



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Spring Issue 2006

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Reunion 2006 Dallas, TX



Photo Courtesy: Radisson Web Site

*The Radisson Hotel Dallas Love Field
Dallas, TX*

Reservations Time!

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Email ... rd_dalf@radisson.com

Please make reservations by June 1, 2006 and don't forget to mention *Ranger Reunion*.

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

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Sua Sponte

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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. (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.



Tom Nash

**The
Association
Directory**

Some of you have asked, and others may have noticed, that we have not distributed the unit/Association directory (names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses) in the past several years. There is a good reason for this. What it boils down to is that current privacy laws prevent the unauthorized distribution of personal contact information of the type contained in the directory. And these laws absolutely apply to us.

We have discussed a variety of solutions to the dilemma over the past several years, and have come to the conclusion that the only way to freely distribute the directory is to actually secure the advance approval of the persons listed in the directory. This is unfortunate for two reasons.

First, it will necessitate the maintenance of two directories in the future, i.e., one containing the information of those members who have given their approval, and one maintained by the Association with the information of those members who have not given their approval.

Second, this decision comes at a time when the directory is probably more complete than it has been in years due to the diligence of Jerry Schuster.

The most convenient way to deal with this issue is to ask every member of the unit to give us his approval **IN WRITING**. If you wish to give us your permission to include your contact information in the directory, you can do so by (1) send us a letter to that effect to **Jerry Schuster at PO Box 2544,**

Sherman, TX 75091-2544, or (2) wait to hear from us – we will be canvassing the entire unit when we undertake our annual dues drive. Some sort of reminder will be forwarded to each member along with the dues notice.

A couple of things to remember...

First, this does not change our long standing commitment to ensure that every member of the unit receives Sua Sponte whether or not he is a dues paying member of the Association.

Second, we are in jeopardy of losing contact with some of our members during this changeover, so it's up to each of us to ensure that the directory, once we release it, contains information for all of our members.

You should review the directory and encourage your own teammates who are not listed to get themselves listed.

Cecil Crosby

To All:

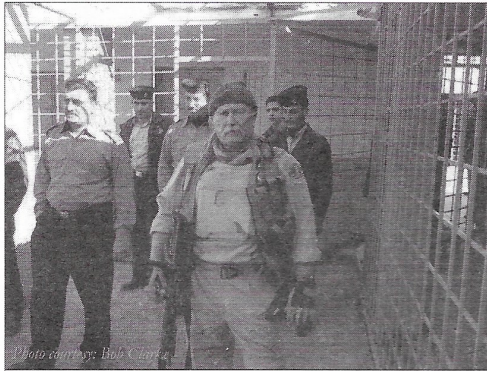
It is my sad duty to notify you that our LRRP teammate (1967 era) Cecil Crosby passed away on December 3, 2005, after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. I very much regret that I did not have the pleasure of seeing him again after our return from Vietnam. May he find his peace in the company of our unit's other fallen heroes who have gone to their reward. You may pay your respects to Bernice Crosby, Cecil's bride, at 305.693.4603 or 8821 NW 14th Avenue, Miami Florida 33143.

Tom Nash

LETTER FROM BOB CLARKE... IRAQ

Letter from Bob Clarke

By: Bob Clarke



Bob Clarke serving in Iraq... 2006

Gheez, there's a lot of old guys in the reunion photo! :) Good to hear from you. Sorry I haven't made any reunions myself, my life is just so full. I'm especially sorry because I missed a chance to visit with Earl. He was a real good guy. I always felt good to be working with him over there. We did a lot of things together. Makes me realize just how short life can be. I'm really going to try and make the next one....this summer I guess. Let me know where and when.

I'll be home in April so that should give me plenty of time to get ready.

I sure enjoyed seeing those pics on the sight. You do a good job, thanks for doing it. I'm always proud of it and I wouldn't trade a moment of my time over there with you guys. It changed my life.

I've been doing this stuff for the last 4 or 5 years. I retired in 97 and right after 9/11, I went back to work at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, NM.

I was training newly hired Air Marshals. Did that for about six months. While I was there I got hooked

up with a couple of guys from S/F who had retired and were doing training for "contractors". I got in with their help and have been doing that ever since.

My first mission was Pakistan, on the Afghanistan border. Went back three times. Then started working in Africa, did several countries there, then Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Balkans and now here.

I've been here since Sep.05. Spent two months in Baghdad area at Camp Shield, a Forward Operating Base (FOB) near Sadar City. We were training Iraqi Police recruits until the beginning of Dec. Until then we had two suicide bombers try to get in but didn't make and detonated just outside the "T" walls (concrete walls 12' high) killed a couple of civilians.

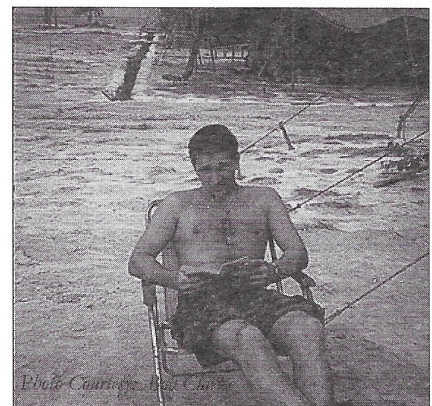
On Dec 5th two got in. They detonated in the training area and killed 47 recruits and wounded another 25 or 30. By the grace of God, no Americans were killed, several injured, none seriously. We were all right there but missed being hurt by just a few feet. That slowed down training for a week or so as we re organized.

Baghdad area is very hot! While I was there there was at least one car bomb or I.E.D. every week. Not all right near us but close enough to hear and feel the concussion and see the smoke. Many of those were in the "Green Zone, Safe area" !! There was always an occasional bomb going off some where and small arms fire. It was hard to tell the different

kinds of small arms fire because there was so much of it. Some was range fire from groups that were training, not too hard to recognize, some was occasionally from one of the towers at night, along the perimeter, some was from locals just showing off with their AKs and then there was the celebratory fire from weddings and soccer games. You just never knew. You got to wonder what kind of idiots go out and fire 30 or 40 rounds just to show off or celebrate, in a war zone. It "is" a war zone!

Every "Camp" is enclosed with wire, guards, "T" walls and hard points, Its like the old west, we're inside and the Indians have everything outside. If you leave the camp, you go enmass with armored vehicles, mostly armored up suburbans and Hum Vs.

A week or so after the bombing in Camp Shield, I was transferred to Camp Delta, in Al Kut. We got a nice send off from the indians as we drove



Bob Clarke in Vietnam....

(Continued on page 6)

MEMBER ARTICLES

JOSEPH FELIX KRAUS

By: Sua Sponte Staff



Joseph Felix Kraus ... In Country -1968 to 1969

In February, we received the following email from Christopher Kraus requesting information regarding his father, Joseph Felix Kraus. Joseph Kraus is listed in our post war deceased roster, but after much emailing and phone calling we have not been able to find anyone yet who can assist Chris in finding out what he needs to know. We are asking for help in locating someone who served directly with Joe. If you have any information, please email or phone us at the Sua Sponte addresses listed in the front of this publication and we will put you in contact with Chris. The following is an edited copy of the email we received:

"Hello again Jerry. This is Chris Kraus. I talked to you on the phone a couple of weeks ago about seeking some information about my father, Joseph Felix Kraus. You said that if I could send you a photo of him you might be able to place the name with a face. I tried sending that to you though it might not have sent, so attached is the only picture that I have of my father in Vietnam. I do not know much about him, as he died in a car accident when I

THE MOVING WALL

By: Jerry Schuster

Last summer *The Moving Wall* came to Denison, TX. Carl "Wayne" Barber, his son Eric, my wife and I spent about half a day there. With so many names on the Wall, we had spent some time on the internet site "Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund", where there is a page that will give you the 'address' on The Wall for any name you are looking for. (The web address for this page is: <http://www.vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=2>) While this helped a great deal, there is nothing quite as good as the guides and personnel that were there and always anxious to help us with anything we needed.

As the day progressed, it became

was only 9 years old. I am trying to research his life so I can learn about what he went through, what the missions were like, what he was like, what it was like over there, what you guys did, any photos with my father; any information that you can share with me about him is appreciated. I have done some research and this is what I have found, though some of it might not be 100% accurate:

- He was a member of Co E of the 51st Infantry. While he was in Vietnam, the 51st reformed into the 75th Infantry.

- Birth date: 05-19-47

- He served in Vietnam from February 1968 to April 1969

- He earned a Purple Heart

- He was a black beret

- He had Guerilla Warfare training in Hawaii

- He was part of the Long Range Patrol

If there is any information you can send me, or someone I can contact, I will try to gather more information that would be helpful.....

Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting us.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Kraus"

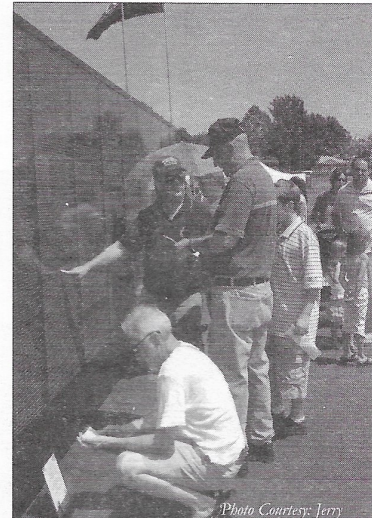


Photo Courtesy: Jerry

Wayne Barber, son Eric, and Jerry Schuster at the Portable Wall during it's stay in Denison,

hotter and hotter. There was little shade to be found, but the veterans and their families just kept coming. Many brought flowers, memorabilia and gifts and left at the base of The Wall where the names of their comrades were listed.

We found all the names of each of our fallen comrades. Needless to say, it was an emotionally charged experience.



Photo Courtesy: Jerry Schuster

The Moving Wall in Denison, TX in July, 2005
The man in the black pants, white shirt and service cap is one of the guides assisting the visitors.



MEMBER ARTICLES

Aussie Rappel

By: Sua Sponte Staff



Photo Courtesy: Dave Meabon

Bob Wheeler doing the "Aussie" rappel

In late '67 or early '68, Dave Meabon had his camera by the Rappelling Tower. The resulting shots are of Bob Wheeler doing the "Aussie" rappel with Charles "Jolly" Haussler standing by.

From the look on Jolly's face, we can tell he is thinking "*this guy is crazy!*"

David Stanfield was another "crazy" who thought the "Aussie" was fun. Unfortunately, we don't have a picture of him on the tower.

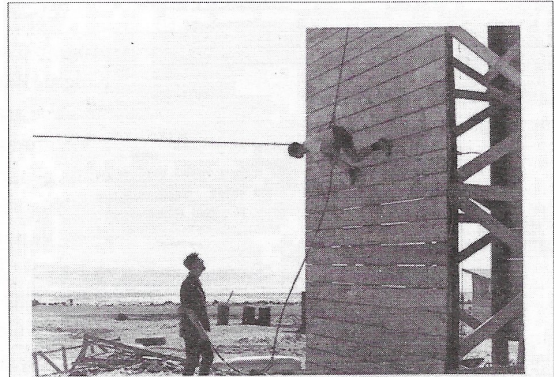


Photo Courtesy: Dave Meabon

Bob Wheeler doing the "Aussie" rappel with "Jolly" Haussler looking on

Moving???

Please let us know!

By: Sua Sponte Staff

Our last issue of Sua Sponte was mailed first class for the purpose of assuring that all our addresses in the database were up to date. After having many returned to us, we realized that too many of us were slipping through the cracks and being lost. We are working hard to come up with ways that will work to keep the database current.

A forwarding address left with the Post Office is only effective for 6 months. After that the mail received is considered undeliverable and returned to the sender if the mail has been sent first class. If it has been sent bulk mail, it will be trashed and no one on the mailing end is aware that the mail was not deliverable.

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.

Dave Meabon's Travel Trailer Logo

By: Sua Sponte Staff



Photo Courtesy: Dave

Dave Meabon's Travel Trailer Logo

In February, we had the distinct pleasure of having Dave Meabon and his dog Katy visit with us for a couple of weeks.

Dave is a full-time RV-er and

brought his house with him and parked it in the driveway.

I really liked the logo on the back of his RV. He said someone in his family has a business that involves the making of logo decals, printing them off and applying them.

If you would like more information on this, just contact us at the Sua Sponte address in the front of the newsletter or email us at e51Lrp@yahoo.com and we will put you in contact with Dave.

Dave left here headed for Tucson, AZ with hopes to see everyone in Dallas for the June 23rd - 25th Reunion.

VETERANS, SURVIVORS MISS OUT ON PENSIONS

Veterans, Survivors Miss Out on Pensions

By: Sua Sponte Staff

The following is an excerpt from *The Charlotte Observer* that was found on the Military.com web site.

"Nearly 2 million low income veterans or their impoverished widows are likely missing out on as much as \$22 billion a year in pensions from the U.S. government, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has had only limited success in finding them.

Widows are hardest hit. According to a VA estimate, only one in seven of the survivors of the nation's deceased Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who likely could qualify for the pension actually get the monthly checks.

What's more, participation in the program is falling, according to a Knight Ridder analysis of VA records.

The reason for the lax participation, a VA study said, is that low income veterans generally "are completely unaware that the program exists."

"Veterans simply don't know about it," said Despina Hatton, who runs a senior law program for residents of Washoe County, Nevada, that seeks to help veterans or their widows receive the benefit....

The VA's pension program is targeted at veterans who served their country during wartime but have fallen into poverty. It's also there for the widows of veterans who have fallen on hard times.

The program provides a monthly check to bring incomes up to a certain level. A veteran can make up to \$10,579.00 a year and qualify for the VA

pension, while veterans' widows can make up to \$7,094.00 a year. Those who are homebound or in need of extra assistance can receive more. ...

VA literature lists the program among the dozens it provides. But the program's name confuses many veterans: It's called a "disability pension", but a person doesn't have to be disabled to receive it. Further, a "Summary of VA Benefits" on the department's web site doesn't spell out a central criterion of the program: that veterans can qualify based on their age. (The age requirement is listed in other parts of the VA web site, and the VA has said it will correct the error.)

Basically, a low income veteran who's 65 or older and served during a war, in combat or not, is eligible for the program. ...

(Continued on page 8)

Letter from Bob Clarke

By: Bob Clarke

(Continued from page 3)

out. Five rounds of mortar fire. No one hit but blew the hell of one of our barracks about 500 meters away. They're not too good with that stuff, but you never know when you could be standing in the wrong spot..

Al Kut is about 80 miles south of Baghdad. We traveled in a heavy convoy, 4-5 hours.

I'm supposed to be training Iraqi Border Patrol here. We work the Iranian border. Training is slow going as many of the recruits are either on active duty as soldiers somewhere else now or have decided not to enlist. (The "retirement program" isn't too good)

They told me Camp Delta was at an airforce base. We figured that's great, the airforce knows how to live, good mess hall, big PX and good mail service.....not!

They didn't mention this was what used to be an air force base, Iraqi that is!

I'm living in an old aircraft, hardened bunker, used to keep jet fighters in here, one each! No windows, one door. The place is 5' thick. Shower and latrine are 100' away. Water, most of the time! Mess hall is about a mile away but we do have our "heavy Chevy" to move around in. Everyone is armed all the time M-4 and a 9mm Beretta. Body armor if we go off the Camp. (I always wanted to live in a "Gated Community"

"... Hell,
I think
I'm
gettin'
too old
for this
stuff..."

There are about 35 Americans here and several hundred mixed, international forces as well. Poles, Estonians, Ukrainians, and a few others I don't recall.

The weather here turned cold about two days before Christmas and hasn't changed much since. No rain, lots of sandy desert with scrub brush and a few date and palm trees around. Didn't have any reliable email or computer service here for a while, have now, as you can see but I hope it lasts a while.

I'm outta here the end of March. Hell....I think I'm gettin' too old for this stuff. Cant wait to get back to my little place out in the desert, on the border in NM. I'll try to ride my bike to the next reunion. Hope to see you guys then.

B C

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL...CHICAGO, IL

By: John Hastings

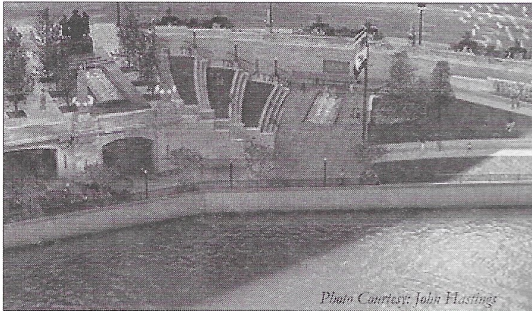


Photo Courtesy: John Hastings

*Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Wabash Plaza
in Chicago, IL*

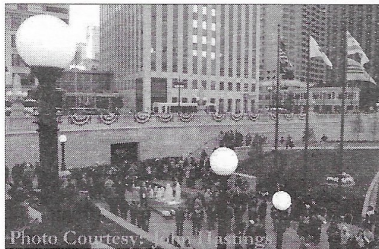


Photo Courtesy: John Hastings

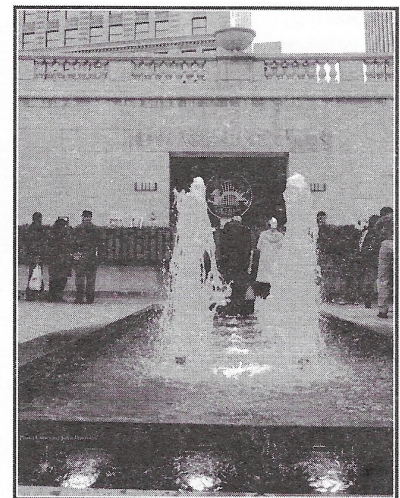


Photo Courtesy: John Hastings



On Veterans Day (2005), the City of Chicago opened a new \$4 Million Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. The Memorial is located at Wabash and Wacker Drive and is recessed down to river level so it is a quiet spot where people can go all year to reflect and relax. The Memorial has the names of the 900+ Illinois veterans KIA. There was huge turnout with many dignitaries: Mayor Daley (who has a son in the Army) gave a great speech. There was a march by several hundred Vietnamese Americans. Their banner says "We will never forget our American friends." As the mama and papasans came along shaking hands with the vets, and passing out flags, there were lots of tears.. And I'll admit it was all I could do to keep my camera focused. I think it took everyone by surprise and it was one of the most touching moments I've ever had. It took me a minute to realize these people are our age, and the young people are their kids. It's never too late to say thanks. When in Chicago and weather permitting, I encourage everyone to visit... It's a truly spiritual place.

RLTW
John Hastings



All photos of the Memorial Dedication are Courtesy of John Hastings... Thanks, John.

US GIRLS

Our First Reunion

By: Judy Newberry



My first reunion was a special, memorable experience. Last year in Fort Myers, FL was my husband's (Paul) and my first.

I can't put into words how it makes you feel when the guys see each other again... what a bond they have. It is like a family reunion. They bring pictures to share, share stories and just have a lot of fun.

All of the wives were great as well. I thought "Oh gosh, I won't know anyone". But as it turned out, it felt like everyone had known each other for a long time.

The guys are so supportive of each

other... going over times back then and where they have been since, sharing information about benefits and how to apply.

A lot of fun and very informative. We are really looking forward to Dallas this year.

Judy Newberry



Bits & Pieces

By: Sua Sponte Staff

If you have decided to travel to the Reunion by plane, you might check with

your travel agent or airline ticket personnel to request a flight that will land at Love Field in Dallas. Love Field has recently been opened up for the larger airlines and Delta has made the first flights in and out of there. Love Field is only a couple of miles from the Radisson and will have shuttle service from the hotel.

If your flight lands at DFW, never fear.. There are taxis lined up in rows out front to get you there.

VETERANS, DEPENDENTS MISS OUT ON PENSIONS

(Continued from page 6)

How To Get Help

Veterans and their widows or other dependents might be eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs pension if they meet certain requirements.

**Veterans must have served during a time of war, even if not in combat, and they must be either permanently disabled or 65 or older.

**Their incomes must fall under a certain level.

**Widows of veterans can also apply, although their incomes must be even lower.

If you think you may qualify for the benefit, go to: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Milsvc/Docs/Pensoneg.doc

If you are the widow of a veteran, go here:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Milsvc/Docs/Dpeneg.doc

The VA also has a toll-free number for more information:

(800) 827-1000



IDENTITY THEFT SCAM

Reprinted from the VVA Web Site

By: Sua Sponte Staff

"I also would like to notify our readers of a new attack on veterans. Recently the VA issued a notice regarding an identity theft scam against veterans. Individuals have been preying on unsuspecting veterans—in particular, older veterans. The callers, identifying themselves as the "Patient Care Group," have been informing veterans that the VA has changed their prescription procedures. Then they ask for a credit card number.

James Nicholson, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, has said the "VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines. And we've definitely not changed our long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of our veterans."

Anyone with questions about telephone inquiries dealing with new prescription-dispensing procedures should contact the nearest VA Medical Center or call 877-222-8387."

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP CARDS

By: Sua Sponte Staff

We have heard from several new members that they have not received their membership cards. Because of vendor difficulty with the current type of membership cards, we have been unable to mail them out in a timely manner. There has also been an occasional problem with them cracking and breaking. As a result of these problems, there will be a new membership card design in the next few weeks. The new cards will be mailed to everyone in our database when the opt-in letter is sent requesting permission to publish your information in a new roster.

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 "LRRRP". 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



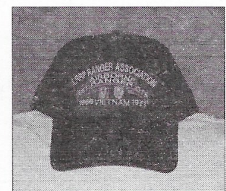
ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS... ORDER EARLY FOR REUNION COMFORT!

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
or phone (909) 989-8461**



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"of their own accord"

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

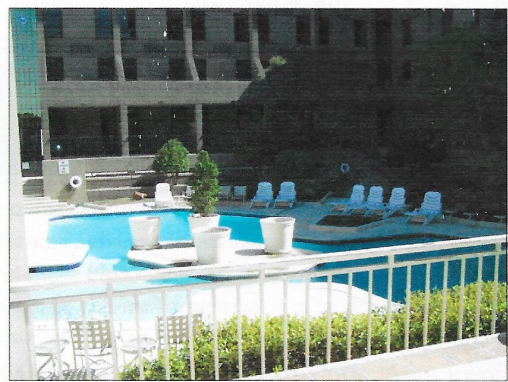
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REUNION 2006! DALLAS, TX

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*Near Dallas Love Field
Airport*



ROOM RATE
\$59.00/nite

Advance Party
June 22, 2006
Reunion Dates
June 23-25, 2006
Please make reservations before June 1, 2006 to ensure the group room rate!

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

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