



# Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

2nd Quarter Issue 2006

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## Reunion 2006 Dallas, TX



Photo Courtesy: Radisson Web Site

*The Radisson Hotel Dallas Love Field*

**Please note: There is no longer a toll free number for the hotel!  
It's Reservations Time!  
Phone ... (214) 630-7000  
Email ... rd\_dalf@radisson.com**

Please make reservations as soon as possible and don't forget to mention *Ranger Reunion*.

## Sua Sponte

### **Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association**

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#### **Board of Directors**

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**Tom Nash, President**  
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**Steve "Tower" Johnson, Board Member**  
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Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75TH Infantry Association edited by Jerry Schuster.

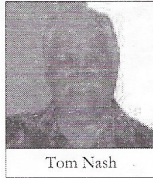
**Change of Address:** Any Address Changes should be sent to Jerry Schuster, PO Box 2544, Sherman, TX 75091-2544 or emailed to [e51lrp@yahoo.com](mailto:e51lrp@yahoo.com). (E51LRP)

**Membership Information:** All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

**Newsletter Submittals:** Article, photos, announcements, etc. are always welcomed. Sua Sponte reserves the right to accept and edit all materials as necessary. All submitted photos will be returned if requested. Authorship and photo credits will be provided. Submittal of written articles may be handwritten, typed or on computer disk. We can translate most files. Windows is preferred.

**Deadlines:** Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadlines for submitting material for the newsletter is the first of each month identified above. Time sensitive material will take precedence. Send material to the Sua Sponte address in Sherman, TX.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Tom Nash

Gentlemen of the  
Unit:

### REUNION

Once more I find myself planning to head off to another reunion, knowing full well that there will be (at least) two fewer persons attending. This year, Earl Toomey and Cecil Crosby will be among those with whom I served who will be missing. No one in the unit is immune from this sad evidence of the passage of time. When I became president of this Association, the portion of our website dedicated to messages was largely a place for folks looking for information on members of our unit. Now it has become a place to post messages about another passage. I was especially pleased to see so many of our number join us in Florida last year to say good-bye to Earl at a reunion he organized. He liked that and I was glad for him. I had not seen Cecil for over 35 years, and while I had hoped to see him again at some point – at one of our reunions for example, it's too late for that. On the bright side, I've had the opportunity to meet people from other "generations" of the unit that I would not otherwise have had.

Our reunions are an important function of the Association. It's one of the primary reasons for its existence. It is the way the members of the Association provides for themselves a venue for coming together and celebrating each other; renewing old friendships and making new ones; and to pay respects to ourselves – what Colin Powell referred to as "one of the most decorated units in Vietnam." Let's think seriously about being there in Dallas. How many more opportunities will there be? Call your teammates and arrange for a rendezvous in Dallas. Maybe you know someone from the unit who is ill, and has difficulty traveling. Get the team together and help him travel to Dallas. Arrange a road trip.

### TIME FOR NEW BLOOD!

It's also that time of the year when the next slate of board members is

elected by the general membership and the board then elects the officers for the coming year. I, like the late Billy Martin, feel strongly both ways. On the one hand, it's been the honor of my adult life to represent the men of our unit as president these last six years, but on the other hand I think it's time we threw me out. Time for new blood! Six years is far too long for one person to be the single representative for a group of strong willed warriors like this one - there are persons better steeped in the history of the unit; better administrators; smarter people; persons more comfortable with the notion of leadership; and there has to be more than a handful of people in the association who, at one time or another the past 6 years, has said "if I were running this association, I would \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in with your latest idea) \_\_\_\_\_." Here is your chance to step up and serve the other members of the unit. It's your chance to volunteer again. If you think you would like to put your stamp on the association's activities; to guide it and take care of it; step up. If you think you would like this remarkable opportunity, let one of the board members or officers know.

### EARLY WARNING EMAIL SYSTEM

We now have the makings of a first-rate early warning system in place. We can, without too much notice or difficulty, get an email out to everyone for whom we have an email address. This encompasses a variety of reasons - time-sensitive notices, appeals for help for another member of the unit, mini-reunion notices, etc. This is due to all who ever worked on our unit's data base, especially Jerry Schuster, who is implementing our early warning system; and the fact that we have so many of the member's email addresses. To take this system to the next level requires a couple of things:

We continue to need email addresses for all of the unit's members

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Itinerary and Maps for Reunion 2006

### E51 G75 LRRP/Ranger

#### Association: Reunion 2006

Radisson Hotel Dallas Love Field  
1241 West Mockingbird Lane  
Dallas, TX 75247  
1-800-333-3333  
1-214-630-7000  
(Fax) 1-214-640-9221

#### Thursday, June 22, 2006

Advance Party Arrives, Set Up

1700 hr. Hospitality Room Opens

#### Friday, June 23, 2006

0900-1800 hr. Check in, Reunion  
Registration in  
Hospitality Room.

1900-???:hr Greetings in the  
Hospitality Room.

#### Saturday, June 24, 2006

0930-1130hr. Tour Bus to Dealy Plaza

0100-1400 hr Board of Directors  
Meeting

1400-1500 hr General Membership  
Meeting in the  
Hospitality Room

1500-1530 Memorial Service

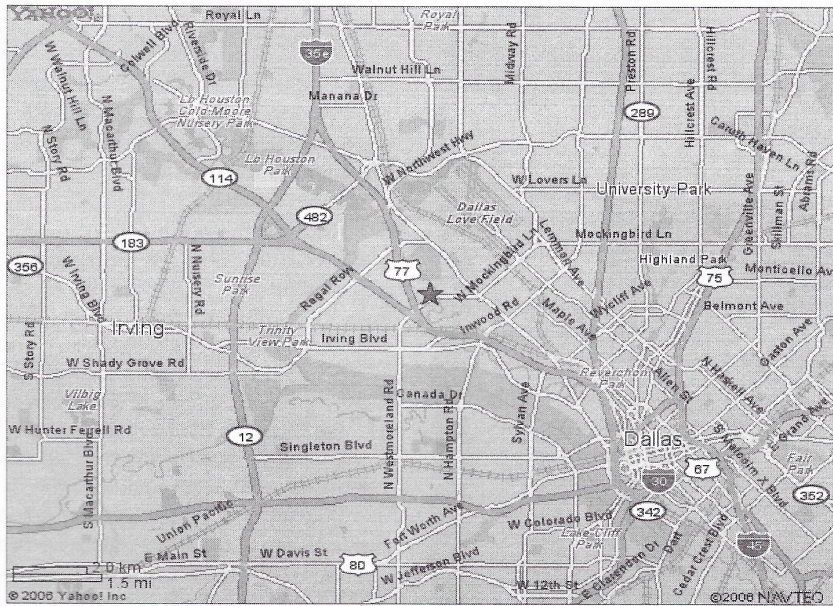
1330-1630 hr Ladies Shopping Trip  
to the Galleria

1700-1900 hr Cocktails and pay as  
you go bar. Free beer  
and sodas

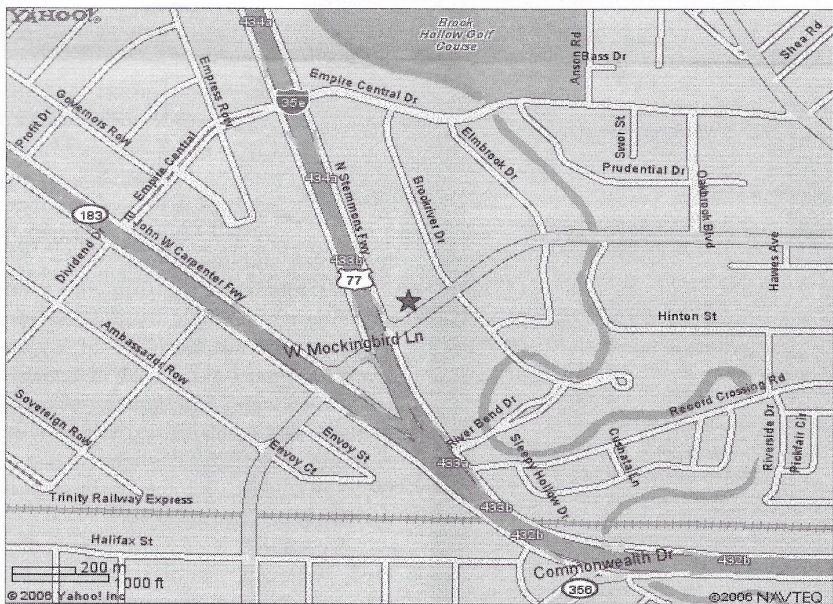
1930 hr Buffet Dinner provided  
by the Association  
followed by the  
Association Auction

#### Sunday, June 25, 2006

0900 hr Breakfast Get Together  
and Goodbyes  
in hotel restaurant



*Coming into the City of Dallas, TX.*

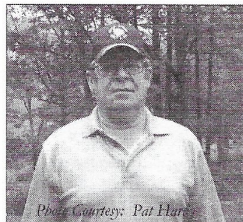


*Getting to the Radisson Hotel Dallas Love Field*

## MEMBER ARTICLE

# Hawaii to Vietnam and E51

By: Patrick Hardy  
As told to Jerry Schuster



Pat Hardy

In late 1967, while stationed in Hawaii with the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Clyde Bonner and I used to laugh at the preparations

being made to ship the Brigade to Vietnam. Everyone thought they were an expert at what we would need over there and most thought they knew exactly what to expect. This thought process existed from the High Brass down to the lowest Enlisted Man. Most of them had to look on a map to see where Vietnam was located.

Since Clyde and I already had tours in Vietnam under our belts, we could see they were running around like Chickens with their heads cut off. Most of what they thought we needed would never be needed and the things they would need most were skipped over as being frivolous. Vietnam priorities were weapons, beer, and food, in that order. Well, at least they got most of the weapons right.

Finally, the day came and the equipment was loaded aboard the ship, a few days later we were loaded aboard, and the old leaky Liberty Ship got under way. We had reasonably smooth sailing aboard the fine luxury liner. I think they were afraid it would sink if we encountered merely a heavy rain shower, so we must have sailed around anything other than a far distant inert cloud.

We landed at Quin Nhon, conveyed to the Carentan area of Duc Pho, then out to LZ Liz, which was supposed to be our permanent base. We

promptly secured our ration plus of beer and whisky, then made ourselves at home.

Now, on the north side of LZ Liz was a friendly village. We couldn't attack it according to the politics of the time. According to the District Vietnamese Chief, the village's hearts and minds had been won over to our side. Right ??, Nope, Wrong !! We began to take fire from the friendly village several times a week, which interrupted our drinking time while on stand down.

One of our guys had traded a stolen pig, (another story) for a couple bottles of cheap whisky. One evening, Clyde Bonner and I, along with a few others, decided to uncork this fine commodity, and proceeded to do it justice.

*"After a semi-sober conference between Clyde and I, we decided to raid the village..."*

Lo and behold, a few rounds came our way from the village. After a semi-sober conference between Clyde and I, we decided to raid the village. So, we assembled a few of the most trusted troops, formed a battle plan, and moved out.

We hit the village from the south side. We ran through, tossing grenades and just shooting the place up in general. Clyde and I discovered we couldn't run fast enough while intoxicated. Small grenade fragments came back on us. Nothing serious, just enough to make us bleed. We came out the north side of the village and headed home.

We arrived at LZ Liz blood covered. Naturally, the brass had an idea who was involved. We were caught "red handed".

Since the politics of the time about hitting friendly villages prevailed, we were in deep Do-Do. Clyde being the Officer in the bunch was summoned before the great throne at LZ Liz. Since everyone was pleased with the result,

but unhappy with the political fall out, Clyde was given several choices. Be shot at sunrise, be drawn and quartered, be rope stretched between two water buffalos, or transfer to the LRRPs and everything would be forgotten.

That folks is how Clyde arrived at our Company. I followed him a few days later.

## CLYDE BONNER

By: Jerry Schuster



Clyde arrived at our company in early 1968. Since he was a 1/LT, we tried to stay out of his way until he had been around a few weeks. It turned

out he was a very good officer and rapidly gained the respect of the men.

Being a "mustang officer" (one who had been an enlisted man before commissioning) was in his favor also. Since he knew how we thought, it was a bit difficult to pull anything over on him. But, on the other hand, he didn't mind shooting the breeze with us either. As a matter of fact, I had a refrigerator which was always stocked with beer and soft drinks. Clyde was a regular visitor.

Time passes, rotation times take place and a lot of us lose track of one another. A few years later, both Clyde and I wind up in Heidelberg, Germany. He was stationed on a casern near downtown, and I at a casern on the west side. Neither knew the other was there.

Germany, in those days was plagued by the Red Army Faction, AKA the Baader-Meinhoff Gang. They had decided to create a revolution by attacking the German Police, Americans, and

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MEMBER ARTICLES AND NEWS

(Continued from page 4)

the state served by the establishment. They thought the German people would rise up, join them and overthrow the government. They of course, would lead the new government.

They blew up a couple of department stores in Frankfurt, an army club also in Frankfurt, a press office in Hamburg, and a parking lot in a Heidelberg US Army casern, among other places.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Clyde was standing in the Heidelberg US Army casern parking lot with his first sergeant, Ron Woodward, when the car bomb planted by the Baader-Meinhoff Gang exploded. Clyde and Ron died at the scene.

I found out Clyde was in Heidelberg and was a victim while reading The Stars and Stripes newspaper following the explosion. It was quite a shock. I have wondered all these many years what happened to his family, where he is buried, and how he came to be in the parking lot.

While researching for this article, I found the answers. A link led me to his widow through her maiden name which I remembered. One telephone call within Texas, and I was talking to Judi Bonner.

She indicates she is doing well. She and Clyde had two sons, Chuck, who resides in Louisiana and Richard, who resides in Texas. Judi owned a newspaper at one time and is currently in sales. Her two sons are doing well also.

Judi indicates she will be at the Dallas reunion. She further stated one or both sons may attend. We welcome them with open arms.

Clyde is buried at the Fort Bliss, TX military cemetery.



### SERVICE OFFICER ALERT FROM THE VA

#### ATTENTION EVERYONE!

The following is a warning from the  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs:

Warning from the DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS..

Subject: Service Officer Alert—  
"Veterans Affairs Services"

"The VA General Counsel has notified us that an organization called "Veterans Affairs Services" appears to be holding itself out as a recognized service organization; *it is not* a recognized service organization. This organization may be assisting veterans and others to file claims and, in the process, obtain **personal information**. The GC has asked us to ask you to report any contact you may have had with "Veterans Affairs Services".

If you have any examples of "Veterans Affairs Service" helping veterans or other claimants file claims with VA, please call

Fred Burns, Assistant Director at (202) 608-8367. Please be prepared to provide at least the name and telephone number of the veteran when you call Mr. Burns.

The General Council message is shown below:

"An organization called Veterans Affairs Service (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way."

The web site used by this **bogus** organization is:

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

Their contact number or email is erroneous. They are using the contact for the VFW.

If anyone has given any information to these people they are to contact the following:

Office of General Council through the Federal Information Center at

1-800-688-9889 , or the Inspector Generals Office at 1-800-488-8244."

### Condolences

Our condolences to Ranger Roy Rederick. His wife died on May 3<sup>rd</sup> as a result of being severely beaten during a robbery of the convenience store where she worked. Her name was Louise, but everyone called her Weezie. Give Roy a call at 803-438-1916.

Roy served as a sergeant in G Company from January 1971, until it disbanded.

George Beach and George Nord visited with Roy at his home after the incident.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Roy at the following address:

Roy Rederick  
422 Sandwood Dr  
Lugoff, SC 29078

### Notification of Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Pursuant to Article III, Section I of the Association Bylaws, the Board of Directors hereby designates and announces the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association to be held on Saturday, June 24, 2006 at 1400 hrs. in the Radisson Hotel located at 1241 Mockingbird Lane in Dallas, TX for the purpose of transacting business and other matters brought before the Board of Directors.

## US GIRLS

### President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

who have them. If you have not provided us with your email address, please do so immediately, so our unit address list can be as up-to-date as is possible.

An early warning email system is great as far as it goes. But for those who do not have email, the system is moot. However, the association can help, at least partly. If you do not have a PC, but can still get to one periodically, such as at the public library for example, we might be in a position to help. [lrrpranger.org](mailto:lrrpranger.org) email addresses are available for those who do not normally have access to email, but who want to be connected through cyberspace to our unit. [lrrpranger.org](http://lrrpranger.org) is not perfect, but it does put people in touch.

Alternatively, if we set up an emergency calling system, in which each guy with email takes the responsibility to call only one of his teammates who does not have access to email any time one of these notices/alerts goes out to the members, we have doubled our reach.

So, we're asking you for a couple of things – first, send us your email address if we don't already have it. Second, let us know if you are willing to be responsible for calling someone who doesn't have email, or if you do not have access to email and want to be on our notification list.

### Moving?? Let Us Know!

By: Sua Sponte Staff

If you know someone who has moved within the last year or so and is not receiving their Sua Sponte, please encourage them to contact us to make sure we have their current address.

If you are planning a move, please let us know so there will be no interruption in receiving your Sua Sponte.

### My First Reunion

By: Linda Schuster



Several of the wives have been kind enough to send notes and articles about their first reunion experience for me to place on this page. Perhaps it's time for me to reciprocate and tell about my first reunion ...grin

As Jerry and I prepared for our first reunion together, many thoughts were running through my mind. I was excited about being involved in one of the things that meant so much to him but at the same time I was a little anxious about it too. Despite his many reassurances that there would be many of the wives there and that everyone has a great time, I couldn't help but wonder if all that was true or just his way of trying to make me comfortable.

My father was a grunt in WWII with Patton's army and I often thought as I grew older and watched him trying to deal with bouts of depression and anger that if he just had someone to talk to about things that happened over there, perhaps he would be better able to deal with all those memories. But he never had anyone except a brother that was there at the same time in another unit and they seldom spent any time together. As a result, I was only too happy to find that Jerry had that support. So I packed up my anxiety and went... determined to enjoy myself.

When we walked into the Hospital-ity Room in San Antonio, I have to admit to feeling a bit like a lost puppy. (grin) It took about 30 seconds for the smile to appear on my face as I watched the guys shaking hands and giving each other a few hugs here and there. Then Earl and Karin Toomey appeared and the hugs in the "Us Girls" department started just like everyone had known

each other forever. Then Danny and Marcel Jacks came in and it just became "old home week" (as Jerry says!) After that, there was no more anxiety.

As LRRP/Rangers arrived who had not been to a reunion before, the excitement in the air became palpable. They exchanged stories that only they could relate to. They discussed VA benefits. They talked about what was new in their lives and sometimes their conversations were just outright nonsense. I knew then exactly why the reunions were so important. The light in their eyes as they would shake everyone's hand and give heartfelt hugs made everything worthwhile.

Having that support is important for them. Many cannot make the reunions for a variety of reasons, but just having the organization and having access to each other via the phone or internet makes a big difference in their lives. And for that... I'm grateful.

What I didn't realize until that first reunion was how much support the wives can be and are to each other. We all have at least one thing in common.. Our LRRP. The experiences they had in Vietnam will have an effect on their lives forever. As a result, Vietnam has an effect on our lives. The amount of support the wives had for each other, the exchange of experiences, knowledge and just the good old fashioned fun gave me a new perspective on almost everything about the reunion. I realized that it was not only for the guys, but for us also. What a concept!!

By the time everything was over, the goodbyes were said, and we were on the way home I realized just how glad I was that I had gone with Jerry. I look forward to the reunions now and want to encourage all the wives who have that same feeling of anxiety that I had to pack it up and come anyway. We'd love to meet you. It'll be "old home week!"

## LRRP RANGER RING

### LRRP RANGER RING

By: *Sua Sponte Staff*

The Association ring is an exceptional piece of jewelry. Its craftsmanship allows those entitled to wear it a dignified yet bold way to express the bonds between themselves and their comrades; their pride in a mission well done. As can be seen from the photo, one side of the ring displays the distinctive unit crest of the 75th Ranger Regiment atop the word "RANGER" and topped by a scroll with the word "VIETNAM" displayed on it. Above that is a blank scroll, which each wearer can personalize with his call, Recondo School Number, etc. The other side of the ring shows the dramatic and moving depiction of the three soldiers standing guard at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, topped by the word "LRRP". Below the three soldiers is a representation of the unit patches worn by our unit — the Southern Cross of the Americal (23rd Infantry) Division and the "burning rope" of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The top of the ring includes the names borne by our unit — 196th LIB LRRP, E Co., 51st, and G Co. Rangers, 75th.

The ring is available in a variety of metals, which means it can be afford-



able for almost everyone in the unit. It makes a remarkable gift for the Holidays, Birthdays or any other anniversary.

This ring was designed and is produced only for our Association members. No one else is entitled to wear it.

The ring prices are as listed below. Please be aware that the prices change from time to time as the prices of gold and silver fluctuate, so when contacting for placing an order please be sure to verify the prices.

14K White Gold .....	\$ 845.00
14K Yellow Gold .....	805.00
10K White Gold .....	680.00

10K Yellow Gold .....	580.00
Sterling Silver .....	200.00
Sterling w/Gold Overlay .....	225.00

What better gift could be given or received than the gift of a visible expression of pride in a job well done.

To order yours today, contact:  
 Karen Whitaker  
 Kelleher Enterprises  
 2330 E. Stadium Blvd. Suite 4  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
 734-677-0944



### ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS... ORDER EARLY FOR REUNION COMFORT!

As you are making your plans for the summer, whether at the Reunion in Dallas or not, here a few of the many concessions available from the Association.

The drink cozies will keep your cold drinks cold while out beside the pool. The caps not only identify you as a member of an elite group of great guys, it also keeps the hot sun at bay.

***Order early and bring them with you to the Reunion!***  
***For prices and ordering: [www.lrrpranger.org](http://www.lrrpranger.org)***  
***or phone (909) 989-8461***



Sua Sponte  
PO Box 2544  
Sherman, TX 75090-2544



*"of their own accord"*

Quarterly Newsletter of  
The 196th LRRPs, E51st  
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

[www.lrrpranger.org](http://www.lrrpranger.org)

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CANTON MI 48187-1422



## REUNION 2006! DALLAS, TX

### Radisson

Mockingbird and I35  
1241 Mockingbird  
Lane

Dallas, TX 75247  
(214) 630-7000

*Near Dallas Love Field  
Airport*

*Please note: There is no longer a toll free number  
for the hotel reservations.*



**ROOM RATE**  
**\$59.00/nite**

**Advance Party**

June 22, 2006

**Reunion Dates**

June 23-25, 2006

Please make reserva-  
tions before as soon as  
possible to ensure the  
group room rate!

Check In.....3:00pm  
Check Out..12:00noon

*Be sure to mention  
"G" Ranger when  
making reservations!*