



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Fourth Quarter 2015

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Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

Submissions:
Please send to Stephen Johnson,
Editor. Address page 2 inset

Angel Fire-New Mexico



This article is submitted by John “Gunner” Starnes.

The art work by John depicts himself and “Bubbles” aka Steve Franklin soon after graduating from the E 51st (LRP) (Abn) Recondo School.

This article can be found on page 4.

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

1105 Bell Road
Success, MO
65570

Email: Ranger69@centurylink.net

Sua Sponte

Stephen "Tower" Johnson, Editor

10433 Juneberry Rd. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

PH: 218-333-1541 (Home)

E-mail:

TowerG75th@yahoo.com

Officers

Richard "Corky" Corkan, President

Stephen Johnson, Vice President

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, Treasurer

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Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Stephen "Tower" Johnson.

Change of Address: Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Box 12, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: tomsharonrobison@msn.com

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 and Deadlines: see page 1



RLTW!

Richard "Boot" Corkan

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and ate a lot of turkey and dressing. I know I sure did! I would also like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May everyone be blessed with good health and happiness for the year of 2016. I know if we had known we would have taken better care of ourselves NOT LIKELY. May all of your Christmas wishes be granted within reason. Keep in mind that our reunion this year is in California and it is going to be held close to Disneyland so it should be a great time for the young ones old ones alike. The reunion this year is being hosted by Steve Deever and some of the other guys he can sucker into helping him.

Would really like to see a bunch of you there. Don't forget to call the men that were on a team with you and invite them to attend so that we can all share our good times and drink an adult beverage of choice. Do not forget our auction, we raise a good portion of our operating budget for association and the association pays for the banquet with these proceeds. If you have something that you would like to donate to be auctioned off we would appreciate it. This past year Colt donated a M1911 pistol that was auctioned, so those of you that missed the reunion missed out on a chance to own it. Again I am looking forward to seeing all of you in California.

I am still looking for suggestions on how to improve our association and get attendance up at our reunions. I would like to here your comments and concerns and will address this personally or if need be I will get the other officers and board members to address the concerns if need be.

Richard (Boot) Corkan

RLTW

Jim Simm's G 75th Photo Collection

Company G in Chu Lai– March 1971-September 1971



Jim Simm's sent a CD to Sua Sponte. You can see them all on our website by accessing the "gallery" ribbon.

Rangers at Angel Fire Brick Ceremony



Master Sergeant "Che" Cortes-Rivera

In June 1968 SP4 Steve Franklin and SP4 John Starnes, volunteered for LRRP duty. They were paired off as Ranger buddies at the E Company (LRP) (Abn), 51st Infantry compound to attend the LRP Recondo School. However, they were separated after completion of the training course. Franklin went to Duc Pho and Starnes went to LRP Team Winston at Chu Lai base camp. These buddies will not see each other for thirty years. Franklin "Bubbles" ended his term of service after the Vietnam War. Starnes "Gunner" continued service and for the most of his service was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a Paratrooper and Special Forces soldier.

In September 2011, these former Vietnam Era Rangers made a trip to Angel Fire, New Mexico from Bailey, Colorado. Gunner drove cross country from North Carolina to Bailey. It was a 3 hour trip from Bailey, starting early in the morning, to arrive on time for the 0800 brick laying ceremony at Angel Fire Veteran's Walkway. It is a sacred place for Native Americans and American Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It is a state park under the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Two members of Americal Rangers (LRP) were being honored in the southwestern United States, Master Sergeant Henry "Che" Cortes-Rivera and Sergeant First Class Johnny "Gunner" Starnes. Che Rivera could not make the ceremony so "Bubbles" Franklin stood in for him. It was a somber occasion and Gunner was well dressed in his 75th Ranger Rgt. Association suit with full miniature medals and badges and with his beret worn in Vietnam. Bubbles was sporting his Ranger beret as well and VFW vest with appropriate Ranger Accouterments and Combat Infantryman's Badge. They were representing Americal Rangers participating in honoring four of their fellow Ranger soldiers. Specialist Steven J. Franklin and Private First Class Bradley Watts were honored prior to this occasion.

Another group of Rangers were honoring their company as well, Company E (Ranger) 75th Infantry (9th Infantry Division). Their entire Ranger Company was there as well. They put in their entire company's member's bricks on the ground. Many Vietnam War Veteran "Bikers" from all over the U. S. came to participate in this ceremony returning to this site once a year. It is a good thing and done with pride and honor.



This is a picture of Gunner and Bubbles in front of a Huey helicopter on display overlooking the Angel Fire DAV site. As the rain came on this high plateau the two Americal Rangers departed Angel Fire and headed back to Bailey before it got too late. Gunner left two days later for California for a MAC hop from Travis AFB, CA to spend time at his birthplace in Guam, USA. Gunner returned to Travis AFB and drove back to his home in North Carolina. Many Rangers have been honored at the Fort Benning, Georgia Ranger Memorial, but now we have another location where Rangers are honored for their combat service. Sua Sponte, Rangers Lead The Way!

John "Gunner" Starnes

Billings Gazette-Darrell Ehrlick

Veteran **Lynn Walker** served as a LLRP, or long-range reconnaissance patrol, during his time in Vietnam.

Lynn Walker served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972. He was a "LLRP," or long-range reconnaissance patrol. He graduated from Bozeman High in 1969. This is part of his Vietnam story.

Walker: "I wanted to make a career out of the Army. It was my intention. I enlisted in the Army."

Gazette: In 1969, Vietnam was happening. It's on the front of newspapers and news broadcasts. Did it worry you at all to go into Vietnam?

Walker: "No. It was necessary in the military if you wanted to advance in rank, you needed to have actual war experience."

Gazette: So this was it if you were going to be career military?

Walker: "It was the only war we had at the time."

Walker completed his basic training at Fort Lewis, Wash., then went to Fort Gordon, Ga., for advance individual training, then to Fort Benning for Airborne School, to learn how to jump out of airplanes. Then, he went to Vietnam.

Gazette: How do you learn to jump out of airplanes?

Walker: "You go through pretty intensive physical training, a lot of running, how to land, how to roll, how to absorb the shock. Then, they start you jumping off 40-foot towers and kind of slide off a zip-line apparatus. Then, they graduate you to a 200-foot tower that they have a parachute and pull up and drop you from. Then, the next step after that is put you in an airplane and fly off over the drop zone and kind of boot you out the door."

Gazette: Is that scary?

Walker: "First time out was pretty scary. Then, you're not free falling. You're static line jumping. Your chute is pulled automatically for you. After that, it got to be kind of fun. It was a kind of thrill jumping out of them. The planes themselves were old. They sounded like they were going to come apart at any time. You were kind of happy just to get out of them."

Walker received orders for Vietnam, assigned to the Americal Division. He landed in Cam Ranh Bay.

Gazette: What are your first memories of Vietnam?

Walker: "Heat and humidity. Being from Montana, so when we walked out the door and it was like walking into a steamy locker room, it was a little confusing, but everyone guided you to where you needed to be."

He went to Chu Lai after several days of in-country training.

Walker: "They were getting pretty constantly hit with 122 mm rockets because we were close to the mountains and the (North Vietnamese Army) would shoot rockets because at the time the Marines were there and they had their (F4) Phantoms and they were always trying to hit those aircraft with the rockets, but they weren't exceedingly accurate so if they landed inside the American compound they were happy.

"... The first time I came under rocket attack, I thought I was fast. I ran for the bunker, and it was already full when I got there."

Gazette: So where'd you go?

Walker: "In the bunker on top of everybody else."

Gazette: What do you remember about Chu Lai?

Walker: "Well, it was kind of pretty. It was on the beach on the South China Sea. It was my first introduction to — how to say this gently — sh-t burning detail. You go out and burn it."

Gazette: I've heard that's one of the things and smells of Vietnam that no one forgets.

Walker: "Yes. It was a very positive incentive to make sergeant because then you didn't have to do it anymore."

Gazette: What other sights and sounds and smells do you remember?

Walker: "Smells do play a big part. The Vietnamese hooch maids used a fermented fish sauce. I think it was called nuoc mam. It was very strong and a very distinctive smell. I never got used to it, but to this day, that's one of their most popular condiments, but it kind of put me off."

He had originally been assigned to work with mortars.

Walker: "So the LRRPs came around recruiting. One of the things they said is that you get to draw jump pay again. (They also said), 'We don't take mortars so you don't have to pack a base plate in the field.' I thought, 'Oh, that sounds pretty interesting.' I joined the LRRPs at that point. ... We went in six-man teams behind enemy lines. Sometimes, cross-border. And, my wife wanted to know if I could say that. I said, 'Yeah, we were declassified back in the '80s.'"

Gazette: The LRRPs weren't necessarily well known, at least in the public, did they tell you what you were going to do? Did you know about them?

Walker: "No. Never had heard of them. It was kind of an in-country phenomenon. After Vietnam, the Army did away with the LRRPs. The only thing that is similar to the LRRPs now is the Marine Force Reconnaissance. The Marines actually kept that long-range recon capability after World War II. The Army did away with it after World War II. So the original LRRPs when the Army decided they needed this function were actually trained by the Marine Force recon."

Gazette: How did they present this? Was it, 'Hey, you want to do this?' What did they tell you? Did you know what you were getting into?

Walker: "Yeah, and I'm kind of a little adrenaline junkie jumping out of the airplanes and all of that, plus they presented the challenge that first you had to get through the in-country training program. Out of the 23 of that started, only four of us went into the company."

Lynn Walker Interview

Gazette: Was it they couldn't make it, or was it self selecting?

Walker: "It was physical training that was severe. You were running up to seven miles with a 50-pound pack, a rifle and some water. Lots of map reading. Lots of demolitions. Lots of small arms training. It's essentially in-country ranger school. Then when I got done there, I had to do almost another month of training with the MAC-V Recondo and the Fifth Special Forces down in Nha Trang. That was actually multinational training. I was actually training with Korean ROKs and Thai LRRPs and different nationalities."

Gazette: Did you think you were going to make it through this intense training?

Walker: "There were a few times I got a little sick and little hurt, and I wondered if I was going to be able to. I just kept pushing on."

Both schools required a combat mission for graduation.

Walker: "The one out of Chu Lai, I actually got put in for my combat infantry badge on my graduation mission. I got off the chopper and there was chunks of turf flying up in the air and I looked at it and I couldn't figure out what it was and my team leader grabbed me and pulled me to the trees. It was the NVA across this ravine had opened up on us with a .51 caliber anti-aircraft gun. The bullets were getting there before the noise. About the time I heard the whoom, whoom, whoom."

Gazette: At any point did you wonder, 'What have I gotten myself into?'

Walker: "Yeah, there was a few situations I didn't know if we were going to come out."

Gazette: When you're doing reconnaissance behind enemy lines, what kind of support do you have if things go wrong?

Walker: "We had a radio. ... We could have artillery, although I was never close enough in to actually use artillery. Primarily it was helicopter gun ships. Sometimes if we were way out, it was Phantoms to get out to us, in which case we always requested the Marine pilots."

Gazette: Why?

Walker: "They were the best at ground support."

Gazette: After LRRP training, then what?

Walker: "Then I got picked to be on a team. Even if you went through all that training, it was up to the individual LRRP teams whether they wanted to take you in the company or not. ... If nobody wanted you, you went back to a line company."

Walker was on LRRP Team Tennessee. Gazette: What does a regular mission look like?

Walker: "We could only go out for five days at a time because we could not be resupplied in the field. It would give our position away. Stealth and silence were our friends. They might

know we were in the area, but they didn't know where we were. . We had strict noise discipline. We were completely camouflaged. The idea was for them not to know where we were. What I am always proud of, if you read and talk to the vets when they were on the base camps, they were always waiting and wondering when they're going to be attacked. We took the fight to them."

Gazette: You were always the aggressor?

Walker: "Our main mission was to find their main base camps and supply lines and ammo dumps and then call in the big stuff — call in the bombers and Phantoms and the gunships. We were only six men. We weren't going to shoot up an NVA division very much. But, we'd find them and we'd let the big stuff come in."

Gazette: When you found them, did you ever get satisfaction — if that's even the right word — of seeing them taking care of?

Walker: "Most often we had to get out because then they knew somebody was there. It was triple canopy jungle, it was pretty tough to find them."

Gazette: How do you find the enemy?

Walker: "Usually we'd go into an area based on intelligence reports. We'd have a general idea of what to look for. One of my first missions was where we went into an area where a Special Forces A Team, which is 12 Green Berets, completely disappeared. We went into look for them. We did not find them, but found lots of NVA.

"The NVA is all I ever saw, the soldiers, except for one that was Chinese."

Gazette: What's the NVA look like? They're trained fighters, you're a fighter as a soldier. What's your assessment of them?

Walker: "I had a lot of respect for them. They were trained soldiers. They were dedicated. They were very committed to getting the LRRPs because we did a lot of damage to them. We could find them when nobody else could. They sometimes came after us with everything they had."

Gazette: What do you mean by that?

Walker: "With heavy weapons and a lot of men. We were six, and there was times when we were completely and totally surrounded and the only thing that got us out was the gunships in time to get us supported.

"... I ended up walking point my whole time. We didn't change positions so I was a front (man). That's what I did." Gazette: Did that cause you some concern?

Walker: "That's where I wanted to be. I wanted to know what was going on."

“Cowboy” Lynn Walker Interview

Gazette: In Vietnam you don't bunch up, you spread out. Is that true for LRRPs?

Walker: "Yes. You're spread out enough to where if they throw a grenade, it's only going to get a couple of you, not all of you."

Gazette: They also had a name for LRRPs. What did they call you?

Walker: "'The men with painted faces' is what they called us."

Gazette: Can you explain that?

Walker: "When we went out we were completely camouflaged, even our eyelids. The idea was to be completely undetectable. We wouldn't even take a bath for a couple days before we went out because they smelled different than us. And our soap you can smell. We're working so close you can smell them."

Gazette: Must have been a fragrant group.

Walker: "Especially after we came back from five days."

Walker was injured in Vietnam.

Walker: "I came back very severely wounded. I spent more than a year in an Army hospital, so I kind of had some detox time."

Gazette: The second time you were injured, you stepped on a mine. How did that happen?

Walker: "I was walking point for a radio relay team. I had actually run enough missions that I didn't have to go out in the field anymore. But we were running preliminary recon for the '71 Laotian offensive, and we were kind of short-handed, so we had a whole bunch of guys who were new in the company. They thought it was relatively safe, a radio relay. They weren't even a regular team, but they needed someone to take them out who had some experience, so I volunteered. ... I was walking point, and I realized we were in a mine field and I was trying to get us out of it."

Gazette: How do you know you were in a minefield?

Walker: "It was very mountainous where we were and there was a steep bank, and it had been in an area where we had been in before, years ago but left. So they came and mined it after we left. I was trying to get us out of it and didn't quite make it."

Gazette: What do you remember about that?

Walker: "Flying through the air. Watching the blood squirting out of my legs and trying to get a tourniquet on my leg, barking orders at the new guys what to do and what to watch out for because I was the only one out there that had the experience." About Lynn Walker's story

Lynn Walker had one of the least well known roles in the Vietnam War as a member of a long-range reconnaissance patrol. Not declassified until the 1980s, these small teams of soldiers who often crossed into enemy territory for intelligence and observation.



Hunting is one of Lynn Walker's passions living in the state of Montana. He must have more than one freezer at home because he has one antelope buck, mule deer, and a calf and a cow elk in the freezer.

Editor Darrell Ehrlick gave Sua Sponte permission to reprint the interview of Lynn Walker, one of many Vietnam Veterans found within a large 24 page section of the Billings Gazette titled, "Vietnam Voices".

Darrel states, "Vietnam Voices has been powerful not because the Billing Gazette could create a series or print the stories in newsprint. It's been powerful because these Vets, many of whom received such shoddy treatment after sacrificing years of service, have once again demonstrated bravery sharing their stories. These stories were unflinching, unvarnished and told in their own words.

I have received so many nice compliments on the "writing" but really, I have only been the transcriptionist. These stories have been their own stories, in their own words. Instead what folks have attributed to writing has instead been readers identifying with the Vets' authentic voices and honesty.....

These Veterans all brought their stories, some not having shared these stories with anyone-not even with their own families."

Sua Sponte highly recommends the purchase of this series entitled "Vietnam Voices" printed on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2015 by Darrell Ehrlick, editor for the Billings Gazette.

billingsgazette.com

2016 \$30 Dues Renewal Notice

Please send our association \$30 using the provided addressed envelope within this newsletter.

Please make checks payable to: G 75th Ranger Association.

Should you misplace the enclosed envelope, send your envelope to:

Lynn Walker

PO Box 916

Livingston, MT

59047

Without your yearly contribution we wouldn't be able to send out quarterly newsletters in a timely fashion nor would we be able to continue with our website, among other things, to say the least.

Just because those of us who are a life members, and we appreciate that, doesn't mean that you can't contribute the \$30 for someone else who may not be able to afford it.

We are a 501 © (19) recognized by the IRS as a non-profit and the monies sent to our association are **tax exempt!**

The association whose members include the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRP, and the G 75th Rangers thank everyone for their generosity and continued support.

Happy New Year to all!

2016 Reunion Norco, California

The 2016 Reunion will be from Thursday October 6th through checkout on Sunday October 9th in Norco, CA at the Marriot Fairfield Inn and Suites.

A working copy of our itinerary of events and special coverage will be in the March issue of Sua Sponte. Steve Deever is the point man with assistance from George Merkel, and Frank Svensson.

Rates will be \$109 per night plus applicable tax



Reservations: 844-407-0718 or the hotel directly 951-340-4500
And be sure to mention yourself as part of the LRRP Ranger Association for the special rate. Cut off date is 9/14/2016.



HOTEL AMENITIES: The above rate(s) include a Hot Breakfast Buffet daily for all guests in this group, Wireless internet access, Pool, Flat Screen TV's, Microwaves, Refrigerators, Bus Parking, Business center with fax and Daily newspaper.

TAX: The rates are quoted exclusive of transient occupancy tax, currently at 11%.
Please note: Room tax is subject to change at any time without prior notice.

GUEST ROOM OCCUPANCY:

Please note that King Bedded Guestrooms can accommodate up to 2 people, and rooms with 2 Queen Beds can accommodate up to 4 people. Roll-aways are not available for our standard guestrooms.

RESERVATION PROCEDURES: Individual Call Ins.

Reservations may be confirmed by calling Reservations at 844-407-0178 or the Hotel directly at (951) 340-4500, attendees will identify themselves as part of the **LRRP Ranger Association** in order to get granted with the special discounted group rate from.

Any guestrooms not utilized within the contracted block of rooms will revert back to the Hotel's general inventory. After this date the hotel will take reservations on an availability basis and at the prevailing hotel rate.

In the event of a failure to show on the first night of the reservation, the credit card on record will be billed, and the reservation will be automatically dropped from the hotel system. Guests wishing to reinstate the reservation must contact the hotel prior to arrival. At that time, room and rate availability is no longer guaranteed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Hotel has a limited supply of guest rooms that are accessible to, and assistance equipment and aids for, persons with disabilities. The Group should advise the Hotel no later than 4 days before the arrival date. Group Guests who may require such equipment or aids and whether any additional equipment or services are needed. The Group or the Group Guest in question will be responsible for the costs of any required equipment or aid beyond what the Hotel has available.

GROUP CANCELLATION POLICY: If cancellation of this event occurs within 7 days of arrival, the **LRRP Ranger Association** will be responsible for one night's room and tax for each blocked room reservation.

Complimentary Parking to hotel guests.

CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT

1:10 PM
12/10/15
Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through December 10, 2015

Prepared by Lynn Walker
CPA
Association Treasurer

	Jan 1 - Dec 10, 15
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	2,175.00
Total Direct Public Support	2,175.00
Other Types of Income	
Concessions	278.00
Reunion Auction Proceeds	4,612.00
Reunion Concession Proceeds	1,535.00
Total Other Types of Income	6,425.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	2,175.00
Total Program Income	2,175.00
Total Income	10,775.00
Gross Profit	10,775.00
Expense	
Bank Fees	16.75
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	20.00
Total Business Expenses	20.00
Operations	
Concession Expenses	608.16
Postage, Mailing Service	370.46
Printing and Copying	1,668.30
Website rental	120.00
Total Operations	2,766.92
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	
Donations	500.00
Total Other Costs	500.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	500.00
Travel and Meetings	
Reunion Concession Expenses	761.17
Reunion Expenses	2,974.41
Total Travel and Meetings	3,735.58
Total Expense	7,039.25
Net Ordinary Income	3,735.75
Net Income	3,735.75

Is This You?

I would like your help with locating two G-75 guys for a guy who called me yesterday. His name is John Crowley and he can be reached at 609-729-9227. He was with the 198th and the 23rd M.P. Company in 1969-1979 and ended up as a door gunner on a Huey. In January or early February 1970 he was on a Huey and extracted four of our guys near FB Bayonet. He ran into two of the guys again at a Veterans Homecoming event in Chicago in 1984/85 ---- memory fuzzy on the dates. They exchanged contact information but he lost it. He wants to find the two guys if they are still alive and in the Association and look for some closure. He has some health issues. He is a "real" article because I was able to vet him through a former 23rd MP Company NCO. Can you place a couple of lines in the newsletter or email a couple of the guys from that period to see if there is a response? Let me know. **Joseph Meinike** jpmranger@woww
Take care. Joe

Current Balance Sheet Continued

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of December 10, 2015

	<u>Dec 10, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	13,835.49
Total Checking/Savings	<u>13,835.49</u>
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	<u>11,021.21</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>24,856.70</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>24,856.70</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	2,005.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,005.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,005.00</u>
Total Liabilities	2,005.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	-7,727.15
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	3,735.75
Total Equity	<u>22,851.70</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>24,856.70</u></u>

ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$25



email David "Chief" Moncada at:
meganmoncada@comcast.net



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"of their own accord"

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

www.lrrpranger.org

1971 Chu Lai, South Vietnam - Simms Photo



2016 Reunion in Norco, CA