



NUMBER 50

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



JANUARY 2007

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED ON JANUARY 1, MARCH 1 (REUNION INFORMATION ISSUE) AND AUGUST 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.

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

Webster defines strong as having great physical power; as having moral or intellectual power; as striking or superior of its kind.

But with all due respect to Webster, there is strong, and then there is

ARMY STRONG !!

It is a strength like none other.

It is a physical strength.

It is an emotional strength.

It is a strength of character, and a strength of purpose.

The strength to do good today and the strength to do well tomorrow.

The strength to obey and the strength to command.

The strength to build and the strength to tear down.

The strength to get yourself over and the strength to get over yourself.

There is nothing on this green earth that is stronger than the **US ARMY !!**

Because there is nothing on this green earth that is stronger than a **US ARMY SOLDIER !!**

(The words are from a new campaign commercial)



5292

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From
Keith PHILLIPS

Shoot low Rangers, they're riding Shetlands!

I don't know about the rest of you but I have already started making plans for the California reunion. But before we get to that, I must impart with a bit of news on how "Doc" GILCHREST finishes off a reunion.

We got back to my house from Kentucky about mid-day. Doc loaded his bags onto his motorcycle at my house and headed off. Frankie and I headed for Tyler to pay bail money for our three Boxers. Doc had been gone about 15 minutes when I get a call on my cell phone from him and all I hear is, "I hit a bird and I'm bleeding really bad", then the phone goes dead and I can't get him when I try to call back.

I knew the route he was taking home, so I drove like hell and found him sitting on the side of the road with his motorcycle parked on the shoulder. The windshield was covered in blood, as was the gas tank.

A Good Samaritan had stopped to help and had given Doc a wet rag to wipe the blood off his face that came from a 1/8 inch cut on his temple. As luck would have it, the bird had managed to get up under the helmet and hit the temporal artery.

I asked Doc what kind of bird it was and he seemed to think it was on the order of at least the size of an eagle.

Based on the fact he was getting over from an aneurysm and surgery a couple of weeks before Reunion, we called 911 for an ambulance to take him to the hospital to get checked out. While we were waiting, I started walking the road to find this Kamikaze bird. The only bird I found was a stunned Hummingbird with a bent beak.

The ambulance arrived and got Doc to the hospital where Doc called his Mom. After he explained to her why he was at the hospital his Mom hung-up and called his twin brother Harry. Well, Harry called Doc and said their mother wanted him to call because she thought Doc must have been drinking. Harry, upon hearing the story from Doc quickly named Doc "Pecker Head".

While we were waiting on blood tests and the like, word got around the hospital about the "Bird Man" in ER and everyone came by to gawk. Most everyone enjoyed hearing about the Kamikaze Hummingbird that had taken out a Ranger. One comment is he should wear a bird cage for a helmet. After some forty people had come by the snicker, Doc's daughter got to the hospital to pick him up and promptly asked, "How's 'Bird Man' doing".

As we were walking Doc out to her car, a total stranger halfway across the parking lot yelled, "Take it easy, Bird Man!" You just never know how a Reunion will end! The wound did cause another aneurysm. However I believe he is doing fine and has already bought a new motorcycle with a bird feeder.

I need to let everyone know Benny GENTRY has been down and out for the past month with a Staph infection that has settled in his hip and leg. He is at the VA in St. Louis as of the end of November and hopes to get home in the next couple of days. Rumor has it the nursing staff is taking up a collection for Benny to receive home care. Not that he would be difficult to take care of or anything.

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY

SECRETARY'S REPORT

From David KLIMEK

Hello Everyone, Merry Christmas.

I'm about to make my annual migration south for the winter. It's just too cold in Pennsylvania. I'm running behind on my effort to nominate Tim HARPER for the Ranger Hall of Fame, but I'll geter done.

I've also started writing again about my time in Nam and I expect to finish a draft by June of 2007. Being with all you guys since 1990 has provided me with much insight about it all. Now my goal is a finished product that will make all of you proud.

One of the fifty-three poems, songs or ballads that I have completed is in this newsletter. I will provide a copy of all of them at our next reunion.

I'll close by saying I have a dime-sized scab on my nose-bone from hitting myself with a pitching wedge while golfing in Orlando, FL. This happened after my chip-shot for a birdie lipped out of the hole.

Walking 18 holes of golf is a part of my new over-all health plan. Staying in shape is hard to do, but I still pretend that I like the pain – just like all of us.

David KLIMEK, Secretary



*Care deeply. Give freely.
Think kindly. Act gently,
and be at peace
with the world...*

CHRISTMAS 1990

(AN ANTI-WAR TALE)

by David KLIMEK

Me and the kids went to the North Pole
We went to see Santa and his Christmas Show
On our way back we turned the wrong way
And we came down thru China after many a day
Then came a stop sign and we were alone
About which way to turn to find our way home
Southeast Asia was left, I'd been there before
When America sent me to fight the Vietnam War
To our right was west, towards the Holy Land
Let's go kids to see Jesus and the Man

But they sang:

Hell no we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco
Hell no we don't care, we're not going over there
Now wait a minute kids you're making a mistake

The war in the dessert is just a fake

Iran was the problem, Iraq took care of them
And now all they want is money for amends

This made sense to the kids

So we made ready to travel

But before we left they had a puzzle to un-ravel
What about our soldiers, and troops in Reserve
A hundred-thousand are there or ready to serve

What if we walk-by and a war does begin

And they start a draft and make us go in

And they again sang:

Hell no we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco
Hell no we don't care, we're not going over there

I thought in silence about what the kids said

I'm glad they remembered what to do instead

Now the cycle is complete from father to son

A lesson has been learned from my generation

War is no good, it's bad for us all

It will set you up for a great big fall

Since I wouldn't go left

And the kids wouldn't go right

Back north we went to watch Rudolph's big night

After we waved Merry Christmas,

We left there alone

And we came down through Canada

To find our way home.

5294

LRRP/RANGERS Association
Treasurer's Report
(Old) 5 March 2006

Balance forwarded: \$6195.40

INCOME:

Dues	\$105.00
Merchandise	\$17.00
Donations	\$0.00
Postage	\$
Brick Fund Donation	\$250.00

Subtotal **\$372.00**

EXPENSES:

Newsletters	
September	\$440.16
January	\$566.74
Merchandise	\$358.29
Flowers Memorial	\$108.00

Subtotal **\$1473.00**

Bank Savings Account \$50.00

Brick Fund to Date \$685.00

Balance 5 March 2006 **\$5094.40**

Doug Parkinson
Still Treasurer

Doug has been SUPER busy lately.
This is an old report being used.

VA UPDATE
From John SIMONES

There are a number of conditions recognized presumptively for Service Connection. Vietnam Veterans DO NOT have to show that their illness(s) is (are) related to their military service to receive compensation. The VA presumes that their condition(s) is service connected.

If you have a computer the web site www.VA.gov/AgentOrange will provide you with a list of the conditions. The condition for this newsletter is Diabetes mellitus, commonly called Type 2 diabetes.

A letter from your doctor (PC) stating how long you have been treated, what type of program you are on: diet, exercise, (or both), oral meds (types and dosage) insulin, will suffice. Submit the letter to the VA stating: "I am filing a claim for Service Connection for Diabetes mellitus, Type 2. Enclosed is a letter from my doctor." I recommend that you use a Service Organization as your advocate. Too many to mention, but here are a few: DAV, American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, etc. The claim for Diabetes, if documented properly is a simple process. Waiting for the claim to be adjudicated is the hardest part. My e-mail address is johnsimones@verizon.net or I can be reached by telephone @ (508) 947-4187.

John Simones
PO Box 484
Middleboro, MA 02346-0484

RUNNING SLACK

By Bill Carpenter

We never did receive an answer to Glen McCRARY's question in the last newsletter, that was, "Who are those guys?"

And the good news is, in case you didn't notice; there are no obituaries in this issue.

I had a rather unsettling experience recently. Like all small town America, the local newspaper routinely runs pictures of family reunions. There are always four, five or six generations in the picture. One picture was rather disturbing, it was a four-generation picture, and the great-grandmother appeared to be several years younger than me. I am not THAT old.

"An Army Ranger running interdiction operations against the enemy. There is no fire support, no medivac, no QRF, nothing." Does that make you want to be 35 years younger or glad that you are not 35 years younger?

This Army Ranger is Capt. Drew JAMES, son of Jim JAMES, our outfits first CO. Capt. JAMES, the Younger, is now in Afghanistan embedded with an Afghan infantry company at a very remote forward operating base near the Pakistan border. There are only a couple of other U.S. soldiers with him.

From Doug MATZE

My stepson, Ben Pellum, left Camp Lejeune early September for his 2nd deployment to Iraq. His address: CPL PELLUM, BENJAMIN C. - 1st BN 6th MARINES BRAVO - UNIT 73135 - FPO AE 09509-3135.

From Doc GILCHREST

This year we have better news for the letter. My youngest Daughter Jessica (25) was married to Nick Martin in August. She is a teacher and he is a banker. They live in Denton, Texas.

My nephew, Joey Gilchrest has graduated Marine Corps Basic Training in California and is now at Fort Knox, Kentucky for advanced training. He was raised by Louise Gilchrest and has attended many reunions at Ft Hood. I am proud of his accomplishment and his desire to serve our nation.

I am sure everyone knows that our unit has its share of members who also served with the Marines. We also have many blood relatives who have served, or are presently serving, in the corps.

Dave KLIMEK, his Dad and I went to the WVU vs Marshall football game. The opening game of the season, the first time the two Division 1-A schools in West Virginia have played each other in ten years. Dave told me to not say anything else about the game, like where our seats were, or anything like that.

And again, when you move, take a couple of minutes to fill out a change of address form with the post office. When we send the newsletter to the old address, the post office will inform us of the new address. It is that easy. We do not have addresses for 248 of the 958 men on our roster. We are losing more addresses with each newsletter.

I think some of you guys change email addresses more often than I get a hair cut. A lot of bulk mail goes out between newsletters. We get updates from the 1st Cav; there is often info about VA activity that should not wait until the next newsletter, etc. Last fall, Bill ELLIOTT sent me a notice about the VFW sponsoring a trip to Nam for Purple Heart recipients. The closing date for that was December 6.

So, let us know when your ground mail, or email, address changes.

Have you seen "The Eight of November" Video on TV? It is a song about a battle the 173rd

5296

Airborne fought on Nov. 8, 1965. Two companies had 48 KIAs. It's worth a look-see.

There are some interesting comments in the guest book of our webpage about Oliver STONE, the writer/producer of the movie "Platoon", being in the 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers. I liked Jim ROSS's comment, "It is cool that such people may be our brethren. But their fame is not who we are. WE (I think) are their fame."

From Bob TEAGLE

Hunting is great!!! My son took a cow elk. I took up archery this year and am two for two on mule deer. Beginner's luck I presume, but happy none the less.

I only mention this next thing because I think someone is keeping track of this sort of thing. I have been diagnosed with diabetes. Quite a shock to me but have already been in touch with the VA as it is on their Agent Orange Review Register as being "presumptive". I am fine and am exercising and eating right so should be very manageable.

FROM DOUG FLETCHER'S WIDOW, LINDA
Check out IAVA, America's first and largest Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' organization. You can find stories, videos, and pictures straight from war zone, along with news about the latest issues facing the Troops, and hard-hitting commentary from Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. Check out the link below to go to IAVA's website and get the "ground truth" about the war from the people who were there.
<http://www.iava.org/index.php>

A DVD titled "In the Shadow of the Blade" was released last fall. It is about some VN vets who recently restored a slick and then flew it around the country. They flew to the homes of specific VN vets, sometimes landing in their yard.

The basic theme is "Welcome Home Brother". Each of the veterans tells his/her own story. The veterans are 11Bs, truck drivers, nurses, Donut Dollies, USO singers, the highest-ranking officer captured by the VC, and many more.

It is worth watching.

WEBPAGE REPORT

There have been a lot of "hits" in the web page guest book from people who had relatives who served in the LRRP/Rangers or had been with units like the 1/9th who worked with the Rangers. It is good to see them come to our webpage.

The guestbook has become almost a daily chatroom for some of us. So when things are slow, get into the guest book and talk to some old friends.

There was also an interesting posting by some one who said he was with the "Chinese Bandits". They apparently were a battalion recon unit with 1/8th Cav. A very interesting part of his story is they did a 75 km recon in one night. Now that is really moving, and reconing at the same time, at night, too. HUM ???

The reunion issue of the newsletter will be out in March, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING IN IT, GET IT TO ME IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO

JOKE CORNER

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

A man was at the check in at the airport. The airport employee asks, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" The man replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" The employee smiled knowingly and said, "That's why we ask."

It makes sense to the people working at the airport.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

JOHN LEBRUN REPORT

Welcome once again from the Pacific Northwest. Actually the very far Pacific Northwest. Once again I have opted to spend the winter at Big White. Will finish the season here the middle of April and head back to the metropolis of Blaine. I will be coming down once a month to ship items out.

Since the last newsletter I have restocked all the items and have added a few new things. I had the Bear Cat Training VHS converted to DVD. Turned out well but like everything else it came at a slightly higher cost. Additionally, you will notice a list of other DVD's. A portion of all the DVD's sold will go to the brick fund (\$5 from each DVD). I am also attempting to get as many books about our organization and will hopefully be able to provide them as opposed to buying them on the Internet or through a local bookstore. If you are an author and would like to make your book available to our members send me an e-mail and we will work out the arrangements.

The next reunion is fast approaching. You should have already made your reservation and put the date on your calendar to attend. For those that are coming remember the raffle and for those that can't 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.

Until next time take care and see you at the Riverside reunion.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$13
T-Shirts Novelty: Wh, sizes to 4X	\$10
T-Shirts Recondo: Gr. sizes to 2X	\$15
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/Wh sz to XL	\$30
Windshirts:Pullover: Bl: M LR XL	\$36
Sweaters: Bl: M LR XL	\$40
Windshirt: (converts to sleeveless) Black With Khaki Trim: M L XL	\$48
Hats: Black or White	\$12
Ranger Ring: size 10 1/2 only	\$50
Belt Buckles: numbered	\$20
Ranger Lapel Pin:	\$4
Cloth Scroll Patch: (Co H 75 th Inf.)	\$4
Cloth Logo Patch:	\$4
Wooden Nickel:	\$1
Ankony's book; LURP's	\$30
DVD's 1 James Gang 2 Bear Cat Training 3 Tribute To Our Fallen Comrades 4 History Channel LRRP's	\$15 each
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2
ANNUAL DUES	\$15
Shipping per order	\$5

Please mail check/money order payable to
LRRP/RANGER

John LeBrun
932 3rd Street,
Blaine, WA 98230.

The \$5.00 shipping charge covers only one or two shirts.

Donations are gladly accepted.

Take care and see you in Riverside California in 2007.

HISTORICAL OCCURENCES

CALL SIGNS

By
Jim REGAN

Prior to arriving in the 'Nam, I paid little attention to Call Signs and Frequencies. They changed every day most times. Once situated in Echo Co., 52nd Inf. (LRRPs) I found that the Call Signs and frequencies/pushes, did not change. Made it a whole lot easier for this guy to remember. After being assigned at the First Platoon, I had "Slashing Talon One-Five" as my Call Sign. Most everyone in the Cav knew who "Slashing Talon" was, the LURPs and later the Rangers! Toward the end of my tour, I moved to the Operations NCO slot and became "Slashing Talon Three".

During a particularly hectic "Contact" with lots of Call Signs flying thru the airways e.g.; Rash, Cavalier, Apache, Blue Max, and who knows who else, a strange Caller came up on OUR net! "Slashing Talon __, this is Red Baron Six, give me a SITREP!" I hesitated half a heartbeat and grabbed the mike/handset from our RTO in the TOC. "Red Baron Six, this is Slashing Talon Three, get off my Fox Mike, OUT!" Shssssssss Nothing but the "rushing noise" on the net. The support and successful extraction of the Team went on with no further interruptions.

When I DEROS'd to CONUS, I was assigned at the 2nd Ranger Co., Mountain Ranger Camp, Dahlonge, GA, as an Instructor/Lane Grader/Advisor in the Patrolling Committee. Worked in the Committee for a while and was reassigned as the Operations NCO.

A new Commander for the Mountain Ranger Camp was assigned, Col. Everett M. Yon, (The Moose). The Camp Sergeant Major had an NCO Call at the club and we all stood in a haphazard receiving line to meet and greet the new

Commander. I was near last in the line and the SGM was introducing us and telling the Commander what we did at MRC. He got to me and told the Commander that I was his Operations NCO. He reached out and shook my hand and looked at my right shoulder with the CAV patch and Airborne Tab. He held on to my hand (his hand was as big as a ham and lots of strength) and asked if I had been with the 1st BDE (Airborne). No Sir, said I, I was with Hotel Company, 75th Rangers.

Still holding my hand he asks, what was your Call Sign? Sir, says I, first it was "Slashing Talon One Five, and near the end of my tour, Oct thru Nov, I was Slashing Talon Three". He squeezed my hand and says, "I was 'Red Baron Six'!" I wanted to die. Then he asks how the Team made out that day. I told him that once we cleared the net of unnecessary traffic they did fine and all ended well. He smiled and said, "You did the right thing and I'm glad to have someone like you up at the 'Head Shed'." Right, I thought!

Didn't think much about it at the time, but it was a real compliment that he remembered the Call Sign for the Rangers. I'll not forget our Call Sign and I still remember the "Push" 48.5!!!

Jim
RLTW

**PUT YOUR
"HISTORICAL OCCURENCE"
STORY ON THIS PAGE**

**TAKE SOME TIME
WRITE IT DOWN
AND SEND IT TO
BILL CARPENTER**

MEMORIES

From Donald "Skeeter" PETTIBONE

Hello to All of you Rangers,

I have recently been in contact with Doug PARKINSON with whom I have spoken to several times lately. I have also spoken with Jim ROSS, my old friend and TL, and my friends of so long ago, Doc SUGGS & Bobby PEREZ. I have had a conversation with MODOLO and exchanged e-mails with Bill CARPENTER. It has really been a trip down memory lane.

An Khe, 1967, LRRP Hill, 1st Air Cav.

I haven't recalled some of the names such as Dave DICKINSON, Denny MOORE, Jay GRIFFIN, Leo COREY, Bob SUTHERLAND, Jim DODY, Doc GILCHREST, Joe HAVERLAND, Smitty, NEGNONE, CAMPBELL, LOPEZ, ELIAS, Willy WILLIAMS, GREENFIELD, Lt. HALL, Capt. JAMES, Top KELLY, Capt GOODING, Lt. Bobby, in many a year.

I know there are a host of others that photos and conversation will hopefully clear the cobwebs from a time long ago. I have often wondered about those of you whom I knew and lived with for a year and relied upon in some of the darkest of times. I also recall the many laughs and the outrageous optimism spoken daily regarding our return "to the world".

The courageousness of those of you who I was so fortunate to have served with has left an indelible perception of what true heroism really is. My time in Viet Nam, with you, to this day remains one of the proudest times in my life. It has always been with such great pride that I could answer the occasional question of Military duty with a simple, "I was a LRRP in Nam".

Through the years that have followed I have spoken rarely of our times, of my experiences, of the grievous losses, the torrent of personal thoughts of good and bad.

But I say these things here and now because in you, I know, I will always feel an incredible kinship that triumphs over suppressed feelings, of all kinds, no matter how much time has passed, because, I know, you know. And when one of your names is spoken, there is a keen sense of camaraderie, loyalty beyond words, a catharsis that transcends time and allows for grainy mental pictures of a bunch of skinny kids with high hopes and big balls.

I am happy to know that there are those of you who cared enough to have given of your time and thoughtfulness to endeavor to ensure that the LRRP legacy is not forgotten and always revered for the sacrifices that were made and the memories that we all share and will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

I hope to one day be able to share with my grandson, the personal heroes of my past, that would be you guys. To speak to him of the promise of the future, and ensure that he understands the price of freedom that has been paid by his forefathers. I want him to understand that it was the courage and vigor of men like you, who believed in an ideal and one another, so strongly, that fears were pushed aside and choked down so deeply until the mission was completed, that in many cases, cherished friendships and memories were turned away, in an effort to vanquish the fears, the hurt, the guilt, and of course, the sorrows.

Many lessons and values I hold dear today were fired in the jungles with you. What successes and achievements I have realized have been attained through hard work and dedication and accomplished due to the beliefs that were nurtured from my father, a Marine's Marine, and also through the experiences we shared and endured while in the service of our country.

It is in the greatest of regard that I hold each of you and I wish all of you the very best, in all things and in all that you do. I truly hope, one day, God willing, that I will see all of you once again.

S 300

Veterans Day 2006 at The Wall Washington, D.C.

By Ken White

Veterans Day is a special day for many people in this country, and Veterans Day in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., is particularly special, attracting veterans and their families and friends, from near-and-far. The Veterans Day Observance at The Wall (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) served as the focal point for the day's activities – at least for Vietnam-era veterans, and drew a very large crowd, as expected. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the National Park Service, which co-sponsors the annual Veterans Day Observance with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, no longer provides estimates of crowd size for events on the National Mall. My estimate of crowd size, however, is 25,000.

The 1st Cav was well represented, as always. The Ia Drang Association, which generally forms the core of the Cav following, decided to observe their Veterans Day in Atlanta, Georgia, this year and not in the nation's capital, so a lot of the Ia Drang regulars were not in attendance. However, there was still plenty of 'yellow and black' to go around from members of other Cav units. The 1st Cav Association hosted its annual hospitality suite at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel, but for some reason, the unit sign-in registers were not set out at the sign-in desk, making it difficult to know if other LRRP/Rangers were there. And, the size of the crowd at The Wall made it difficult, if not impossible, to find other LRRP/Rangers. The division's Color Guard from Fort Hood was there, but because the division is serving in Iraq, the 1st Cav Honor Guard did not unfurl their colors during the ceremony - a military tradition, according to Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and master of

ceremonies for the observance at The Wall. The U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard – Military District of Washington, DC, and 82nd Airborne Division's Color Guard from Fort Bragg, were also there.

This year's keynote speaker was former astronaut Captain Frederick H. (Rick) Hauch, U.S. Navy (Retired). Captain Hauch flew 114 combat and combat support missions in Southeast Asia in 1968 off the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea. In 1978, Captain Hauch was named to NASA's astronaut corps where in 1983 he became the pilot of the space shuttle Challenger. Other speakers included: the U.S. Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., a career officer in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service since 1968; the Honorable Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, who is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; and, Army General Barry R. McCaffrey, (Retired). General McCaffrey served two tours in Vietnam – one as company commander of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry in 1968. General McCaffrey also commanded the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in the Gulf War in 1991.

Next year's observance at The Wall will again be on a weekend, so it will likely attract another large crowd. It should be a special time, hope to see you there.

1ST CAV LRRP/RANGERS DATA

958 names on our unit roster
484 current addresses
251 outdated addresses
93 names only no other data
84 known to have died since Viet Nam
46 KIA in Viet Nam, 3 of these on later tours
with another unit

5301

FRED GRIFFIS' COUSIN WEBPAGE POSTING

Hi,

I am researching my cousin, Fred Griffis from West Palm Beach/Miami, FL who I have always been told was an LRRP in Vietnam during 1969 and 1970 (three tours, I do NOT know if all three tours were as LRRP). Unfortunately Fred has been deceased since 1987 or I would ask him about this info myself, but I would like to know more about what all he did over there. If anyone out there knows of him I would like to hear from you.

Fred did not talk much about his experience, not even to his parents. We do know that he received several medals, including the Bronze Star. I am not certain which unit he served in.

Thanks,

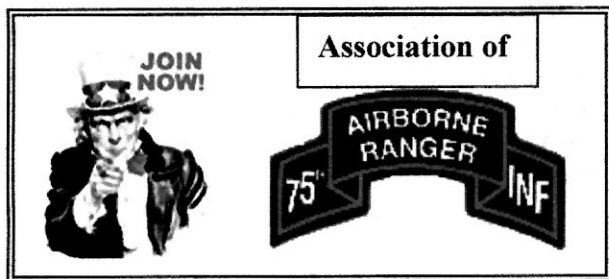
daletraylor@earthlink.net

FRED GRIFFIS INFO FROM AL AND KAREN VOELKEL

Years ago, when I worked only part-time and was helping search for "lost" members of this unit, I came across the name of Fred Griffis who was from Florida. Since it was a fairly unusual name, I dug a little bit and found out, unfortunately, that Fred was deceased. I met his family and became friendly with his mother, Annabell, and she even attended a reunion at Fort Hood with us one year.

I learned that Fred had served with other units in the Army and made a career of it; I also learned that he was indeed the Fred Griffis whose name had been in all the newspapers here in West Palm Beach not too long before. Fred was a prison guard who was assigned, with another guard, to transport a prisoner to a dentist appointment. There was no toothache; it was a well-planned prison break that went bad when the two guards figured out what was happening and attempted to stop it. Guns started firing, and Fred--who was unmarried and had no children--took a bullet to save the life of his young colleague who was married and had babies. The prisoner's accomplices were all convicted of Fred's murder, and the prisoner himself was convicted of murder and sentenced to hard time at the Florida State Prison in Starke. (If you simply enter Fred's name in a search engine, you can read all the newspaper articles. He was a true hero.)

An interesting footnote to this story is that the Griffis family is from Starke and many of the family members (like most people in Starke) work for the prison system. Fred's mom told me that one of the cops who transported the prisoner to Starke called her when they got back to West Palm Beach.



5302

He said there were two guards there whose badges said "Griffis" who said to the prisoner, "Greetings. We've been waiting for you!" Some years later, that prisoner was found dead in his cell and one of the guards who was accused of being responsible was named Griffis. He was tried for manslaughter and found not guilty.

We had not heard from Fred's mom for some time and the last Christmas card we sent was returned, but recently she called us. She has given up her home in Homestead and her daughter—Fred's sister—has moved her to an assisted living facility near her in North Florida. She is doing fairly well but her vision as well as her health is failing. Anyway, she said that Fred's cousin was trying to build a website about Fred's life. He wanted more than just the prison break story to include on the website and he didn't know much about Fred's Army career. I posted something on our website's guestbook, Bob Carr responded saying that he knew Fred very well, and I put him in touch with Fred's cousin. (The cousin's name is Dale Traylor and his e-mail address is daletraylor@earthlink.net.)

If anyone else knows or remembers anything about Fred, please contact Dale. And if anyone has any pictures of Fred, please either scan them and e-mail them to us at voelkela@bellsouth.net or copy and mail them to us at 108 W. Cypress Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. Annabell lost all her photo albums (along with her house) in Hurricane Andrew and she has no pictures of her son. We will see that she gets them.

BOOKS

by and about LRRP/Rangers

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.

"NEW" Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri by Bob Ankony University Press of America, of Rowman and Littlefield Publishing group, 1967-68

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.

5303

LRRP TEAM EXTRACTION
From Patrick Bieneman C Troop 1/9

On 7Jul68, "C" Troop 1/9 Cav was called out on a mission to extract a 6 man LRRP Team. When we got on site we were told that there was one KIA (SP/4 Thomas Sprinkle) and 5 WIA's. Myself and one other man, SP/4 Robert Fellin, volunteered to repel down for the extraction. The five WIA's were so badly wounded they could not aid in their extraction. When the MEDIVAC came on station we loaded the WIA's onto the Jungle Penetrator one at a time and sent them up. When the last WIA was up the chopper left. Upon its return we extracted SP/4 Sprinkle, all of the equipment and then ourselves. Sp/4 Fellin and myself had severe rope burns to both hands. Ten years later old Uncle Arthur started acting up and hasn't left yet.

I am going up to visit SP/4 Sprinkles brothers this summer and to visit his gravesite. Besides just wanting to know that these other men have continued on with their lives, I would like to be able to tell his brothers something about him. I know his team members would know better than anyone. I have searched the Internet for years and just recently found a LRRP named Mick who remembers SP/4 Sprinkle and says he believes his Team Leader was Tibbetts.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted at:

Patrick Bieneman
990 Red River Road
Winchester, KY 40391
859-745-1924
pcbnamin@earthlink.net

**JOINED AT THE HIP
WITH THE 1/9TH CAV**
From Bill CARPENTER

I had a lot of email contact since the last newsletter with Loretta Stager, "Cav Gal", who is the historian for the 1st of the 9th Cav. She has done a lot of work trying to find more information about the "Team 54 Incident" that was in the last newsletter. She has also been very helpful looking for any reports 1/9 may have about Carl McCARTHY.

David KLIMEK was a big help. He dug through his archives and found the Morning Report of the "Team 54 Incident". That really filled in a lot of the holes. I forwarded the report to Kersey, the brother of the pilot who was killed, and to Cav Gal. They both really appreciated Dave's effort. Thanks Dave.

So lets all give "Cav Gal" a big "Attagirl".

As you know, a lot of the interesting stories from the 1/9, "Bullwhip Squadron", are a result of the "LRRPs in contact" call coming into their TOC. The 1/9 webpage is www.bullwhipsquadron.org and Loretta can be contacted at cavgal@earthlink.net

The Dog Handlers are getting active online, and are joining the Bullwhip Squadron Association. Some of you worked with the dogs some, and I understand that for a while in '67 the dogs were attached to the LRRPs.

Combat Trackers webpages are www.combattrackerteam.org and www.vdhaonline.org

Cav Gal also reported that some vets from 351st Radio Research Company are starting to gather their legacy. Some of their work has been declassified. Their call sign was "Jaguar Yellow" and they did "we ain't here" work. Some of you may have run into them on occasion.

5304

Return Tours to Vietnam, 2007

By Ken White

The Veterans Action League (Valor, Inc.), a not-for-profit organization of Vietnam veterans living in the greater Washington, D.C. area, is sponsoring its sixth season of tours to Vietnam. The tours, which are 16 days in length, cover I, II, and III Corps, and are designed to be affordable by most veterans and their families. They include field experts, clinical specialists, and a range of talented people to insure a safe and enjoyable journey.

Three tours have been scheduled for 2007: Spring Group (April 15-30), Mid-Summer Group (June 24-July 9), and Fall Group (September 30-October 15). They depart from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and fly to South Korea where they get a connecting flight on Viet Nam Airlines to Hanoi. After spending two days sightseeing in Hanoi – including visiting the John McCain Statue, the tour groups take an overnight train ride south to Dong Ha (located just south of the old DMZ and north of Quang Tri City on the South China Sea).

Once in the 'South,' the Spring Group will focus on III and IV Corp, with special emphasis on the Tay Ninh area and will include a special R&R time at the end of the tour in Can Tho in the Mekong Delta. The Mid-summer Group will focus on I, II, and III Corps, with an emphasis on the Central Highlands and will include a special R&R at the end of the tour at the beach resort of Phan Thiet. Note however, that Camp Radcliff at An Khe and Camp Holloway in Pleiku are off-limits. An Khe is now home to the 2nd NVA (that hurts!). Finally, the Fall Group will focus on the same areas as the Spring Group, except emphasis in III Corp will be on the areas of Song Be, Phuoc Vinh, and Quan Loi/Bu Dop. It will include an R&R in Can Tho in the Delta.

The cost per person for the tours is as follows:

- \$2,500.00 for 10 and above
- 2,650.00 for 7-9 people
- \$2,800.00 3-6 people

These prices include international airfare, all in-country transportation, lodging, medical and evacuation insurance, visa and administrative fees, and most meals. They do not include the usual items – tipping, laundry, personal meals or drinks, hotel mini-bar, amenity expenses, personal/international communication expenses, and any accrued extra kilometers for personal travel, or domestic airfare to and from LAX.

Valor, Inc. already has the minimum number of people required for each tour. So, at our option, we could travel as part of a main tour group, according to the already set-up itinerary, or we could be part of a 'break-out' group, which travels with the main group part of the time and breaks-out to visit different places at other times. We could have one or more 'break-out' groups, depending on the number of people interested in going. So, saddle up, let's go!

"A downloadable stand-alone database and viewing program that allows you to search through names and other data of over 58,000 members of the U.S. Forces that died in the Vietnam war" Download at <http://www.angelfire.com/ny2/SGTFATS/vietwarDL.html>

"This software is absolutely free, and not for sale or profit, or you will suffer eternal damnation at the mercy of fallen comrades."

This database can be installed to a CD, but with a link on your Desktop. Please pass this information to others.

A "LRRP" REMEMBERED

from Paul HART C/1/9

On Dec. 27, 1967 I was a WOI pilot flying a UH - 1 Huey "Slick" helicopter with C (Charlie) Troop, 1st. Squadron, 9th. Cavalry, 1st Calvary Division (AM). In late 1967, Charlie Troop was operating out of a forward fire base named Landing Zone (LZ) Two-Bits near the town of Bong Son in II Corp. along the coastal plan.

Most helicopter units utilized slicks for combat assaults (CA) troop transport, medical evacuation (Dust Off or Medivac), Command and Control (C&C) and re-supply. The uniqueness of the 1st/9th was that our "Slicks" were always flying in direct support of a combat operation. Our four crews got a lot of practice and pretty good at what they did and how they did it.

On the night of the Dec. 27th the troop received a call to assist and extract a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) that was in contact with an enemy force. Our Operations scrambled the Lift platoon, Blues and a section of Guns. We were "saddled up" and flying into darkness of the mountains and valleys south of Bong Son in minutes. It was an area we were familiar with and had worked often in the months prior, but always during the light of day. Night operations, in the best of circumstances, posed inherent dangers. Add mountainous terrain, potential enemy fire, and the rush from a good shot of adrenaline had everyone's heart rate jumping. As our flight of four along with two gun ships headed into the darkness we were told the LRRP team had been "hit", "overrun" and take casualties. Our mission was to combat assault the Blues into the area, engage and secure, locate the team and medevac the casualties. In the darkness of the mountains our guns ships first scouted, then designated an LZ as close as possible to the team's location. Under the cover of darkness and watched over by the guns, we inserted the Blues and quickly moved to a holding location above the nearby valley floor.

The gun ships circled to provide fire support as we monitor the radio transmissions and watched tracers streak through the darkness. During this holding period there was discussion among the lift pilots regarding the extraction of the team. I accepted responsibility for the extraction and medivac. I would return to the LZ single ship to get the team out. The other three aircraft would pick up the troops from the squad I would leave behind. With the area still "hot", we received a call from our Blues telling us that they had reached the LRRP team and needed immediate medivac. It was my call to go. I made an approach to the makeshift LZ at the direction of our Blues and under cover of our gun ships. I was concentrating on the job at hand, but was also as fully aware of the urgency of this or any medivac mission. There were lives in the balance. Safely landing in the dark, the possibly of enemy fire, loading the wounded and getting out of the LZ to the nearest medical facility became my goal. In the few frantic and hurried minutes it took to accomplish this, I was able to glance around at the team. Some appeared to be conscious, others not, but the pain and bleeding was obvious. I was told we had two KIA and three WIA, one team member appeared uninjured. This would be, "get them on and get gone". The crew chief yelled "flights up" while he struggled to keep everyone on board. I pulled pitch and lifted off. Being familiar with the area, I flew to the nearest field hospital/aid station that fortunately was not too far away. We were there, on the ground and to the waiting medical personnel within minutes. After the team was unloaded and being evaluated, we departed for Two-Bits. The Blues had been extracted without further casualties and all aircraft had returned and landed safely. A successful mission for us, but the LRRP's were not so fortunate.

As the aircraft commander that evening, I was recommended for and received the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), something that I continue to display and take pride in. Not because I consider

5306

myself a "hero" or great pilot, and not because it came from an act of war, but because it came from an act of humanity. What more can be asked than one soldier trying to do his best to help another.

I continued to fly with Charlie Troop and did a similar extraction within weeks of the 27th. This time it was single ship, no Blues, a gun team for cover, coastal mountains, hot, hover only LZ, dangerous and as exciting, but with better results. Everyone out, safe and home for another night. Couldn't ask for more. Sometimes we were all lucky.

Within weeks, just prior to the 1968 Tet Offensive, the 1st Cav. Div. moved north to the DMZ in support of the Marines and the embattled garrison at Khe San. The 1st/9th would "saddle up" to "scout" this new frontier and Two-Bits, its surroundings and the fate of the LRRP team became history. History yes, forgotten no.

The Squadron moved north to Camp Evens and we went without incident until the beginning of Tet. Living in a hole with a tent over it and never too far from a bunker got old real quick and I was getting short. Way to short for this! I got through January, February and most of March before hitting that lucky DEROS date and catching the first big bird back to "the world".

I am writing this on Dec. 27, 2006. 39 years to the day since that action. In recent weeks (and quite by accident) with the help of former Cav. LRRP's and this great tool called the "internet", I have found out that there was only one KIA that night. His name was Billy Critchfield. We were both from New Jersey; both graduated high school in 1965 and were both 20 years old that dark night. Billy had just returned from another mission and volunteered to go out again with another team. I've learned a little more about that team, their insertion earlier in the day and that they may have been accidentally discovered after calling in an air or artillery strike on an enemy force in the valley below. A satchel charge or charges tossed as enemy evaded

through their position appears to have been the main cause of the casualties. I have not heard from any of the former team members, nor am I aware of their current status. I've been told that the Team Leader, Joe Haverland "Montana Joe", left the LRRP's shortly after this mission and passed away in the early 70's. There may also be a photo of the team taken just prior to this mission; if it's available I would certainly appreciate a copy to add to this account and my personal file. I suspect that somewhere in the "Official Records" there is an "After Action Report" or at least an informal "Debriefing" on file, but that's something for someone else to discover.

Dean Lindstrom is a cousin of Billy's. He remembers him through the eyes of a 5 year old as they shook hands when Billy was preparing to leave for Vietnam. He has spent a number of years researching LRRP operations and Units hoping to learn more about the teams and their missions. He's also interested in the circumstances surrounding Billy's death. I know he has posted on the LRRP web site and has been "in the loop" regarding these recent communications - I know the information is appreciated.

On Dec. 27th, 1969 I was married and my wife and I celebrate our 37th Anniversary today. I was fortunate and life has been good. Children, grandchildren, retired NJ cop, living in sunny and warm Arizona. I'm happy with who I am, where I've been and what I've done, but will never forget those that didn't have the chance to share these intervening years. I appreciate "filling in" some of the answers and being a small part of the LRRP history as the story continues.

Respectfully,

Paul Hart

2107 N. Margaret Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85716
pbhart@cox.net
520-400-9077 (cell)

5307

A SPECIAL ONE TIME TAX CREDIT ON YOUR 2006 TAX RETURN

Info From "Wild Bill" ELLIOTT

When it comes time to prepare and file your 2006 tax return, make sure you don't overlook the "federal excise tax refund credit." You claim the credit on line 71 of your form 1040. A similar line will be available if you file the short form 1040A. If you have family or friends who no longer file a tax return AND they have their own land phone in their home and have been paying a phone bill for years, make sure they know about this form 1040EZ-T.

What is this all about? Well the federal excise tax has been charged to you on your phone bill for years. It is an old tax that was assessed on your toll calls based on how far the call was being made and how much time you talked on that call. When phone companies began to offer flat fee phone service, challenges to the excise tax ended up in federal courts in several districts of the country. The challenges pointed out that flat fee/rate phone service had nothing to do with the distance and the length of the phone call. Therefore, the excise tax should/could not be assessed.

The IRS has now conceded this argument. Phone companies have been given notice to stop assessing the federal excise tax as of Aug 30, 2006. You will most likely see the tax on your September cutoff statement, but it should NOT be on your October bill.

But the challengers of the old law also demanded restitution. So the IRS has announced that a one time credit will be available when you and I file our 2006 tax return as I explained above. However, the IRS also established limits on how BIG a credit you can get. Here's how it works.

If you file your return as a single person with just you as a dependent, you get to claim a \$30 credit on line 71 of your 1040.

If you file with a child or a parent as your dependent, you claim \$40.

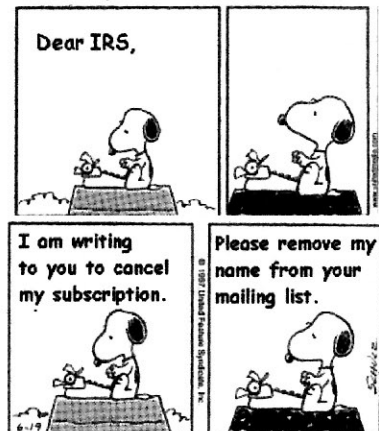
If you file your return as a married couple with no children, you claim \$40. If you file as married with children, you claim \$50 if one child, \$60 if two children.

In all cases, the most you get to claim is \$60 - UNLESS you have all your phone bills starting AFTER Feb 28, 2003 through July 31, 2006 (do not use any bills starting Aug 1, 2006.), then you can add up the ACTUAL TAX AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR BILLS AND CLAIM THAT FOR A CREDIT.

Now if you have your actual phone bills and come up with an ACTUAL TAX AMOUNT, you cannot use line 71 on your tax return. You have to complete a special form number 8913 and attach it to your tax return.

Individuals using the special from 1040EZ-T will have to attach this form 8913 also.

One final point - this credit is a refundable credit. That means you get this money, no matter how your tax return works out. If you would end up owing the IRS a balance, the refund will reduce the balance you owe. If you end up getting a refund, the credit will be added and you get a bigger refund by that \$30 to \$60, depending on how many dependents are on your return.



EXERCISE FOR THE MIND

The key to keeping intellectually sharp as we age may not be mental gymnastics, as commonly recommended, but real gymnastics. According to a new study, the brain's long, slow decline may not be inevitable. For the first time, scientists have found something that not only halts the brain shrinkage that starts in a person's 40s, especially in the areas of the brain responsible for memory and higher cognition, but actually reverses it: aerobic exercise. As little as three hours a week of brisk walking -- no Stairmaster required -- apparently increases blood flow to the brain and triggers biochemical changes that increase production of new brain cells.

As brains age, normal wear and tear starting in middle age causes them to process information more slowly, which means it takes longer to make judgments and grasp complex information. Older brains also take longer to switch from one task to another and are less adept at "multitasking" (such as driving while simultaneously tuning the radio and checking the tailgater). The search for ways to slow down mental decline and detrimental brain changes that come with age has taken an unexpected turn lately. Popular wisdom, as well as some scientists, had long held that the way to stay mentally sharp was to do mental gymnastics. Crossword puzzles, reading, taking up a musical instrument and generally challenging the mind were supposed to stave off the mental ravages of old age.

Recent studies showed that elderly people who take up aerobic exercise show improved brain function after a few months. Their working memory is better, they are nimbler at switching between mental tasks, and they can screen out distractions better than people who did not get exercise training. As little as three hours a week of aerobic exercise increased the brain's volume of gray matter (actual brain cells) and white matter (connections between brain cells),

You can do something to influence your

mental fate as you get older. The scientists had 59 adults, age 60 to 79, get aerobics training, non-aerobic stretching-and-toning training, or nothing. The first two groups exercised for one hour three times a week, the aerobic group walked around a gym at a little more than three miles an hour. The researchers measured the volunteers' brains. Neither the stretchers-and-toners nor the couch potatoes showed any brain changes. But the aerobic group showed a substantial increase in brain volume.

Gray matter increased most in the area of high-order thinking such as attention and memory. White matter increased bundle of cells that connects the right brain and the left, and whose deterioration with age is thought to be responsible for slower thinking. With better connections, the side of the brain that is carrying out some task can send signals to the other side to pipe down, making for better cognitive efficiency.

Because the volunteers were all healthy, the study does not address whether exercise might slow down, let alone reverse, age-related brain diseases such as Alzheimer's. And because the scientists did not put their volunteers through a tougher regimen, they cannot say whether more strenuous exercise would boost brain cell growth even further, or whether the benefits top out at some point.

How might exercise work this magic? Studies in lab animals show that exercise raises blood levels of a molecule called IGF-1 (for insulin-like growth factor). Normally, IGF-1 does not cross the blood-brain barrier but with exercise it does. IGF-1 increases blood flow, which is good for brain cells. Even more important, it induces "beginner" cells to change into actual brain cells. With more gray matter and white matter, the brain is more interconnected, more flexible and more adaptive to change.

Ok, so we had to find something to fill a half a page. But we are old enough for this.



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS *2006-2008*

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
932 3rd Street
Blaine, WA 98230
360-393-6645
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@gibsoncounty.net

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
4129 Karma Drive
N. Las Vegas, NV 89032-5009
polar_bear_01@runbox.com