01@runbox.com