



# Sua Sponte

www.1rrpranger.org

*Third Quarter 2013*

## 2013 RHOF

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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 Michael Chu, Editor. Address page 2, inset



Thomas Bragg



Chuck Williams

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**Sua Sponte** is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Michael Chu.

**Change of Address:** Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, 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



Paul and Babe are standing tall on Lake Bemidji waterfront. Poor Paul lost his male unit when the good ladies of Bemidji thought he looked inappropriate to the tourists. I was very vigilant standing near Babe and Paul looking for suspicious women with chisels. This is my last year as president serving a tad bit more than 3 years. I would like to thank the Association for their support and especially the board and officers of the Association.

The Ranger Rendezvous in Ft. Benning, GA was most enjoyable. Chuck Williams and Thomas Bragg who both served in our unit, Chuck from 69-70 and Tom up in Da Nang in 71. Congratulations to them!

I was invited to attend the dinner for the inductees and was fashionably an hour late because of two car accidents and being somewhat misoriented at Ft. Benning. I still managed to see Chuck and Tom there and had a pleasant time.

The next day, both were inducted into the RHOE at a ceremony that was also attended by Tom's family and friends, Chuck's Roberta and their two children and their spouses. Sitting together for the ceremony were members including:

John Sausville, Steve Grimm, Lee and Greta Kenner, Richard and JoJo Corkan, Danny and Marcel Jacks, and myself. I apologize if I missed someone else.

After the ceremony, there was a BBQ at Freedom Hall. A super time with the Ranger Battalions, 1st, 2nd and 3rd, WW11 Marauders, filling up all the hotels in Columbus; huge turnout! The 75th RRA sponsored a BBQ at the Holiday Inn on Thursday and D Company had a pig roast the following night. Had a chance to talk with Steve Lemire and lots of other guys who were with our unit.

While waiting for a connecting flight to Bemidji from the MSP airport I had a two beers. I was ready to pay and leave but this military guy who served with the 3rd Ranger Bat said he bought my beer after seeing my reunion t-shirt. Sua Sponte was the parting phrase.

Remember when you came back from Nam and how you were treated by others. I would like to forget and am still reluctant accepting a "thank you for serving" but I am becoming more used to it, especially if they pick up my beer tab!

I will continue working with our editor, Michael Chu, and will publish it from Bemidji as usual. Sit back and enjoy the featured member Darrel Wasson, the Chaney HOF for Valor held in Ohio, poetry for the 95 year old Marauder who was inducted into the 2013 RHOE on his birthday!

# FEATURED MEMBER DARREL WASSON

## DARREL WASSON FEATURED MEMBER

*Darrel Wasson is this quarter's Featured Member. Darrel is a civilian employee at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, NV. Darrel was the Association's on the ground coordinator for both reunions held at Las Vegas.*

\*\*\*\*\*

After high school I enlisted and went to basic and AIT at Fort Jackson. Then to Fort Gordon to visual tracker school, then it was off to Vietnam. I was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Inf div where I volunteered for K Co. Three weeks of recon school then out to the bush. K Co. stood down in late Nov so off to the 23 Inf. There me and Nat walk down to G Co, and volunteered. I went to team Texas. I think Nat went to Iowa. I left the Co. in April due to back problems.

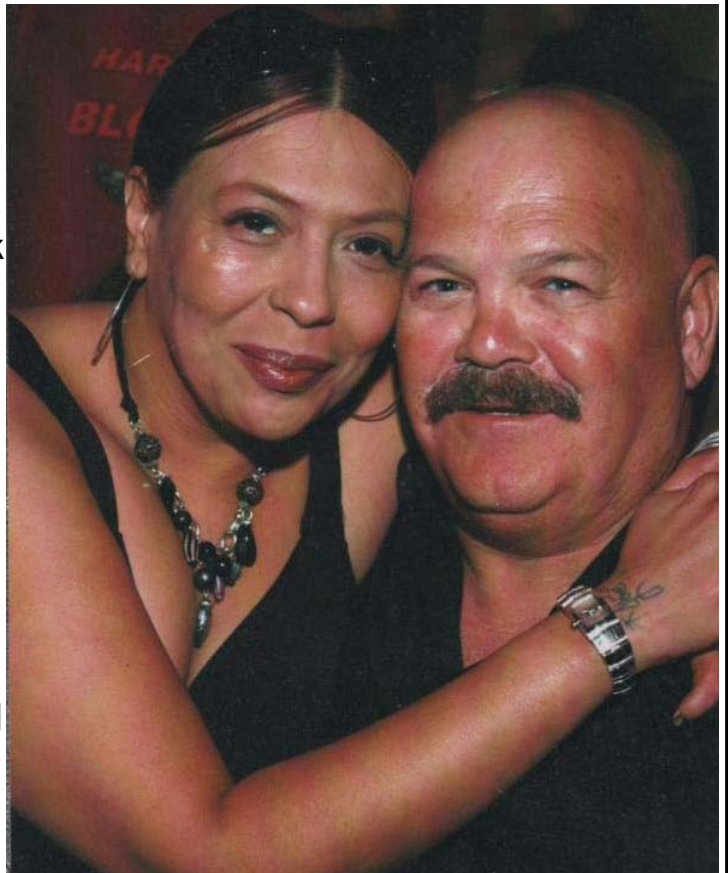
When I returned to the states I was assigned to Fort Hood where I met the first of three wives. The third times a charm. I have 7 kids between the three wives mine, hers and ours group of 9 grand kids and 1 on the way. I tried college after I got out of the army but it was not my cup of tea. In the first two years out I went thru 8 jobs. I think that caused divorce number one. From 1979 till 1988 I was a mess. Two kids in 88, one in Jan and one in Dec. I eventually applied for a job at Nellis AFB and I have been there ever since.

This is a great job. I get to work with these young Airman, teaching them what I have learned over the years working on vehicles. They teach me how to use all the new phones and tablets. I got to take my family to Germany with this job. Me and the boys loved it and had a lot of fun. Wife num-

ber two didn't go for it.

In 2006 I met (GLO GLO). Gloria understood me like she had been looking thru my eyes. She got me to go back to the VA. I had not been there since 78. I had a bad experience with them. But like all things, the VA has change and I am glad I went back. I go to anger management and PTSD class.

I look at my children and grandkids and smile. Life has lots of ups and downs but they make the downs better and the ups great.



*Darrel Wasson and wife no. 3, GloGlo*

# Captain Stephen Chaney Ohio Ceremony

## Ohio HOF for Valor

*Photos by Joe Meinike..*

This past spring on a nice day in May at the capitol in Columbus Ohio, former Association member, Captain Stephen Chaney was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor. Stephen was Executive Officer for the E-51st LRP's and later as a Special Forces member who lost his life on a mission in Laos. Even though he was severely wounded on a Laotian extraction, he made sure his wounded team mates were boarded before he was. He died in route to a firebase. Stephen could have stayed out of the Vietnam War by continuing at Notre Dame playing football, but he rather chose to enlist in the United States Army ultimately giving the supreme price of serving his country; his life.

The top photo is in Marion, Ohio at the VFW Post 7201 named in honor of our Brother who chose to leave no one behind.



In Ohio for the Chaney Military HOF for Valor: Left to Right: Joe, Jerry, and Bob



Stephen Chaney's Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor presented to Tim Lyons; friend

# Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor

By Joe Meinike

## Stephen Chaney inducted into the 2013 Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor

On May 3, 2013, Stephen Chaney was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor during the annual ceremony conducted at the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus, Ohio. The Lieutenant Governor of Ohio was present at the event and took part in the presentations of the Awards.

Tim Lyons, who grew up with Stephen and has continued to be a friend to members of the Chaney family, accepted the Award on behalf of the family. Tim Lyons later presented the Award to the family. A total of forty-three family members and friends of the family were present at the event at the State Capitol.

The day before, on May 2, 2013, Robert Wheeler, Jerry

Howard and his friend Carolyn, my wife Dinah and I, attended a reception at the Stephen J. Chaney V.F.W. Post No. 7201 in Marion, Ohio. The reception was attended by a huge group of family members, friends of the family, and Stephen's childhood friends along with one of Stephen's former high school coaches.

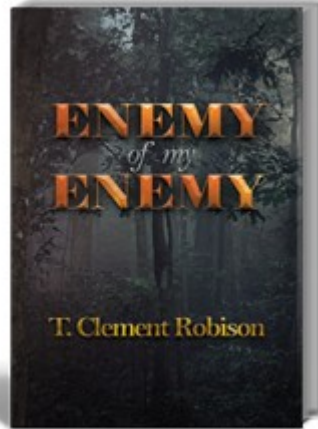
During the course of the evening Bob, Jerry, and I had the opportunity to chat with many of Stephen's childhood friends and family members. And I believe we walked away realizing that the loss that they have been feeling all these years is the same loss that many of us who served with Stephen have felt. Stephen is still missed by many.



*Top photo: Tim Lyons with his wife and family friend looking at pictures after the award ceremony at the State Capitol.*

*Left Photo: Bob Wheeler chatting with one of Stephen Chaney's high-school friends and his son at the Chaney VFW Post.*

# BOOKS FROM T. CLEMENT ROBISON



## Three Riveting Stories Of Vietnam From T. Clement Robison:

Award winning author T. Clement Robison is a master at bringing his readers along with him on one perilous journey after another as he introduces them to the physical and emotional trauma of war.

Using his own experiences, first as a decorated United States Army Ranger serving during the Vietnam War, and later as a defense attorney; the author weaves stories of danger and adventure that explode in realism off the pages in minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour detail.

Historically bold in their presentation, imaginative in their scope, insightful in their depth; these stories give the reader a new perspective and understanding of the damages that only war can inflict on both the mind and body of combat soldiers.

### ***Operation Duck Hook***

In an effort to end the Vietnam War, President Richard M. Nixon developed a diabolical plan and placed the United States military on the highest combat alert status while setting in motion one of the most dangerous scenarios ever conceived by a national leader. So dangerous that it could trigger a world war.

### ***Wounded in Action***

Based on actual events and set against the historical backdrop of America's longest war, *Wounded in Action* tells the compelling and gripping story of courage and determination of one of the Army's most elite combat soldiers as he faces the realities of surviving near-fatal wounds and struggles to overcome the life-changing devastation inflicted on his mind and body from the explosion of an enemy landmine. This is author T. Clement Robison's real-life drama of struggle and survival.

### ***Enemy of My Enemy***

Facing a military court martial for the murder of a Vietnamese soldier, Army Sergeant John L. Coletrane is offered a plea bargain if he agrees to return to South Vietnam for one final combat mission. The agreement would save him from the gallows but the near suicidal mission could cost him his life.

# Reunion Poetry

## Reunion

*Tom Reed, 2013. At this year's Ranger Rendezvous, Sua Sponte staff was given this poem by Vietnam book author Terry Reed*

No longer young, they are old men now  
With gnarled limbs and ashen brows  
Yet, they come together from places far away  
To spend a week, or maybe just a day

They gab of days a long, long time ago  
When they stood strong against a wily foe.  
They quaff their beer and sip their whiskey  
And tell of missions that were mighty risky,

Of the time they nearly lost it all,  
But fought on until the enemy's withdrawal  
And when outnumbered ten to one  
They were the ones that had to run

Before their banquet, as was planned,  
For prayer and pledge the old men stand.  
Then a roll call of those left in that far off land,  
Youths forever, who once were members of their band.

With each name limbs appear once more to grow,  
Skin to smooth, sunken cheeks to plump and glow,  
Cloudy eyes seem once again to clear,  
And time itself to ebb, year on year.

Once more together, yet alone in the crowd,  
Each old man stands straight and proud.  
Never do Veterans stand so tall  
As saluting lost friends with a "Missing Man" roll call.

# Robison's Nomination Letter for DAV Award

*By Stephen Crabtree*

## **NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARD OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERAN OF THE YEAR 2014 DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

SGT Tom Robison successfully led his Long Range Reconnaissance Team in excess of thirty missions in enemy territory in the Republic of South Vietnam. Although enemy contact was frequent, his team suffered no casualties. In February, 1969, as his tour of duty was winding down, he was preparing to return to the United States. However, due to his commitment to his teammates, and in order to ensure a smooth transition of his team to a new team leader, he volunteered to accompany the team on one more mission as Assistant Team Leader. During that last mission on February 6, 1969, an enemy land mine was detonated and three members of the team were seriously wounded; Tom being one of them. Regaining consciousness in a field hospital he discovered that he had been blinded; his left leg had been traumatically amputated; his right leg had been fractured in four places; he had several severe puncture wounds in his lower body; and upon stabilization, he would be undergoing additional surgeries. After subsequently being airlifted to an Air Force Hospital in Japan, Tom learned that his kidneys had failed due to excessive amounts of whole blood and the chance of saving his right leg were at best, minimal. He refused to accept this prognosis and refused amputation of his right leg. His sight started returning after about four weeks. During the next nine weeks, Tom underwent and endured no fewer than 20 major surgeries along with weekly dialysis. Tom was then transported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he had additional surgeries. His right leg remained seriously infected and on repeated occasions amputation was suggested. Each time Tom refused. He spent the next year on his back bed-ridden. His weight dropped from 175 pounds to 109 before his health started to improve. The physicians attending him advised that he would never walk again and he should begin to acquaint himself with a wheel chair. His focus, motivation and determination to repair his broken body to the extent possible and to resume a normal life are indicative of the special and deep character of this man. Eighteen months after being wounded Tom was able to walk from the VA Hospital under his own power with his right leg intact.

A year after he left the hospital Tom married Sharon Furtwangler, whom he had previously dated. He returned to college and graduated from Michigan State with a major in Political Science and a minor in History. During college Tom developed an internship with his local Congressman, Bob Carr, and worked in the Congressman's local office earning college credits in the process. After graduation, Congressman Carr asked Tom to consider relocating to Washington, DC, to work in the Congressman's Capitol Hill office. Tom agreed and worked in Washington for six years before returning to Michigan to attend The Thomas M. Cooley Law School. While in law school, Tom began clerking for Congressman Carr's law partner, George Economy, and eventually purchased the practice when Economy was appointed Judge. Rather than entering a commercially lucrative field of law, Tom dedicated his professional career to assisting the youth of Michigan. Tom practiced law privately for ten years during the 1980's. Through George Economy, Tom met another judge who then hired Tom as his court Administrator/Attorney Referee in Eaton County, Michigan. Tom has used his influence to have the records of many juvenile offenders expunged so they could join the military. He urged the use of the GI Bill for education among other veterans after their service. He helped build a juvenile treatment and detention center; hired the center's staff and directors; developed treatment programs; and maintained responsibility for the center (which is still in operation) for over ten years. He has raised over \$800,000 to develop a day treatment program for those not requiring detention. He has presided over thousands of hearings involving delinquent youth as well as cases involving neglect, and both physical and sexual abuse of children. In this capacity, Tom ensured that interests of abused children were always protected, removing them from unsafe homes when necessary and moving them to safer conditions. He has received the personal thanks of many whose lives he has touched over the years, including many youthful offenders who are now living productive lives.

# Robison DAV Nomination

## Nominee's Achievements:

Vice President South Lansing Lions Club  
President South Lansing Lions Club  
Sight Conservation Chairman South Lansing Lions Club  
1986 Lion of the Year  
1987 Executive Director, Great Lakes and Water Resource Planning Commission for the State of Michigan  
1989-1999 Eaton County Probate and Juvenile Court Administrator Attorney Referee  
1990-Present Corporate Council, G Company Ranger Association  
1999-2001 Court Administrator for the Michigan Court of Appeals  
2001-2007 Court Administrator Tuscola County, Michigan  
2002-2007 Adjunct Professor of Law Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
2005 Inducted into United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame  
2005-2007 Vice President, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association

11/01/2010 Authored: Wounded In Action  
09/28/2012 Authored: Enemy of My Enemy  
12/26/2012 Authored: Operation Duck Hook

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Crabtree  
President (2005-2007) 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association

Tom and Sharon Robison



# THOMAS A. BRAGG RHOFF



Ranger Tomas A. Bragg being congratulated by younger Ranger at RHOFF festivity

Master Sergeant (Ret) Thomas A. Bragg began his career as a Ranger in 1960 by saving a Ranger classmate Max Haney's life when Haney slid on ice over the cliff at Mr. Yonah. He excelled in combat water survival, demolitions, hand-to-hand combat, and bayonet fighting. As a Ranger instructor, he demonstrated in some of the first Rangers in action demonstrations and was one of the first trainers in the use of the pugil stick. Ranger Bragg demonstrated hand-to-hand combat skills and rappelling before President John F. Kennedy. He helped locate Gooch's Gap and helped build the original Camp Darby as the first NCOIC of Camp Darby, under Major F. Gunter. One Friday, under a threat from a health official to close down Camp Darby by the following Monday for lack of latrines, Ranger Bragg had eight four-holers set up and operational by the Monday deadline. He routinely accomplished what seemed to be impossible. Ranger Bragg was among the first to volunteer in forming Company E (LRP), C/75 Rangers (Vietnam). In 3 days he built a 50-foot rappelling tower. While building and training LRP's/Rangers, he had an accident that crushed 2 vertebrae and fractured his right hip. After 7 days, at his insistence, he returned to his company. Ranger Bragg was 1<sup>st</sup> platoon leader for 10 months with a broken back and hip, and leader in Company E, while his platoon accomplished over 75 missions and only lost one man. Even after military retirement, Ranger Bragg continues to serve his community as he often serves as a key leader in Christian youth camps, a Sunday school teacher, and as a leader in the Stalwart Leader in the Rotary Club. The Governor of Georgia appointed Tommy to the "Elections Board of Peirce County". In every endeavor he leaves his mark of excellence.

By Lynn Walker, CPA, from January 1 through July 29, 2013

# Treasurer Report

## Ordinary Income/Expense

### Income

|                                                         |       |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Direct Public Support-Individual Business Contributions | Total | \$315.00        |
| Other Types of Income/Concessions                       | Total | \$125.00        |
| Program Income/Membership Dues                          | Total | <u>\$460.00</u> |
| Total Income                                            | Total | \$900.00        |

### Expenses

|                                 |       |                  |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Bank Fees                       | Total | \$ 21.00         |
| Operations Printing and Copying | Total | \$1976.25        |
| Operations Supplies             | Total | <u>\$ 855.87</u> |
| Total Expenses                  | Total | \$2832.12        |

Net Income - \$1953.12

## Current Assets Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2013

|                                |       |                    |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Checking and Savings           | Total | \$18,484.40        |
| Charter Oak Capital Management | Total | <u>\$11,021.21</u> |

Total Assets Total \$29,505.61

## Liabilities and Equity

|                        |       |             |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Equity Prior Year      | Total | \$ 4,615.63 |
| Opening Balance Equity | Total | \$26,843.10 |
| Net Income             | Total | -\$1953.12  |
| Total Equity           | Total | \$29,505.61 |

Total Liabilities and Equity Total \$29,505.61



## ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS... Association Tee's

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Gary  
Bjork  
sharing  
his mili-  
tary tal-  
ents with  
his wife!

2014 Reunion to be held on Eastern Seaboard