



**NUMBER 52**

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



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

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

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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!



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From Larry Curtis

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lcurtis123 @comcast.net

Wow! What a great reunion in Riverside, CA! This was the 1st Cavalry Division Association's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion and the LRRP/Ranger's 21<sup>st</sup> reunion. Things started off a little slow on Wednesday, but by Thursday we were in full swing! Thursday evening a group of us ended up at GRAM'S BBQ. We enjoyed dinner and catching up on everyone's lives. Next thing we knew the DJ showed up and we were singing and dancing in the streets until the early morning hours!! Friday some of the guys played golf, and the rest of us went on a small group tour of Riverside, which somehow included shopping with our wives. At the luncheon on Saturday the guest speaker was Joyce **DENKE**. In 1967, Joyce was the fiancée of David **IVES**. David was the first LRRP/Ranger to be killed in our unit. Joyce gave a nice tribute to David and then went on to share a documentary DVD called "A Touch of Home". It is on the "Donut Dolly's" in Vietnam. When Joyce finished her presentation there wasn't a dry eye in the room. We look forward to the future airing of the program. Thanks again to Joyce for contacting us.

Time for a little news: Doug and Debbie **MATZE**'s son, Ben is just back from his third tour in Iraq. Mike **GOODING**'s son, Chad is going back for his second tour. This time he will be with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. God Bless to both of them and all of our troops serving in harm's way.

Next year in Jacksonville, FL there will be an election of new officers. If you would like to run for an office or know somebody that would like to run, please contact Bob **GILL**. This is a great opportunity to be involved. Many of you have ideas on how to increase membership and involvement. Now is the time to step up and be heard.

The dates for next year's reunion in Jacksonville FL are June 18-22, 2008. I will be getting with the Cav. in the next few days to begin preparations. Watch for details in future newsletters.

Thanks to all of those who attended the reunion in Riverside. It is always great to see you: Andrew **ALLEN**, Gair **ANDERSON**, David **COOPER**, Bill **CARPENTER** along with daughter Stacy and grandkids Ali and Rhett, Steve **CURTIS**, Larry **CURTIS** and wife Jeannie, Daniel **DeMARA** and wife Kathy, Sam **DIXON** and wife Cathy, Pete **EISENTRAGER**, Stan **FREEBORN** and wife Danita, Bennie **GENTRY** and wife Sandy, Doc **GILCHREST**, Bob **GILL**, David **KLIMEK**, Curtis (Randy) **KIMES**, Dennis **JOBE**, John **LeBRUN**, Doug **MATZE** his wife Debbie and daughter Holly, Jim **McINTYRE** and wife Sue, Bob **OAKES**, Wayne **OKKEN**, Keith **PHILLIPS** and wife Frankie, Bobby **PERZ**, Donald (Skeeter) **PETTIBONE**, Dan **ROBERTS** and wife Bonnie, Jim (Spanky) **SEYMOUR** and wife Katie, Howard **SHUTE**, John **TRUMBULL**, Al **VOELKEL** and wife Karen, Client **VOORHEES**, Terry **WANISH** and wife Shan, Bernard **WELLS**, Ken **WHITE**, Richard **WILKIE** and wife Karen, Mike **WIRTZ**, and Ted **YOSHIMURA**.

Sam Dixon was elected to a position on the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's Board of Governors during the General Membership meeting of the Association on 14 July.

**RANGERS LEAD THE WAY**

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## OFFICERS REPORTS

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### 2007 reunion

By David Klimek

Our Rangers came and left like a whirl-wind, endearing everyone in between. I didn't think anyone could top any of our inebriated stories, but a guy from the 1/5 Cav claimed to be rated at 350% by the VA for the first place prize.

I counted forty who came to take a pleasant stroll along Old Main Street and visit the shops and locals. I enjoyed playing golf at Indian Hills, and the one thing we liked the most was the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's venue near the lobby where the drinks were free for only a tip.

Next to Howard **Shute**, who is now retired and in better health. John **Trumbull** kept everyone guessing what he would say or do next, or what Bennie **Gentry** would wear next. Once again, Doc **Gilcrest** spoke the least, but I'm sure he learned the most by listening.

#### BOARD MEETING

Our biggest discussion at our board meeting concerned our web site. We now have a read enhanced version that is much nicer than before, although there are concerns about some hidden agenda, and adverse comments made there. If this continues we may have to start a chat room, so please guys, keep it clean and pleasant.

#### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At our membership meeting we again approved to donate 5% of our current total (about \$5,000) to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's scholarship fund. Treasurer Doug **Parkinson** reported that our normal balance has averaged about \$8,000/year and expects the same after this reunion. Once again, if anyone has not paid their dues, or would like to make a contribution, send them to Doug and make the check out to LRRP/Rangers.

A motion about dues had been tabled last year and given to John **LeBrun** for research. Dues

will stay at \$15/year as always, but now you have the option to pay a lifetime fee of \$250. I have some new membership cards to make. If you need one call me at 724-554-5738 and I'll send you one.

I now have seven years as our secretary and next year will be my last. Elections for all positions are up for nomination for two year terms beginning next year. Here's your chance to do your part, and keep everyone happy. In his absence Bob **Gill** was nominated to chair the Nomination Committee for our new officers.

After everyone left on Sunday, I toured the state for two weeks via the Metro Tran that spans several hundred miles, centered at the Union Station in downtown LA.

From there I went to Long Beach to see the ocean and the original Queen Mary permanently docked there since 1967. Across the way I saw a fleet of boats surrounding Catalina Island. The temperature on the coast is twenty degrees cooler than at Riverside, an old-school orange growing Mecca.

This is the third time in the last twenty years I have been to Calr-for-nya (sic, Arnold the Governor) and I hope it will be my last because .... I intend no disrespect, but to me, being in CA is like being in another country and I didn't feel safe again. As before, several millions from every country are here, and you can't tell if they are cursing at you or telling you the truth with their foreign tongues.

Without a doubt, the infrastructure here is better than any other state, but I had to breathe thru my mouth to deter the smell, while I LRRPed. The streets were littered with trash, and I'm convinced it will only get worse. You might ask, doesn't anybody care? No they don't

The latest new thing in CA is all cigarettes made there go out after about thirty seconds of inactivity. This is so they can't start a fire. The secret is in the rolling paper.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

From Doug Parkinson

Balance in account: \$8,555.00  
This includes an anonymous donation of \$2,500 to the Brick Fund.

At the time of this writing, it is marijuana harvest time in California, and Doug is busy keeping his head down while working streams in some very productive marijuana growing areas. So the finances for the reunion have not been finalized. He probably is wishing for a Montagnard scout to work with him and keep him safe.

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## **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

From Bob Gill

The perils of being late for a meeting.

Once again I find myself making up the nominations/elections committee, and now I need your help. Next year all our officer and trustee positions are up for election. This is the opportunity for our members to help keep our organization strong and functional. We need members to offer a little of their time and energy, ideas and leadership for the next two years by offering themselves for election. If you would be willing to really help our chapter by becoming an officer or trustee, please let me know by phone, 218-682-3551; email [rcgill@tds.net](mailto:rcgill@tds.net) or ground mail and I will take care of the rest.

The spring/summer newsletter will contain a ballot with all the names nominated for mail -in prior to our reunion. It is also okay to be nominated on the floor of our business meeting, but doing it that way a candidate misses being on the mail-in ballot. So let me know by February so it can get in the newsletter.

Please give this some serious thought. Most of our positions aren't really difficult, they just take a little time and willingness to be involved. I look forward to hearing from you. Bob

P.S. If you send an email, please put a subject in the heading so I don't delete it. Also, please do NOT nominate another member without talking with them and receiving their permission

## **MERCHANDISE**

From John LeBrun

### **NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE**

If you won the print "God's Own Lunatics" from Joe Cline Numbered 586, I have your Certificate of Authenticity. Sorry about that. Send me your mailing address and I will get it to you.

**Wow what a reunion.** The Cav had a low turnout but ours was more than expected. Great to see some old faces and a couple of new ones as well. The merchandise has not changed since the last newsletter. Still the same great stuff. With Christmas coming up and my need to get a lot of skiing in you should consider ordering your items early if you want them in time for Christmas. Once the current golf shirts are sold we will be ordering another style. Same basic shirt but the black one will have white trim on the sleeves and the white ones black trim.

The mini reunion is moving right along. Coleville is the destination and the dates are the 10-12 of November 2007. Have heard from a half dozen members who will be attending. My recommendation would be to fly into Spokane and rent a car for the short drive to the Coleville Inn. If you are planning on attending please call the Inn and book a room. It's cold up here that time of year. Check the notice in this newsletter for more details.

Well until next time take care and if you have any questions about the reunion or the merchandise give me a call or send me an e-mail. Don't forget to block out your calendar on June 18-22, 2008 for next year's reunion in Jacksonville  
Take care, John



## HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

### MEMORY LANE

From David Shows

I was wounded mid tour on a mission out of Quang Tri. We were supposed to be watching for rocket launches on relatively open hillsides, the plan being to get back into heavy cover before daylight. On that morning our watch had fallen asleep and we awoke to full daylight with no real cover, and with AK rounds all over us. I was the only one hit, which still amazes me, a whole lot of shooting for just one hit.

I had been back to country only a few days and unassigned to a team, the CO sent me and another guy whose name I cannot recall to a very small primitive LZ on a mountain top to act as radio relay for a team. After a few days of very boring duty I was replaced and ordered back to Evans.

The CO then told me about **Tebbits** and put me in charge of a team. My teams were largely made up from new arrivals including "sudden Sgts" as I recall from the NCO academy that was a new thing at that time. For years I have wondered how Mike T. made out. As I recall we were told that he was hit in the neck with a piece of rocket. The CO told us that he was expected to make full recovery, I never knew he was hit in the head. I sure hope he is all right, I remember him as one hell of a man.

He and Mac were older than the rest of our group (lifers we called them), and had served together in Germany before meeting up in LRRP. I always remembered Mike as being a magician with just about any weapon he picked up. Not to mention a real comedian.

He was the first guy I saw when I got shot. The bullet that went through my leg passed directly over his head. Mike was hit directly in the face with all the junk from my leg. I remember looking at him and wondering how he was still moving, I thought he had been hit in the face, didn't know it was me on his face.

I was sorry to hear about Mac, he was my first team leader. I have always remembered him and Tibbets drinking and trying to remember the words to "Frankie and Johnny" over and over all night long.

Larry **Pappert**, I well remember the mission when he was shot (I was there but didn't remember who the team leader had been, my apologies to **Don Glover**) We were all soaking wet and cold hiding under poncho halves and trying to sleep when we heard the single shot at the crack of dawn.

It turned out to be an accidental discharge, but we had several anxious moments thinking we were under attack, and trying to find where the shot had come from, we knew it was close.

I met up with Larry in the hospital on Okinawa. The round went through his ankle long ways. Larry was a good guy. When I last saw him he was facing several more surgeries and his prognosis for walking without a cane or crutch was not good. Larry and I were still together when we learned of Bob **Whitten's** death.

Bob **Whitten** - unfortunately Bob's body was sent home without any of his personal effects. By some error a lot of my personal stuff (I was in the hospital) had been sent home with his body. This caused his mother to struggle for some time believing that the Army had misidentified him and that he might still be alive. I think she finally accepted it when we met in Fla.

For me too, on a quiet evening when I close my eyes and start to drift off, I am back in the jungle of 40 years ago, and it is not a troubled or fearful feeling, its more like being back where I belong. I remain very proud of having been a "1st Cav LRRP", and its something that never leaves you. After all these years I still tend to think of myself as a LRRP, despite the ravages of age, and the effects of way too much good food, and a life full of experiences since that time. I am still amazed that I was ever capable of participating in some of the things we did as 18 and 19 year old kids,

and it is something you just can't explain to folks who were not there.

If you ever come through this way please let me know (except of course for mid November to mid December when you can find my sons, grandson, and I well hidden in the W. Va. Mountains deer hunting and eating LRP beef stews, (they no longer make beef and rice, my favorite).

If you find the time to write I would be interested in hearing how the last four decades or so have been for you. If you are interested I will do the same.

Home Address is:

279 Rufener St.  
Rittman, Ohio 44270-1058  
Phone 330-927-9492  
Email DGSHOWS@aol.com

Ok I'll hang up now, thanks for listening

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## GOD'S CREATIONS

In the beginning, God created Slicks giving them the mission of Medivac, rescue, resupply and transport and he said this is good, but the Slicks will need protection, so he created Gunships to protect the Slicks and he said this is good, but the Gunships needed targets, so he created Scouts to find targets for the Gunships and he said this is good, upon surveying his works, God realized that he needed crews for his creations, so he populated the Slicks with the best and most disciplined Aviators, he populated the Gunships with lesser disciplined Aviators, and with what was left over he populated the Scouts, he looked upon his creations and said this good, now my Slicks will be properly protected and supported in their missions. God spoke to the assembled Slicks, Gunships and Scouts, saying unto them; go forth and support my most favored creation...the LRRPS.

## HONORING A LEADER

From: Eugene Luning

To: Bob Carr

Bob-

I've been awfully inspired by all the stories you told me back in January. Thanks again for letting me work on that story (ed: about Lt. **Dilger**) for you. It was a true honor.

On top of writing, I also enjoy writing poetry when I can find the time. Here's something I wrote this afternoon. It's again inspired by Lt. **Dilger**.

### "From Death"

The fire-fight sparked the night and he  
rushed into eternity.

Then spread out, cold, he hurried back  
to render what his country lacked.

A leader of men of highest rank  
into death's warmest slumber sank  
then rose again just like a Christ,  
counting not the cost nor price.

His slumber, short, upon the gurney  
ended not his life-long journey.  
The lieutenant rose to live again.  
For bullets could not stop his men.

And bullets could not down the bird  
from which he swung and his men heard  
his voice again upon the wave.  
From death, the best are sometimes saved.

Eugene Luning  
855 Pollux Dr.  
Colorado Springs CO 80906  
719.633.1687  
Fax: 719.635.1145

## SHORT ROPE

By Chris BURGESS

B troop 1/9

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Sorry, I have no names on the LRRP's. The Rangers were like our "right hand" on the ground. The bravest bunch of guys in the world in my book!!! We put you into LZ's that could barely accommodate one Huey.

Those 5-6 man teams sat out in the middle of nowhere "at night" alone looking for trouble. It sure took something special to do that.

The following is a letter I wrote home about one such unforgettable mission.

July 19, 1969 -

B Troop 1/9 1st Air Cav,  
Quan Loi, An Loc Vietnam

Wow! Today was a pretty busy day. We first off got a recon team in contact. We were scrambled to extract them but after I got there, someone had been injured, so the Med-evac bird took the people out.

A few minutes later, another recon team called and said they were in trouble! Again we scrambled for this and I was the first there. The area was very thick jungle with no places to land. So the decision was made for them to come out on ropes. One of our low Scout birds picked the best area for pick-up. The people popped a smoke and I hovered into the tree tops.

Out my right lower chin bubble, I could see a dead VC and blood everywhere. This was the first VC I had actually seen dead out in the AO (area of operation). The recon team had killed three at that spot. My crew chief and gunner lowered the ropes but they were only 25 feet long. I was at the tops of the trees at 40 feet.

They said I would have to come lower, so that's what I did. My rotor started hitting the bamboo and chopping away on my right, then on my left. All the way around! I chopped my way

down to about 30 feet. The rotor still seemed OK. I wasn't too concerned about it, I was worried about the guys getting shot at just below me. My gunners said I would have to come down another 3 feet at least. I said OK.....! I started to lower deeper into the trees. My gunner said to move the tail right a foot. I did and hit the tail rotor against a hard piece of bamboo. That was the bad one.

My ship began to shake a little now. I wasn't sure we were still in flyable shape but we were still flying!! I decided I would have to pull out and go for longer ropes. I was able to get one man. He came out OK and no problems. He later said he was never so glad to be pulled out in his life.

There were two other birds already in route with 120 foot ropes. So they had no problem. They did hurt the guys getting them out because they were drug through some trees. Oh Well. Later this evening, I over heard the Commander. He said, and I quote "Mr. Burgess today did not fxxx-up! He did his damndest to get as low as he could with the short ropes he had. I watched him put the man down and he did it like a mother putting her baby to bed and it was an outstanding job"

How do you like that! I thought he would be mad because of my hitting the trees, but he said it was justified because of the men on the ground getting shot at. That was a day to remember.

### Addendum 38 years later

It was just about as I wrote home. I seem to remember that the one guy that was able to tie on was a "surprise". I didn't think anyone was able to get the ropes. When we started to pull out, my crew chief yelled, "We got one on". As soon as I realized we had one guy, I did a straight up pull up because I was afraid I was dragging him through the trees. I remember he said he lost his rifle on the way up through but he did tell me after I got him back to Saber Pad (Quan Loi) that it was the "best ride he ever had".

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Still today I worried that the guys still on the ground were now one man short. That's not exactly the way to get the team out. You want to get everybody at once, I'm sure you know that. If you find the guy that was on the end of my rope, tell him for me that I wished I got everyone. I was thankful to get HIM but have always wondered if the rest got out OK. There were other ships inbound with longer ropes. I am pretty sure it all worked out in the end, at least I sure hope so.

I was with B Troop 1/9 Air Cav from 14 Dec 68 to 26 Nov 69. I inserted and "hot" extracted many teams.

I pulled a team out on Christmas Eve 1968 near Quan Loi. They were in contact and it was after dark. I remember approaching the LZ that was marked with a flare. I seem to remember the bad part was the flare gave out when we were on final approach. Of course that just about makes us "blind". I think this was my first "hot" extraction and when the gunners opened up, they did their little "trick" of letting the expended hot shells from the left gunner's M-60 bounce over my "neck". I was in the left seat. I learned that night to put my collar up "next time". I think Christmas Eve was supposed to be a cease fire.

If any of you recondo guys would like to contact me and talk about old times, I can be contacted at:

Chris Burgess  
527 Sylvan CT  
Frederick Maryland 21703-6112  
301-668-4124  
[gyrocfi@erols.com](mailto:gyrocfi@erols.com)

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If you have food in your refrigerator,  
clothes on your back, a roof over  
your head and a place to sleep,  
you are richer than 75% of this world.

## COMMO FROM 1/9<sup>th</sup> CAV



This picture came from "Cav Gal", the historian for the 1/9<sup>th</sup> "Bullwhip Squadron". She also maintains their webpage. If you can ID the LRRPs in this picture, contact Loretta (Cav Gal) at [cavgal@earthlink.net](mailto:cavgal@earthlink.net). The 1/9 webpage is [www.bullwhipsquadron.org](http://www.bullwhipsquadron.org). If you would like a bigger version of this picture, email Carpenter at [lrrp\\_rangers@comcast.net](mailto:lrrp_rangers@comcast.net).

Loretta wrote:

A B/1/9 pilot snail-mailed me a CD of photos of mid-1969, Quan Loi. Pilot's helo was "Crum Snatcher", #39. This pic was titled "LRRP Team.JPG", so I thought you may want to see it. I haven't put the pic on the site yet. Maybe someone can identify the faces for me. Of course, I won't put names with it when I post it, unless you want me to. ~ [cavgal@earthlink.net](mailto:cavgal@earthlink.net)



**SECTION P SITE 1811  
FT. LOGAN  
NATIONAL CEMETERY  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**DAVID DICKINSON'S GRAVE**



**Keith Phillips      Bill Carpenter**  
**Benny Gentry**  
**Doc Gilchrest      Lucky Wells**  
**Kimberly Thomas (Dave's niece)**

From Garnet Jenkins  
Dave **Dickinson's** sister

What a weekend my niece, Kimmy and I had last July!

Four of the guys, en route to Riverside, for their annual reunion, came through Colorado. Arriving in Denver on July 6th. They met Kimmy at Ft Logan National Cemetery to reminisce on Saturday morning. They all had a great visit with her. They think she's very special. They also met with **Bill Carpenter**, who was traveling with his daughter and grand kids, to the reunion, but

they were leaving Denver in another direction, so he didn't come through Grand Junction, which was disappointing, for us. After their meeting at Ft Logan, **Doc Gilchrest**, Bennie and Sandy **Gentry**, Keith and Frankie **Phillips** and Lucky **Wells** all headed for Grand Junction. They arrived late afternoon and stayed until mid day on Sunday.

What a Wonderful time we had! If our guests enjoyed us, even half as much as we enjoyed having them, I am content with that.

Of course I had met Bennie and Doc before, but the other four, I had not. We were all like old friends. Like we had known each other for the past forty years. IT WAS GREAT!

Kept wishing Dave would have been "here", Actually, I am pretty darn sure, HE WAS HERE! Of course he was talked about a lot. Everyone looked at his photo album and we all sat and watched the video that **Ron Holte** had made for me.... What more can I say???

What an Honor to have them all in our home, even if for such a short time.

What a Great Bunch of people!

"We Consider Them, Our Extended Family"

(For other photos of their visit in Denver & their stay in Grand Junction, you may find them on my brother's memorial site at:  
<http://dave-dickinson.memory-of.com/about.aspx>

I would like to add that, I have never actually had the chance to thank Ron, personally for the valued gift of that video, it is truly cherished. Hope I get the chance to be in touch with him someday.

Garnet Jenkins (Proud Sister to Sgt. Dave **Dickinson**)

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**NOTICE TO ALL  
E COMPANY 52ND & H COMPANY 75TH RANGERS**

**MUST ATTEND EVENT:  
MINI RANGER REUNION**

**10-12 November 2007**

**Colville Inn**

**Colville, Washington**

**W**e are very pleased to invite you to a special mini reunion, with the Guest of Honor, Colonel (Ret) George Paccarelli. Come and shake hands with this legendary man, the Company Commander of note, who was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2005. You've probably heard tales about him – and most of 'em are true!

Both the VFW and the American Legion will be conducting ceremonies on the 11th and arrangement will be made for those that would like to attend one or both.

Along with a ground floor hospitality suite for our daily meetings, ten hotel rooms have been held. (Please see booking details at right.) Best to book now as it'll be hunting season at that time, and the Inn will fill up rather quickly.

Additionally, if you have pictures or other items that you'd like to bring and think it too much of a hassle with the airlines, you can mail them directly to the Inn or to John LeBrun and he will get them there.

If you have further questions, email John LeBrun at [caabnranger@yahoo.com](mailto:caabnranger@yahoo.com) or call John at 360-393-6645.

**WHERE**

The Colville Inn is a full service facility with all the amenities ([www.colvilleinn.com](http://www.colvilleinn.com)). It's located about 60 miles NE of Spokane, Washington, on Highway 395. Plan on about a 90-minute drive from the Spokane Airport.

**RESERVE NOW**

To reserve your room for this unique event, please call Theresa at **1-800-680-2517**. She works Mon. – Thurs. from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Pacific).

The rooms reserved are all on the ground floor surrounding the hospitality suite. If you would like to make other arrangements, let Teresa know to remove one room from the reserved bank of rooms.



**Memorial Day Weekend 2007  
at The Wall  
Washington, D.C.  
By Ken White**

**Rolling Thunder, Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>**

Motorcyclists by the thousands, by the tens of thousands, roared into the nation's capital this weekend to take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Rolling Thunder parade that runs from the Pentagon in neighboring Virginia to The Wall (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) on The National Mall. This year's parade marked the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Vietnam veterans and others have come to Washington, DC on their motorcycles to carry the message to America's political leaders and to Americans in general of the need to support the men and women serving in the nation's armed forces.

Organizers of the event estimated the number of bikers participating in the parade to be three hundred and fifty thousand. Officials at Patriot Harley-Davidson in Fairfax – one of the ten or so starting points for the trip to the Pentagon in preparation for the parade, estimated the number of bikers making the ride from Fairfax alone to the Pentagon to be forty thousand. And in terms of the number of spectators lining the parade route, the Washington Post newspaper estimated the number to also be in the hundreds of thousands. In some places, such as on the Memorial Bridge, alongside the Lincoln Memorial, and on Constitution Avenue, the crowd was three and four deep. Love it or hate it, the roar of motorcycles has become an intrinsic part of the Memorial Day weekend in Washington, DC.

Rolling Thunder grew out of a desire by two Vietnam veterans and bikers, Ray Mango and Larry Darko, to remind government leaders that this country had unaccounted for POWs and MIAs and that there is a need to provide closure to family and friends. Mango and Darko contacted their friend and fellow Vietnam veteran

and biker, Artie Muller, to help plan a motorcycle rally that would take place in the nation's capital on Memorial Day weekend. The rally was named Rolling Thunder after the sound made by thousands of Harley-Davidson motorcycles riding together. Rolling Thunder was also the name of the last major bombing campaign of the Vietnam War.

Rolling Thunder became incorporated in 1995, and Muller has been president for the past nine years. Proceeds from the rally are used to fund search teams to go to Vietnam to help find missing Americans. Proceeds are also used to help Vietnam veterans in need. After this year's rally, organizers of the event met with President Bush at the White House where they were joined by guest bikers Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten.

**Memorial Day at The Wall, Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Memorial Day Observance at The Wall (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial), which marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Wall's dedication, served as the focal point for the day's activities – at least for Vietnam- and Iraq-era veterans, and drew a moderate size crowd. The weather was very hot, very hazy, and very humid.

Nonetheless, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav was well represented, as always. The U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard – Military District of Washington, DC, was there, but neither the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav nor 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Color Guard, the usual color guards in attendance at The Wall, were there. With all that is going on in the Middle East, it's no wonder that they were unable to attend.

Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and master of ceremonies for the observance at The Wall, started off by mentioning that May 28<sup>th</sup> is a very special day in his life - he was wounded on that day by an NVA RPG while serving as an infantryman with the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. Artie Muller, one of the founders

and current president of Rolling Thunder, followed Scruggs by leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keni Thomas, the southern rock and country music singer from Columbus, Georgia, entertained the crowd with his song "Last Band of Brothers." Thomas enlisted in the Army in 1991 and served as a ranger in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. He was a member of Task Force Ranger as part of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and was involved in the Battle of Mogadishu, which was later immortalized in the book and movie Black Hawk Down, for which he was a consultant. He also served as a consultant for the Mel Gibson movie We Were Soldiers. After Somalia, Thomas continued to serve on ranger recon teams as an assistant team leader.

The featured speaker was John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. Rowan, who served in the U.S. Air Force directing bombing missions in Vietnam, said "It's a great honor and privilege to take part in this year's Memorial Day ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I attended the dedication ceremonies in November of 1982, an event I never will forget. All Americans owe a debt to Jan Scruggs and his colleagues at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, who conceived of the idea for the Memorial and fought so hard to have it built. Vietnam Veterans of America is proudly helping commemorate the Memorial's 25th anniversary this year, including VVA's sponsorship of the official 25th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parade, which will be held in Washington on Saturday, November 10."

Retired Army General Barry McCaffrey delivered the keynote address. General McCaffrey commanded B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, in Vietnam in 1968 and the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) in the Gulf War in 1991. General McCaffrey will host the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parade on Veterans Day.

## "THEY'RE ALL CAN-DO PEOPLE"

Boston-based nonprofit, local rafting company teams up on adventure races that pair disabled athletes and veterans with able-bodied racers.



There on the front page of the Vail, Colorado "Daily" newspaper, 6/17/07, is a picture of Art Guerrero being pushed up a mountain side by two men, each with a prosthetic leg.

The terrain appears to be about 8,000 feet in elevation, and there is no trail, much less a road, in sight. Art's vehicle appears to be more of a three-wheeled mountain bike instead of a wheel chair.

This challenge was part of the NO BARRIERS FESTIVAL 2007. The teams compete in mountain biking, kayaking, and mountaineering. Each team of five included several "so-called" disabled athletes. Over 600 people participated in the event. The team that got the most media coverage is composed of six Marines, mostly amputees.

This will become an annual event.

## **Web Site News**

From Pete Eisentrager

Our new web site [www.lrrprangers.com](http://www.lrrprangers.com) is a welcome change thanks to Robert Johnsen. Robert is a friend of Bill Winn, who has resigned as Web Master. Bill is going to be doing some traveling building web sites. A special thanks to you, Bill, for all that you have done.

Robert was not in our unit but is our new Web Master. Robert and his brother were in Special Opps in the late 50's and early 60's. He is retired now but still an advisor to the Department of Defense. We welcome him and all that he has done so far is outstanding.

In case you haven't been to the webpage lately, we now have two guestbooks, one is for visitors, the other for "unit only". Our visitor guest book is working out just fine. You can exchange messages with people who were not in our unit. But please don't give out the passwords to the unit only site.

The unit only guest book is working just fine as well. Some non-members have been approved to visit that site as they are some very special people.

To log on to the "unit only" site is simple.

User name    lrrps  
Password    recondo

Or

User name    rangers  
Password    leadtheway

Robert is still refining the site to make it all that much better.

I have been appointed as liaison to the Board of Directors, for the web site. Any questions please feel free to e-mail me at any time

[petesphotos@charter.net](mailto:petesphotos@charter.net)

Pete "Dutch"

## **RECONDO SCHOOL GRADUATES**

From Lou Bruchey

There is now a list of Recondo School graduates on the webpage. They are listed chronologically from time of graduation. The list is still in the developing stage. Some of you have already told me that you graduated before the 1967, which is the first year listed in the book. *If you are a Recondo School grad and not on the list, let the webmaster know.*

Unfortunately, the Recondo book doesn't state H Co., 75th Rangers, 1st Air Cav. for the unit, it just says 1CD. The list has been cross-checked against our roster, and there are names on the list for the 1 CD that are not on our roster.

Below is a list of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav "unknowns", check it out. Are any of the names familiar? There may be a lost brother on there.

## **UNKNOWN 1<sup>ST</sup> CAV RECONDO SCHOOL GRADS**

RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	R #	CLASS
SGT	Albertson	Garvin	123	3-67
SSG	Atkins	Claude E	63	2-67
SP4	Bambach	John K	532	1-68
PFC	Bascue	Gordon L	3268	4-71
SGT	Bustamante	Osvaldo	3425	7-71
PFC	Carlson	Ric	?	4-68
SGT	Davis	Eugene E	81	2-67
CPL	Depriest	Volney H	?	3-68
SP4	Ellis	James R	2679	8-70
SGT	Evans	Jimmie A	3411	7-71
PFC	Fox	Darryl L	?	3-68
SSG	Frelas	Robert	561	2-68
SP4	Fulk	Lesley L	27	1-67
PFC	Garoia?	Paul L	3079	1-71

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SP4	Golden	Frederick	17	1-67
SGT	Green	Bennie L	98	3-67
SGT	Hall	Bennie	163	4-67
SGT	Hallimore	John E	2882	13-70
SP4	Hess	Randy R	1008	15-68
SSG	Heyward	Isaac Jr	130	3-67
SP4	Holt	William J	528	1-68
SGT	Hunter	Anvil O	147	4-67
SP4	Isbell	Clinton D	164	4-67
SP4	Jessee	Michael D	3274	4-71
SP4	Kerby	Martin J	43	1-67
SP4	Kern	Dennis	?	3-68
CPL	Knight	J V	2759	10-70
PFC	Knotts	James E	2839	12-70
1LT	Kratzer	Leeland B	122	3-67
SP4	Larsen	Bryan L	2869	13-70
PFC	Lopez	David	3091	1-71
SP5	Mansfield	John C	539	1-68
PFC	Marion	Harry L	67	2-67
PFC	McHattie	James	3306	4-71
PFC	McIntyre	Carl	1141	18-68
SGT	McNabb	Donald F	30	1-67
SGT	McNeal	Charles L	112	3-67
SP4	Miller	Thomas V	65	2-67
SGT	Norris	Gerald L	56	2-67
SP4	Partin	William C	?	4-68
SGT	Peterson	Harry T	3328	5-71
SP4	Powell	Joe E	2720	9-70
SGT	Robitchie	Ernest T	34	1-67
PFC	Spear	John R	1289	2-69
SP5	Steinberg	Dane T	1628	10-69
PFC	Streeter	Richard G	2884	13-70
SP4	Taylor	Mitchell I	1507	6-69
SGT	Thibadeau	Vaughn P	2872	13-70
PFC	Thrasher	Orval W	687	5-68
SP4	Trumbo	Eugene F	3421	7-71
SP4	Weeks	Irey E	2877	13-70
SP4	Wickham	Louis C	3164	1-71

## LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts Black/White all sizes	\$13.00
T-Shirts Novelty White all sizes	\$15.00
T-Shirts Recondo Grey all sizes	\$15.00
Decals: Interior/Exterior	\$2.00
Ranger Ring	\$35.00
Belt Buckles: Numbered	\$20.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts: all sizes Blk/White	\$30.00
Hats: Black or White	\$12.00
Windshirt, Pullover: Black M, L, XL	\$36.00
Sweaters: Black M LR XL	\$40.00
Windshirt: (converts to sleeveless)Black with Khaki trim.(M, L XL only)	\$48.00
Cloth scroll patch: (Co H 75 <sup>th</sup> nf.)	\$4.00
Cloth logo patch	\$4.00
Wooden Nickel	\$1.00
Ranger Lapel Pins	\$4.00
Training Video: Bear Cat	\$10.00
James Gang DVD	\$10.00
ANNUAL DUES	\$15.00
Shipping per order	\$5.00

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. There is no shipping charge for decals, patches, lapel pins, wooden nickels, novelty T-shirts or the ring.

***You could generate \$2.00 for  
our organization.***

The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA will reimburse us  
for each 1<sup>st</sup> Cav/LRRP Ranger who  
joins the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA.

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## Gettysburg Speech Memorial Day, 2007

MG (Ret) Robert H Scales  
a 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, Viet Nam chopper jock

Mr. Kuhn, friends of Gettysburg and most importantly fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to return to Gettysburg. I've come to this place hundreds of times.

Coming here never gets old. It never becomes tiresome. It never fails to excite a passion or raise my spirit. To those who have never seen war surely emotions like these seem strange indeed. Some of our citizens who hear old soldiers like me talk about a love for a battlefield conclude that we love war. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Even though Gettysburg was fought using weapons that seem primitive to young soldiers today, the lessons it teaches about leadership and courage and intellect are immutable. We are learning again in Iraq and Afghanistan that war is not a test of technology it is a test of the collective will and talents of soldiers and the nature and character of that test will never change.

Another reason why this place attracts me is because all of what you see around you is so close to home. This was America's war from both sides, fought on ground that is so familiar and recognizable. It was the first war fought in which most soldiers were literate and, thanks to the recent invention of photography, so recognizable. When you go to the visitors center look into the eyes of the young soldiers staring at you from across the century and you'll see a reflection of yourselves.

But I'm drawn here mainly to relive and revive in my own soul the unique influences that brought young soldiers here to fight and die a century and a half ago. Again and again, it's the same old question from politicians and media who have the rare privilege of watching soldiers in action in Iraq and Afghanistan: why is

their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are fed up with this war? Don't they know it's going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of death in war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On that fateful evening on the last day of June 1863 soldiers weren't sitting around campfires in Cashtown or Emmittsburg roasting coffee and frying bacon to discuss the latest pronouncements from Lincoln or Jefferson Davis. They might have trusted their leaders or maybe they didn't. They might have been well informed and passionate about their cause or maybe not. They might have joined the colors to end slavery or restore the Union or maybe they just were shanghaied on the docks in Brooklyn or Manhattan.

Before battle young soldiers then and now think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. The armies that met at Gettysburg were not from the social elite. They didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of political bluebloods. They were in large measure immigrant Irish or German kids from northern farms and factories or poor scratch farmers from the piedmont of Virginia, Georgia, Texas and North Carolina. Just as in Iraq today soldiers then came from every corner of our country to meet in harsh and forbidding places in far corners of the world, places that I've seen and visited but can never explain adequately to those who have never been there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought Longstreet's or Hancock's men to face the canister on Little Round Top or rifled musket fire on Cemetery Ridge was no different than the

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motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent woman huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference.

A civil war soldier was often lured from the slums of New York or Philadelphia and coerced into the Army by promise of a 300 dollar bonus and 25 dollars a month. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the Army but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those who we honor here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed in the stock market make some of our countrymen rich. But as they grow older they realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them.

A last point of history before I close today. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

"This story shall the good man teach his son;  
From this day ending to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered;  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he today that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother;

And gentlemen in England (or America)  
now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed  
they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap  
whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now abed, will never know. You will live a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this country who "hold their manhood cheap" can only envy.

I don't care that virtually all of America is at the Mall rather than at this memorial today. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are resting here. Over a campfire of boiling coffee and frying bacon you will join with your Civil War band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than yourselves. I believe in my very soul that the Almighty reserves a corner of heaven, probably around an inextinguishable campfire where some day we can meet and embrace all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there, thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation!



# **HISTORY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAV'S LRRP/RANGERS OF THE VIET NAM WAR**

An editorial by Bill Carpenter

It has been written that the First Cavalry's LRRP/Rangers of the Viet Nam War is the most decorated unit of the Viet Nam War, and the most decorated Ranger unit in the history of the United States Army. The history of this unit needs to be preserved for future generations. Who better to preserve this history than us, the men who lived that history?

Mike Brennan has been working with this idea for several years. It is time for the rest of us to give him a hand.

Several very good books have been written by 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers about our unit. I understand three more are in the works. These are biographies and autobiographies, each one describes very well the time period covered in the book. But there is no book that covers the entire history of our unit, from November 1966 through July 1972.

If you read any "History of the Viet Nam War", or even "History of the First Cavalry Division in Viet Nam" books, the stories are all about divisions, brigades, generals, and colonels. If a LRRP/Ranger unit is even mentioned, it is one or two sentences about "gathering intelligence".

I had a high school history teacher tell me that the American history book used in his class (an "outside" committee decides which book he uses) has about one page about the Viet Nam War. ONE PAGE!!!!!!

Our history is worth more than one page. No one else is going to write it, so let's do it ourselves.

I am not referring to just the "Historical Occurrences", although they should be part of the story. My idea is a book about who we were, what we did and how we did it, in detail. As the

1<sup>st</sup> Cav moved from II Corps to I Corps to III Corps, the enemy changed, the terrain changed, so our missions changed, how we ran the missions changed, what we took on missions changed. I'll bet that when the division commander, or the division G-2 changed, our missions changed. Is that right?

What is needed is the perspectives of the war from everyone's viewpoint, primarily the teams in the jungle, but also the CO's, XO's, PL's, first sergeant's, platoon sergeant's, and each man in the TOC.

How about describing the hows and whys of the quick reaction drill and the Australian peal in a way someone who has never held a weapon in their hand would understand?

Does anyone have an itinerary for the training when each of us came into the unit? What did each team take on a mission, in detail? How were these items distributed among the team members?

I was in a conversation at the Riverside reunion. I mentioned the sawed off M-79, and how we had one on each team. Larry Curtis said that when he was there, there were two per team. Wayne Okken said that in his time there were probably two in the entire company. Why the change? You can probably think of a dozen other things that changed during the war.

Our roster lists about 960 names of men who served in our unit. By the summer of 1967, the unit was at company strength, how many platoons were there, and how many teams per platoon? How many teams were in the field at any given time? Was a four-man team ever inserted?

A very good list of the men who served in our unit has been compiled. Lou Bruchey has compiled a list of who completed Recondo School. Who were the commanders, the executive officers, the first sergeants, the platoon leaders, the platoon sergeants?

One figure has over 60% for us earning Purple Hearts, several of you have more than

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one. BUT the roster shows only 45 of us dying in Viet Nam. Six of these deaths were while the men were serving in different units after leaving LRRP. Only 22 of the remaining 39 were killed by enemy fire while in direct contact.

Granted, each death was taken very personally, especially when that person was a friend and team mate. How many total "in contact" extractions were there? And only 22 were killed in direct contact. That number is amazing, we need to tell why.

The enemy killed seven of us in the first half of 1968, but none in the last half of that year. The enemy killed nine of us in 1969, but only one in 1971. Why? What was different?

What were the different living conditions from II Corps to I Corps to III Corps? Did the company ever have its own mess hall? Were teams still farmed out to different LZs in III Corps?

When did we start setting up our own radio relay points? We need to explain why. How did communication change through the war?

At times, the TL and/or ATL always did a "fly over" of the team's insertion point before a mission. I have heard stories about this not happening and the team being inserted at the wrong place. Why the change?

These events, actions, memories, call them what you want, are what we were in our youth. In many ways they are a major influence on what we are today. Although we may not be old enough to turn out to pasture yet, we are not as young as we like to think we are. Our history is worth more than one sentence in a history book.

So bring it on. If you would want to work on any part of this venture, volunteer again, you volunteered to create this history didn't you? Send your contributions to Mike, one of the association officers, or me.

**WE NEED TO RECORD OUR HISTORY  
BEFORE IT IS LOST.**

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1966-67

**LRRP Company Command** by Kregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ballantine Books. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's LRRP/Rangers.

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

**Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Chau, 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-75<sup>th</sup>.

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

## VA UPDATE

From John Simones

johnsimones@yahoo.com

To support a claim for S/C the evidence must show 3 things:

1. You had an injury in service, or a disease that began in, or was made worse during, service, or an event that caused the injury or disease.
2. You have a current physical or mental disability shown by the evidence.
3. There is a relationship between your disability and/or the injury, disease, or event in your military service.

The VA will rate your claim for S/C based on the following: nature and symptoms of the condition(s), severity and duration of the symptom(s), impact of the condition(s) on employment, on going treatment records, any Social Security determination, statements from employers and statements from people who have witnessed how the condition(s) affect you.

John

### *The Combat Veteran (vs.?) the VA.*

From Randy Kimes

Lately, there's been mounting dissatisfaction within the veteran community about the Department of Veterans Affairs—one only needs access to television newscasts, or read newspapers and magazines. But the VA isn't *all* bad...especially if the veteran is informed, knows what is available to them, and who to contact if 'benefits' are withheld, delayed, or denied.

I write this as an opportunity to inform LRRP/Ranger Association members. I may write more than just this 'article'; there's much, too much one should know when dealing with this large, often-careless and many times negligent—but occasionally 'cutting-edge' bureaucratic agency. Some in our Association know of the battles I've fought with officials in the VA—perhaps with these words I'll be able to help

others avoid the turmoil, heartache, and disappointment I've experienced.

### *Registration*

The very first *required* element of receiving benefits a veteran has already earned is to register with the VA. Most often, this can be accomplished by visiting the Veteran Service Office [VSO], a Federally-mandated position required of every County, of every State. The VSO is obligated, and paid to prepare and forward necessary paperwork to the VA, such that a veteran can *begin* to receive earned VA benefits. (Alternatively, registration can be made at a VA Medical Center, which may be closer.) Registration is not something done overnight—certainly not by the VA.

I have yet to hear of a registration being accomplished in less than four months [Whether this is because of overload, or sheer employee (yawn) boredom has been a historical issue]. Registration can be done at any time, whether you have other medical insurance, your own private-practice doctor, or even job-provided medical care. Without a completed registration, NONE of the benefits available by law through VA will be available to the veteran.

### *Veteran Evaluation*

Once registration has been completed, and the veteran has received a confirming letter from VA [not the VSO], the normal sequence is to receive a VA written request for both a physical and psychological evaluation. These exams are designed to help determine if service-connected injury occurred, and establish the degree of monetary 'compensation' due the veteran, as well as any medical assistance that may be required. Whether these exams are done shortly after confirmation of registration, or not, all monetary benefits will be accrued as of the date of registration. Some 'hints' about that next time.

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## ODYSSEY ON AGING

From Bill Carpenter

I have a few years on most of you guys, I turned 65 last summer. I am still working, and I don't qualify for full Social Security coverage until I am 65 plus 10 months, so I wasn't in a big hurry about doing all that paperwork.

Like a lot of you, I am retired army, with Champus/TriCare coverage. I checked my military ID card and "Indefinite" in written in the "expiration" box. OK, everyone is happy.

A week or so after my birthday, I had some medical service. TriCare refused to cover it. It seems that the "indefinite" on the front of the card refers to access to military facilities. The expiration date for TriCare is in a small box on the back of the card. That date was at the end of the month before my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

What happens is that at age 65, TriCare becomes "TriCare for Life" which is a secondary pay benefit. What has to be done at age 65 is, apply for Medicare A and B. TriCare for Life will pay what Medicare doesn't.

When you go in to apply, be sure to take AN ENBOSSSED ORIGIN of your birth certificate and DD 214, photocopies won't be accepted.

You can not receive Medicare until after your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. It takes at least three weeks to process. When you get your card, you are immediately eligible for Part A (hospital care), but Part B (medicines and office visits), are not covered until three months after the card is issued. So no matter how fine you tune this, there will be three months where you will need to pay for your own medicines.

By the way, you will need to get a new military ID card with all the new "Tricare for Life" data on it, after you receive your Medicare card.

Learn from the mistakes of others. Do not wait until after you are 65 to start the paper shuffling.

## Hypertension linked to Agent Orange

Forwarded by Ron Christopher

Medical news you can use.

The IOM (Institute of medicine) <http://www.iom.edu/> has issued a report stating that those exposed to Agent Orange have higher instances of Hypertension.

The VA has not yet listed Hypertension as a presumptive condition related to Agent Orange, but could fairly soon if they choose too.

In order to get the earliest possible date for payments, you should file for compensation if you have a medical diagnosis of hypertension and served in Vietnam during that war.

Also cite the new IOM report in your VA claim. See and read report online at: <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3793/4689/44596.aspx>

The panel, which reviewed about 350 epidemiological and animal studies, also pointed to evidence linking the chemicals to AL amyloidosis, a rare disease in which protein builds up around organs.

Agent Orange has already been linked to health problems including several rare cancers, type II diabetes and birth defects in the children of the veterans exposed.

The new findings may bring veterans one step closer to getting government-paid medical services for these conditions.

The panel said recent studies of Vietnam veterans who handled Agent Orange and the other defoliants offered evidence that they had elevated rates of high blood pressure.

The Department of Veterans Affairs must now decide if it will formally recognize the link between Agent Orange exposure and these conditions, according to an official with the group Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

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## PULLING SLACK

### THANK YOU

From Joyce Denke

A special thank you to Riverside's reunion attendees for making us feel so welcome at your reunion. As I mentioned, you treated me like a long lost brother and I felt the "Welcome Home" you gave me deep in my heart. You gave Janet and I special recognition as Donut Dollies and it is so nice to know that we were appreciated!

I was thinking about you much earlier this morning. I was thinking about how brave you were by responding to me as you have. I know it opened up old wounds. Thank you again for your kindness. Joyce Rice Denke

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### From Bill Carpenter

Well, another reunion has come and gone. As usual, a good time was had by all. Our numbers were up, and again our reception room was too small, so the usual happened, the party animals took it to the street. It was the first time I had been to California since I came back to "the real world".

This reunion was very special to me, I had the pleasure of meeting Joyce Denke, who was engaged to David **Ives** when he was killed. Dave and I were newbies and poncho mates on that mission. Joyce's "40 Years Ago" was in the last newsletter.

It was a little difficult deciding what to say after "Hello, I am Bill", but Joyce got the conversation started.

Joyce brought a friend, and fellow Viet Nam Donut Dollie, Janet Wilson Funderburk, Janet's husband, and Joyce's husband with her.

Joyce's speech at the LRRP/Ranger luncheon brought back memories. We were also privileged to have a premier showing of "A Touch of Home", a then-and-now story about the Viet Nam Donut Dollies. It will be on the market this

fall. Maybe we could talk LeBrun into putting it in our merchandise sales.

I was really impressed with Joyce's husband Dewain. He was very supportive of her, and stayed discretely inconspicuous as we exchanged stories.

Both Donut Dollies, and their husbands, received the famous wooden nickels for their efforts. I hope they enjoyed our reunion as much as we enjoyed having them there. They are good people.

It was good to see all the new faces at this reunion. Before I went to the reunion, I planned to spend some time talking to Skeeter **Pettibone**, it didn't happen. Sorry Skeeter, my intentions were good, maybe next year.

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Bruce **Judkins** and his wife Jeannie, dropped by for a couple hours last June. They were on the way to visit with Jon and Margie **Varesko**. Bruce kept us entertained for an hour with stories about Harry **Elston**. Write them down Bruce, write them down.

Jon **Varesko** is not in good health. Margie and he would appreciate a card, email, or phone call just to let them know you are thinking about them.

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## VIETNAM FILM ON DVD

From Bob **DeCesari**

Heh, fellas...I just found some 8 mm film I took (about 15 minutes worth) which I converted to DVD. It was taken during the period April 1969 through February 1970. It shows Lurp eating his usual breakfast (rats), several award presentations with Gen Casey. There's not too much of me in the flick (all "G" rated of course!) but I have most of the guys that were there in '69...I believe Paccarelli and I know Price are in the first few shots...but they left right after I got to the unit. It would be neat if we can get it loaded on the website. There is a sequence of how we prepared for missions, an insertion and extraction. Bob Hope Show Dec 69, and other great shots. Nui Ba

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Den, and Nui Ba Rah como sites. If anyone wants a copy....let me know....any donation to cover costs of shipping and reproduction would be appreciated...otherwise, it's free.

for more info [bob@decesarirealty.com](mailto:bob@decesarirealty.com).

520-829-7781

## UPDATE

From Bill **Anton**

Bill **Anton** reported that last June his son Mike was drafted in the 12<sup>th</sup> round by the Los Angeles Angel. Mike is a 6' 3", 200 lbs. left handed pitcher. He played this summer with the minor league Tempe Angels.

Bill also reported that his daughter Susan was promoted to GS-14 with Homeland Security. She graduated from Georgetown University four years ago. Susan was a President's Scholar while at Georgetown.

Anton has also won his four year battle with Social Security. One thing that helped him was, the judge on the case, and he, had been in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne together.

And finally, after years of haggling, Bill's fiance's passport from the Ukraine has been approved.

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### from Gregory Chavez

18680 Forest Road North  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
651-464-0324

[lrrps469@yahoo.com](mailto:lrrps469@yahoo.com)

I stopped in Aurora CO in April this year and looked for Dan **Sheehan's** burial place. Found he is actually in a mausoleum. His next of kin had our unit crest carved into the marble vault cover.

While in Viet Nam I flew down to Bin Hoa to see him, the day, or day before, He left us. Our unit was breaking formation the moment I got back to our base camp. That formation was for Dan, one of our guys told me He died. Tore me up. That's all I have to say.

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Richard **Sweeney** contacted Randy **Kimes** and is back in the fold. His address was lost some time ago, Welcome Home Brother.

I you would like to contact Dick, he is at:

Richard Sweeney  
344 Highland Avenue  
Winchester, MA 01890  
[dick@keurig.com](mailto:dick@keurig.com)

## STEVE CAMP

Posting on the webpage

Hello to all, I have enjoyed reading the guest book. It brings back some memories. Someone was looking for the Ranger who was a golden knight? It was Bob **Crenshaw**. Has anyone heard from Tim **Bebbe**, Frank **Elevas**, Jeff **Laux**? They were in Rangers in 71/72.

My email is [camperfect@yahoo.com](mailto:camperfect@yahoo.com)

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Leonardo **Rabago** here in the big island of Saipan. I moved here during the reunion, hope to be at the next one. I took a position as a JROTC Instructor at a local High School my address is as follows:

Leonardo Rabago  
PMB 313 Box 10003  
Saipan, MP 96950-8903  
God speed!  
Leonardo Rabago

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### From Jim REGAN

Short & Sweet - My cousin, a U.S.Army Aviator Captain, is back in Iraq for 2nd tour. Commands a Helicopter Assault Co. with Blackhawks, Apaches, and Cobras. 1st Tour was with the 2/227th Aviation Rgt, 1st Cavalry Div. flying Blackhawks out of Baghdad.

SHE is my HERO!  
Jim RLTW

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## STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

5347





# THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



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