



**NUMBER 55**

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

**ISSN 1941-7926**



**SEPTEMBER 2008**

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

ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL ONE MONTH BEFORE DISTRIBUTION DATE TO:

BILL CARPENTER  
713 DIAMOND STREET  
FAIRMONT, WV 26554  
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)  
[lrp.rangers@comcast.net](mailto:lrp.rangers@comcast.net)



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR NEW  
OFFICERS!!!**



*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.

5383

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Keith N. Phillips**

18288 Acre Lane

Kemp, Texas

(903) 498-4194

darby7172@embarqmail.com

Shoot low Rangers, they're ridden Shetlands!

As the world turns LRRP/RANGER Reunion 08 came to a conclusion with no arrests or Bail money having been spent. This year we were in Jacksonville, Florida. Most stayed at the Hyatt on the River. (Forrest had to rent a Dingy to get across the river). The rooms were great with a number of restaurants and watering holes near the Hotel. Some took a Dinner Cruise on the River while others, such as myself, David **Russell**, Bennie **Gentry** and John **Trumbull** plus our wives, terrorized the Florida Highways on our motorcycles (actually three motorcycles and a Honda) to Daytona and back. We also spent a day in St. Augustine the oldest city in the U.S. Since Bennie had been there as a young boy he gave us a guided tour.

This was an election year. The following are our new officers: Keith (Standing Two Hairs) **Phillips**, President; Douglas (No Show) **Parkinson**, Vice President; John (ain't he cute in his nylons) **LeBrun**, Secretary; Bob (BBQ Float your Boat) **Carr**, Treasurer (IRS has already implemented an investigation); and "Doc" (I'm in love) **Gilchrest**, Sergeant-At-Arms. The Trustees are Michael (Capt.) **Gooding**, Bennie **Gentry** and Ken **White**.

The following members were in attendance and signed the rooster:

Samuel Dixon (71)	John LeBrun (69-72)	Doc Gilchrest (67-68)	Bob Raab (68-69)
Forrest Decker (67-68)	Ronald Wood (71-72)	Larry Curtis (67-68)	David Russell (67-68)
Scott Hancock (67-68)	Gene Sprague (69-70)	John "Jake" Geiger (69)	Gary T. Lorenz (70-71)
David Klimek (70-71)	Bennie Gentry (67-68)	Mike Ryan (70-71)	Wayne Okken (70-71)
Randy Kimes (67-68)	Howard Coble (67-68)	John A. Trumbull (67-68)	Ken White (67-68)
Bill Carpenter (67)	Dave Shows (67-68)	Doug Matze (70)	Roger Simmons (70-72)
Lou Bruchey (70-71)	Tom Campbell (67-68)	Howard Shute (69-71)	Bill Hand (67-68)
Tom Ford (67-68)	Ronald Chistopher (66-67)	Chuck Donahoo (70)	Samuel Surgeon (68-69)

That makes 33 total plus most brought their wives, children and grand children. We had five first timers.

My first Reunion was in 1999 and what I experienced in those brief five days has put the Reunion as a priority in my life. Those who have made a Reunion owe it to yourselves to reach out to every brother of our unit who honorably served and help them experience the bond of the LRRP/RANGERS, irrespective of what year the popping blades of a Huey became apart of their unconscious behavior.

God Bless all our fallen LRRP/RANGERS

Keep Your Powder Dry

Keith N. Phillips

President

5384

## SECRETARY'S REPORT AND MEETING MINUTES

From David **Klimek**  
LRRP/Rangers Reunion  
Hyatt Riverside  
Jacksonville, FL  
June 21, 2008

9:00 AM – board meeting – many items discussed, agenda is set as follows:

10:00 AM – general membership meeting

### Old Business:

- \* previous minutes motioned and seconded/ unanimous approval (ms/us)
- \* new address/phone changes – **Sam Dixon**, **Larry Curtis** and **Bill Carpenter** are now the Gold Star Panel Members for all contacts and updates – in turn they say we must contact immediately regarding any sickness or deaths so they have ample lead time to respond with flowers, etc.
- \* 282 – total membership to-date, Note: I began with 187 members in 2000.
- \* sign-in sheets were passed around for voting registration, no dues, no vote, (see sheets for total number at our meeting and registration)
- \* life membership for \$250 initiated by **John LeBrun** is now available – any past dues were collected to-date by John to up-date his ledger.
- \* we need a new merchandise Sarge. Former **John LeBrun** gets battle-field commission to later be elected our new secretary – repeated attempts to get volunteers to fill this position, no volunteers, opening remains.
- \* (ms/us) 5% of our present treasury total to 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Scholarship Fund.
- \* formal proposal for a separate H Co. Scholarship Fund died in caucus.
- \* our new Gold Star Panel is nothing new, this has been around since our by-laws formation but had no former name – it was created by **Mike Brennan** while he was president and he now accepts to chair this panel.

- \* Gold Star Panel will review all new applications – Note: in response to an existing possible infraction, board – no further discussion while pending.
- \* our Brick Fund road has been paved, any can get a personal memorial brick at Ft. Benning, present brick price \$280 – you can download application for submission thru Gold Star Panel.
- \* (3) memorial bricks donated in 2007 for former very active members.
- \* no Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF) applications in 2007, none expected in 2008. Note: RHOF submission for **Timothy V. Harper** in 2009 by **David Klimek**.
- \* 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers rep **Bill Anton** not present but all is good.
- \* historical profiles update: for the past four years the response to our call for writing is great, please continue, **Mike Brennan** remains chair.

### New Business:

- \* treasurer's report by **Doug Parkinson** sent wireless, all is good.
- \* web-Sarge update – still too much internet sex, we got to keep it clean, adjustments being made, our web site is now high tech.
- \* **Bob Raab** announces a call for members to lead a parade on Veterans Day near Lansing, MI and attend celebration, Raab will walk point.
- \* a new initiative (ms/us) to begin a two-year collection of memorabilia for donation to a possible 9<sup>th</sup> Cav museum display begins by Gold Star Panel.
- \* elections – see attached – Note: nominations to (8) positions were open to all present, all elected unanimously, un-opposed.
- \* 2009 reunion @ Killeen, TX
- \* 2010 reunion @ Bloomington, MN
- \* (ms/us) adjourn meeting, begin luncheon, group pictures follow.

5385

## TREASURER'S REPORT

From Doug Parkinson

Statement Period: 01 JUN 08 to 14 JUN 08

### BUSINESS SAVINGS

JUN14 Balance 50.00

### BUSINESS CHECKING

Previous Balance 01 JUN 08..... \$4,660.20

1 Deposit for ..... 300.00 +

Ending Balance 14 JUN 08..... \$4,960.20

This is up to date for the reunion.

Bob Carr was elected treasurer at the reunion.

---

## REUNION HOSPITALITY ROOM.

From John LeBrun

A number of members asked why the hospitality room was so small. The basic reason for that is the price. The hospitality suite in Jacksonville cost us \$150.00 per night. We used our own refreshments and our own bartender. If you noticed the other hospitality rooms were larger but at a cost of \$350.00 per night, a cleaning charge per night, and a requirement that you had to use a hotel bartender and that the alcohol be purchased from the hotel. Some of the other hospitality suites got away with bending the rules a little but with a hassle. I think each state has rules and requirements as well as each hotel chain. I agree that we could use a little bit bigger room but I don't think our numbers warrant the expense.

## MERCHANDISE UPDATE

From John LeBrun

Wow another reunion come and gone. What a great time in Jacksonville. As you can see from the merchandise list not too much has changed there. I purchased a number of men's and ladies' watches as there were a number of urgent requests. I still have a large number left.

Doc made up some large unit crest patches. They are suitable for the back of a jacket or coat. I had one put in a frame to see what it looked like and it turned out alright. I will use it at next year reunion for a raffle item.

Speaking of the raffle I want to thank everyone that provided items for the raffle. I am always amazed at the variety and number of items that are given. Thank you one and all.

Christmas is fast approaching which means I head for the mountain for another ski year. Get your orders in early. They are expecting a great snow year which will prevent me from getting to the city as often as I usually do.

I still have a number of black and white T-Shirts in the large sizes. At the reunion there were a couple of inquiries about getting the Polo Shirts in long sleeves. We can do that if there is a demand. Let me know if you would purchase one, white or black, and I can get some ordered for next years reunion or with luck a little earlier.

Until next time, take care and start planning right now for Killeen. Should be another great reunion. See you all there.

---

START PLANNING NOW!!!

REUNION 2009



5386

## HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

### DOUBLE IDENTITY

From Rick Tedder

For those of you that knew me from Co. E, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry LRRP, this reminiscence from '68 may be familiar. My nickname throughout most of my tour was "CID", pronounced (Sid). Of course this stands for the military Criminal Investigation Division.

During the early days of my tour this handle caused me more problems than anyone could possibly understand, including an attempt on my life at LZ Uplift. The parties involved, if still alive, will probably be able to recall the circumstances.

Shortly after completing AIT at Ft. Polk's Tiger Land I was recruited by the CID in an incognito sort of arrangement. The purpose of this recruitment although misunderstood by my comrades, was to identify and expose methods by which illegal substances were being shipped back to the world. At no time was anyone from our group indicated as being involved with this practice.

I've held on to this story and the mixed emotions over exposing myself for all these years as there were only two individuals within our group that were aware of my situation. After the life threatening attempt, I was sent to Camp Evans where, like all of my fellow LRRPs, I pulled 32 missions.

One of these missions was unfortunately where Private Felix **Leon** was mortally wounded. I was the Team Leader and tried desperately to save his life. Scott **Hancock** recently wrote an article mentioning Felix, and I have to say I was proud to know that gentle young man.

Not many know the circumstances concerning his tragic death, but Felix although mortally wounded acted in an exceptionally brave manner. Both legs were broken in the

middle of the femur and he was losing blood so fast that it was unbelievable. I became emotional when administering what first aid that I could. He removed his neckerchief from his neck, handed it to me to use as a tourniquet and said, "It's alright Sarge, it'll be OK". Those were his last words.

We lost another good soldier and friend just a few months previous (Richard **Turbitt**). I suppose that I'm recounting some of my personal tragedies in order to set the record straight after so many decades of knowing how many felt about me during that period.

I sincerely hope that some un-named individuals will read this short account and maybe realize that I pulled my weight in spite of the inaccurate perception of my purpose for being in the LRRP unit.

I'm proud of my military career and like so many fell to my knees in tears at the sight of "The Wall".

Please accept my apologies if anyone over the years has ever felt that I did them any harm.

### A SHAU VALLEY BLITZ NO PEACE IN THE VALLEY

IN VIETNAM MAGAZINE  
BY Bob Ankony

Bob **Ankony** has an article in the October 2008 issue of **Vietnam** magazine. It is about the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's LRRP/Rangers securing The An Luoi Mountain, "Signal Hill" during "Operation Delaware", and how important that was to the entire operation.

On sale at newsstands everywhere.

Thank you Bob, good reading.



## **'INVISIBLE TROOPS' CATCH NVA LOAFING**

22 Nov 1967 article from  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's newspaper "Cavalair"  
written by Sp4 Herb Denton  
submitted by Larry Pappert

### **BONG SON**

If it had been possible to eavesdrop on their conversation you probably would have heard the North Vietnamese soldiers say something like "What the Heck, Over" or whatever NVA say when – out of a clear blue sky – artillery, rockets and air strikes come booming down on their position and wipe out 72 men.

The Communist soldiers, part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NVA Division, had been infiltrating all morning through the southern Crow's Foot area of the An Lao Valley when they stopped for a little smoke break. They sat down, lit up, unloosened their packs and began chattering to one another when a barrage of 105mm rounds came flying in on them.

The NVA ran for nearby bunkers only to be hit again by aerial rocket artillery. After the rockets came air strikes which forced them out of the bunkers. Then gunships, more rockets, more tube artillery.

Sitting on a ridgeline above the NVA and calling in all of the firepower were six fearless 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalrymen who make up team "Two Bravo" of the Cavalry's long range reconnaissance patrol.

"We had ringside seats," mused Specialist Four Donald W. **Glover**, the assistant team leader.

A sweep through the area the next day by elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry turned up 72 bodies and 58 weapons including AK-47's, SKS's, rocket launchers and machine guns.

The recondos left the area without a scratch and without having fired a single shot themselves.

There are 11 LRRP teams in the Cavalry. The teams were organized last February and are made up only of volunteers. Each includes one Montagnard scout.

They are out in the field every day and are frequently responsible for intelligence on enemy activity. Though Team Two Bravo had never run across 72 enemy before, said Staff Sergeant Robert L. **Carr**, the team leader.

"First we saw seven and then we just kept counting and counting," Carr said.

The recondos are all trained as infantrymen. They tromp around in rakish "Tiger" fatigues and most of them wear a triangular green patch with 'recondo' embroidered at the top and a big "V" at the bottom.

The patch is proof that they have run for over a mile and a half with a 25 pound sand bag on their backs, become highly proficient in map reading, first aid and the other specialized subjects and physical requirements crammed into a special three week course conducted by the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces in Nha Trang.

According to Private First Class Stephen L. **Fox**, Two Bravo rear scout, they sometimes get a strong urge to fire on the enemy. But unless cornered this is not their job. They are sent out as observers and not to engage the enemy. Through well-armed with M-16's and M-79's, even the rough-tough recondos will admit that the six man team may be outmatched by what could be a company or larger-sized enemy element.

*Bob Carr's addendum: "If I remember right, that was the biggest kill the Cav had since the Ia Drang in '65, and it did not hurt the company with division on our ass all the time about our jobs."*

TL 2B

## **Snippets I remember from missions with Don Glover**

From David Shows

While we were at Quang Tri in early 1968, Larry **Pappert**, Bob **Whitten**, and I pulled several missions on teams led by Don **Glover**. Too much time has passed for me to remember a lot of specifics of those missions, but I do have a few pretty clear recollections of those trips. I don't have a sense of chronology, and some of these memories may have been from the same missions.

### **The Jump:**

In previous and subsequent missions we had to make some unreasonably long "jumps" (more accurately falls) from helicopters on insertions, but I will never forget the longest drop with Don. We had obviously misread the terrain from the air and the chopper couldn't get close to the intended drop site. As usual on the approach to the insertion LZ we were all on the skids ready to go, three men on each side, I happened to be on the same side as Don.

The chopper stopped and hovered I swear at least 20 foot from the ground. Glover was trying to tell the pilot to get closer, and as usual the door gunners were trying to get us to jump, they didn't like being close to the ground and stationary in unsecured territory at all.

Then one of the guys on the other side jumped or fell, I was never sure which. Don said a very bad word, which cannot be repeated here, shrugged and with a look of resignation, jumped. Being young and stupid the rest of us followed him.

I remember it seemed to take forever to hit the ground. For some reason, which completely escaped me, none of us were seriously injured. I can't remember what must have been a jarring impact with the ground, but I do remember laying back on my pack for a good long minute kind of dazed, and the tremendous relief I felt at being on the ground.

Later Don said that he was ready to abort the mission rather than jump from that height, but with one guy on the ground we had to go. I remember we talked about that jump for some time insisting that we should have been awarded jump wings; we felt we met all the qualifications except that we didn't have parachutes.

### **Surrounded:**

We were struggling our way up a dense and fairly steep hillside, making very slow progress in the dense underbrush and wait a minute vines. I don't remember how long we had been on that mission or what we were specifically doing other than climbing that hill. Footing was difficult because of the jungle and the steepness of the grade, and we were all whipped and dripping with sweat. Don signaled a break in place and we all flopped down, to catch our breath.

When Don signaled the halt I had been struggling to free my M-14 from a bunch of vines that had reached out and snagged it. I just sat down and was staring up at that rifle seemingly suspended vertically in mid air in front of me, and thinking I need to get up and get it, but felt too beat to move.

Don had climbed up in a tree well above us and was trying to figure out our position.

Very suddenly the woods all around us literally filled up with NVA, rapidly moving from our right to our left. We could see them all around us, through the brush and clearly hear them talking and even hear their labored breathing as they were struggling though the jungle.

It seemed it took an eternity for them to get by us; the only thing that saved us was they were moving at a route step pretty rapidly and thought they were alone, they were not being at all cautious and were not expecting or looking for a little group like ours. That and we were in the thickest imaginable brush and lying down (except for Don of course who was "up a tree"), and the enemy troops were looking for easy routes walking around the dense tangle we were in.

The whole time they were passing I laid there looking at my rifle just hanging in front of me, wishing I had it and certain that one of NVA would see it and come over to investigate. They just walked on by.

For some time after they had passed us we continued to hear them milling around down the side of the hill, and then it seemed up the next hill.

After Don got down out of his tree and I reclaimed my rifle, I remember Don crawling over to me and whispering in a dead serious tone, "If more than three of them come down this trail in front of us, we are going to lay here in the bushes and pretend we're not here. If less than three come by, we will lay here in the bushes and pretend we're not here". I know that it's been more than 40 years but I swear that was a direct quote and one I'll never forget.

Recently others that remembered aspects of this mission, have told me that they remember Don saying that while he was up in that tree looking down at all the NVA moving around us, Bob **Whitten** was making faces up at him and one of the Montagnards was looking up at him signaling that he was going to try to capture one of the passing troops, fortunately he was joking. The Yards we worked with were as nutty as the rest of us.

The story that I never knew or had forgotten was that a large NVA unit had been driven out of their area by our side and they just happened to be passing by us as they were escaping US forces.

Just recently Larry **Pappert** told me an embarrassing story about a mission with Don. He said that NVA were passing very near to us (that happened more than once), and he noticed that I had laid my rifle down and was holding my revolver. He said he has never forgotten that and thinking to him self "What the f--- is Shows doing?" He said that confirmed for him that I was 100% certifiable. I certainly cannot remember ever doing such a thing, and I wonder

if perhaps we are talking about the same incident, maybe Larry did not realize that my rifle was hung up, and I suppose I may have pulled my revolver out, but I'm sure if I did it was not out of preference, at that moment I certainly felt pretty unarmed with only a six shooter.

### **The leeches:**

I am certain that all lrrps remember the leeches, but I have never forgotten them on one particular mission with Don. It was the same mission where Larry **Pappert** was shot through the ankle. The woods were wet with rain, and we were cold and wet that entire mission. I don't imagine it was really that cold, but the nights especially seemed freezing since we were soaking wet the whole mission. We were moving through the jungle on mountaintops and sides, nowhere near any bodies of water.

Every time we would stop you could see the leeches coming at you like little inchworms from all directions. I remember thinking how odd it was to find leeches so thick on a mountaintop. Another thing I recall is that the Montagnards who were never bothered by anything hated the leeches as least as much as the G.I.'s did. We all, including the Montagnards carried a good extra supply of mosquito repellent to combat the leeches.

I remember when the leeches were coming at us we would squirt out a line of mosquito repellent in front of them, and when the leech would reach it he would curl up and die. If you put just a small drop on your finger and touched a leech with it he would immediately curl up and fall off of you dead. That stuff in that mosquito repellent could not have been good for you.

I also remember one of the Montagnards who were usually totally at home in the jungle, literally soaking the ground all around himself with the repellent when ever he got ready to sit or lay down on the ground.

Even without Larry getting shot, that was one miserable mission.



**THESE TWO ARTICLES ARE VERY IMPORTANT  
READ THEM EVEN IF YOU DON'T READ ANYTHING ELSE**

**RECONDO SCHOOL CADRE MONTAGNARD FOUND**

From Leo Corey

Tuesday, June 03, 2008

I was in Austin, Texas visiting my friend Trooper and he invited his neighbor over who just happened to be a Montagnard from VN, who just happened to be Cadre @ Recondo School in 1967-68 when I went through.

He was exceptionally knowledgeable of all facets of training and had never met anyone since who knew or who could verify the existence of Recondo School. He literally was in tears when I mentioned Nha Trang and Recondo School. We visited for about an hour and plan on keeping an open line of communication.

He had a stroke in 1983 just prior to escaping from VN, and it is hard for him to walk but his speech and thought process are untouched.

You know we have assumed travel and trade with VN but I hope we don't forget our brother Montagnards who are still being hunted down and killed by the new VN government. And anyone who visits VN should make as part of their itinerary a question and answer session with the VN government as to what their agenda is in regards to the survival of the Montagnard.

I don't know what we can do as a unit but I think it ought to be discussed in forum at the next reunion.

Your Brother, Leo

*All of you who worked with the Montagnards have a "he saved our asses" story. Let's get this guy to Killeen in 2009.*

**2009 REUNION**

from Keith Phillips

The '09 Reunion will be held in Killeen, Texas on June 3-7, 2009. We will be at the **SHILO SUITES HOTEL** which is the main hotel for the Reunion. I have set up a block of 20 rooms and have obtained a Hospitality Room which will comfortably accommodate 50 people with a wet bar and restroom. The 1st Cav has a 101 block of rooms 50 of which are already gone so it is very important to get your reservations made as soon as possible. The alternate hotels have not been designated but there are a number of new hotels in Killeen. With that said we all know it is best to stay where the Hospitality Room is located.

For reservations call **(254)247-3133**. Ask for either **SHERRY or DONNA** and specify you want a room from the **LRRP/RANGER block**. The rooms are \$95.00/night. I stayed at the hotel when I went down to Killeen and it is nicer than the Hyatt in Jacksonville. The restaurant has excellent food (I had the meatloaf @12.00 bucks which is comparable to Cracker Barrel). ALL rooms are Suites with either a full kitchen or a half kitchen. The half kitchen does not have a stove and it has a smaller frig. Both are the same price so if you want a full kitchen get on the horn and make your reservations ASAP.

5391

## BOOKS

by and about LRRP/Rangers

**The Ghosts of the Highlands** by Gregg P. J.

Jorgenson, Ivy Books. This is about the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1966-67

**LRRP Company Command** by Gregg P. J.

Jorgenson, Ballantine Books. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1968-69

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

**MIA RESCUE LRRPs in Cambodia** by Gregg

P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. One mission gone bad during the Cambodian Invasion.

**Above All Else** by Ron Christopher,

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

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

**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-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.

## LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$13
T-Shirts Novelty: White sizes to 4X	\$10
T-Shirts Recondo: Grey sizes to XL	\$15
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/White sizes to 3X	\$30
Windshirts:Pullover:Black L XL 2ea	\$36
Sweaters: Black LR XL 2 each left	\$40
Windshirt: (convert to sleeveless)	\$48
Black With Khaki Trim:XL last one	
Hats: Black or White	\$12
Ranger Ring: size 10 1/2 only	\$50
Watches: Ladies' and Men's	\$30
Belt Buckles: numbered	\$20
Ranger Lapel Pin:	\$4
Cloth Scroll Patch or Logo Patch	\$4
XLarge Cloth Logo Patch	\$30
Wooden Nickel:	\$1
Ankony's book; LURP's	\$30
DVD's 1 James Gang	\$15
2 Bear Cat Training	each
3 Tribute To Our Fallen Comrades	
4. History Channel "LRRP's.	
5. Reunion "2006".	
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2
<b>ANNUAL DUES</b>	\$15
<b>Shipping per order</b>	\$5

Please mail check/money order payable to

### LRRP/RANGER

And send to

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 Killeen in 2009.

## **LRRP/RANGERS NEEDED FOR VETERANS DAY PARADE MASON, MICHIGAN**

from Bob Raab

A group of LRRP/Rangers get together every year in D.C. So why not do the same thing in Middle America? Ingham County Michigan has not had a Veterans Day parade in approximately ten years. Our committee has been meeting monthly since January. We have had excellent cooperation from the Michigan National Guard and Reserve units.

Join American Legion Post 148 and VFW Post 7309 for an old fashioned Veterans Day (Armistice Day) parade on November 11, 2008. There will be a massing of the Colors at the Ingham County Veterans Memorial Monument on the Court House Square at 3:00 pm. The parade will step off at 4:00 pm.

For the LRRP/Rangers my thinking is this – I have had our unit crest painted on two large pieces of wood and will attach one at the front and one at the back of a 16' trailer that we will ride on.

For you guys that come, if you wish, housing will be no cost as my American Legion brothers are ready and willing to each put one or two up in their homes. Also most meals will be taken care of. Spouses/significant others are welcome and encouraged to come.

Mason, Michigan is about seven miles south of the state capital, Lansing. Just google Mason, Mich for more information.

So how about it, a lot of you live within a few hours drive of Mason. Contact Bob at:

Bob Raab  
725 Tuttle  
Mason, MI 48854  
517-525-0747  
rjbarsr@yahoo.com  
so that provisions may be made for everyone.

## **FIRST LRRP/RANGER REUNION**

From Mike "Baby Ranger" Ryan

I Made It to Jacksonville after 37 Years

Having attended my first army reunion in 37 years it was an amazing event and one I would encourage every veteran to experience. I had an idea that it would be fun, I would share with old friends, but I didn't know how powerful the experience would be. I have kept in communication with one friend and over the years; I would run into another and have dinner, and others would email but I hadn't seen anyone else from my army days in all those years. My father served in the army during WW II and I remember him going to reunions every summer without fail but I really didn't make the connection.

After five days in June the time came to say good-bye again and the emotions just washed over me but it wasn't really what I had expected. It was a strong sense of wanting to stay connected and to experience the camaraderie that had been missing. I wasn't prepared for the new feelings of connectedness nor was I clear on why others had brought their wives, girlfriends, and grandchildren. After five days of sharing it became clear. It was the ability to share a common purpose/mission much like we did all those years ago.

I will make telephone calls and write to others that haven't taken that step to plan their first reunion. I'll be telling them that the first day I arrived four of us decided to walk over to a great restaurant at noon and have lunch and four hours later we were still at the table talking! And everything up to and including the Sunday breakfast was so well planned out. There must be something to that saying that wine, like our association, gets better with age! Lou Bruchey was right, I really needed to make the reunion a priority. I really do feel connected now and will make the reunions a part of my future.

See you all in Texas!

Mike "Baby Ranger" Ryan 1970/71

5393

## JIM NELSON FOUND

Hello, I am the proud son of (then Spec4) James M. **Nelson**, E/52, H/75, (1968-1969,) who was shot on 10 April 1969 along with "Bull" **Durham** and Loel **Largent**. I am hoping to contact any of my fathers' fellow LRRP's/Rangers who remember him and/or have any information regarding my fathers' experiences in Viet Nam. Unfortunately, my father is fighting for his life in the ICU and has been for 4 months after a surgery that did not go well.

One possible name is Bill **Jolin**. Any reply would be greatly appreciated. Thank-you for your time,

Eric James Nelson  
7545 Zinnia Way  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
Phone: 952-486-32889  
Fax: 952-942-0703  
Email: [enelson@access-genetics.com](mailto:enelson@access-genetics.com)

## CONTACT FOR VN TOUR GARY PATTERSON UPDATE

I don't have any Historical Occurrences to report, just wanted to let you guys know that I'm doing fine and that I'll be 72 this Oct. Guess I'll be history sooner rather than later ... HA

I'm still living in Nha Trang with my wonderful wife Toan, and Hien our daughter who is a university student here. For those of you who were fortunate enough to have been here and remember the main entrance to the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, I can tell you that we live in a new house about 50 meters from the main gate, and one block off the beach. You can check it out on "Google Earth".

Well, don't have much else to pass on ... have a great reunion. Would be great to hear from you guys.

Yer Ranger  
Bud ... Gary ... (Slashing Talon 3)

## "BULL" DURHAM'S DAUGHTER

### Looking for Lost Rangers

I am the proud daughter of Monty "Bull" **Durham** and am searching for any information about my dad. Every little piece of information helps me to discover the man I never had the chance to know for myself. I have had some brief contact with the following men but have lost touch and would like to contact them again. The following is a list of names of some of the men I was in contact with in 2000 and 2001, but I would love to hear from anyone who served with my dad.

<b>Paul I Alfaro</b>	<b>Ron Bitticks</b>
<b>Timothy Greenly</b>	<b>John Le Brun</b>
<b>George Richardson</b>	<b>Gene Sprague</b>
<b>John A. "Tony" Schutty</b>	<b>Jim Plisch</b>
<b>Jeffery M. Talbot</b>	<b>Larry Curtis</b>
<b>Gary White</b>	<b>Ken Davis</b>

I understand that Ken **Storm** was very good friends with my dad. I was never in contact with Bob **Gill**, but Tony **Schutty** told me a story that involved the three of them and I wanted to know if he had any more stories about my dad to share with me.

I was also never in contact with the following two men but Tony **Schutty** said that they may know where to get a copy of the initial recording of the Ranger "LRRP" Song being sung by my dad, and it would mean so much for me to be able to here my father's voice after all these years.

**George Paccerrilli**  
**Mike Echterling**

I plan to attend next year's reunion. Please feel free to contact me anytime via e-mail, phone, or even snail mail which ever is most convenient for you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

J. Stephania Ryan  
P.O. Box 68002  
Phoenix, AZ 85082  
(602) 769-0807  
[stephania13@gmail.com](mailto:stephania13@gmail.com)

5394



## CHOPPER PILOT RECEIVES HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



Jim **Bracewell**, a pilot with the 229<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, was bestowed an honorary membership in the LRRP/Rangers Association at our last reunion.

**Bracewell** flew the CC for Capt. **James** when the LRRP Detachment was first formed in January 1967 and for several months afterwards.

During this time his chopper was normally parked on "LRRP Hill". He, and his crew, ate with us, slept with us, and shared our beer. **Ron Hall** and he became very good friends, perhaps the bond was, both of them were mustang officers.

He often flew when, and where, no one should fly to pull teams out of situations they didn't plan to be in.

### *Reflecting on Heroes*

By Jim **Bracewell**

Now that I am pushing seventy, I spend a lot more time reflecting on the past ... probably a lot more than I should. But I'm at the age where there's a lot more past than future to think about. I decided to write a few words about some of the memories I don't want to slip from my consciousness. Too many already have.

I suppose I am prone to hero-worship, because during my childhood I idolized all of my

relatives who served in the military ... my dad and an uncle, who served in the infantry during WWII, a cousin who flew P-51 Mustangs and shot down four German ME-109s, and others too numerous to mention.

I grew up hearing about my great grandfather, for whom I was named. He joined the confederate infantry early in the Civil War.

When he signed up, he was with three of his best buddies from his childhood, and he didn't want to be separated from them. Just before his regiment shipped out from Pensacola, FL, he and one of the other fellows were stricken with some sort of "swamp fever." They were so sick they were mustered out of the army, and sent home. Their mothers nursed them back to health. Now here's the part that has stuck with me all these years ... he and his friend hitchhiked (no small feat in the early 1860s) from Quincy, FL to Virginia to rejoin their regiment! He was shot through the chest at Fredericksburg, hospitalized, contracted pneumonia, and somehow survived. Once again, he was considered unfit for service, and mustered out. He was taken to the coast and placed on a barge to Savannah.

A physician (family friend) took care of him until he was able to travel back to Quincy. His mother once again nursed him back to health, and he hitchhiked back to Virginia! He was captured and spent the remainder of the war in prison at Ft. Monroe.

That bit of family history took on new significance to me during the Vietnam era when people were scampering off to Canada and Sweden to avoid the draft. Great Grandpa is one of my family heroes.

I have other heroes. Some were individuals I knew personally -- fellow pilots, who in peacetime may not have been ideal soldiers in terms of mischief and rowdy behavior. Many lost their lives in efforts to save others. It almost seems funny how a bunch of young men, some as young as nineteen, whose military bearing was practically nonexistent, whose goofy antics and seeming irreverence drew sneers and frowns



from some higher-ranking career soldiers, could almost instantly transform to serious professionals who were willing to risk all for their fellow soldiers. Of course, this observation doesn't apply to all, but those to whom it does apply are heroes in my book.

I have always stood in awe of the infantry. I grew up hearing stories from WWII and Korean war infantry veterans. I remember thinking these men were larger than life. I dreamed that someday I would have what it takes to be like them. I can't remember when I didn't want to be an infantryman. As I grew older, I became interested in aviation, and although I chose the Army for my career, I went into aviation instead of the infantry.

When I went to Vietnam for the first time, I was delighted to learn that I would be supporting the First Cavalry's infantry troops. It wasn't long before I realized that even my high regard for the infantry fell short of what they deserved. I was so impressed with their demeanor, even when they knew we were taking them into certain combat. I was amazed at their calmness. The only times I remember any sign of apprehension was when they were in my aircraft. I saw it rarely, but I attributed the "wide" eyes to concern about flying, rather than concern about where they were going or what awaited their arrival.

It never occurred to me that there could be anyone or any group of men who could be higher in my esteem than the infantry. In a sense that is the case, because the one group that has reached that point is made up of infantrymen. I had the privilege of providing helicopter support for them from the inception of their unit, and I saw firsthand the courage and determination of the men of the First Cavalry Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company. While I supported the LRRPs only in 1967, there is no doubt in my mind that those who followed the originals were just as courageous, just as dedicated, and just as skilled as those who came before them.

When I reminisce about my times in the Vietnam War, oddly I don't immediately think of

my aviation exploits, such as they were. My first thoughts are of the infantry in general, and specifically the LRRPs. To paraphrase the original LRRP commander, CPT James D. **James**, every LRRP mission was an act of premeditated heroism. What a testimony to their character and courage!

So, now when my grandchildren ask me about our country's heroes, I tell them there were many, but none were greater than the LRRPs.

I recently had an honor bestowed upon me that supersedes any award or decoration I received from military service ... I was made an "Honorary LRRP." Even though I never got to wear the crossed rifles, the First Cav LRRPs have welcomed me to their association, and made me feel like a part of their elite group.

I am eternally grateful.

#### **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**



**Jim Bracewell and Artie Guerrero**  
at David Ives name  
on the "Traveling Wall"

Thornton, CO has a major celebration each July 4. This year, two of our own, **Jim Bracewell** and **Artie Guerrero**, were speakers during the ceremonies.

Bracewell flew the chopper that pulled Team One out when Ives was killed and Guerrero wounded. He was flying a slick, and went in to support the team before any gunships arrived on station.

The Traveling Wall was sponsored by the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation.

**Memorial Day Weekend 2008  
at The Wall  
Washington, D.C.  
By Ken White**

**Ride of the Patriots / Rolling Thunder,  
Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Washington, DC is certainly an exciting city with its demonstrations and protests, and political marches, but nothing seems to raise the excitement level here quite like the Rolling Thunder procession on Memorial Day weekend. Vietnam veterans and others ride their motorcycles to the nation's capital in the tens of thousands to remind America's political leaders, and Americans in general, of the need to support the men and women serving in the nation's armed forces. Leave it to the Vietnam vets to show the way on this issue.

This year's procession marked the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Rolling Thunder. Organizers of the event estimated the number of bikers participating this year to be in excess of four hundred thousand. Others estimated the number to be considerably higher – some as high as seven hundred thousand.

As noted in previous newsletters, many of the bikers participating in Rolling Thunder start out at one of the ten or so Harley-Davidson stores in the Washington area for the ride to the Pentagon parking lot in preparation for the procession into Washington. The staging (i.e., line-up) of the motorcycles at the starting points is itself becoming a big event. Command Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, delivered the keynote address at Patriot Harley-Davidson in Fairfax, and with his custom, olive-drab colored motorcycle, led the "Ride of the Patriots" from Fairfax to the Pentagon. The number of bikers riding in from Patriot was estimated to be 45,000. The Fairfax County Police had to close Interstate 66 in both directions for one hour in order to

allow the motorcycles to get onto the highway for the ride to the Pentagon. Caught in the stopped traffic, ironically, were many bikers from Whitt's Harley-Davidson in Manassas, Virginia, just west of Fairfax, who were also making the ride to the Pentagon.

Shortly after the start of the procession into Washington, President Bush greeted the founders of Rolling Thunder at the White House. Calling the procession "a magnificent sight," President Bush told a gathering on the South Lawn that "it's been a pleasure of my presidency to get to know the leaders of Rolling Thunder," according to *The Washington Post*. The gathering included White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten, a well-known Harley enthusiast, Edward Lazear, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, and Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. Both Bolten and Lazear were wearing black leather vests and a bandanna around their head, and all of them choppered in to the White House on their Harleys, according to *The Washington Post*.

By the way, our new unit president, Keith Phillips, and 450 of his closest biker friends, made the ride from Texas to the nation's capital to participate in Rolling Thunder.

**Memorial Day at The Wall,  
Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Memorial Day Observance at The Wall (i.e., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) on The National Mall served as the focal point for the day's activities for Vietnam and Iraq-era veterans. The weather was hot and humid, and the crowd size was moderate, at best, and although the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav was not as well represented as it has been at past Memorial Day Observances, it was well-represented none-the-less on the speaker stand with the keynote speaker and one of the day's featured speakers being former 1<sup>st</sup> Cav commanders – General George W. Casey Jr.,



Army Chief of Staff, and General Barry R. McCaffrey (Retired), respectively.

The U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard – Military District of Washington, DC, did the Presentation, and Retiring, of the Colors. Neither the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Color Guard nor 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Color Guard, which have been regulars on Memorial Day Observances at The Wall in recent years, was in attendance.

General George W. Casey Jr. has strong ties to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. His father, General George W. Casey, Sr., who at the time was the commanding general of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, was killed on July 7, 1970 when his command helicopter crashed in South Vietnam. He had just delivered a pep talk in the rain to the troops at Bien Hoa, congratulating them on their recent successes in Cambodia, and was enroute to a nearby hospital to visit wounded skytroopers, when his helicopter went down in Tuyen Duc Province. He was the highest ranking member of the U.S. military killed in Vietnam. His name is engraved on The Wall, panel 09W line 126.

General Casey Jr. was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1970, and has held both staff and command assignments. These include commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. at Fort Hood (a mechanized infantry brigade at the time); assistant division commander for maneuver and support of the 1st Armored Division in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia; Chief of Staff of the 1st Cav. at Fort Hood, and commander of Multi-National Forces - Iraq, a coalition of forces from more than thirty countries.

General Barry R. McCaffrey (Retired) was of course company commander of B 2/7<sup>th</sup> Cav. when the division was operating in the northern provinces of South Vietnam in 1968. General McCaffrey joined the division just as the 'smoke was clearing' from the battles at Quang Tri City

and Hue, and the division was re-directing its efforts westward towards Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley. In talking with General McCaffrey after the observance, he acknowledged the contributions that the LRRPs made in gathering enemy intelligence and in acting as a radio relay for the division in its efforts to establish a foothold in the A Shau Valley. General McCaffrey's son is presently serving with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Afghanistan.

Another featured speaker at the observance was Captain David Moses, introduced as "One of the Lost Children of Sudan." At the age of 13, Captain Moses was forced to flee his war-torn Sudanese village and trek across hundreds of miles of jungle until he eventually reached a United Nations' refuge camp in neighboring Kenya. He lived in the refuge camp for several years before he was given the opportunity to migrate to the United States to work in a factory in South Dakota. There he completed high school, earned a scholarship to Weber State University in Utah, graduated as an ROTC officer in the U.S. Army, and became a U.S. citizen. He has served two tours of duty in Iraq. Recently, his unwavering devotion was rewarded when he found his brothers and sisters living in Canada and his parents back in Africa. His other sister, who was thought to be dead, was also recently found.

*See you at The Wall on Veterans Day 2008.*



## THIS PAGE IS A "MUST READ" FOR EVERYONE RECEIVING DISABILITY COMPENSATION

The rules changed on January 1, 2008. Larry Curtis brought this to our attention. This is not a VA program, it is with the Department of Defense. He recommends having your local Veterans Service Officer, DAV, VFW, Purple Heart, etc. association process your paper work.

### Combat Related Special Compensation

Simply put Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) allows certain military retirees to receive both their military retirement pay and VA Disability Compensation. This means that qualified military retirees with 20 or more years of service that have a "combat related" VA-rated disability no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation.

**2008 Update:** The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law on January 29, 2008, includes changes to Chapter 61 retiree eligibility, a new component for (CRSC). **This legislation expands eligibility to medical retirees with less than 20 years of service, effective January 1, 2008.** Medically retired veterans must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat related event.

### CRSC Eligibility

Combat Related Special Compensation eligibility includes disabilities incurred as a direct result of:

- Armed Conflict (gunshot wounds, purple heart, etc)
- Training that Simulates War (Exercises, field training, etc)
- Hazardous Duty (flight, diving, parachute duty)
- An Instrumentality of War (combat vehicles, weapons, agent orange, etc)

The following are the current CRSC eligibility requirements:

- Retirees must apply to their respective branch of service to be approved for CRSC.
- Retirees must be in receipt of VA compensation.
- Retirees must be in receipt of military retired pay.
- Retirees must have an approved combat-related VA disability rating of 10% or greater.
- Retirees from active-duty must have 20 years of active service.
- **Chapter 61 Medical Retirees with less than 20 years.**
- Retired reservists must have 20 years of qualifying service (supported by documentation from the applicable branch of service such as a 20-year letter, retirement orders or a statement of service) in order to be eligible.

**\*CRSC Updates:** The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on January 28, 2008. It expanded the eligibility of CRSC to include anyone receiving military retired pay. This includes: Medical Chapter 61, Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) and Temporary Disabled Retirement List (TDRL) retirees. These new eligible components for CRSC went into effect January 1, 2008. Medical and TERA retirees must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat related event.

### **The Value of the CRSC Benefit:**

The following table shows a sampling of how much extra you may get each month based on your VA disability rating.

Combat related VA Disability Rating	Monthly CRSC
100%	\$2,527
90%	\$1,517
80%	\$1,349
70%	\$1,161
60%	\$921
50%	\$728
40%	\$512
30%	\$356
20%	\$230
10%	\$117

### **The CRSC Application Process:**

To receive Combat Related Special Compensation you must submit your application (DD form 2860), through your parent military service branch. Each service branch has the authority to determine your eligibility.

For more information on how to apply contact your parent military service branch:

- **ARMY:**

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency  
Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0470  
Toll-free: 1-866-281-3254  
Hours: 8am - 8pm EST  
E-mail your questions to:  
[CRSC.info@us.army.mil](mailto:CRSC.info@us.army.mil)  
Or visit: <http://www.crsc.army.mil>

S400



## VA REPORT

From John Simones

I have some good information on Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD). This term usually refers to blockages in leg arteries. The term however also covers disorders of all arteries outside the heart. PAD is often a complication from diabetes.

Other areas that may be affected by PAD:

Abdomen- Impaired blood flow to the intestines can trigger severe stomach pain, usually after eating.

Kidneys- Renal artery narrowing can lead to spiked blood pressure and kidney failure.

Neck- Blockages in the neck arteries (carotid) can trigger a stroke..

Genitals- Reduced blood flow can lead to ED (erectile dysfunction)

Routine exams and testing can reveal some of these problems.

Treatment of clogged arteries in any of these locations could require further investigation(s) a change in life style and medications. As always, stay in contact with your PCP.

John

## A Prayer For Our Troops

God, hold our troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

Amen

## The Combat Veteran (vs?) the VA

From Randy Kimes

Late yesterday afternoon, I received the most recent issue of our Association Newsletter. The obituary about Jan **Vandenberg** became an immediate source of concern, sadness, and anger. I offer my condolences to Jan's wife and family.

Admittedly, I do not know the particulars of his illness, nor his association with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Only by reading between the lines—together with my own recent experiences—am I able to present a possible scenario, and present a measure of advice to Association members should such a devastating situation befall one of us.

My anger, followed by an intense concern for others of us, resulted from the statement, "...but bladder cancer was not on their [VA] list." "The List" is a grouping of ailments for which VA has most often been forced to recognize as being "service-connected" and/or related to exposure [e.g., dioxin] in combat operations in Vietnam (and subsequent combat operations). There are many *weird* ailments afflicting veterans that have no basis in heredity, employment after return from Vietnam, or even chemical exposure as a civilian leading one to surmise dioxin is the ultimate culprit. Seeking *proof* of such relationship is difficult, and not a task toward which VA has made any effort; rather, most of the medical conditions on 'The List' have been added as a result of legal action by various veterans/veteran groups over time, very much contrary to VA's desire.

Here, then, becomes the primary benefit of 'playing the VA game' to gain a high service-connected disability rating. Had Jan been rated at 60% (or higher) disability by VA [e.g., 20% for wounds, loss of hearing, etc. + 50% [PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder)]], and then subsequently applied for and was successful in gaining the remaining 30% as an "unemployability" add-on—making his total VA disability rating 100%--

5401

the VA , under existing Federal law, had an obligation to provide adequate medical care for any medical condition, together with medication for the reduction of pain, whether the ailment was on 'The List', or not.

On the other hand, IF a 100%-disability rated veteran shows up with a particular disease which is not on the VA Medical Center's list of medical conditions the Center is 1) qualified, 2) staffed, and 3) willing to provide to the veteran, there are other options. When VA ignores these other options, one is faced with a "denied care" situation. The VA has authority—but not much willingness—to 'contract' for care within, or outside the VA Medical Care System. Contracting with a specialized medical professional, or hospital (e.g., Cedar Sinai Cancer Center) is "Fee Basis", the terminology VA uses for such care which becomes obligatory when VA cannot provide the care required for veteran's survival, recuperation, or well-being.

Ordinarily, this is the "chain of care" (generalized) [it didn't work for me, and as a result I'm heavily involved with seeing that VA is penalized for their negligence]:

1) Veteran reports symptoms/ailment to his assigned doctor [PCP];

2) PCP orders initial tests, scans, etc.;

IF the veteran has been seen, diagnosed, and/or has been treated by a non-VA medical professional, medical records must be supplied to VA in order for a 'joint' effort, to reduce redundancy of testing, cost, etc., and to enhance treatment through VA, whether *by* VA, *or* through a contracted medical establishment.

1) Veteran provided appointment with VA Specialty Clinic;

2) Specialist diagnoses, and provides Plan of Treatment.

At any one of these steps, if medical care is delayed, refused, or denied, a whole set of other actions become available to the veteran. I'll begin describing those in following Newsletters.

## CHECK OUT BEFORE DONATING

Many of these charities hook up with fund raisers. Some of them receive as little as 2% of every dollar raised.

VETERAN CHARITIES UPDATE 04: The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), a leading charity watchdog, issued a report card this month for 29 veterans and military charities. Letter grades were based largely on the charities' fundraising costs and the percentage of money raised that was spent on charitable activities.

Here is a copy of the list those with bad grade:

USO (United Service Organization) (C+)  
Veterans of Foreign Wars and foundation (C-)

Blinded Veterans Association (D)  
Disabled American Veterans (D)  
National Vietnam Veterans Committee (D)  
Soldiers' Angels (D)  
United Spinal Association's Wounded Warrior Project (D)  
Veterans of the Vietnam War & the Veterans Coalition (D)  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (D)  
World War II Veterans Committee (D)  
Disabled Veterans Association (F)  
Freedom Alliance (F)  
Help Hospitalized Veterans/Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (F)  
Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (F)  
National Veterans Services Fund (F)  
NCOA National Defense Foundation (F)  
Paralyzed Veterans of America (F)  
American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation (F)  
American Veterans Coalition (F)  
American Veterans Relief Foundation (F)  
AMVETS National Service Foundation (F)  
VietNow National Headquarters (F)  
[Source: FDVA News Clips 13 Dec 07 ++]

5402

## PULLING SLACK

From Bill Carpenter

Some of us have talked about spending some time at the National Archives to search for records about us in Viet Nam. Wouldn't it be great if the commo logs from the TOC have been preserved?

Dave **Klimek** and Ken **White** have already spent a lot of time there digging up our recorded history. This is very much in the talking stage but if any of you would be interested, contact Keith **Phillips** or me. The more people digging through the old papers, the quicker it will go.

Mike **Brennan** had some interesting comments about some opinions of field grade officers about the LRRPs. A view from the top, would add a lot to our history book.

-----  
I picked up an interesting little tidbit on the news. It seems that the reenlistment level in the military is the highest it has ever been. The opinion is that because each unit train together, are deployed together and come back together, the "Band of Brothers" stuff is a lot stronger. "I want to stay with my buddies".

Maybe something was learned from Viet Nam where people came and went on a daily basis

## VIETNAM HISTORY PROJECT

From David **Moore**

The current VHP Director is a retired colonel and a 1972 VMI graduate, so things are turning around. With all the problems of the VHP, I DO think it is worth supporting with our stories and also ensuring the program and website are accurate. The VHP will preserve your tapes, pictures and stories better than any other institution. Since this is congressionally funded, direct all complaints to your congressman. All congressmen get free copies of the VHP's books "Forever a Soldier" and "Voices of War," so you can remind them of that when submitting a complaint.

## COMMO CHECKS

### FROM WIFE OF WYMAN SMITH

Susan M. Smith,  
1700 E. Clinton Dr.,  
St. Cloud, FL 34769.

E-mail address [wsmith54@gmail.com](mailto:wsmith54@gmail.com)

Thanks to everyone who made it possible for my husband to have a memorial stone at Ft. Benning. My daughter and I truly appreciate it.

Enclosed is my \$500.00 donation to your organization. I would like to receive the newsletter. I can't tell you how grateful I am to all of you for doing this for my family. It has been a rough 4 years without him and this has been a bright spot. If anyone has any memories about Wyman I would appreciate hearing from them. I have met Benny Gentry.

Thanks so much.

Susan Smith

-----  
A special thanks to the association for Jon's brick, that is very special to me,  
**Margie Varesko**

-----  
Patrick Bieneman  
990 Red River Road  
Winchester, KY 40391  
859-745-1924

[pcbnamin@earthlink.net](mailto:pcbnamin@earthlink.net)

I served in "C" Troop 1/9 Cav. I use to be able to communicate with you all via you Guest Book. I have a family member of Kenneth **Burch** (a Ranger KIA 8Aug 69 ) that I am emailing with. Is there anyone out there who knew Kenneth and is will to tell me what they remember about him?

#### FROM BOB WHITTEN'S BROTHER

Harry Whitten  
31620 Pasco Rd  
San Antonio, FL 33576  
Phone: 813-875-0428  
Fax: 813-875-4320  
Email: [hw@tconfl.com](mailto:hw@tconfl.com)

My brother, Bob, served with E Co, 52nd Inf and was KIA in 1968. My wife and I would like to attend the reunion and maybe meet some of his old team members.

*Harry came to the reunion, spent some "quality time" in the reception room and attended our luncheon.*

#### GEORGE RICHARDSON THE ARTIST

From Bruce Judkins

I just want to share a Web site with you that was created by a good friend of mine, George **Richardson**, and his wife, Sharon. I have known George since 1969 when we were both team leaders in Vietnam. He and Sharon are very talented artists and devoted Christians, two of the finest people I have ever met. They live in upstate New York where the snow is measured in feet. Their paintings may be viewed at:  
<http://www.artofencouragement.org>

Jeannie and I have moved to Conover, NC. I am working at the Salisbury VA Hospital. I have no idea right now how long I'll be at that location before transferring to the new VA clinic in Hickory. Will try to keep you abreast of what's happening.

Be sure and check out George's art work and read the messages on his site. And share the Web site with your friends.

God Bless You,  
Bruce

-----  
For Poets and Writers,  
There is a new journal out there called *The Deadly Writers Patrol* devoted to publishing poems, short fiction, and essays related in some way to the Vietnam War in particular or war in general. It grew out of a writing group of Vietnam veterans from the Madison, WI area. They've done five issues so far, and are trying to expand both their contributor base and their readership. They do take previously published work. You can send work to:  
Craig Werner  
*The Deadly Writer's Patrol*  
614 Welsh Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704  
[cwerner@wisc.edu](mailto:cwerner@wisc.edu). He will send an examination copy of the journal to anyone who asks for one.  
-----

-----  
"Gunner" Wagner, the childhood friend of Dev **Cochrane** has checked in a few times. He still does not want his address released. He is working closely with the remains recovery operations in SE Asia. He plans to make another trip to Cambodia this year to look for Dev's remains..  
-----

#### AGEING

First you forget names,  
Then you forget faces.  
Then you forget to pull up your zipper.  
It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

#### STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

5404



# THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



## *LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS*

### *2008-2010*

#### **PRESIDENT**

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

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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

#### **SECRETARY**

John LeBrun  
932 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Blaine, WA 98230  
604-764-9634  
[caabnranger@yahoo.com](mailto:caabnranger@yahoo.com)

#### **TREASURER**

Bob Carr  
4256 London Lane  
Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
719-392-5139  
[bclflies@comcast.net](mailto:bclflies@comcast.net)

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

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

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

Bill Anton  
4129 Karma Drive  
N. Las Vegas, NV 89032-5009  
702-648-9836  
[polar\\_bear\\_01@runbox.com](mailto:polar_bear_01@runbox.com)

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mike Gooding  
10538 Alswell Court  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-849-2379  
[mgstimo@juno.com](mailto:mgstimo@juno.com)

Bennie Gentry  
1347 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-4830  
[macv495soglrp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:macv495soglrp@sbcglobal.net)

Ken White  
3834 Inverness Road  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
703-966-8079  
[Kenneth.white@mci.com](mailto:Kenneth.white@mci.com)

#### **PAST PRESIDENT**

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

5405