

THE LRRP/RANGERS



OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Number 9

March 1991

HOMECOMINGS - THEN AND NOW

Greetings to all. It's been an eventful 6 months since our last reunion. Back in August at Fort Benning, we saw the preparations of Ranger units for the war. Since then, we've seen the buildup of our forces in the Kuwait Theater of Operations, the air war over Kuwait and Iraq, and finally the superb ground war fought by our soldiers and marines to free Kuwait. Our men and woman in uniform have performed superbly and they have every right to be proud of themselves just as we are proud of them. We can also be proud, this time, of the tremendous support that the American people and the government have given to the troops.

I confess that I, and probably many of you, had grave misgivings back in August about whether the American people and the Congress would support our troops if they were committed in the Mideast. To this day I'm still troubled by the memories of how we were treated by the Congress and by many of the American people when we came home from Vietnam. Back then, especially after the first year, there were no yellow ribbons or star spangled banners. Back then, there were lots of anti-war (and anti- soldier) protest meetings and marches, but few pro-soldier marches. We deserved better homecomings back then, but except for our own families, it seemed that nobody welcomed us home and nobody cared. Some of the bitterness from those times would be healed at the Vietnam Memorial years later, but some would linger deep inside us.

And so, in September and October when the first yellow ribbons and "support the troops" meetings began to occur, I was skeptical. Like many of you, I was probably also a little jealous, finally seeing some of the support for today's soldiers that I wished we had had. Then in January, when the air war started, I saw more and more yellow ribbons, American flags, and support marches. The crowd at the Superbowl was clearly patriotic and enthusiastic. It seemed that more and more of the American people were lining up behind the troops every week. It was then that the old bitterness and the new jealousy began to heal. Finally, this week, the ground war began. It was great to see our American forces and our allies surging forward and sweeping to victory. Americans were jubilant. Even the reporters seemed to find little to complain about. It was nice to finally win again.

Over the next weeks and months, our troops in the national guard, reserves, and active forces will return home. They are now combat vets and they deserve a heroes' welcome, just as we did years ago. This time, let's make sure that combat vets from the last war welcome home the combat vets from the new war. Let's make sure that the soldiers in the last units to come home get as big a welcome as the soldiers in the first units. Let's take the time to attend parades and homecoming ceremonies. Let's take a minute to send thank you cards to returning veterans in our home towns. Let's take the time to comfort families who are grieving for loved ones. Buy a beer or a dinner for a young serviceman or servicewoman home on leave. And while you're at it, buy a beer or a dinner for yourself. Welcome home, my friends, welcome home at last to a nation and a people who appreciate the sacrifices that soldiers make, and always have made, for our country and for freedom. For those who have had to fight for it, life truly has a pleasure that the protected will never know.

Donna and I look forward to seeing you at this year's reunion at Fort Hood. Sue sponte.

Mike Brennan

OUR REUNION RAFFLE

We try to have a raffle every year to help support our locating costs, the newsletter, and all the postage for correspondence. We are in need of a donated item or items for this purpose. Please contact Howard Shute, Raffle chairperson at 111 East Miller Ave., Munhall, Pa. 15120-3225. Phone 412-461-9120. We must take care of this quickly so please contact him immediately.

THE WAR WITH IRAQ

The address for the LRS unit attached to the 1st Cavalry is
Commander
D Co. (LRS), 312th MI
1st Cavalry Division
APO New York 09306-0630

Some units came home, but many are still in Saudi Arabia including most of the 1st Cavalry please write to them thru the above address. Most Americans stopped writing when they heard the War ended.

Info on Those Who Have Moved

Each newsletter we have a list of those who have moved and do not send us a new address. Listed now are some of them. Please let us know their current address if you have it; William Lovelace, Lafayette Kirk, Thetis Johnson, Charles Steele, Ellsworth German, Augusto Aquino, Randy Fisher, Terry Cordle, Eugene Simpson, Michael Germany, Ervin Burge, Turner Harvell, Walter Wells, Botond Batizy, and Manny Perez.

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie needs to know who has paid their membership from July 1, 1990 to July 1, 1991 and has not received their Membership card. Please send your years served and your correct spelling of your name. Remember we need your support to continue to locate the others and have a newsletter. Membership fee is \$15 a year. Send it to Bonnie with the above requested info and make checks out to LRRP/RANGERS. Also remember to renew your Saber with the 1st Cavalry Assoc. The fee is \$10 a year for the newspaper and to save costs they do not usually send out notices to renew; therefore you must remember this yourself. The address is 1st Cavalry Div. Assoc., 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, Texas 76522.

LOCATING NEWS

Listed now are those located since the last list: Allan Harris 67-68, Alan Harton approx 70-71, James McIntyre 67-68, Charles Dugan 67-68, Ken White 67-68, Richard Modolo 67-68, James Dempsey 67-68, Joe Dilger approx. 68, James Plisch approx. 68, Tom Ford 67-68, Scottie Peterson approx. 69-70, Don Davis 67-68, Robert Gambrell 67-68, Donald Keldsen 68, and Patrick Rioux 67-68. Please remember we need SSN's and old addresses to find the others. We've tried almost every name on the roster with any type of info on them and we need your help to find the others. Please go thru the old boxes, you probably have forgotten all the info you have left. And if you know where someone is or a family of one of our K.I.A.'s please let us know. We'll send them the newsletter and info about the unit. Please send this to Mike and Bonnie Echterling.

LRRP/RANGER REUNION #5

Our 5th reunion inconjunction with the 1st Cav. Assoc.(their 44th) is July 3-7, 1991 in Killeen, Texas. Our hospitality Suite is at the Killeen Hilton at a rate of \$52/ per day. Phone 1-817-526-4343 and tell them LRRP/RANGERS of the 1st Cav. There are other available motels and hotels lined up by the 1st Cav. at varying prices please check the Saber for the list and camp grounds.

The forms to reserve a space at the various planned activities especially our very important LRRP/Ranger lunch on the Sat. are in the Saber also. That would be July 6 and on Sunday, July 7, we have our now traditional Farewell Breakfast also to be signed up for in the Saber. The 1st Cav. Assoc. also ask for a registration fee of \$15 until the end of May, then the price goes up to \$20. This pays for name tags (very important), Official Reunion program, a Reunion Pin, and other mementos. Some of the activities lined up are; July 4 a golf tournament, the Traditional Ice Breaker buffet, a children' Ice Breaker, and usually fire works at the base (if the Cav. is back from Saudi Arabia). Friday, July 5, are Unit buffet breakfasts (ours will be at the Hilton for \$8 a person), special lunches for Ia Drang Valley, Vets from III ARVN Corps., Nov. 68 - Withdrawl, Korea Veterans Lunch, Tet 1968 Lunch, World War II Veterans Lunch, and Blue Max Lunch. At all these lunches anyone interested is invited and historical programs are presented. Friday eve. a Texas Bar-B- Que at Bell County Expo Center with a Professional Rodeo. On Sat., July 6, are unit breakfasts, the Association Officers Meeting, the General Membership meeting, which we encourage all our LRRP/RANGERS to attend, Commanding General's Presentation of State of the Division, our very important Lunch, and the Awards Banquet and Dance. On Sunday, are our Farewell Breakfast and the traditional Memorial Service at the First Cavalry Memorial Chapel on post.

The 1st Cavalry always comes thru with outstanding planning for these reunions. Please come and join us if not this year then try next at Billings, Montana. Please send in your 1st Cav. forms as early as possible to make the planning easier and please let Bonnie know you are coming. We also need to make arrangements and order items necessary.

ITEMS AVAILABLE

Charlie Burckhardt has received a new order of the LRRP/RANGER hats that are liked so well. They are \$10. Please send checks made out to Charlie to 4048 Teesdale St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19136, phone is 215-338-6988.

For the LRRP/RANGERS t-shirts state size and send \$10 to Hank Miller at 244 32nd N.E., Cedar Rapids, Ia., 52402, phone is 319-362-7561. These are the t-shirts the guys really liked and voted on to be available.

Bonnie has the car decals for \$1 apiece, crest pins for \$2.50, and shoulder patches (with the same logo as the crest pins) for \$4.00.

We need someone who lives near Bradenton, Fl. to try to locate David W. Hartmeyer. He has been traced to Bradenton and his last known address to us is 2730 49th Ave. He no longer lives there and has an unlisted phone in that city.

We also have 3 LRRP/RANGERS traced to Calif. that we could use some help with. They are Roy Beer, served 67-68, last traced to Ontario, Ca., Gary M. Anderson, served after 1969, traced to Oakhurst, Ca area, and Raymond E. Parker, served 67-68, traced to the Oakley, Ca. area. Your help would be appreciated.



Bonnie Echterling

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Lowell, IN 46356