

**THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR**



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**SEPTEMBER 2010**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY 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 TO:

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FAIRMONT, WV 26554  
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)  
[lrrp.rangers@comcast.net](mailto:lrrp.rangers@comcast.net)



**You can generate \$2.00 for  
the LRRP/Rangers  
association**

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

5496

## THE TIMES THEY ARE ACHANGIN'.

The newsletter will be published twice a year now instead of three. A few years ago the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Assn. moved the reunion from July to early June. The newsletter issue with the reunion information was always sent out in March. With the reunion now in June, that does not give much time to make plans. Another factor was, we had to start working on the March issue before the January issue was even mailed.

So the decision was made at the reunion this summer to go to two issues a year, winter and summer. The winter issue will contain the reunion information and should be mailed in January. The summer issue will go out after the reunion.

In case you were wondering about last spring's newsletter, Gene **Sprague** figured it out. The post office gives first class mail priority over our bulk mailing, and at that time, the post office was cutting back on personnel. It took two weeks for all of them to get into the system. I was surprised by how many of you responded to my email inquiry. Thanks to all of you.

## 2010 REUNION ATTENDEES

Andrew Allen	Bill Anton	Lou Bruchey
Bill Carpenter	Greg Chavez	Larry Curtis
Daniel DeMara	Sam Dixon	Mike Doran
John Fort	Stan Freeborn	Bennie Gentry
"Doc" Gilchrest	Bill Hand	Bill Jolin
Curtis "Randy" Kimes		John LeBrun
Craig Leerberg	Patrick Lyons	Doug Matze, Jr.
Glenn Merritt	Bruce Mohn	Keith Phillips
Wayne Okken	Bob Raab	Rusty Ratzlow
Tony Schutty	Howard Shute	John Simones
John Trumbull	Terry Wanish	John Wells
Ken White	Rich "Zeke" Silka	

## REUNION TIDBITS

From Bill **Carpenter**

My apology to Bill **Jolin** for not taking the time to look at his pictures from Nam. Bill, my intentions were good, it just seemed that every time I headed your way, you or I got distracted.

Jim **Nelson's** son, Eric, and Bull **Durham's** daughter, Stephania, were at the reunion.

The one copy of the "Ranger Song" by Dwight **Durham** is sounding a little worn. Could the song be copied to a CD?

One time I walked into our reception room and there were two guys talking to people. They appeared 30-something to me and were obviously active duty. One was slim and baby-faced and the other built like a college linebacker. I introduced myself to the linebacker and ask if they were active duty. Answer: "Yes, I am the Cav division's Command Sergeant Major and he is the division's Commanding General." Am I getting older or are the soldiers getting younger?

Bob **Gill** said he came in and saw some new faces, so he walks up to one, looks at the name tag and says, "Hi Dan, I'm Bob." Then he sees the MG before the name on the tag. "Sorry General, I didn't mean to be too personal." Answer: "That's ok, in here I am Dan."

## 2011 REUNION

**JUNE 1-5, 2011**

**Ft. HOOD - KILLEEN, TX**

The number for reservations at the Shiloh Inn is 254-699-0999. The fax number is 254-699-0994. If calling, Donna is familiar with the LRRP/Rangers block of rooms and Brenda is on the email, either one can help.

# LRRP RANGER REUNION BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 2-6 JUNE 2010

From John LeBrun, secretary

The executive meeting was held at 0900 hours, an agenda developed, and adjourned at 0930 hours.

## OLD BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order at 0930. All members present (23) were verified as having current dues paid.

1. The previous minutes were motioned and seconded with unanimous approval.
2. The 2011 reunion will be 08-12 June 2011 in Killeen, Texas. For reservations call 254-699-0994 and ask for Donna. Assn. President Keith **Phillips** has 25 rooms set aside for our unit.
3. The 2012 reunion will be in Portland, Oregon, 06-10 June. Phone number is 503-283-4466.
4. Members moving without leaving a forwarding address are still a problem. Members need to remember to complete the form for the postal system or let Sam **Dixon**, Bill **Carpenter** or for that matter anyone who can pass the address on.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1 The timing of the ranger newsletter was discussed. The recommendation was to go with a summer and winter newsletter that allow sufficient time for each to arrive in time for members to make plans. A motion was made seconded and passed for the twice yearly publication of the newsletter.

2 The question of adding a new associate membership came up for discussion. It was started on the recommendation to add someone to that category. A lengthy discussion was held with some members believing that there should be no category at all and others that suggested that maybe some of the hooch girls went above/below and beyond and deserved recognition. The final recommendation made was that if someone wants to nominate someone for that category they would

make a motion at the AGM then submit an article for the newsletter explaining the reason for nominating that person and at the following AGM members there could then vote on the person.

3. The Treasurers' report was not available. Keith will contact Bob **Carr** and include a copy in the next news letter. Keith indicated that he thought there was approximately \$9,000.00 in the bank.

4. Bennie **Gentry** indicated that the merchandise is selling well. He has added a new t-shirt and they are selling well. Need to get more belt buckles and rings made up as we are almost out of these items. John **LeBrun** has the mould for the rings and will forward it to Bennie. No one knew if a mould for the belt buckles was available. If anyone knows anything about it please contact Bennie. Items for sale are for members only. If a member wants to purchase something for the wife or kids he must purchase the items.

5. A Chaplains' report was not available but a number of members expressed a great appreciation for the job that Jim **Regan** is doing.

6. Elections were held. The current members holding elected office all ran again unopposed. A vote was held and the members voted unanimously for all current elected members. John **Raab** made the motion and it was seconded by Lucky **Wells**.

7, Keith **Phillips** has the membership cards and he will issue them to the membership. He is concerned that there are still a lot of people out there that want our membership cards and where never in the unit. If he has to sign them he wants control of the cards.

8. Vice Presidents' report was not available and will be included in the next newsletter.

9. Bill **Anton** spoke of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment association's next Ranger gathering at Fort Benning. He encouraged all that could to attend. He will prepare a submission for the next newsletter that will include the dates, etc.

10, It was discussed that the names of all members attending the reunion should be included with the minutes. This year's minutes will include a list of all known members that have attended as well as those who attended past reunions.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 1025 hours

## TREASURER'S REPORT

From Bob Carr

BEGIN BALANCE \$10217.23  
Ranger Memorial brick fund: \$600.00

### INCOME

Dues, donations  
and merchandise \$3562.00

### EXPENSES

Flowers (\$179.36 )  
Newsletter and postage (\$887.49 )  
merchandise (\$750 68 )  
Cav Assn. & SP OPS  
memorial fund (\$1178.50 )

TOTAL EXPENSE (\$2996.03)

END BALANCE \$10783.20

THE WHITE HOUSE TOLD ME THEY'RE OUT  
OF MONEY SO WE ARE ON OUR OWN!!!!!!

THANKS.....BOB

## MERCHANDISE REPORT

From Bennie (and Sandy) Gentry

Thanks to all who bought merchandise and paid dues. We will be taking inventory and reordering some items. We received the ring mold from John LeBrun and hope to find someone that will make some for us.

We encourage you to pay the "Lifetime Dues" of \$250.00. Call us at 218-547-4830 if you have any questions.

It was sure great seeing all at the reunion and being in your company. We have already made reservations in Killeen for next year.

## OBITUARIES

### RICHARD GASAWAY

Richard Gasaway (70-71) died July 8, 2010.  
Condolences may be sent to his family at:

709 N. Findley Firehouse Rd.  
Scottsburg IN 47170

The LRRP/Rangers present at his services were Larry Curtis, Forrest Decker and Bennie Gentry. The association sent a floral arrangement for the services.

### BOB TEAGLE'S SON

Just wanted to let you know that my oldest son, who was 40 years old, passed away on Feb 1st of this year. He had a heart condition and diabetes and had been suffering for many years. May he now rest in peace and comfort.

Bob Teagle 1967-68

NOTE: the association has purchased Ranger Memorial bricks for Richard Gasaway and Bob Gillis.

# # # # #

### RECRUITING PITCH

If you volunteer for the LRRP unit and are accepted, I cannot promise you faster promotions, more money or more R and R, but I do promise that at the end of your tour you will look into the mirror with great pride and know that you did a man's job."

Capt. Jim James  
CO, LRRP Detachment 1967

5499



## A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO STAN LENTO

by Jim Kraft

This past Memorial Day, I was asked to speak to a community service club in my town. Two others and I developed a program beginning with an introduction followed by a tribute and concluded with a special prayer.

The first speaker explained the origins, history and meaning of Memorial Day. The numbers of dead for each major conflict in which our nation has participated were reported.

I followed the first speaker. The substance of my remarks follows.

You have just heard of the toll wars take, the terrible loss of life on the battlefield, numbers of dead so large they are nearly incomprehensible. Only by putting a face on this loss of life can we begin to appreciate the tremendous sacrifice of the ones who don't come back.

I will tell you about one I knew who did not come back. His name was Stanley John Lento. In the picture, Stan is the one on the left, the shorter of the two and wearing glasses.

When Stan died he was a young, 20-year old Buck Sgt. But he was old and mature beyond his years, for by the time of his death he had seen combat too many times.

In 1969 Stan was the Team Leader of a six-man team in the long range reconnaissance patrol company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Vietnam. I served as his Assistant Team Leader for about a dozen or more missions. Later that year our company was re-designated a US Army Ranger company.

Stan was killed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1969 in Phouc Vhin, Vietnam. He had just turned age 20 five days before.

He was from the small town of Blaine in the most northern, cold part of the state of Maine. He was a rather plain vanilla looking fella, much

shorter than average. But, he was stocky and strong as an ox. He was scrappy and full of life, always with a ready smile and a good sense of humor.

I remember he was married. I think her nickname was Viny. I was told that he had received a letter from her a short time before his death, notifying him she was pregnant with their first child.

Stan was devoted to his wife. He absolutely adored her. When we returned to our home base following each mission, Stan would stay up most of the first night writing her a long letter. Several times I stayed up with him, and occasionally he would share his letters with me. My God, he loved his wife!

Stan didn't look like John Wayne or Clark Gable. Kind 'a nerdy looking and wore glasses as you can see in the photo. I learned a lesson early on - Never judge the courage or physical ability of a man by his looks. Stan had been decorated with the Silver Star, not once but twice for his gallantry in combat.

Stan was a brave, dedicated soldier and had more than 30 missions deep in enemy territory. But he was not killed in combat. Ironically he was killed in an accident. A combat zone is a dangerous place to live and work, irrespective of enemy activity.

It was a munitions explosion setting off mines, grenades and other explosives. The blast killed three team members including Stan and wounded about five others.

They rushed Stan and the others to the field hospital. They rolled Stan on an operating table and went to work. I was on the OR table next to him and watched them work feverishly to revive him. Trying to encourage him, I yelled, "Hang on Stan!" Suddenly they stopped and pulled the sheet up over his head. In that moment, some of the life drained out of me.

The name of Stanley J. Lento is on the Vietnam War Memorial, "The Wall," in Washington DC along with the others who did not come back.

This Memorial Day we take time to remember those who left their homes and families to serve

5500

their country in the most miserable places, under the most grueling circumstances, the ones who met their fate. On this special day, we must never forget the ones who did not come back.

A line from the Jewish song of the dead reads: "They are bond up in our memories, and if we keep them in our hearts they will live forever."

I am reminded of a poem from WWI:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



Stan Lento and Jim Kraft

## PSA NUMBERS DO YOU FEEL LUCKY

From Leo Corey

I Went for my semi-annual checkup @ VA in Feb and my PSA had gone from .096 to 3.9 so Doc got excited and gave me a digital rectal exam (so pleasant and dignified) of my prostate and determined I had some rough surfaces indicative of malignant tumors and told me I probably had Prostate Cancer and scheduled me for a Prostate Biopsy (which is the only sure test for Prostate Cancer).

Well I had the Biopsy performed on March 30th (that Prostate Biopsy was so painful and invasive that I will die before I ever submit to that kind of torture again, it starts with the Dr inserting her finger's in your ass and stretching it out as far as she can and then inserting a template guide for the scope and rifle barrel that will take 13 samples from various areas of your Prostate, each time a sample is taken there is a click followed by what sounds like a 22 round going off in your ass, feels like it also, well after 10 rounds were fired I was screaming every derogatory, insulting explanative I knew and yelling at the Dr to take that f..... thing out of my ass !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!).

Well I survived as you have probably already guessed, I went back for the results last Friday the 16th and the biopsy showed no signs of any malignancy. I received the news with mixed emotions, very happy that I was relatively healthy and cancer free but disturbed that now I had to plan on how to kill my primary care physician for diagnosing cancer when she surely had no clue without that biopsy and the Dr Frankenstein, Dr Mendaly, Jack The Ripper or worse that stuck that rifle barrel up my ass.

I relay this news to you that you might pass this news off to the group of the importance of routine annual exams (every 6 months even better), you never know what is lurking inside us.

Of course there is a price to pay (the rifle up the ass), everyone will have to decide for themselves. How lucky do you feel??????????????

Leo

5501

*Ed: the following article from Chuck Coffin is in response to an ad on the webpage "All things SF". The ad is for a certificate for "LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROLMAN". All a person has to do is send appropriate military records, and a few dollars to receive the "document" Of course LRRPs are known, but the word "Patrolman" raised some suspicion.*

## **PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY** **FROM Chuck Coffin**

I work in the Identity Theft Prevention business, and I personally would be abso-blippin-certain this was a legitimate organization before I sent off "unaltered" documents to some place I wasn't certain of, especially if it had my social security number or my service number.

Used to be guys would file their DD 214 at the county courthouse, so they could always get a copy of it. Well, so can ID Thieves, and they may be taking out VA loans in your name. Don't do it.

This thing sets off almost every alarm bell I have.

Well, that's exactly it. While on active duty, I helped catch a few of the frauds, fakers and other assorted scum. I don't understand why someone would need a "fake" certificate, if you've already got the real thing. During my time, at the end of the tour you got a certificate. I've also got my Recondo Graduation certificate. What more than those would I need.

Most people don't have much more than a vague clue about ID theft...there are 5 major types of ID theft, and two others emerging. But most people think "oh, someone gets my credit card and cleans me out." That's the smallest and least damaging thing that can happen...there was the school teacher here in St. Louis who got her identity stolen by a "working girl" across the river in East St. Louis. Whenever arrested, the "working girl" used the stolen ID. Comes time the school teacher applies

for a job, they run the background check on her, and tell her, "You've got arrests for solicitation. We don't want someone of your character teaching our children." Hell of a mess. "Lifelock" and all those ain't gonna do a thing for someone in that situation.

Or someone steals your driver's license, gets a couple DUI/DWIs, uses your DL number (but his picture) and doesn't show up in court. Why would he? A bench warrant is issued in your name. You get pulled over (on a Friday evening, about 10pm) for a broken tail light; the officer runs the DL, and you're wearing steel bracelets and a purty orange suit until Monday. Lifelock won't help you there, either.

Random thought: These companies that say they'll "monitor" your credit report--don't mean diddly. We used to "monitor" streams and trail junctions. That just means "sit there and see what happens and report back." It does NOT mean "Take action"--that's a different part of the mission. And that's what I tell people about these monitoring companies. That's about all they'll do, sit and watch and send a report. But I ramble.)

I can tell stories that would curl hair. I've done seminars, and had ladies come up to me and tell me (6 months later), "You changed my life!"

And with the kind of information this "certificate" company is asking for, I could make several hundred thousand dollars, crookedly. (ie, Create the false identity, apply for a mortgage to buy a property, divert the funds through a shell corporation...oh, lots of things.)

I didn't have much time to write last night when I wrote this, the library was closing in 15 minutes, and I was typing as fast as I could. I'm really afraid some folks are going to get burned on this.

But then--I'm a paranoid! :-)

RLTW

De Oppresso Liber

Chuck Coffin

5502

## **NEW LRRP LEGACY PHOTO ALBUMS:**

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

From John LeBrun

The intention of the "LRRP Legacy" project is to gather and record the photos of the extraordinary men who served with the LRRPs/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division in Viet Nam. Eventually, we would like to see at least one photo of each of these dedicated men, for them, for those who served with them and for all of their families both present and future.

We have used the website Picasa, a photo-sharing site, to create digital Photo Albums for you (and your loved ones) to view and download pictures from. You can access this photo-viewing site Picasa by clicking on a link on our Ranger website (a yellow box "LRRP Legacy").

The following are titles of albums you can view:

- Team
- Individuals

#### Company Area

- Ceremonies
- Group (more than one person in pic)
- VN Combat Support
- Documents

#### **We have recently created two new Albums: Tribute To Our Fallen Brothers and The Roster.**

The **Tribute to Our Fallen Brothers** album is currently filled with images of Purple Hearts. Each of these has a caption with a name, date of death and Wall address. Only a few photos have been available for inclusion. This is where we **really** need your help. Out of all the albums we've created, this one is the most special. We really want to remember those men who never came home; their loved ones would surely appreciate seeing them. Do you have photos we can use?

The **Roster** album has been created to feature a photo of each member of the unit. Our goal is to add 30 photos each month to this album. Again, if you have photos – please share them.

We're grateful to those members who have shared their photographs to make this collection possible. Nearly 900 photos have been numbered and catalogued by the "LRRP Legacy

Administrator" (a friend of mine) and it's through the LRRP Administrator that we will continually update the photos and add more to the site. We've done our best to identify the people, time and place wherever possible but there are still many photos without this info. Please view the rest of the albums and maybe you can help identify men, FSBs, team numbers or any other details that are missing.

When you view a photo that you can help us with, please email the *LRRP Legacy Administrator* with the photo's number and the new information at: [lrrplegacy@shaw.ca](mailto:lrrplegacy@shaw.ca)

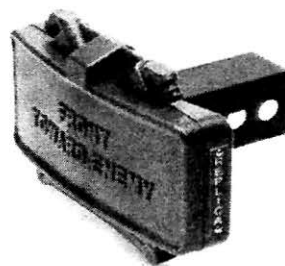
If you have photos you'd like to share, you can submit them to me two ways:

- Send me the originals and they'll be handled with care and respect, then returned as soon as possible in the same condition
- Scan your photos individually and email them as JPEGs, with all pertinent info

As we all get a bit older, it becomes evermore important to build a lasting legacy of our unit, for our guys, our families and our generations to come.

John LeBrun

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



#### **Claymore trailer hitch cover**

When the car behind you is too close  
Just hit the clacker

5503

## VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT ON BEING AN AMERICAN

The town of Prescott Valley, AZ hosted a Freedom Rally. I was asked to speak for 10 minutes on my experience of coming to America and what it means.

I wrote this in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans and I feel that it is important for me to share it with you. Here it is and God Bless you my friend.

**35 years ago** if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking in English to a large group of patriots, I'd laugh at you. Every morning I wake up thanking God for putting family and me in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese American, but I rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof... It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968. I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6year old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

**35 years ago**, I left South Vietnam to come to America for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the

greatest country on earth, let me tell you, IT IS!!! It is the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I could not make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see... All you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunities and here I am. This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aiming at your head. That was what I knew and grew up with.

**In 1983**, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the pledge of allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life, I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I am here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I didn't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said Yes. I shook and held his hand. His eyes started to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked, this was a profound moment in life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

**You see...** America is not place on the map; it isn't a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept.

5504



And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must buy into this concept and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom... and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here. Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages... Last I looked on the internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I got to know this 46- page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam War memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

When I was eligible to vote, I went out and performed my civic duty. For all of you young people out there, who just turned 18, I encourage you to exercise your duty as an American to be an informed voter no matter where you are or what you do. America fought and died for your rights. **DON'T LET HER DOWN!!!**

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and the liberties I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your service and may God bless you all and may God bless America!

Quang Nguyen  
[quang@caddisad.com](mailto:quang@caddisad.com)

## DEAR VIETNAM VETERAN

I know I should have written much sooner. I can't say why I did not. Out of fear of admitting to myself you were there fighting a war. Or maybe ashamed; ashamed that I never accepted the things you felt you had to do.

Whatever it is, I know it must hurt. Believe me when I say it hurts me more. I have the burden of your hurt plus that of my own; the pain of not being able to show my true feeling toward you.

I am not writing this for the months you served in Vietnam, but for the many years, you were left alone with only your brother Veterans. You served proudly and it went unmentioned.

For a long time, I've wanted to express the words. The words an honorable Veteran needs to hear. For a long time, I've wanted to hold you during your times of pain.

God knows I wanted to. And only He knows why I never found the courage. I do not remember what I used to say; maybe I do not want to remember. All I know is I hope that it is not too late to give you those things now.

For years, you tried to be part of my world. Doing everything to please me, just to be noticed and given a little time and understanding.

I look back and see the demands I placed on your shoulders when you were young. "Fight your weakness, and always show strength to others around you."

Who was I to make such a demand? I sit here with tears in my heart, finally admitting to myself the one weakness you must have seen in me and never questioned.

My inability to say the words that I know would have meant so much to you.

"Welcome Home."

You served your country honorably. Please hear these words now, from my heart. Please give me a chance to be part of your world now. The world I should have been part of long ago.

Love,  
America

5505

## HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

### GOING TO THE DOGS

From John A. (Tony) Schutty

This is Talon 3-6.

Somewhere (in time) after Christmas of 1968 while being at Phouc Vihn, an operation order came down for my team #3-6.

Captain Paccerreli had previously been with the Special Forces. George and myself flew to a small Special Forces camp, prior to the mission. The camp was Mihn Thau Special Forces Camp, near Black Virgin Mountain in Tay Ninh Province. It was located directly adjacent to a village and a rubber plantation.

The plan was to walk-off with a platoon of C.I.D.G. (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) and then stay behind as they (C.I.D.G.) were trucked back to the Special Forces camp.

I took definite note of a mortar platoon at the camp and marked Center Sector on my map before departing in case we needed additional fire support.

As we proceeded to walk off with the platoon of C.I.D.G. the day of the mission, I noticed a group of (supposedly) civilians working in the rubber plantation and periodically the sound of dogs barking.

That definitely concerned me, the civilians but not the dogs. Although that was yet to be seen.

I knew that our first overnight I would have to be some place that we could see, hear, or detect any movement since the civilians and the C.I.D.G. knew we were in the area.

There was a small, butt deep, stream that passed by, separating the A.O. from the village, the rubber plantation, and the camp. We located a point on the site side of the stream where as three sides were water and one side land. It was a small enough patch for six of us and also to place our Claymores out safely. That became our first and only overnight halt on that mission.

When we moved out the following morning, we had to cross back over the stream in order to be where the main area of operation was to be reconned

As we moved that day amongst thick bamboo, and on a trail, we could sometimes detect noise behind us. We started setting up LPs at shorter distances. Then that's when dogs started barking again. It was very soon and we could definitely hear movement behind us.

Claire (Mick) Michlin was my ATL, well experienced in the boonies. He had recently been placed on my team as ATL. A good one, too.

I had Mick stay behind as we moved out. Within a few minutes or so, a frag went off in the area Mick was at. We could hear him running back to our position.

He said that there were 3-4 Gooks with dogs tracking us, and he threw three frags, and the first two were duds.

We were supplied at that time with some new explosive devices. They were a small time fuse for Claymores. You didn't need the blasting cap or wire but you would put the time fuse in the same place as the blasting cap. Then CAREFULLY, I say again, CAREFULLY set the time activator.

We done this and moved out again, quite quickly, down the trail. The Claymore ignited and the dogs started barking and the we were "in the S---".

I had a pretty good idea where we were at, so I called for a marking round at Center Sector with an air bust of willie pete.

I then shot a quick azymith to it and guesstimated the distance, made an adjustment and called for a Fire for Effect. The mortars pretty much came in right on us.

That is when I began to panic. I've often questioned if that mortar platoon did not have some V.C. in it. I was definitely panicking to the extent that Mick noticed and got me settled down. At least settled down enough to where we could break contact with the enemy in a running firefight while I called for extraction.

S506



We evaded out into a large field of tall elephant grass. And I mean TALL, several feet over our heads. But it was good concealment, although water was nearly thigh deep in it.

The opposite side of the rubber plantation was parallel to this field of elephant grass. When the extraction bird got there from Tay Ninh, he wouldn't come down because he was receiving so much ground fire from the tree line along the rubber plantation.

He said there was a small road over on the opposite side of the grass field, that to try to get over there, and he could set down.

Unbelievably, we made it over there. But by then it was dark. He needed to turn his landing lights on to be able to descend to the road safely. Even with the landing lights on, he was hitting some tree limbs.

We all managed to board and he began his assension. I can remember green tracers coming up out of the tree line and the village.

We returned to Tay Ninh and boarded another chopper to get back to Phouc Vihn. During the debriefing that night with Lt. **Keldson**, he mentioned we were lucky it wasn't shot down. I answered unknowingly witty. He said "That chopper looked like Swiss cheese."

By that time of my tour I had become so numb to some of that stuff. I think now, I was probably better off being numb to it.

But to this day I don't know how; after the fire fight, and then the mortars coming right in on us, and that extraction bird receiving that many rounds, how in God's name none of us were injured, truly a miracle, indeed.

Slashing Talon 3-6 out

#### Addendum

Tony Schutty was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers from Aug 1968 to May 1969. He was there with McWilliams, Gill, O.B., Spanky, and Windham. After several missions as TL he served as platoon sergeant for a period of time.

## FOUND LRRP/RANGER

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## CLEARING TIMBER WITH A CLAYMORE

From Pat **Blewett**

We were sitting on a knoll about 50 to 75 feet above the valley floor in tall elephant grass eating a mid day snack when some gooks came around the base of that knoll. All hell broke loose. **Dempsey** and "Vato"(?) ( I think his real name was **Torres**) jump up with a "79" and started firing and someone threw a Willie Pete grenade to try break contact. The grenade started a grass fire coming up the hill at us we had no clearing big enough to bring in a Huey so we used M-16's to cut down all but one tree then put a Claymore on each side of the last tree and blew them both at the same time. The tree was sent god knows where and the elephant grass looked like a lawn mower had been there. The pilot came in through the fire and we all ran from both sides of the bird and jumped for the deck. The bird never touched the ground. I have since talked to that pilot.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

From John Simones

### VA rule on Agent Orange, heart disease due soon

A new compensation rule for Vietnam veterans with ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease and B-cell leukemias should be out within 30 days, based on a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Veterans Affairs Department officials had missed a 90-day deadline set by Congress to publish the compensation rule, saying they had to wait for a review by the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

But several veterans advocacy groups argued that the required review was negated in light of the mandatory deadline, and the court agreed. The ruling is important because a projected 200,000 veterans can't receive benefits until VA publishes the rule, and because the onslaught of veterans claiming benefits for ischemic heart disease — common among older Americans — is expected to bog down the benefits claims process for everyone. Veterans groups have said VA adjudicators need to begin work on those claims as soon as possible.

Bart Stichman, co-executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, said he does not believe there was any intent to do harm or to save money by holding up the process.

"All the evidence is that [VA Secretary Eric] Shinseki is trying to help this group," Stichman said. "They thought [the review] was required." In fact, even some veterans advocates have said the decision to presume heart disease is service-connected due to Agent Orange exposure may have gone too far, because so many other factors could cause the higher rates — such as smoking, lack of exercise and poor diet choices.

The court has given VA an additional 30 days to publish the compensation rule. When the

department decides to actually publish could make a difference for veterans, Stichman said. If the rules are published by Aug. 31, veterans may begin receiving benefits at the start of the following month — the next day, Sept. 1. But if VA publishes the rules Sept. 1, then veterans will have to wait until Oct. 1 to begin receiving benefits. Stichman said the court can't make VA publish its rule retroactively.

### Know Your Risks for Skin Cancer

There are three main types: basal cell, squamous (scale like cells), melanoma. The risk factors are:

**History** - If you have had a skin cancer diagnosis before (even if it were basal) you are at an increased risk for melanoma. If your parents or sibling(s) had a melanoma, your risk is increased.

**Moles of Freckles** - If you have lots of them, you MAY be at risk.

**Cell Type** - If you have had a precancerous mole removed, you MAY be at an increased risk.

**Fair Complexion** - People with fair skin do not enjoy the same protection from the sun as people with darker skin.

**Geography** - Living in a sunnier climate may put you at an increased risk.

**Sunburn** - Even one high intensity sunburn that caused blisters, increases your risk.

**Immune System** - If your immune system has been compromised so is its ability to protect you from melanomas.

As always, stay in touch with your Primary Care doctor.

See you all in Kileen.

John Simones

### From Dept of Veterans affairs

Here is the link to the online Federal Benefit Book. Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors 2010 Edition

[http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

## VA laboring under surge of wounded veterans

an article from the Tribune

In a sobering reminder of the long-term costs of war, a dramatic spike in disability claims during the last seven years has overwhelmed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and nearly doubled the cost of compensating wounded veterans, according to an unprecedented Tribune analysis.

The bulk of the increases didn't come from veterans of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but from those who served years or even decades before. Veterans from the Vietnam and Persian Gulf eras accounted for roughly 84 percent of the rise in spending, which hit \$34.3 billion last year.

The surge from past eras comes even as more soldiers than expected are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan in need of care. With hundreds of thousands of troops still deployed, the VA already provides disability payments to nearly 200,000 veterans from the current conflicts, a number that is expected to balloon during the next 30 years.

The unanticipated crush of claims is exacerbated by the VA's antiquated compensation system, which hasn't been overhauled since 1945. Cumbersome and heavily bureaucratic, the system requires a mountain of paperwork, is based on diagnoses that lag far behind medical advances and runs on a computer system that is so outdated it can't accurately verify whether veterans were deployed.

The problems have led to a backlog at of least 500,000 claims — some veterans groups say it's as high as 1 million — that threatens the well-being of veterans with ailments ranging from brain injuries and back problems to cancers and mental disorders. Thousands of claims languishing for two years or more.

The compensation process entails so much paper that many claims have been misplaced or even accidentally shredded by employees.

"Sometimes, I feel like they're playing mind games," said Mario Cifuentes, a 28-year-old Iraq

War veteran from Chicago's Northwest Side. "I file a claim, they deny me and say I can reopen another, but I have to file the same paperwork all over again."

"I'm done," said Michelle Wilmot, an Iraq War veteran from Boston. "The first time I called they asked me to prove I was in the military. I sent in the paperwork they asked for and they told me the same thing. 'Prove you were in the military.' What's the point?"

## RETRIEVING MEDICAL RECORDS

from Karen Voelkel

I read Bob Oakes note about missing records in the most recent newsletter. I don't know about getting records of missions but this is what I know: If you were hospitalized in a real hospital of the 15th Medical Battalion, the records have been sent to the National Archives because the 15th Medical has been dissolved. VA has the duty to help you get those records when they're not in your file. There is a form you can get from VA's website - it's NA Form 13042. Find that form and send it in to the address in the instructions. (If you don't find it on VA's website, go to the website for the National Archives and Records Administration.)

If you were hospitalized in a field hospital, there will be no medical records. This is a note I got from the First Cav on that topic: Morning Reports from the unit would indicate your absence from the unit and indicate that you were in the hospital but would not provide any information on the injury. Visit <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/morning-reports-and-unit-rosters.html> for information on obtaining morning reports. If you can at least prove you were in the hospital, that might help with your documentation.

Have you tried contacting anyone who was with you when you went to the hospital? They'll accept a witness statement at least to document the fact that you suffered an injury. Good luck! If there's anything else I can do for you, contact me.

Karen Gramenz (Voelkel)

## THE WARRIOR'S CODE OF HONOR

Earning honor under fire changes who you are. Battle burns away impurities encrusting your soul. Combat hammers you into a hardened, purified warrior willing to die rather than break your word to friends -- your honor.

You never feel love so pure as that burned into your heart by friends willing to die to keep their word to you. And they do. The biggest sadness of your life is to see friends falling. The biggest surprise of your life is to survive the war.

Those who have seen combat do not talk about it. Those who talk about it have not seen combat. You come home but a grim ghost of he who so lightheartedly went off to war.

The only time you are not alone is when with another combat veteran.

Only *he* understands that keeping your word, your honor, whilst standing face to face with death gives meaning and purpose to life.

Only *he* understands that spending a mere 24 hours in the broad, sunlit uplands of battle-proven honor is more deeply satisfying to a man than spending a whole lifetime in safe, comfortably numb civilian life with DNA compelling him to anguish endlessly over whether he is a brave man or a coward.

Only *he* understands that your way of being due to combat damaged emotions is not the unusual, but the usual, and you are OK.

Death teaches you that every day above ground is a fine day.

Death teaches you to feel fortunate on good days, and bad days...well, they do not exist.

Death teaches you that merely seeing one more sunrise is enough to fill your cup of life to the brim -- pressed down and running over!

Death teaches you that you can postpone its touch by earning serenity.

Serenity is earned by a lot of prayer and acceptance. Acceptance is taking one step out of denial and accepting/allowing your repressed,

painful combat memories to be re-lived/suffered thru/shared with other combat vets -- and thus defused.

Each time you accomplish this act of courage/desperation: the pain gets less; more tormenting combat demons hiding in the darkness of your gut are thrown out into the sunlight of awareness, where they disappear in a puff of smoke; the less bedeviling combat demons, the more serenity earned;

Serenity is, regretfully, rather an indistinct quality, but it manifests as a sense of honor, a sense of calm, and gratitude to your creator -- which lengthens life span.

Down thru the dusty centuries it has always been thus. It always will be, for what is seared into a man's soul who stands face to face with death never changes.

## MORE REUNION TIDBITS

Doc **Gilchrest** was telling a story about talking to a guy who was Air Force on a C-130 "Magic Dragon".

AF guy: Why were you LRRPs always calling for us to hit your position?

Doc's answer: Because that is where the enemy was.

Is there a mortician among us? The guys who came down from L Company in '72 need a human skull to drink toast from. They insist that it be the real thing, a plastic replica won't work.

Tony **Schutty** and I seemed to end up at the same spot at the same time on several occasions. Now if we could just get the right politicians to attend one of our 1:00 a.m. meetings, the country's problems would be solved.

I really enjoyed the time spent with my old TL, John **Simones**. Although we seemed to spend a lot of time talking about grandchildren.

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## **Memorial Day Weekend 2010 at The Wall Washington, D.C. By Ken White**

Memorial Day Weekend is an exciting time in the nation's capital and this weekend was no exception. It not only marked the annual Memorial Day observance at The Wall but also the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Rolling Thunder motorcycle procession. Vietnam veterans and others rode their motorcycles to the nation's capital in the hundreds and thousands to remind America's political leaders, and Americans in general, of the need to support the men and woman serving in the nation's armed forces. Organizers of the event estimated the number of bikes participating in this year's ride to be in excess of 400,000. Leave it to America's Vietnam vets to show the way on this issue.

President Obama was not in town during the weekend so he was unable to greet the Rolling Thunder organizers at the White House - a tradition started by former President George W. Bush when he was in office. Apparently, President Obama was in Chicago where he participated in observances there. President Bush seemed to genuinely enjoy meeting with the Rolling Thunder bikers at the White House, calling the procession in 2008 "a magnificent sight." He also told a gathering during Memorial Day Weekend that same year that "it's been a pleasure of my presidency to get to know the leaders of Rolling Thunder," according to *The Washington Post*. Several of President Bush's advisors and cabinet members were themselves bikers and had participated in one of more of the annual rides.

As exciting as the Rolling Thunder procession is, it takes a backseat to the observances on The National Mall, in particular to the one at The Wall, which has become the highlight of the weekend's activities not only for Vietnam veterans but also for Iraq-era vets. This year the weather was very hot and very humid, and the crowd size was moderate, at best. The U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard -

Military District of Washington, DC, did the Presentation, and Retiring, of the Colors to kick things off, and then Thomas Tradewell, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the USA, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tradewell served as a demolition specialist in the 198<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, in Vietnam in 1967-68.

Jan Scruggs, Founder and President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), noted that the Three Servicemen Statue, which is located across from The Wall in the Constitution Gardens area of The Mall, will undergo a restoration project intended to restore it's bronze exterior. The project is scheduled to be completed on or about August 10, 2010.

This year's keynote speaker was Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Mullen graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD in 1968, and shipped-out to Vietnam three months later. There he served as an anti-submarine officer on the destroyer USS Collett. Admiral Mullen is known for his views on the use of modern military force, which include: 1) Military power should not be the last resort of the state, and, 2) Force should be applied in a precise and principled way. He cites General McChrystal's restriction of night raids in Afghanistan as an example of this 2nd principle in action.

Finally, Jan Scruggs and Admiral Mullen presented the VVMF's Patriot Award to Duane Jackson, the New York City street vendor who alerted police to the SUV used in the failed car bombing in Times Square in early May. Jackson is also a Vietnam vet. Patriotism apparently runs deep in his family - his mother served in the Women's Army Corps in World War II.



**Preface from Jim Regan:** MY father is the navy chief in the following story. In the World War II movie "They Were Expendable," with John Wayne, Ward Bond "plays" the part of my Dad. Chief Petty Officer Regan went down on the Japanese ship the Arisan Maru on 24 Oct 1944. 1800 POWs were on board on their way to Japan as Slave Labor. It was torpedoed and sunk by our submarines. 5 survivors, but not Dad. He was awarded the Army Silver Star for his action taking MacArthur off Corregidor in 1942. How cool is that??? As far as the depiction of my Ol' Man, by Ward Bond, in the movie, I think it was "RIGHT ON," as our kids say today!!! The "KILLER" line was when the LT, bidding goodbye, called him "IRISH!!!" That was not his "nickname!" It was "FINNIGAN!!!" All those folks "knew" this crusty, Irish, Navy Chief!! Geez, I wish I'd had a chance to "Meet and greet him!!!" Jim RL TW

### **A True Flag Story**

As written by a man who was there to experience it

Carl S. Nordin

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New Richmond, WI 54017

In March of 1942, Motor Torpedo Boat (MTB) 3 brought General MacArthur out of Corregidor to the southern Philippine island of Mindanao for his onward flight to Australia to lead the Allies back to the Philippines and Japan. After his successful escape, the PT squadron remained stationed in the area around Bugo and Cagayan on northern Mindanao for the duration of the war, carrying out more missions from there. Two of us from our outfit were on detached service at Bugo at the time. Roderick McKay was in charge of the pier at Bugo; I was in charge of convoys running supplies from Bugo to various parts of the island.

Living among these gallant men (in fact we were quartered in the same building as ten or fifteen of them), we learned a lot about their earlier exploits while operating in the Corregidor-Luzon area before, as well as missions in the southern

Philippines after, coming down to Mindanao. Navy Lt. John D. Bulkley was the Squadron Commander, and his flag ship was the "41 Boat". Richard **Regan (ED: Jim Regan's father)** was the Chief Bo'sun. By war's end, the "41 Boat" was the only boat remaining. But they had accomplished a lot – even single-handedly sinking a Japanese cruiser of the large Kuma class in one of their last engagements. McKay and I used to thrill to watch them go out on a mission, as they wheeled out of the bay with the flag fluttering from the "41 Boat".

All of this came to an abrupt end at the fall of the Philippines to Japanese forces May 10, 1942. Some of the specialists of PT Squadron 3 were able to get out to Australia by plane at the last moment. **A few of them were in a position to join up with the guerillas on Mindanao and Leyte, but most of them ended up in the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol) with the rest of us.**

Life in prison camp was difficult, tedious and boring. After a couple of years, the Japanese allowed a few musical instruments in camp. Naturally, in a group of 2,000 men, there is considerable talent, so with these instruments, a Corporal Biggs developed an entertainment troupe. Soon they were developing USO-type programs. But there was barely room enough between the barracks to accommodate an audience. Over a period of time, the Japanese had come to realize this as a good way to keep the prisoners from becoming restive. As the popularity of the troupe, and the confidence of the Japanese increased, they were finally able to convince the Japanese to put on a full-fledged program.

One condition was necessary, however. The Japanese would preview the program before it was put on for the troops. This preview would be in the hospital area. That way the sick could see it along with the Japanese, and with the added benefit of shade for the viewers. The performance for the rest of the camp would be out in the hot sun of the parade ground, where a stage had already been erected for the use of the Japanese camp commander for his annual (Pearl Harbor Day) reading of the Imperial Rescript. And for other

occasional diatribes. Programs were varied, but usually consisted of short skits, comedy acts, a unique whistling act, and musical numbers of various kinds. At the close of each program everyone would join in singing "God Bless America". This went on for several months; the content was no different than before; but at the performance out on the parade ground (where there were no Japanese present), and at the close of the performance with everyone singing "God Bless America", **Corporal Biggs and Chief Bo'sun Regan stepped to the front of the group as Chief Regan reached inside his denim jacket and began pulling out the American Flag, and – handing one end to Corporal Biggs – they held up the flag of the "41 Boat" for all to see, bullet holes and all!** Never have I heard "God Bless America" sung with more gusto and feeling as those several hundred hard-bitten men stood out there in the hot sun, and belted it out at the top of their lungs. For there before them was the flag of our country, for which we had fought and sacrificed, and which we had not seen in over two years. In all that group of men, I doubt there was one dry eye as we viewed the symbol of the greatest country on earth.

Although this event occurred almost sixty years ago, and half a world away, even to this day, when I see that flag or hear that song, I am overtaken with a special feeling of awe and gratefulness.



## BILL ANTON IN ACTION NEVADA PROPOSES STOLEN VALOR LAW

From the Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Nevada Veterans Service Commission is drafting legislation that empowers law enforcement to arrest and prosecute those who violate the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2005. Veterans advocate Bill **Anton** was invited to make a presentation about stolen valor legislation.

Anton said the FBI has time to only work on the most egregious military fraud cases because agents have been consumed investigating terrorists cases since the 9/11 terrorists attacks.

"The problem is fast reaching epidemic proportions," Anton said. "The imposters ... put their tales of heroism to a wide variety of uses. For some it is a matter of bolstering sagging egos. For others it is a means of gaining respect among their peers. Some invent tales of bravery in seeking public office.

"Others claim military honors to acquire employment, and still others tell stories of hardship and sacrifice on the battlefield, while seeking personal or financial gains," he said. "Among their victims are banks, charities, businesses, veterans' organizations, and wealthy, lonely women. At one time or other, each has fallen prey to the military con man."

One Nevada resident claimed to have earned the Medal of Honor and was the state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. His only injury was a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 1991. The case was dismissed because the prosecutor waited too long to bring him to trial.

If Nevada would have had its own stolen valor law at the time, Anton said, "Prosecution wouldn't have fallen through the cracks. "



## LORD CREATING VIETNAM VETERANS

Submitted by Bill Elliott

When the Lord was creating Vietnam Veterans, He was into His 6th day of overtime working on the first fully operational model when an angel appeared.

The angel said to the Lord, "You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one." And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order? A Nam Vet has to be able to run 5 clicks through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels full of rats, spiders and the enemy all the while keeping his weapons clean and operable.

He has to be able to sit in his foxhole all night during an attack, hold his buddies as they die, walk point in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger.. He has to be in top physical condition existing on C-rats and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands."

The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pair of hands....no way."

The Lord says, "It's not the hands that are causing me problems. It's the 3 pair of eyes a Nam Vet has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded."One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his buddies, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, "You'll make it"... when he knows he won't."

Lord, rest, and work on this tomorrow." "I can't," said the Lord. "Not until I have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 meters during a fire fight, calm the fears of the latest FNG and feed a family of 4 on a grunt's paycheck."

The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?" "You bet," said the Lord. "It can quote much of the UCMJ, understands 'non sibi sed patriae', knows what 'de oppresso liber' means, recite all his general orders, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Americans back home to discuss the morality of the War and all the while, keep his sense of humor."

The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spit on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones for which he fought."

Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak...I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear."

"What's the tear for?" asked the angel.

"It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the American flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with its' demons with no one to care or help."

"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear.

The Lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity's distant shores.

"I didn't put it there," He said.



5514

## 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
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The \$5.00 shipping charge covers only one or two shirts. Donations are gladly accepted

## PULLING SLACK

from Bill Carpenter

### REQUIREMENTS TO EARN CIB

There was some discussion on our webpage about the CIB and why a lot of men who served in the LRRP/Rangers did not receive one. The following are the *specific eligibility requirements*.

**(1) A soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces Officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of colonel or below, or an Army enlisted soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, who subsequent to 6 December 1941 has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat. Eligibility for special forces personnel (less the special forces medical sergeant) accrues from 20 December 1989. Retroactive awards for special forces personnel are not authorized.**

**(2) A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry or special forces primary duty, in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy. The unit in question can be of any size smaller than brigade. Battle or campaign participation credit alone is not sufficient; the unit must have been in active ground combat with the enemy during the period.**

**(3) Personnel with other than an infantry or special forces MOS are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances.** The infantry or special forces SSI or MOS does not necessarily have to be the soldier's primary specialty, as long as the soldier has been properly trained in infantry or special forces tactics, possesses the appropriate skill code, and is serving in that specialty when engaged in active ground combat as described above. **Commanders are not authorized to make any exceptions to this policy.**

**(4) Awards will not be made to general officers nor to members of headquarters companies of units larger in size than brigade.**

## FOUND PHOTO



Blanchard    Grady    Carroll  
?                ?                Seymour

This photo was given to Randy Kimes by the man below. Following is his explanation; some of the men have been identified. Do you know who the other two are? Contact Randy at [paper.marche@att.net](mailto:paper.marche@att.net).

Nic Cannarozzi

609 Encinal Ave.

Roseville, CA 95678

Email: [nicnac2778@yahoo.com](mailto:nicnac2778@yahoo.com)

I own a photo that shows a LRRP team from the 1st Cav. The back of the photo is marked "25 Mar 1968" and "1st Air Cavalry Division".

The front shows a 6 man team either right before or immediately after a patrol. I was hoping to send a copy of the photo to your organization in hopes the men shown could be identified.

## WEBPAGE

Robert Johnson has been our webmaster for the last few years. He is a veteran but not one of us. He is doing this without any pay or recognition. It would be nice if you would go to our webpage, click on "contact us" and send Rob a thank you note. He deserves at least that.

5516

## **LIVE RADIO BROADCAST ON VETERANS BENEFITS**

Please pass this on to as many people, especially Veterans and active duty armed service personnel as you can. We are the only Veteran issues broadcast in the Tri State area. We inform and discuss Veteran issues and benefits.

If anyone would like to be a guest on the show and discuss Veterans issues and benefits or what you are doing to help our fellow Veteran please contact  
Das Sickman

Cynwyd Place  
25 Bala Avenue  
Suite 202

Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

daniellsickman@yahoo.com , or call 215- 953-9100  
weekly day or 215 953 1801 after hours and weekends.  
**listen on line AT** <http://www.am1340what.com/>  
broadcast every **Saturday 10:30 to 11:30 am on  
WHAT 1340 AM. Just north of Philly**

I am still doing our Veteran monthly hour  
broadcast on WURD 900 am. However we were able  
to capture a weekly broadcast every **Saturday 10:30  
to 11:30 am on WHAT 1340 AM.**

Monthly show: <http://900amwurd.com/schedule/>

1341 N. Delaware Avenue Suite 300

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Email: [info@900amwurd.com](mailto:info@900amwurd.com)

**Phone:** 215-425-7875

## **FROM MARGIE VARESKO**

Hope all of you are doing well. I am doing fine. Lacy and grandkids came home on the 18th of June. Haven't seen them in a year and the time with them.. Tell everyone I said Hello, and that I am doing okay. Love to you all. Margie

## **1<sup>ST</sup> CAV MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

At the reunion the Division's Board of Governors Discussed organizing a motorcycle club. They will get a legal review that they can vote on at their February meeting.

Since this will likely require a change to the association's Constitution and By-Laws there won't be any action until the reunion in 2011. Any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws must be made by a vote of at the General Membership meeting. If the Board approves the proposal, then publish the proposed change in Saber and announce the change for the meeting, the club may become a reality.

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## **Feeling confident about the VA**

**From Bill Carpenter**

Last spring I received a phone call from a person with the VA. They were looking for a person who had filed a claim who apparently was from the same town I live in. The reason I was called is that I am adjutant of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The national headquarters apparently referred the called to me.

The caller said that he was trying to clear up some old claims. This is when things got interesting, the claim was from 1980, yep 30 years ago. The only other information they had was: the claimant's first name was Emmett, he worked in a local restaurant (in 1980), he was a Marine who received shrapnel wounds in Viet Nam, and he was originally from Pittsburgh.

The caller said that when the VA computerized, "A lot of times not all of the data was transferred from the paper file."

**KINDA GIVE YOU A WARM FUZZY FEELING  
DOESN'T IT**

## **STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER**

S517



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



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