

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



**NUMBER 85**

**ISSN 1941-7926**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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 THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TO:

BILL CARPENTER  
2434 Bunner Ridge Road  
Fairmont, WV 26554-6187  
[lrrp.rangers@aol.com](mailto:lrrp.rangers@aol.com)



5908

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

From Bob Raab, Sr.

Well, LRRPS & RANGERS, another reunion is in the books. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's 74th & our 34<sup>th</sup>. We had 39 members in attendance. Not bad, but given the location in middle America, it really should have been more. It should and had better be a huge reunion next year in Louisville, Ky. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's 75th and our 35<sup>th</sup>.

We had our largest reunion in Louisville in 2006 with 61 members in attendance. The big event is being held once again at the Crowne Plaza next to the Louisville airport, June 14th – 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please, please, please guys, try like heck to make this reunion and call your former Team members and buddies – let's make this Reunion our BIGGEST & BEST. We have to beat 61. I'm calling Phil Bailey!

It was absolutely wonderful that our first company commander Jim James, along with son Drew, made it to the gathering this year. The company presented the commander with a black golf shirt and unit emblem. I gave the former commander a genuine Ranger coin.

Now sadly, the rest of the story . . . Commander James passed away early morning July 18<sup>th</sup>. He had stage four Parkinson's disease. For months, he had looked forward to the reunion. A celebration of life was held Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at the Bath Golf Club on Whiskeag Road in Bath Maine. According to Benny Gentry, Col. James will be laid to rest with the Rangers coin.

### GOD REST HIS SOUL!

As I wind down my last year as president, I wanted to do a little something for the guys that were first in our unit and are special to me, so Tom Campbell, Benny Gentry and John Simones also received RANGER COINS. In addition, two very special ladies also received a little something from my wife & me. Sandy Gentry, for assisting Benny with the merchandise sales over the years, received some of my beautiful and talented wife's seasonal table runners. Another lady who really stepped-up big time, twice, when we were all lower than a snake's belly . . . Anita Lyons. First for her tribute to Bill Carpenter's daughter Stacy and also for our beloved Doc Gilchrist. She received a U.S. flag and dove pin. Ladies, I can't say how much I have appreciated you both.

**FOLKS – BENNY & SANDY are getting TIRED.** We need some new blood to step up and take on the merchandise sales. PLEASE GUYS, WE NEED HELP!

As I have said, I'm in my last year as your President. Five years, instead of 4, because of COVID. I will be handing the reins off (I hope) to my wonderful VICE PRESIDENT DOUG MATZE. I know of three guys willing to serve on the Board, starting next year, so if any current Board members want off, call me, text me or e-mail me – whatever, let me know. It's probably now or never.

With Bob Gill's motion at the 2021 reunion in Killeen, to lower our lifetime dues to \$150, we had four guys obtain their lifetime cards. They are Oscar Martinez, Gerald Farrow, Jim Regan & Stan Freeborn.

Reminder, the 2023 & 2024 reunions will be in Louisville. The location for the 2025 reunion is undecided at this time.

Until next time, may GOD bless and keep you and yours safe and well.

Bob Raab, Sr.

5909

**REUNION INCOME AND EXPENSES**  
**LRRP/Rangers**  
**of the Vietnam War Association**  
**2022 Reunion in Dayton, Ohio**

**Income +**

Merchandise	
purchased by members	\$ 1,808.00
Annual Dues paid	135.00
Donations	600.00
Lifetime Membership Dues (4 x 150)	600.00
Proceeds from Reunion Raffle	1,435.00
Total Credits	\$ 4,578.00

**Expenses (-)**

Purchase of Raffle Prizes (donated)	\$ -0--
Hospitality Room	
drinks and snacks (+added donations)	\$ 284.80
Printing of 2022 Roster (donated)	\$ -0-
Radisson Hospitality Room rental	\$ -0-
Reunion raffle donation to	
1st Cav Gift Shop (theft)*	\$ 1,100.00
Total Debits	\$ 1,384.80

**Closing Balance** \$ 3,193.20

\*After a full inventory by 1st Cav Gift Shop  
some of the \$1,100.00 will be returned to  
LRRP/Rangers.

**2022 REUNION ATTENDEES**

Jim Faulkner	Wayne Okken	Gerald Farrow
Bill Hornbuckles	Sam Dixon	Bob Raab, Sr.
Bill Carpenter	Leonard DeClue	Stan Freeborn
Larry Curtis	Bennie Gentry	John LeBrun
Mike Brennan	Ron Hammon	Forrest Decker
Howard Shute	John Simones	Dave Shows
Jack Rowles	Mike Echterling	John Trumbull
David Klimek	Doug Matze	Pat Lyons
Tom Campbell	Chuck Windham	Bill Hand
John David Floyd	Bill Talbott	Jim Regan
Pete Dencker	Harry Elston	Ed Bailey
Bobby D. Fisher	Ron Norton	Jim James
Jim Bracewell	Terry Park	Jim Ketrow
Jimmy Massengill		

**IMPORTANT**  
**RIVER CRUISE**  
**LOUISVILLE 2023**

It's never too early to get started on this upcoming reunion. Joe Dilger is interested in hosting another river cruise at the next reunion.

I'll start another list of interested persons so we can give Joe an idea of what size venue he needs to start negotiating with the Riverboat people.

I'll get back to you as soon as I get the date for the Cruise with Joe and start the list.

Doug Parkinson  
707-845-5143  
dpa4@sonic.net

**PULLING SLACK**

From Bill Carpenter

OK, so the newsletter is a little late. And it is a small issue. We are getting older aren't we? I usually start putting it together after the reunion, but there was a little hitch in the get-along there. I will just say that my "old LRRP" health decided to take a bit of a dip. The doctor seems to have it under control for now. Another factor is, we are in the process of moving to a home on "The Ridge".

Another wrinkle was, for some reason, Comcast decided that LRRP.Ranger @comcast.net should not exist anymore. So it is gone, everything, email addresses, everything.

I think my grandson got the internet straightened out. Here are my new contact points:

[Lrrp.rangers@aol.com](mailto:Lrrp.rangers@aol.com)  
4234 Bunner Ridge Road  
Fairmont, WV 26554-6187  
Home land line: 304-241-1334  
Cell: 681-332-0581

I may not answer the phone but I will try to remember to check messages and caller ID then call back.

I will try to get the reunion issue in January out on time, maybe with some help from modern medicine.

**STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER**

5910

## OBITUARIES

### **Bernard John “Lucky” Wells, 76,**

of White Plains, KY, passed away Sunday, February 20, 2022, at the VA Hospital in Nashville, TN.

He was born March 23, 1945 in Essex, NY, to the late Dennis Wells and Anna McCarthy Wells. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Edward Wells and Dennis Theodore Wells, Jr.

John was a 27 year retired Army Veteran, who loved serving his country. He loved helping people with his time, treasure, and talent with things such as the Red Cross and Toy Drive. He also loved old Westerns.

He is survived by two daughters, Andrea (Ken) Engelmeyer of Newburgh, IN, and Stephanie (Roger) Vandygriff of White Plains; one son, Jason (Kris) Messamore of Hanson, KY; two sisters, Margaret Daby of New York and Ann Marie Suprenant of New York; two brothers, Thomas Wells of New York and Joseph Wells of Ohio; seven grandchildren, Austin Madden, McKynzie Messamore, Logan Hughes, Samantha Williams, Taylor Vandygriff, Riley Vandygriff, and Adalyn Vandygriff; and several great grandchildren and his friend for life, Rita Maxwell.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Thursday February 24, 2022, at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home in Madisonville with Bro. John Kincaid officiating. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Madisonville.

Visitation will be from 12:00 P.M. until service time Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Activity Fund at the Western Kentucky Veterans Center at 926 Veterans Drive, Hanson, KY 42413.

### **Bill Abbott 2-24-22**

Got a text from Amy saying Bill passed away Thursday from bile duct cancer. She also asked about the newsletter. She confirmed her address as 8465 E CR 150N Chanderville, Illinois 62627.

## **Bob Perez March 2022**

No information was available for Bob Perez

### **James D. James 1937 – 2022**

Of Woolqich, Me James “Jim” Drake James of Middle Road, passed away peacefully in his home on Monday morning, 18 July surrounded by his loved ones. Jim was born on 28 Oct, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pa., the son of Rear Admiral Walter F. and Esther (Crawford) James. He attended the University of Illinois graduating in 1959 with a BS in Political Science and went on to earn his Master’s Degree in International Relations from North Carolina State University in 1972. Upon graduation from the University of Illinois, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Infantry.

Thus begun over 29 years of service to his country. Most of that time was spent in Special Operations – Special Forces, Ranger, and Airborne units.

After retiring, Jim served on the Board of Directors for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) from 2012-2016. Jim lived a life of adventure and challenges and fulfilled his mission of taking care of soldiers and their families. He enjoyed spending time in the out of doors with his wife, sons, and dogs engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting.

He was predeceased by his parents; brother, Robert Crawford James, sister-in-law Ann Van Etten James; and daughter-in-law Erica Pepin James. He leaves behind his wife, Linda Hartness James; his son, James Hartness James, grandchildren Hollis and Peyton, and daughter-in-law, Kim; his son, Andrew Franklyn James, daughter-in-law, Kelly, and grandchildren Jackson and Riley.

A celebration of his life will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at the Bath Golf Club, Whiskeag Road, Bath. Burial will be at Arlington Cemetery in Arlington with full military honors at a later date.

*May the Colonel have STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER*

5911



## VA Proposes Disability Rating Changes

from John Simones

The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and mental disorders body systems.

The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions.

Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated. Updating the rating schedule allows Veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition.

By incorporating modern medical data in the assessment of disabilities and how they impact earning capacity, Veterans will receive evaluations which more accurately compensate them for their service-connected disabilities. Proposed updates include:

1: Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule.

Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

2: Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care. Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require "total occupational and social impairment" to attain a 100% evaluation.

No change to a Veteran's current rating would occur due to these proposed changes. If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran's disability is shown to have occurred.

The public has 60 days to provide comments to VA regarding the two proposed updates via the Federal Register notices located [here](#) and [here](#).

Thomas J. Murphy  
Director, Northeast District  
Performing the Delegable Duties  
of the Under Secretary for Benefits

## REUNION PICTURES ON WEB SITE

From John LeBrun

I am trying to put together an album for our web site that will have a picture from each of our reunions. The main picture that I am looking for is the group photo of us all after the luncheon. If you have one, I would appreciate getting a copy.

If you have other photo's of some significance I would include that as well in the folder.

If you could forward them to me, it would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate the reunion year.

Thanks  
John LeBrun  
[caabnranger@yahoo.com](mailto:caabnranger@yahoo.com)

## 101 SOLDIERY THINGS

75. The more you restrict Infantrymen possessing live ammunition, the more accidents you will have.
76. The Air Force and Navy are supporting arms.
77. Intelligence Officer is usually a contradiction in terms.
78. Inclement weather is the true Infantryman's ally.

5912

## LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

LRRP Crossed Sabers Pins	\$4
T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$18
T-Shirts Recondo: Grey sizes to 2X	\$18
T-Shirts Long Sleeve: Grey sizes to 4X	\$18
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/White sizes to XL	\$30
Sweatshirts M to XXL	\$20
Hats: Black or White	\$18
Ranger Lapel Pin: On Hold	\$4
Sm Cloth Scroll Patch: (H - 75th)	\$4
LG unit crest patch	\$20
Recondo patch	\$3
Wooden Nickel:	\$1
Koozie can coolers	\$3
Ankony's book; LURP's	\$30
Seymour's book - Camping	\$15
Historical Occurrences book	about \$25
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2
ANNUAL DUES	\$15
LIFETIME DUES	\$150
Shipping per order	\$20

Send orders to:  
Bennie Gentry  
1347 20th St.  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-619-6111  
Macv495@yahoo.com

Make check/money order payable to  
LRRP/RANGERS

The \$20.00 shipping charge  
covers only one or two shirts.

**Donations are gladly accepted**

## NONFICTION BOOKS by and about LRRP/Rangers in Viet Nam

### **Historical Occurrences of the LRRP/Rangers**

An anthology written by, for and about the  
1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's LRRP/Rangers  
published by AuthorHouse

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

### **LRRP Company Command**

by Gregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ballantine Books.  
The 1st 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  
1st 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

**In The Jungle ---Camping with the Enemy**  
By Jim "Spanky" Seymour, Outskirts Press  
Memories of Spanky's LRRP missions, 1967-69.

5913

## **HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES**

### **MEMORIAL DAY 2022 SPEECH**

**By Pat Lyons  
Schulenberg,, TX**

Today as we remember and honor all veterans for their service and sacrifices, I can't name each one and tell you their stories. But I would like to tell you mine.

I grew up in a small town in Western Pennsylvania and was drafted into the Army in 1966. I was sent to Fort Dix, N. J. and then on to Fort Polk, LA for AIT. From there I went to Ft. Lewis, Washington and on to Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, where I become a replacement for the 1st CAV, US Army. There I volunteered to become a LRRP, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, E. Co., 52nd Infantry, H Co. 75th Ranger Infantry.

As a LRRP Ranger, I was part of a 6 man team sent into the jungles of Vietnam wearing a camo uniform with no insignia, no dog tags or any other identification as a US soldier.

My training as a LRRP included training as a Team Leader, Asst. Team leader, an RTO, a Medic, a front and a rear scout. Survival in the jungle depended on knowing how to do everyone's job.

I was also chosen to go to Special Forces School and Recondo training. My training also included how to get off the helicopter during insertion and what your job was after you landed. And to wait and listen...for a minimum of an hour before anyone moved.

On May 8, 1967, I was the Asst. TL when One Zulu, my team, boarded the Huey helicopter from Camp Evans, in the Northern part of I Corps, close to the ocean, Route 1 and the DMZ.

On the over flight before insertion, the TL and I had seen a saddle (a low spot between 2 ridges) that we thought was a good crossing area for the North Vietnamese. We also saw a landing zone that was about a day and a half away from the saddle.

After insertion, we moved into the jungle and spent the night. After assessing our area to ensure

we hadn't been found during the night, we began making our way through the jungle. It took us 6 hours, to move 750 meters, making no noise and covering our trail as we went. The heat was oppressive, and each of us carried rucksacks of 150 - 170 pounds (a 5 day supply of food, water and ammo). We also had the medic bag, a radio and a spare radio (which I always carried).

As we stopped to rest, the RTO attempted to make contact, but the radio was dead and the spare battery failed also. I got my radio out and made contact.

Suddenly the TL and I realized there were no noises and no movement and we knew the we needed to get out of there immediately. We saw the saddle we wanted to inspect and moved to a line of trees when the quiet was shattered by the fire of an AK 47. Our rear scout was shot. I started cover fire toward the direction of the shots. The other team members tried to help our rear scout and stop the bleeding.

Suddenly I was alone and realized I was next to a bomb crater that was about 50 yards wide with dense jungle on the other side. I was not able to see the bottom of the crater so I threw grenades into the crater.

At that point I got on my radio trying to get medevac and gunships for support. There was some kind of explosion and I realized that I had been hit. I also saw blood on the headset of the radio. I kept talking to medevac trying to help him identify our exact location but he got shot up and as he was leaving, he saw the other team members down the hill and threw a stretcher to them for our rear scout.

My TL suddenly appeared and asked me for an update. He wanted to know who I had contacted at base camp and on the medevac. And where the gun ships were. I gave him all the details he asked for. He asked me how I was going to tell the gunship our location and I said that I was going to pop smoke. He said that he wanted to use a strobe light as he was afraid the smoke would give our position away.

I turned at that point and saw several blue shirts and black pants coming from the saddle toward us

5914

and about to enter the bomb crater. My TL turned toward the chopper coming in and turned on the strobe light. He was shot every time the light went off and I pulled him down and knocked the light away.

I realized my TL was dead and the chopper pilot asked where the strobe light was. I said I would pop smoke and to identify the color. The chopper came in with rockets going and mini-guns blasting. The left rocket hit a tree 6 feet above my head. The shrapnel hit me and the concussion blew me up into the air.

The pilot asked in a very concerned voice if anyone was still there to talk to. I told him affirmative and told him to make the run again. The pilot said he knew exactly where I was and came around again. He expended all of his rockets and ammo and blew up the side of the hill all the way back to the saddle. The advancing people were no longer there and everything got very quiet. I got back on the radio to try to get Medevac and another gunship to come back in. Medevac said absolutely not. They would not return.

At that time, I got a call from Camp Evans and they told me that there was a quick reaction force on the way to get us out of there. A quick reaction force is 10-15 men with guns, ammo and water. The idea was to come in, get us up, get us on a chopper and get us out of there. The QRF came in about 200 yards away.

At this time, I had no contact with the rest of the team. I didn't know if they were dead or alive or where they were.

Suddenly, I heard a lot of gunfire, and I was told that the QRF could not reach me due to the high volume of fire and they left. My superiors realized they needed to send a bigger group to get to me, and they were trying to put together a company to help me. Company A of the 196th was designated and they landed at the same place as the RF. They took on a tremendous amount of gunfire and they lost some members trying to reach me.

While all of this was happening, I was watching the VC run across the saddle trying to draw my fire in order to narrow down my location. Because I was not able to see the bottom of the

bomb crater, I threw grenades toward the bottom. At the same time, I fired a clip of ammo every time one of the VC ran across the saddle.

Somebody from the 196th came up out of the jungle and told me not to shoot and that he would help me out of there. He told me years later that I told him to take my buddy first. He told me he was dead and I repeated - take my buddy first. There was an explosion, and the guy jumped up and ran down the hill.

Sometime after that, another guy from the 196th showed up at dusk to help me. His name is Eddie Kent. He asked me if I could walk and I told him, NO. He grabbed my leg and said it went squish, squish. He tried to grab my back and it was just as bad so he grabbed one of my legs and dragged me down the hill. Somewhere in there, I passed out.

When I got back to his camp, it was almost dark. A medic was working on my leg, asking me if I wanted morphine and I told him, No, since I didn't know where all I was shot. Their Forward Observer asked me for help with the flares that were being dropped to light up the area. I gave him directions for a fixed winged aircraft, N<S<E<W, rather than azimuth directions. Once again, I lost consciousness.

When I regained consciousness, I heard helicopters and a lot of people talking. Two guys were trying to load me on a stretcher to take me to a Medevac. A Lt. came over to thank me for my help with the flares and see how I was doing. A sniper shot him and he dropped dead at my feet.

I was loaded on the chopper and taken back to Camp Evans. Our CO, Capt. Gooding, was waiting for me. I saw another one of my team members there so at that point I knew at least one other had been recovered.

I went to the hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam, and was there a couple of days and from there I went to Tripler Hospital in Hawaii. When I arrived in Honolulu, they put me in the amputee ward.

After a couple of weeks there, I was returned to the states and Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. When I was almost healed, I was sent to Ft.

Hood, TX. As I got stronger, I was made Platoon Sgt. of the weapons platoon.

In June of 1969, I separated from the Army and returned home to Bradford, Pa. with a Purple Heart and a Silver Star for Valor.

My dad, was one of Darby's Rangers in WWII, when he came home, he was a hero. He couldn't buy a drink or pay for dinner anywhere. That is the way soldiers were treated when they returned from WWII.

I was excited about surviving the war and proud that I did a good job. I was ready to tell everyone my experiences. My dad told me the best thing I could do was to (A) keep my mouth shut and say nothing about Vietnam, and (B) keep my head down. So I did. I went to Penn State on the GI bill.

The Veterans' club there had a T-shirt with a steel pot and boots sticking out from under the pot. The motto on the shirts was "Keep Your Head Down and Shuffle On".

So that is what I did.....for over 40 years. My wife talked me into going to a reunion for the LRRPs in 2010 in Minnesota. There was a separate hospitality suite for the 1st Cav LRRPs. When I walked into the room, one of the guys said, "Oh my gosh. He did live and now we will hear the rest of the story".

In 2022, I went to a Vietnam Veterans meeting in Ammansville, where I met a Vet who was in the 196th. After we talked a minute, he realized he was on the fire control center when One Zulu was attacked. His initial comments were, And you lived?

Today, like many vets from Vietnam, I have diabetes, poor circulation, and heart problems from exposure to Agent Orange. My family has always been supportive and proud of my service. My wife talked me into applying for an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. and I was able to go in October of 2021. It was possibly one of the best experiences of my life.

Be thankful for every day of freedom in this great country of ours. And thank a veteran for protecting that freedom. They all made a sacrifice for each of us.

And please say  
"Welcome Home Soldier"  
for me.

## And the Winner is.....

From Anita Lyons

**The contest to name the real use of the "thingie"** that reunion attendees received in Killeen, Texas last year was conducted at the 2022 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. The guesses were all creative and all were useful and some were really hilarious.

Here are the brave people who entered their thoughtful ideas:

Bill Elliott from Ohio - "a space bug"  
Mike Echterling from Indiana - "a pill crusher"  
Becky Bowles from Ga. - "a teaspoon measure"  
Jack Bowles from Ga, - "a band-aid holder"  
Sarah Wallace (Doug Matze's friend) from Ohio - "a coin holder"  
Delia Floyd from Texas - "a ring holder"  
Sandy Gentry from Indiana - "an EarPods holder"  
Anita Lyons from Texas - "a baby teether"  
Gerri Hoffman from Indiana with Larry Curtis' daughter - "a bottle opener"  
Doug Matze from Virginia - "a bottle opener"  
John LeBrun from Washington - "an opener"  
Bill Hornbuckle from New York - "a condominium holder" (plus an added bonus was how he showed all of us how it worked)  
The judges (Sandy and Anita) were faced with a difficult task but in true Cav spirit they named

3 winners:

1st place: Doug Matze ( because he badgered me every few minutes asking if he had won) and he was the first one to suggest "bottle opener"  
2nd place: Jack Bowles - "Band Aid holder"  
3rd place: Judy Bowles - "teaspoon measure"  
Hopefully someone else will bring a challenge to Kentucky next year.

Thanks for humoring me, Love you guys!  
Anita Lyons

5916

## **Team 36 mission of 24-25 July 1969**

Identified members: Tim Greenly (TL),  
Mike Blymyer (ATL),  
From Mike **Blymyer**

A platoon from 1/9th was being inserted on a sweep. Team 36 got tasked to insert with the platoon on a "stay behind" mission. As I recall one of the squads thought they saw movement off of the trail they were proceeding up and fired up the area. Don't remember any casualties from either side.

Later that day the platoon got extracted and Team 36 found a good observation position and waited to see if anyone was going to come into the extraction area to check things out. Nothing happened and the next morning we moved out to recon the area.

Around noon the team formed up to observe a trail for enemy movement and to have a bit of lunch. For some reason I had moved off about 20 meters away from the team.

As I dug in my ruck for something to eat, I happened to look up to see a VC on the trail aiming his AK-47 at Tim. I screamed "down" as I started shooting from the waist attempting to throw off the enemy's aim. He turned and started to let loose in my direction as I returned the favor. Fortunately, for Tim and me he wasn't any better at keeping focused on a target while get shot at than I was.

I moved up to the trail to see if by some minor miracle I had hit him. Nope- no body, not even a blood trail. How two people could shoot at each other from 20 yards away and neither one hit anything I can't figure out but am certainly glad he shot as poorly as I did.

## **Quotes from Sun Tzu The Art of War**

Hence the saying: If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.

If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat.

## **Aid and Attendance or Housebound Veterans**

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to a pension. This benefit can't be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- 1: They require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting themselves from the hazards of their daily environment.
- 2: They are bedridden, meaning their disability requires that they remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
- 3: They are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
- 4: They are blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected vision of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits can't be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for housebound benefits when:

- 1: They have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100% disabling AND, due to such disability, they are permanently and substantially confined to their immediate premises.
- 2: They have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100% disabling AND, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60% or more disabling.

You can't get both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

You can apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by writing to the VA office having jurisdiction of the claim. That would be the office where you filed a claim for pension benefits.

5917



## ESTATE PLANNING CHECKLIST

One of the greatest gifts you can leave your survivors is an organized estate. The time you spend now will help your loved ones to cope later, and also will ensure your wishes will be carried out. It's a good idea to discuss your plans with your loved ones and the executor of your will

### ESTATE PLANNING

1. Make or update your will. A will allows you to determine what happens to your money and possessions when you die, and who becomes the guardian of your minor children
2. Make a living will. This document can speak for you by outlining the medical procedures you want taken if you become too ill to state your wishes yourself.
3. Create durable powers of attorney. These documents allow you to appoint someone to make decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated
4. Create a letter of instruction. This document provides a list of instructions for your survivors to follow
5. Establish a trust if appropriate. A trust is a legal entity that holds property designated by you for the benefit of you and your beneficiaries. you might need to set up a trust if you name minor children as your life insurance beneficiaries (legally they are too young to receive proceeds directly).
6. Consider funeral preplanning. Preplanning can relieve stress on your survivors and give you control over the ultimate cost of your funeral. You are a U.S. military veteran, you may want military honors at your service; contact your local funeral home or military installation to check on eligibility and availability.

### INSURANCE PLANNING

7. Review your pension plan's survivor benefits. This might be a plan offered through your employer or the military's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). SBP choices made at retirement can be changed if you divorce or marry. Also, the government periodically offers open enrollment

periods that enable the plan owner to make changes.

### ORGANIZING FINANCIAL RECORDS

NOTE: If you store any of the following information on your computer, make a list of all passwords, indicate where any diskettes are stored and where the information can be found.

8. Create a list of financial accounts. List account numbers and pertinent information about your investments, bank accounts, insurance policies (life, disability, homeowners, credit and life) and other financial matters.
9. List the location of valuable documents. Your list might include deeds, car titles, military records, birth and marriage certificates, divorce decrees and estate planning documents.
10. List your personal data. This can include your Social Security number, driver's license number, VA claim number, your date of birth and the names and phone numbers of family members.
11. List other income sources and government benefits. This includes pensions and Social Security.
12. List the location of tax records.
13. Verify account ownership and beneficiary designations. Check financial accounts and insurance policies to make sure these conform to your estate planning arrangements.
14. List all organizations in which you have membership. They may provide special death benefits and should be noted for your survivors.

### PERSONAL PLANNING

15. Provide a trusted family member or friend with the location of confidential or valuable items you may have put away for safekeeping.
16. Provide a family member or friend with the location of spare keys and security codes.
17. Provide easy access to your will and your durable powers of attorney. Keep signed, original copies in your attorney's office as well as a copy in a fireproof file at home. Also give a signed copy to your executor.



## VETFEST VI

October 22, 2022 Noon-5 PM  
Old Settlers Park - Lakeview Pavillion  
3300 East Palm Valley Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX 78665  
"Watching Over Our Own"  
[www.OPVeteran.org](http://www.OPVeteran.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/OPVeteran](https://www.Facebook.com/OPVeteran)

Kimberly Thorngate is the "go to" person on this event. She is the niece of KIA LRRP David Dickenson

O.P. Veteran is a 501(c)3 organization that eases Veteran emotional transition by helping to provide a post-military passion and purpose.

Come out for our marquee event, O.P. VETFEST VI! There will be Veteran Owned Businesses showcasing and selling their products, Veteran Service Organizations representing their services and Patriot Supporters of all types. There will be food vendors, cold beverages in the "Green Zone", plus a raffle, and tons of door prizes!

Opening ceremony starts promptly at 12:00 noon! Open to the public. An outdoor concert performed by Veteran musical acts that will augment the daytime event.

Come out for a day of fellowship and fun with the Veteran community and learn about where to find the services you need, the volunteer opportunities you're looking for, and the Veteran owned products that you want!

This year we are working to honor Vietnam Veterans of the H Co, 75th Infantry Airborne Rangers of the Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP).

This is a kid friendly event, located next to the Pavilion and park, Service Pets are welcome, must be on a leash per Round Rock Parks rules. Special parking for handicap will be at the entrance of the event.

## VA News Releases

**NEW!** VA will offer abortion counseling and — in certain cases — abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries - Last night, the Department of Veterans Affairs submitted to the Federal Register an interim final rule that will allow VA to provide access to abortion counseling and — in certain cases — abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries. Specifically, VA will provide access to abortions when the life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA will also have access to this care. (9/2/22)

**NEW!** VA national cemeteries call on volunteers to participate in National Day of Service - VA national cemeteries are looking for volunteers to participate in the Sept. 9 National Day of Service to honor those who served in the nation's armed forces in the 21 years since 9/11. (8/31/22)

**NEW!** VA releases whole health approach to Long COVID - This month, the Department of Veterans Affairs published "Whole Health System Approach to Long COVID" — a guidebook for caring for Veterans with Long COVID. (8/30/22)

Statement from VA Secretary Denis McDonough on the signing of the PACT Act - "The PACT Act is a historic new law that will help VA deliver for millions of Veterans — and their survivors — by empowering us to presumptively provide care and benefits to Vets suffering from more than 20 toxic exposure-related conditions. It will also bring generations of Veterans into VA health care, which will improve Veteran health outcomes across the board. (8/10/22)

5919

## **Bob and Mike's Chu Chi Adventure**

From Mike Blymyer

It was the first week of October 1969. Bob Raab and I had been temporary "roomies" on top of Nui Ba Ra serving as a communications relay for teams operating in the area. I was scheduled to catch a plane from Chu Chi to Bien Hoa to DEROS out of Vietnam. Bob (the unit's Commo. Sgt.) says he was probably there to pick up some communications gear. We had gotten a lift to Chu Chi and were dropped off on the main drag heading into the compound.

As we were walking up the road towards the main gate, I noted that our apparent destination was just on the other side of a fence that separated the compound from the access road. I had the "brilliant" idea that it would be a lot quicker if we just scaled the fence. Think I said something really deep like: "We're Rangers, let's just scale the fence."

So over the fence we went. Almost immediately we were brought up short by a first sergeant who proceeded to ream us out and let us know we were in deep do-do. By the time he was finished with us we were informed that not only would I miss my flights but both of us would be sent back to wherever in the heck we had come from (or words more or less to that effect).

He proceeded to march us over to the company commander to get us a dose of military justice. I was feeling bad for getting Bob into this as we were marched into the headquarters building and to the Company Commander's office to meet our fate.

The First Sgt. knocked on the CO's door and was told to enter. Bob and I were marched in and put at attention in front of his desk. As the First Sergeant was describing our transgressions I got a chance to eyeball the Company Commander and realized that he was an old high school buddy of mine. So, dispensing with any form of military protocol or bearing I say "Hello Mike".

He didn't even say "Hi" or even smile; just told us we were dismissed (or, thinking about it, maybe it was: "Blymyer get the hell out of here!")

Regardless, at the time that worked really well for us.

We saluted and got out of there leaving the First Sergeant wondering what had just happened.

*Editor's note: Blymyer, did you and your buddy get together after the war?*

## **VA proposes updates to disability rating schedule**

JULY 26, 2022

The Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities that pertain to the respiratory and auditory systems.

The changes will incorporate medical advancements for treating certain disabilities and modern medical knowledge to more accurately compensate veterans for their service-connected disabilities, according to the VA.

"Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated," said Thomas Murphy, the acting undersecretary for benefits.

Some of the proposed changes include modernizing the evaluation criteria for sleep apnea by evaluating it based on the symptoms' responsiveness to treatment. If symptoms are fully treated with a CPAP machine or other treatment, a veteran would be rated at 0% and not receive compensation; the VA will award progressively higher percentage evaluations based on how symptomatic the condition remains after treatment.

In public comments, DAV stated that the proposed change is a failure to "address the functional impairment caused by sleep apnea" and asserted that the current 50% rating is appropriate. For tinnitus (ringing in the ears), proposed changes would recognize that symptom as part of a veteran's broader ailment. The veteran would receive service-connected compensation for tinnitus through the disease to which it is attributed, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

**Chaplain's Box Sep. '22**

From Jim Regan

We're mostly thru the summer of '22. Had a wonderful, well attended reunion in Ohio. I met back up w/ guys from my "Era!" Some had more hair, some less!

After the get-together, had several of us come down w/COVID. Thought that was over with.

Lost (Col) James a week after his attendance at the reunion. Glad he was able to linkup w/ us. Take this as yet another reminder to make those Buddy Checks. We never know when our time will come.

Don't put off those ever-important appointments w/ our Docs. Fall & Winter will be upon us before we know it. My "Prayer List" never seems to diminish. Always adding folks. Falling asleep during my prayers, only to wake up later and continue with the "Prayer List." (He tells me where I left off.)

Take care, stay warm/cool and dry. Keep on prayin'. Pray for our Nation, our Leaders, and yourselves.

Prayers work! Jim RLTW/L&P:-]

PS: See ya in Louisville, 2023!!!



# THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



## *LRRP/RANGERS OFFICERS*

### *2021-2023*

#### **PRESIDENT**

Bob Raab  
725 Tuttle  
Mason, MI 48854  
517-525-0747  
rjbarsr@yahoo.com

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Doug Matze  
9623 Springhouse Dr.  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
804-790-1955  
doug.matze@lycos.com

#### **SECRETARY**

Stan Freeborn  
103 W, Church  
Laurel, IA 50141  
641-476-3244  
danitafreeborn@yahoo.com

#### **TREASURER**

Bill Hornbuckle  
5665 Southwestern Blvd Unit 33-A  
Hamburg, NY 14075-3667  
716-627-2729  
wfhornbuckle@aol.com

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

Patrick Lyons  
8343 N. Old Smithville Rd.  
Muldoon, TX 78949  
713-829-4305  
aelyons4@sbcglobal.net

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

Pete Dencker  
1101 Sunset Dr.  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
615-778-9966  
pdencker@sos-retailservices.com

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Howard Shute  
234 A Berkeley Way  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
412-727-7341  
howard.shute@hotmail.com

Bennie Gentry  
1347 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-4830  
macv495@yahoo.com

Ken White  
3834 Inverness Road  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
703-966-8079  
kenwhite68@yahoo.com

#### **PAST PRESIDENT**

John LeBrun  
6989 Birch Bay Dr.  
Blaine, WA 98230  
604-764-9634  
caabnranger@yahoo.com