

PATROLLING

Summer 2026 • 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. • Volume 38 Issue III

CONGRATULATIONS



Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees

★ Doug Phillipone & Pete Dencker ★

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RANGER MEET-UPS

Great thanks and appreciation to the Rangers who organize and keep these gatherings going!

If you know of a Ranger Breakfast in your AO that is not listed send me the date & time, and don't forget the point of contact so I can give credit where credit is due!

Mid-Indiana Ranger Breakfast Stan Jones (317) 966-0645	<u>The Dutch Cafe</u> on the <u>First Saturday @ 0900</u> <i>Across from the Main Gate of Grissom AFB - Peru, IN. 47714</i>
South Indiana Ranger Breakfast Larry Rhodes (812) 483-1387	<u>Roca Bar Restaurant</u> on the <u>Last Friday @ 0900</u> <i>4600 Washington Ave. Evansville, IN. 47714</i>
N. Alabama / S. Tennessee Luncheon no point of contact known	<u>Greenbrier Restaurant</u> on the <u>1st Saturday @ 1000</u> <i>27028 Old Highway 20 Madison, AL. 35756</i>
Raleigh Ranger Breakfast no point of contact known	<u>Big Ed's City Market Downtown Raleigh</u> on the <u>1st Saturday @ 0800</u> <i>220 Wolfe St. Raleigh, NC. 27601</i>
San Antonio area Ranger's & Special Forces Meet-up no point of contact known	<u>Rock and Brews</u> on the <u>3rd Saturday @ 1100</u> <i>5702 Landmark Pkwy. San Antonio, TX. 78249</i>
Middle Tennessee Ranger Lunch Michael T. Hall - (615) 815-4747	<u>Quinn's Neighborhood Pub & Eatery</u> on the <u>2nd Saturday @ 1200</u> <i>1010 Murfreesboro Road Franklin, TN. 37064</i>
Flora-Bama Ranger Monthly Meet-up Chris Rivers - mideastinf@aol.com	<u>Flora-Bama Lounge</u> on the <u>1st Saturday @ 1200</u> <i>17401 Perdido Key Drive. Pensacola, FL. 32507</i>
South-East Texas Area Ranger Breakfast Andy Connelly - rangerandy@sohk.us	<u>Honor Café</u> on the <u>2nd Saturday @ 1200</u> <i>103 North Thompson St. Conroe Texas 77301</i>
Fargo Ranger/SF Breakfast Ted Preister - preistero6@gmail.com	<u>Blarny Stone</u> on the <u>2nd Saturday @ 1030</u> <i>Address unknown contact Ted Priester for more information</i>
Ranger Regiment / Special Forces Link-Up Jonny Walker - jon_walker2@yahoo.com	<u>A.R. French's Pizzeria & Tavern</u> on the <u>2nd Saturday @ 11:00</u> <i>5833 Main Street, New Port Richey, FL 34652</i>



HAPPY 205TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

Hey Ranger Brothers,

Hope y'all are having a great summer doing what Rangers do best...I'll leave it at that!

Myself,

I have been traveling too much, but it's mostly self-induced as I can't say no. :)

After a trip to Hawaii for AUSA LANPAC and Tampa to SOF WEEK I joined fellow Rangers up in the north country at Drum for the 10th Mountain Division DCSM CoR Ceremony between Brett Johnson (former RSM) and Alex King (a 75th RR Vet).

Brett moved onto Bragg as the new XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS CSM replacing Bryan Barker, a legendary 75th RRA Vet; congrats to all and good luck in retirement to Bryan and his Family as well.

Go figure, both CDRs, MG Scott Naumann and LTG Greg Anderson are 75th Ranger Regiment Vets as well, today a common theme across our Army.

Then it was off to Benning for the 75th Ranger Regiment's (RR) Rendezvous and the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Congrats to RCO Kit Oboho and RSM Chris Masters.

Colonel Oboho heads to the G3/5/7 at the Pentagon.

Chris, another legendary Ranger, is retiring with over two decades of service during the GWOT.

He accumulated years of combat deployments, all within the RR, in some of the hardest fighting our Army has conducted since 9-11.

Good luck in the future RSM, you fought long and hard Brother, deserving of a peaceful retirement with your Family.

We welcomed in our new command team, RCO Armstrong, the former 2/75 CDR & RSM Lachnit, the former 75th RSTB CSM, congrats to both...the legacy



continues.

Also congrats to this year's 75th RR Distinguished & Honorary Members; see the list of inductees for the RHOE & the 75th D/HMOR listed in this edition; including our own 75th RRA RHOE Inductees, Douglas Philippone & Pete Dencker!

This year the selection process was tougher as inductees were reduced from 15 to 10 each year as planned all along once the RHOE President & Board felt we were caught up since it started in 1992; catching up from the Pre-Revolutionary War era to present.

After the Rendezvous I flew up to Alaska to join six of our 75th RR Gold Star Family members selected to summit the "Gold Star Peak" to honor their (our) fallen.

I was honored to accompany Tara Harris as she asked me to climb Gold Star Peak in Alaska to honor her Father, 1SG Glenn Harris, the B Co. 3/75 1SG for Task Force Ranger Mogadishu, Somalia (combat action now infamously known as "Blackhawk Down").

Glenn was KIT 4 DEC 2004 during a parachute jump with me on Fort Benning after landing in the Chattahoochee River; each family member can invite a Ranger who served with their loved one to ascend the summit.

You can go to Gold Star Peak, Inc. online to see related stories and photos.

The monument at the summit has over 800 dog tags of our Nation's fallen from eight years worth of climbs with a GSF member adding tag of their loved one to the memorial, a very emotional event.

A special shout out to one of our own, 75th RRA Member & RHOR Inductee, Jeff Mellinger, (Infantry Association's Doughboy Awardee) former 1/75 CSM & TRF Board Member for leading our way up the summit & the many times he has completed this honorable feat,





PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

RICK MERRITT



a man who lives by deeds more than words, a true Ranger for Life, RJMLTW!

Sadly, we've recently suffered a number of Rangers, active duty & Veterans alike, no longer with us as they have joined the Big Ranger in the Sky...you can see them honored by their respective Unit Directors on the association's Memorial Page of our website that our Administrator, Chris Borelli, is busy setting up.

On a happier note I just returned from speaking at the graduation in Fort Sherman at the US-Panama Joint-Combined Jungle School.

It was recently reopened by our SecWar ICW Panama since the closure of the US Army Jungle School in December 1999.

It brought back many memories as I got to spend a portion of the last day of the course with the students as they negotiated what is being reintroduced as the "Green Hell" Obstacle Course.

I have been to the 25th ID School; their Cadre are experts as well in Jungle Warfare and run an awesome course...unfortunately their Jungle School in Hawaii is missing just two things...JUNGLE, there is no TRIPLE CANOPY and NOTHING THERE CAN KILL YOU!

It was great to be back in the Canal Zone to see our Warriors once again training under triple canopy; and yes, the Black Palm & Killer Bees welcomed me back!

It was my first time back in 30 years since I was a Jungle

Instructor and Team Sergeant there serving with Rangers like Bobby Lane, Kenny Short, the late Dave Wilson & Kenny Wolfe...just to name a few I also served with in the Regiment.

We are considering holding our 2027 Bi-annual 75th RRA Reunion in April the week of the US Army David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition and asking 3/75 to host us.

As you recall we voted a few years ago to move our bi-annual reunions around between the Battalions; last year it was in Savannah at HAAF with 1/75 hosting us and three years ago it was held in Seattle/Tacoma/Olympia, WA at JBL-M with 2/75 hosting us.

In closing,

Happy 250th belated Birthday to the United States of America and thanks for all y'all have done for her, both in combat and as Rangers for Life.

For centuries the American Ranger has LED THE WAY fighting for the independence and preservation of our Nation...I SALUTE EACH AND EVERY ONE

OF YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE,
RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

V/R,
Ranger Merritt





WHO WE ARE :

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501(c)(19) corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

WHAT WE DO:

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the association ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Moore, GA Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per their unit schedule.

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger.
2. Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.
3. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish fellowship of the Special Operations ranger community by recruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members.
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Eligible Units

75th Ranger Regiment

75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units

1st Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf. - ACTIV 1974
2nd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf. - ACTIV 1974
3rd Battalion 1st (RANGER) 75th Inf. - ACTIV 1984
75th Ranger Regiment HQ Company - ACTIV 1984
75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion - ACTIV 2007
75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion - ACTIV 2017

Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

V Corp (LRRP) (LRRP)
VII Corp (LRRP) 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
9th Inf. Div (LRRP) 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
25th Inf. Div (LRRP) 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)
196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)
1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
101st Abn. Div. 1st Bde.

WWII Rangers

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions
5307 Composite Unit (provisional)

Vietnamese Ranger

Advisors BDQ
All units of the
Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

Korean War Rangers

Specific units to be listed

Long Range Surveillance:

Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was deployed to Vietnam.

Long Range Patrol

Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.
Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.

Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
70th Infantry DET (LRP)
71st Infantry DET (LRP)
74th Infantry DET (LRP)
78th Infantry DET (LRP)
79th Infantry DET (LRP)
Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry

75th Infantry Ranger Companies

Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.

Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

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Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are determined by the Editor.

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1986-1988.....Bob Gilbert	2004-2005.....Emmett Hiltbrand
1988-1990.....Billy Nix	2005-2007.....Stephen Crabtree
1990-1992.....Bob Gilbert	2007-2009.....William Bullen
1992-1992.....Roy Nelson (RESG)	2009-2011.....John Chester
.....Milton Lockett (RESG)	2011-2013.....Joe Little
.....1994.....Duke Dushane (APPT)	2013-2015.....Bill Anton
1994-1996.....Roy Barley	2015-2019.....Richard Barela
1996-1998.....Rick Ehrler	2019-2021.....Stephen Johnson
1998-2000.....Terry Roderick	2021-2025.....Art "Doc" Attaway
2000-2002.....Emmett Hiltbrand	2025-Present ...Rick Merritt
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75th Ranger Regiment Association

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Letter from the Editor



Rangers,

The Results of the Elections were announced at our gathering during the 2026 Ranger Rendezvous and Kurt Buchta remains our 1st Vice President, I have assumed the role and responsibilities of Secretary and our President has appointed SMG (Ret.) Brendan 'Duke' Durkan as our 2nd Vice President.

****Note that the association mailing address has changed please address written correspondence to:**

75th Ranger Regiment Association
ATT: name of officer, if applicable
P.O. Box 58575
Renton, WA 98058

Finally, I am looking for several Rangers to step up and volunteer as Editors for Patrolling Magazine. My aim is to build a team of Rangers who will each do some of the editorial work on the magazine. This is to ensure I am not a single point of failure. If you're interested in writing, publishing, layout design, ad design or simply want to try your hand at something different reach out! There is no experience or education requirements! The only thing you need is a computer and the willingness to learn (it's not rocket science).

We are also looking for members who will volunteer to sit on Association Committees. We need to staff the following: the Reunion Committee, to help plan and execute our upcoming 2027 reunion; Membership Committee, to help grow and evolve our membership to include all Rangers who earned the Scroll; Communication's Committee, to help develop, and sharpen the way we interact with our membership, through social media, email, and marketing.

I know there are thousands of Rangers out there who are exceptionally capable and can bring expertise, insights and ideas to the table and **we want you!**



I am sure you are aware that our community recently lost several Rangers. I'm going to talk about Ranger Hale, a young PFC who died during training at HAAF, however I feel the loss of every Ranger who has gone on to their great reward.

We are triple Volunteers! We volunteer for military service, we volunteer to be Airborne and we Volunteer to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment; the most demanding, active and dangerous unit in the military. This attracts a certain type, then it tests that person every day, demanding bravery, excellence and something ineffable - if you've earned the scroll and lived the life then you know of what I speak.

I may never have met Maxwell Hale, but I know him! We share an ineffable bond earned in blood and sweat that transcends times of war, times of peace and generations! I do not mourn for him for he is in a far better place, I mourn for those of us he left behind, for the loss of a strong, brave, hard charging Ranger! I weep for the Gold Star his family now carries. Within all this sadness and pride I find a small measure of comfort in the first line of our Creed: *Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession.* He charged forward into the most dangerous of professions. He did this bravely, boldly and with eyes wide open! Honor him as our Brother! Remember him and his sacrifice for he is legend!

One for the Airborne Ranger in the Sky!

Be happy, healthy, cherish your time in this world and look out for your Ranger Brothers!

Ranger's Lead the Way!
- Samuel Chartier



Engage • Join • Support

For those who Earned the Scroll



Some things can't be learned in school - it has to be lived



The Five Principles of Patrolling and the Christian Walk

Brothers -

You are holding in your hands or perhaps reading online a magazine aptly named “Patrolling”. Every Ranger immediately understands this term. Patrolling is the classic Ranger mission, and I feel sure the reason our 75th Ranger Regiment Association’s periodic magazine chose this name was because they recognized the term unifies Rangers across multiple eras of service in the Regiment. This organization was started by our Vietnam era Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRPs), LRP (Long Range Patrol) and lettered Ranger Companies. However, the term patrol or patrolling dates back far earlier, even to the earliest American Rangers in the French and Indian wars. Patrolling is a bedrock mission for all Ranger units. It is the mission or tool used to train and strengthen all Rangers. As such, we recognize Five Principles of Patrolling that I believe are also relevant to our Christian walk. The Five Principles of Patrolling are: Planning, Reconnaissance, Security, Control, and Common Sense. Each of these principles are necessary for effective patrols but they are also effective in your walk with Christ.

1. Planning - “Be Prepared” (Proverbs 21:5)

In the Ranger Handbook, planning is the blueprint for success. It means understanding the mission, terrain, and contingencies before you move. Biblically, Proverbs 21:5 says, “The plans of the diligent will always succeed.” So, just as a patrol leader prepares a realistic plan and communicates it clearly, we too should prepare our hearts, minds, and actions to do God’s will. How do we know God’s will—no real trick here just do the hard work through prayer, Bible study and study, and trusting God to direct our paths.

2. Reconnaissance - “See Before You Act” (Proverbs 15:28)

Reconnaissance means gathering information before confirming your actions on the objective. Proverbs 15:28 reminds us, “The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, but the eyes of the discerning see everything.” When patrolling, leaders do a map recon, at a minimum, before moving; in our walk with Christ, we “see” through Scripture,



prayer, and seeking wise counsel before making decisions. This keeps us from acting on assumptions and guards us from spiritual pitfalls.

3. Security - “Protect the Team” (Proverbs 18:4)

Security is always about safeguarding the patrol and its mission. Proverbs 18:4 says, “The tongue of the discerning will keep the mouth of the fool.” In our Christian walk, this means guarding our hearts from deception, protecting our fellowship from division, and ensuring our actions reflect God’s truth. Security is both physical and spiritual — keeping our minds and lives safe from harm.

4. Control - “Stay in Command” (Proverbs 16:3)

Control is about maintaining order and direction. Proverbs 16:3 states, “With the Lord, there is a way out of every difficulty.” In patrolling, leaders keep command and communications clear; in our walk, we keep our focus on God’s Word, our leaders, and our mission. Control ensures we don’t lose our way in the wilderness of life.

5. Common Sense - “Act Wisely” (Proverbs 14:12)

If we are honest - Common Sense these days does not seem that common. However for Rangers, common sense is the final check - applying sound judgment. Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” In patrolling, leaders use common sense to adapt to changing conditions; in our walk, we use wisdom to discern God’s will in every situation. This principle keeps us flexible and grounded in truth.

Closing Thoughts

These five principles — Planning, Reconnaissance, Security, Control, and Common Sense — are not just for the battlefield; they are for life. As Rangers, we carry them into every mission, and as Christians, we carry them into every day. May they keep us focused on God’s purpose, protected by His truth, and guided by His wisdom.

Rangers Lead The Way!
Chaplain Dan Knight



Ranger Dan Knight served multiple tours in 3/75, 2/75, and RHQ and has 11 combat deployments with various airborne and SOF units. He retired in 2017 and enjoys his time working with the 75th RRA, Three Rangers Foundation, and his local church. He spends his free time with his family and grandkids on his small farm in Star, MS.



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

BY TOM SOVE



We are proud to present the recipients of our 2026 75th RRA Memorial Scholarships. We sponsor three scholarships per year in the amount of \$1,500 each. We are thankful to the Rangers Scholarship Fund which provides all the administration work of collecting applications, vetting them, and submitting worthy applicants to us for final selection of our three scholarships.

The RSF normally awards over 100 Merit Scholarships each year and they are extremely proficient in this regard. There are a variety of classes of scholarship, generally for dependents ranging from offspring to spouses, but all applicants must have a sponsor who served in the Ranger Regiment. The Ranger himself is not eligible, as active duty personnel have other resources available for help in defraying education costs while on active duty, and veterans have the VA resources.

The RSF scholarships are awarded based upon grade point average, community involvement, leadership, and essay proficiency. The three 75thRRA scholarship recipients first receive a basic scholarship from the RSF, then our scholarship is awarded as a supplement. In addition to the total of our three scholarships, the 75th RRA is proud to also contribute



and additional \$1,500 to support the RSF efforts in awarding other scholarships restricted to the Ranger community.

The RSF honors service and sacrifice and does so by awarding all scholarships only in the name of Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment KIA, KIT, or who died in the line of duty while assigned to the 75th RR. Similarly, the 75th RRA honors service and sacrifice by awarding our supplementary scholarships exclusively in the name of LRRPs, LRP's and Rangers KIA or POW in the Vietnam War. The 75th RRA officers select the honoree randomly, and strive to never duplicate selections.

All recipients are invited to receive their awards in person during Regimental Rendezvous week at RHQ. At this time, they receive an awards packet and dog tags of their honoree. If unable to attend, a separate virtual meeting is conducted during which their supplemental scholarship is awarded. The awards packet and dog tags will be shipped to them. The actual scholarship funds are submitted by RSF directly to the educational institution of matriculation.

This year the 75thRRA representatives at the ceremony presenting the scholarship packet and dog tags were Tom Sove, Rick Merritt, and Kurt Buchta.

Our 2026 75th RRA Scholarship recipients

Scholar #1: Connor Cuthrel

Connor just finished his second year in Physician Assistant studies at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, PA. He is from West End, NC. His father served in 1st Ranger Battalion. He plans to be a PA upon graduation and is an accomplished musician, playing the trumpet for military funerals and ceremonies. Connor is the recipient of our Memorial Scholarship in the name of Michael William Lyne.

Spec 4 Michael William Lyne, from Fayetteville, NC, was a member of Company K (Ranger), 75th Infantry, of the 4th Infantry Division. He was a radio operator who volunteered to perform long range surveillance and patrol missions. He was killed in action on January 7, 1970, at age 18, of small arms fire, in Pleiku Province of South Vietnam.

Scholar #2: Ethan Sharp

Ethan just finished his first year as an engineering student at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He is from McDonough, GA. His father served in 3rd Ranger Battalion. Ethan plans to pursue a masters in engineering, then work in the engineering field. Ethan is the recipient of our Memorial Scholarship in the name of Johnny Howard Chapman.

PFC Johnny Howard Chapman, from Boise, ID, was a member of Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry, of the 101st Airborne Division. He was a mortar man who volunteered to perform long range surveillance and patrol missions. He was killed in action on August 20, 1971 at age 19, of small arms fire, in Thua Thien Province of South Vietnam.

Scholar #3: Zoe Berre

Zoe just graduated from High School and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall studying Computer Science. She is from Spring Lake, NC. Her father served in the 75th Ranger Regiment headquarters. Zoe is the recipient of our Memorial Scholarship in the name of Terry Ernest Allen.

Spec 4 Terry Ernest Allen, Canastota, NY, was a member of Company E (LRP), 51st Infantry, of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division. He was an infantryman who volunteered to perform long range surveillance and patrol missions. He was killed in action on March 4, 1968, at age 20, of small arms fire, in Quang Nam Province of South Vietnam.



SANDEE MARKWELL ROUSE

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

GOLD STAR ADVOCATE



They say to everything there is a season.

That has certainly been true in my case.

25 years ago in March of 2001, I started my journey as the Gold Star Advocate for the 75th RRA not knowing where it would lead me or the organization.

I could have never prepared for what lay ahead just 6 months later. The 20 year war. The 75th RRA didn't know either. All they knew was they wanted our Rangers families cared for way better than the buddies they lost in Vietnam were.

The years that followed were full of watching the families break and then assisting in any way possible, and watching them rebuild lives that once were centered around their Ranger, to ways of Honoring their Rangers.

Yes there's been heartache, problem solving, laughing, crying but most of all loving, if not everybody...lol, most everybody. Becoming the strongest and most unique family you "never" wanted to be part of a, "United States Army Ranger Gold Star and Fallen Ranger Family.

It is time for me to move on to my next project., be it working with a group of Gold Stars to stop the meaning of Gold Star pin and title from being diluted or making a trip to the farm in Maine that makes the wreaths for Wreaths across America. Where ever it takes me, I am excited to see what God has planned next.

To all of you that it has been my honor and privilege to meet and work with "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart for the love and support you have shown me over the last 25 years. Nobody does it better than Rangers and their families.

God Bless you always and,

RLTW!

- Sandee Markwell Rouse



Dianne Hammond, Sandee Rouse, Jill Stephenson at the 1/75 Ball



*Sandee Rouse visiting the Medical Museum
Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio TX*



*Dianne Hammond after her tandem jump at
Warrior Weekend to Remember.
Pictured with Yulia - Skydiver Extraordinaire*



SANDEE MARKWELL ROUSE

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



(left) Mary Kubiak, Ellen Comfort, Sheila Dudley (right) Dianne Hammond, Pat Merek, Sandee Rouse



Dianne Hammond, Sandee Rouse and Sheila Dudley Registering Rangers at the 1/75 50th Anniversary



Terry & Lindsa Dillan, Sandee Rouse
at
Warrior Weekend to Remember



Hannah Austin, Dawn Markwell and Dawn Markwell Benz receiving their Honor and Remember Flag



Random Jumps with SOCOM COMMANDOS
Sandee Rouse, Ellen Comfort, Linda & Terry Dillon, Tessa & Roger Dalke



Plaque of Appreciation given by Rangers from 1/75



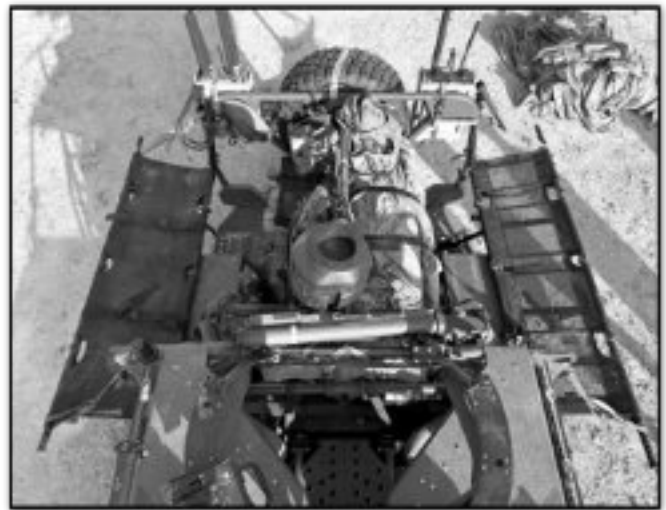
Battalion News

ISV Fielding for combat:

B Co implemented an innovative ISV configuration which improved the ISV's ability to fulfill the traditional role for a Ranger gun truck. The configuration pictured below provided firepower via the MG mount, multi-day sustainment, and CASEVAC, Counter Drone, and C2 capabilities.



ISV - Ranger Gun Truck



Rear view from the MG Turret



SPC Etienne Murphy Memorial WOD:

On 26MAY26, Bravo Company honored the memory of SPC Etienne Murphy by conducting his memorial work out and welcoming his family to 1/75. SPC Murphy was killed in action on 25 May 2017 while assigned to B Co, 1/75 in Syria.

Leader Transitions:

On 29MAY, we conducted the 1/75 Change of Responsibility from CSM Michael Wagner to CSM Brendan Lamport. We are forever grateful to CSM Wagner and his service to the Ranger Battalion.





Navy Helicopter Integration :

Bravo Company Platoons travelled to NAS Jacksonville to serve as the ground force for Navy MH-60R Seahawk pilots conducting pre-deployment evaluations. Rangers infilled outside of a simulated enemy area, conducted link up with a partner force and conducted GAF to objectives, integrating hoist MEDEVAC, close air support and joint asset coordination.



UAS Advanced Skills:

1st Battalion UMS Pilots executed UAS Advanced skills and collective training event focused on increasing FPV pilot capabilities and proficiency when flying in a tactical setting. Overall, UMS focused on the reception and initial skills development of new pilots.



Flat Range Density:

Bravo Company platoons executed ranges on Fort Stewart. BCO shot thousands of rounds through Glocks, M4s, LAMGs, and M240s. B Co Rangers honed marksmanship skills with their assigned weapons systems and cross-training on unfamiliar ones, increasing the collective lethality and knowledge of the force.



2nd BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

HUGH ROBERTS



Ranger Link-Up

This past April, former members of 1st Platoon, B Company—better known as the “Vatos Locos”—linked up in Las Vegas for a weekend of camaraderie, drinks, and the retelling of some very tall war stories. I am happy to report that, despite their best efforts, the city was not completely burned to the ground.

In addition to drinking and gambling, the Rangers joined the Las Vegas Ranger community for their monthly breakfast. Scott and Brenda Watson also hosted a barbecue at their home, where a great time was had by all.

The weekend also provided an opportunity to honor and remember the B Company Rangers who have passed on. Their legacy and contributions to the Ranger Brotherhood will never be forgotten.

Their memory lives on in the Regiment and in the hearts of those who served beside them.

- * LT Richard Carlin
- * LT Steve Hoagland
- * RGR Butch Ramos
- * RGR Bill Hazen
- * RGR Jim Simmons
- * RGR Delbert “Chief” Seaton
- * RGR Walter Rakow
- * Doc Warren Ford

Command Sergeant Major Bryan D. Barker’s 30 years of service reflect a career built on discipline, sacrifice, and exceptional leadership, with its foundation forged in the ranks of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Serving in one of the Army’s most elite formations, Barker learned early that nothing is given—everything is earned through performance, accountability, and the ability to lead under pressure. His time in 2/75 shaped his tactical expertise, leadership style, and unwavering commitment to excellence, instilling the standards of the Ranger Creed as a way of life. Those lessons remained with him throughout his career, influencing every unit he led and every soldier he mentored. As the outgoing senior enlisted leader of the 18th Airborne Corps, CSM Barker’s legacy stands as a testament to the lasting impact of the Ranger Regiment. The scroll he wore as a young Ranger was more than a patch—it symbolized a lifelong commitment to the mission, the brotherhood, and the standard. As Rangers know well, you earn the tab once, but you earn your scroll every day.

Change of Command

On 9 June, COL Peter Leszczynski relinquished command of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, to LTC Ross Daly.

COL Leszczynski’s command was highlighted by his leadership and steadfast commitment to the Battalion, most notably through his sponsorship of the Battalion’s 50th Anniversary celebration—an event that brought together generations of Rangers and remains a source of pride and reflection for all who attended. His leadership helped strengthen the Battalion’s legacy and reinforced the standards that define 2/75. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

To LTC Ross Daly, congratulations on your selection to command 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. You now lead a Battalion with a proud history, unmatched accomplishments, and a legacy forged through sacrifice and excellence. Under your leadership, 2/75 will continue to uphold the Ranger standard and achieve great success.



LTC Ross Daly 2/75 CDR
and
COL (r) Ralph Hagler [2/75 CDR 83-84]
(July 2026)

Command Sergeant Major (retired) Hugh Roberts spent over 20 years as a leader in the 75th Ranger Regiment. He was a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major and also The Regimental Sergeant Major.



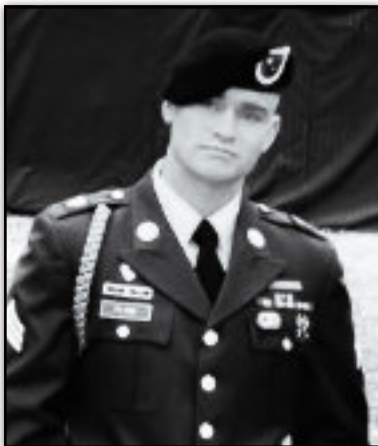
Rangers Can Do Anything

By Kevin Flynn

In 2002, not long after the attacks of September 11, the country was at war, the Ranger Regiment was moving fast, and young Rangers were eager to be where they believed they belonged: with their squads, on the line, doing the work they had trained to do.

Kevin Flynn was one of those Rangers.

At the time, Kevin was a young noncommissioned officer in 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He was motivated, capable, and committed to the men beside him. Like many Rangers, he had not joined the Regiment to sit behind a desk. He had joined to do Ranger things.



SGT Kevin Flynn

Command Sergeant Major Hugh Roberts saw something more.

As the Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Ranger Battalion, Hugh needed a Ranger to fill a critical role in Headquarters Company (HHC). The job was in the battalion's logistics section, the S-4 shop, and it required far more than simply keeping track of equipment. The position demanded planning, budgeting, coordination, computer skills, organization, and the kind of attention to detail that keeps a combat unit proficient and ready to move.

In Hugh's words, he needed someone who was "more than the average knuckle-dragger."

Kevin fit that bill.

There was only one problem: Kevin did not want the job.

Leaving his fire team for Headquarters Company felt, to him, like stepping away from the reason he had become a Ranger in the first place. But when the Command Sergeant Major asks, there is rarely much room to negotiate. Kevin pushed back, but eventually offered Hugh a deal.

He would take the job for one year. He would do it well. But when that year was over, Hugh would help him secure whatever assignment he wanted next.

Hugh agreed.

For the next year, Kevin served in Headquarters Company. He handled the work, learned the systems, and proved that he could operate effectively in a role that required patience,

precision, and trust. It was not the job he had wanted, but it became one more place where the Ranger standard applied: do the work, own the task, and make the organization better.

When the year was complete, Kevin walked into Hugh's office, took a seat, and reminded him of their agreement.

Hugh remembered.

He assumed the request would be something familiar. Maybe Kevin wanted HALO School, Hugh thought. Maybe Combat Diver Qualification Course (CDQC). Maybe an assignment with one of the Regiment's training organizations. Those would have made sense. They were ambitious, but they were still inside the world Hugh knew.

Kevin had something else in mind.

He told Hugh he wanted to leave the Army and fly fighter jets in the United States Navy.

By then, Kevin had already been accepted to Navy Officer Candidate School with an aviation slot. What he needed was not permission to dream. He needed help getting released from active duty in the Army so he could immediately transition into the Navy and begin the next chapter.

Hugh was surprised, but he had given his word. And to leaders like Hugh Roberts, a promise still mattered. He smiled at Kevin and said "Alright, bud. Let's go talk to the old man."

He took the request to the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Owens. Hugh made the case. Kevin had done what was asked of him. He had served the battalion well. He had kept his end of the bargain. Now the Regiment had an opportunity to honor its end.

The request was approved.

Kevin left active duty in the Army, reported to Navy Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL, earned his commission, and entered flight training.

Nothing about that transition was easy. Kevin did not come from a traditional aviation background. He had little previous flight time. He had not studied engineering, aviation, or applied science in college. He entered a world filled with students who often seemed better prepared on paper.

But Kevin carried something with him that did not show up on a résumé.

He carried the Ranger standard.

Flight school demanded discipline, humility, repetition, attention to detail, and the ability to perform under pressure.



2nd BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

HUGH ROBERTS

continued

Those were not new concepts to Kevin. The aircraft were new. The language **was** new. The culture was new. But the fundamentals were familiar: prepare harder than the task requires, take correction without ego, master the basics, and refuse to quit.

By 2005, Kevin had completed flight school and was selected to fly the F/A-18 Hornet out of Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, the Navy's West Coast strike fighter base.

For a former Army Ranger, it **was** an extraordinary leap. From the ground force of the 75th Ranger Regiment to the cockpit of a Navy fighter, Kevin had moved from one demanding warrior culture into another. Carrier aviation brought its own unforgiving standards. Landing a fighter aircraft aboard an aircraft carrier is widely regarded as one of the most difficult tasks in military aviation. There is little margin for error, and excellence is not optional.

Kevin continued to rise.

After his first fleet tour at NAS Lemoore, he was selected to attend the Navy Fighter Weapons School, better known as TOPGUN. He completed the course in 2009 and later served as an instructor at Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific, again at NAS Lemoore. The young Ranger who once had to be persuaded to leave his fire team had become a naval aviator teaching other fighter pilots.

Kevin remained on active duty in the United States Navy until his retirement in 2016.

But like many service members, the end of military service did not mean the end of the fight. After retirement, Kevin was diagnosed with multiple traumatic brain injuries. Seeking answers and recovery, he underwent treatment at a brain injury clinic in Texas. That experience changed the direction of his life once again.

Having lived through the effects of brain injury himself, Kevin made a decision: he wanted to help other veterans and first responders recover from their own traumatic brain injuries.



LT Kevin 'Meat' Flynn

He enrolled in school and is now completing a doctoral program in Texas, preparing for a new mission of service. The uniform has changed. The battlefield has changed. But the purpose remains familiar.

Today, Kevin lives in Texas with his wife, Andi, and continues to embody the character, determination, and commitment to excellence that defined him as a young Ranger.

To those who know Kevin and Hugh, the story is not just about one Ranger becoming a fighter pilot. It is about leadership, trust, loyalty, and the long reach of a promise kept.

Hugh saw potential in Kevin before Kevin's next path was obvious. Kevin accepted an assignment he did not want and gave it his best anyway. A year later, when the promise came due, Hugh honored it. That decision helped open the door to a career that carried Kevin from the Ranger Regiment to Navy fighter aviation, from TOPGUN to instructor duty, and eventually into a life devoted to helping others heal.

Hugh's recollection of the story ends with a simple phrase:

"Rangers can do anything."

In Kevin's case, that was not just a slogan. It was a life trajectory.

A Ranger became a naval officer. A naval officer became a fighter pilot. A fighter pilot became a TOPGUN graduate and instructor. A retired veteran became a patient. And now, that patient is becoming a doctor, preparing to serve veterans and first responders who are fighting battles of their own.

It started with a reluctant move to Headquarters Company, a one-year deal, and a Command Sergeant Major who kept his word.

The rest is proof.

- RLTW!



</picture caption >



By Randy Ramaglia

I would like to introduce Rangers from B Co. 3/75 who have chosen to volunteer a fourth time for the benefit of our community.

These Rangers are not interested in publicity through titles but in measurable actions that benefit our community.

All positions in the 75th RR Association are Volunteer and are largely self directed based on the time and attention individual Rangers can contribute. We understand that life happens, that family comes first but we also take these roles and responsibilities seriously. Each Ranger Battalion has a Unit Director, but that is one person tasked with organizing 40 or 50 years of Rangers – far too many to be reasonable. We have created new positions to help facilitate the expansion of our network at the Company, Platoon and Squad levels.

Bco 3/75 Director Roster

Company Unit Director: Randy Ramaglia

1st Platoon Coordinator: PC Dale Sizemore

APC (Associate Platoon Director) Micheal Kurth

2nd PLT PC Al Pertuz

APC: TBD

3rd PLT PC David Eastabrooks

APC: Kevin Mathews

WPNS PC John Maddox

APC: Adam Bittner

FIST PC Mike Goodale

APC: Rick Smith

We all leave the Regiment, but the experience never leaves us. Of the many Ranger Organizations in existence, there's only one representing the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Respectfully,

Randy Ramaglia

Unit Director Bco 3/75

Bco 3/75, 1991-1995, Task Force Ranger

Anne Arundel County FD, Retired 2025

Godspeed - RLTW

Bravo Company Platoon PD's and APD's

1st PLT PD Dale Sizemore

My name is Dale Sizemore. I served in Bco 375 from 91-95. I Spent my entire time in 1st Sqd. Being a part of the 75th Ranger Regiment made me who I am today. The men I served with and the phenomenal leadership within, brought most of us home from Somalia during Operation Gothic Serpent.

I believe I owe my life to those men I fought with and the Regiment as a whole. I have spent most of my career after the Rangers as an electrician and then as an Electrical Inspector in the oil and gas industry. I am currently the safety lead working at a Data Center in Fargo, ND. While my family resides in central Illinois.

I am as honored now, as I was as a private, to represent 1st Plt Bco 3/75 in this endeavor.

3rd PLT David Eastabrooks

David Eastabrooks is a Military-trained leader with 21 years of extensive experience in employee personal development, training management, and tactical operations. He has vast experience serving in the Special Operations community; served with the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment (Tier 2) from rifleman to Platoon Sergeant. He's a combat proven leader that served in multiple combat theaters of operations often conducting joint missions for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in support of Tier 1 units. Eastabrooks has numerous combat deployments to include operations in Somalia with B Company 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in 1993 (Black Hawk Down), and operations in Iraq, and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism also conducted a night mass-tactical combat jump to secure an airfield in Northwestern Iraq (H-1). He managed extremely stressful and hostile situations with ease while conducting wartime missions and is a proven leader and communicator within diverse cultures. He held several Instructor positions: was a Drill Instructor from Feb 2000 to April 2002 and was an Instructor at the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) from Aug 2004 to Nov 2007. Eastabrooks maintained accountability of government equipment worth \$70 million dollars. He's a graduate of several intense Army leadership development courses and retired January 2012 as a First Sergeant.



3rd BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

KURT BUTCHA

continued

APD Kevin Mathews

MAJ Matthews is father to Kevin “Dean” Matthews Jr. (18yrs) and Camille Elizabeth Matthews (15yrs). He enlisted in the Active Army from 1992-1996 in 3rd Ranger Battalion, where he served as an M60 Assistant Gunner, M-60 & M240G Gun Team Leader, and Rifle Team Leader as well as deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia as part of Operation Gothic Serpent from August to October of 1993. He left active service for higher education in 1996, and joined the Georgia National Guard in 1997, where he served as an Alpha Team Leader, Team Leader and 1st Platoon Leader as a SMP Cadet in Co H 121st INFANTRY (ABN) (LRS). He earned his Commission through the West Georgia University ROTC program and returned to Active Army as an Infantry Officer from December 2000 – 2005, where he served as an Anti-Tank Platoon Leader, Rifle Platoon Leader and S-3 AIR Officer as well as deployed to Afghanistan for OEF 2 in 1/505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was selected to serve in 1/75th Ranger Regiment as a Platoon Leader and S-5 Officer where he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. After a break in service, MAJ Matthews joined the Georgia National Guard once more in 2011 and has since served as a G-3 Staff Officer, 348th SPO Transportation Officer, 1160th Transportation Company Commander and G4 Operations Officer. He was promoted to Major in Fall 2021 and is currently the Commander of 175th Quartermaster Detachment (ABN) as well as GAARNG G4 Division Parachute Officer (DPO). MAJ Matthews has a MBA from Georgia Institute of Technology and BS in Criminal Justice from West Georgia University. He holds certifications as a Six Sigma Greenbelt and Certified Federal Contract Manager. He is also a graduate of the Combined Logistics Captains Career Course, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Basic Officer Leadership Course, Ranger Course, Jumpmaster School, Aerial Delivery Material Officer Course, Air Movement Operations Course, Primary Leadership Development Course and Infantry One Stop Basic Training Course. MAJ Matthews’ awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for Combat Leadership Service, Joint Commendation Medal with “Valor” device, 5x Army Commendation Medals, 6x Army Achievement Medal, 2x National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraqi Liberation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal, Good Conduct Medal, 3 Georgia State Active Duty

medals, Pandemic Relief Medal, Combat Infantry Badge (2nd Award), Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Aerial Delivery Material Officer Course (ADMOC) as well as Thai, British, Egyptian,

Peruvian and Honduran Jump Wings. He has also been awarded the Order of St. Michael – rank of Guardian.

WPNS PD John Maddox

I am John Maddox, appointed platoon director for Weapons Platoon, Bravo Company 3/75. I served in B Co 3/75 from April 1993 to May 1995. My entire time was in Weapons Platoon as a Gustaf gunner. During the first month of Operation Gothic Serpent, I was a .50 Cal gunner in the ground assault force. On October 3rd, I was driving one of the 5=tons in the ground convoy. I was ultimately medically discharged due to wounds suffered in Somalia.

After a long break in service, I reentered the Army in 2002 after some folks helped me out with the necessary waivers. Apparently, I am the last member of Task Force Ranger still on active duty. I have an anticipated retirement date of June 2027.

WPNS APD Adam Bittner

Brothers, I am Adam Bittner, honored to serve as the Weapons Platoon Associate Director for Bravo Company 3/75. I served in B Co 3/75 from 1993 to 1995 as an Anti-Tank Gustav Team Lead (Gunner). During that time, I deployed with Task Force Ranger to Mogadishu, Somalia, where I served as a rifleman on the Quick Reaction Force during the Battle of Mogadishu on October 3-4, 1993.

Following my service, I attended Georgia Tech, graduating with high honors in Electrical Engineering, and later earned an MBA from Emory University. I began my career at IBM as a software engineer and eventually transitioned into management. I have been with EY for 18 years, serving in various technology leadership roles.

I am married and have two daughters, aged 21 and 19.

I am proud to be part of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I reflect on my time in the Regiment daily; it continues to shape and impact every decision and action in my life.

**Are you
...of the Scroll?
Join the 75th RRA**



FIST PD Mike Goodale

I'm Mike Goodale, and I served in B Co 3/75 FIST from April 1991- June 1994. I had the privilege of being the FO assigned to 1st Plt for the bulk of my enlistment. As the platoon FO, I was part of Chalk 1 on Super 64 for the missions in Operation Gothic Serpent.

I've built a life around teaching and learning. Post-enlistment, I earned a B.S. in History, an M.A. in Military History, and a Cybersecurity Certification or two. Whether it was teaching 11B's how to Call for Fire, or teaching History to students and the public, or fellow employees about cybersecurity, my life has been about the transfer of knowledge. It's time we shared our knowledge with each other to challenge and elevate each other to uphold the Creed to which we all lived up to, and I look forward to continuing the legacy that we are all a part of.

APD Rick Smith

I am Rick Smith and I served in Bco 3/75 FIST from December 1993 to June 1996. I was the FO-RTO for Mike Goodale (1st PLT) and Raleigh Cash in (3rd PLT - JCT), then for a brief time FO for 3rd PLT. I feel honored to have served with all the men I served beside, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I live in Arizona and have spent most of my career in Commercial Insurance and Contract Surety, starting a scratch Independent Agency in 2008. During that time, I studied for and earned, many professional designations. After selling the agency in 2016, I was President and eventual sole owner of a General Contracting company that built and renovated VA Hospitals.

I had the privilege of being a close friend of Terry B. Roderick Pco 75th (Vietnam), Ranger HOF and long-time unit director for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. My involvement is to honor him and others like him who have Led The Way. I look forward to contributing to this organization.



OPERATION WARRIOR HOPE

33RD ANNIVERSARY

MOGADISHU COMMEMORATION & RECOGNITION EVENT

CLEARWATER FLORIDA - 2ND OCTOBER 2026



In 2022, Operation Warrior Hope (OWH) was founded with a single mission: **to confront the growing crisis of veterans' mental health and suicide.** For four years, we have stood beside veterans and their families, offering support, resources, and hope.



Historic Fort Harrison Clearwater Florida

In 2026, our co-founders expanded that mission with a deeply meaningful focus—**honoring the Rangers and Special Operations warriors who fought in Mogadishu, Somalia, 33 years ago.**

Honoring the Warriors of the Battle of Mogadishu

The battle took place on October 3–4, 1993, and was later depicted in *Black Hawk Down*. Nineteen American heroes were killed:

- **6 Rangers** – 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
- **6 Operators** – 1st SFOD-D (Delta Force)
- **5 Night Stalkers** – 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment
- **2 Soldiers** – 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (10th Mountain Division)



OPERATION WARRIOR HOPE

33RD ANNIVERSARY

MOGADISHU COMMEMORATION & RECOGNITION EVENT

continued



Since that day, **many additional warriors have been lost to suicide**—a painful reminder that the wounds of war do not end when the fighting stops.

A Historic Gathering in Clearwater

OWH is hosting the **33rd Anniversary Mogadishu Commemoration Event** in Clearwater, Florida, on **October 2–4, 2026**. This will be a rare and powerful gathering of surviving Rangers and Special Operations soldiers who fought in Mogadishu.

The weekend will focus on:

- Honor
- Healing
- Remembrance
- Brotherhood
- Recognition of service and sacrifice

- Completed rigorous training and deployed on repeated missions
- Saved lives and directly contributed to mission success

Since the U.S. withdrawal, many FTP members have struggled to secure permanent residency and rebuild their lives. Their service has not been fully recognized—**and we intend to change that.**

Our Goal

This event will be a **landmark moment of recognition, unity, and healing** for all who attend. To make it possible, we are launching a fundraising effort and seeking co-sponsors who share our commitment to honoring these warriors.

How You Can Help

We are partnering with:

- **CCHR Clearwater**
- **VFW Post 2550, Dunedin**

To bring these heroes to Florida—and provide **lodging, transportation, meals, and event programming**—we need financial support.

Every donation, large or small, directly impacts our ability to honor these men and women with the dignity they deserve.

If you are able to contribute or become a sponsor, your support will make a lasting difference.



Oak Cove Retreat

We are hopeful that all Rangers, Special Operations warriors, and their families will be able to attend.

Recognizing the Female Tactical Platoon (FTP)

We are also honored to welcome members of the **Female Tactical Platoon (FTP)**—Afghan women trained by U.S. Army Rangers who served alongside American Special Operations forces.

These courageous women:

- Conducted searches, questioning, and medical support for women and children
- Enabled U.S. forces to operate respectfully within Afghan cultural norms



Clearwater Florida



2026 DISTINGUISHED & HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT



During the 2026 Ranger Rendezvous five people who have given extraordinary support to Rangers, the 75th Ranger Regiment and to the Ranger community have been recognized as Honorary Members of the Regiment. While they did not serve in the Regiment these five people were chosen by the leadership of the Regiment and Ranger Battalions to be worthy of being Recognized as Honorary Members of the Regiment.



Eight Rangers were chosen as Distinguished Members of the Regiment. Their service in Regiment and afterwards has demonstrated that they will *shoulder more than their share of the task, one hundred percent and then some.*

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association offers our gratitude and congratulations to those who were recognized. Below are the pictures and short biographies as seen in the handbill distributed during the induction ceremony.



Honorary Member - Dr. David Williamson is a Neuropsychiatrist trained in Neuropsychiatric Medicine, separated at The Universities of Edinburgh and London in the UK, at Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He has been Medical Director of numerous programs since 2008. Dr. Williamson was recruited as Medical Director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Program at the Psychological Health Center Bethesda. He remained in the National Naval Medical Center through the BRAC process and the integration of Walter Reed on the Bethesda site. Dr. Williamson subsequently was Director of Behavioral Health at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, the country's second largest VA Medical Center. More recently, he was Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In August 2021 he returned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to resume directorship of the important Neuropsychiatry/TBI program. The program has garnered numerous awards under his leadership.

Dr. Williamson has numerous awards for clinical and academic achievements including Physician of the Year from the National Center for Behavioral Health in 2016. He is board certified in four specialties including General Psychiatry, Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry, Brain Injury Medicine, and Forensic Psychiatry.

Honorary Member - 1SG (Ret.) Kirk Alkire - Born and raised in San Jose, California, and a graduate of Oak Grove High School, Kirk enlisted in the United States Army, following in the footsteps of his father, uncle, and grandfather.

Kirk served in a variety of leadership positions and assignments within the Army across the United States and globally for 23 years. In his final assignment, he served as a First Sergeant for 15 months during the 2006–2007 surge in Iraq. During this period, Kirk's brigade suffered significant losses, with 53 Paratroopers killed in action, four from his own unit, and many more wounded in action. Kirk retired from active duty on September 1, 2008.

As a Department of the Army Civilian, Kirk served as a Department of the Army Veterans Affairs Advisor for United States Senator Dan Sullivan from Alaska.

Kirk is deeply committed to providing care and support to our Veterans, Gold Star Families, and service members. Regrettably, he personally lost 16 Soldiers who succumbed to suicide due to unresolved Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Kirk's unwavering dedication to supporting Gold Star Families and Veterans led to the formation of an unnamed Gold Star Family Memorial at Eagle River State Park, Gold Star Peak, and Mount POW/MIA. His petition to Congress was approved by the Department of Interior on February 8, 2018. In response, he established Gold Star Peak, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Eagle River, Alaska.

Kirk is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Angelina Orlando of Castroville, California. They have one grown son, Matthew.



**Honorary Member - Mr. William "Buddy" Bruser**

Born on Veteran's day in 1952, Buddy Bruser was the son of SGT Bruser during WWII. The Bruser family moved to Birmingham, Alabama in 1959, it was in Alabama that he met "the love of his life," wife Carol Bruser. Buddy and Carol Bruser, parents of Jennifer, William, and Brent Bruser, carried on as Buddy and Carol Bruser for 49 years before Buddy succumbed to sickness. Buddy exemplified his wife and children's institute to serve food at numerous Ranger Events, routinely called to check of current and former Rangers, and provided a place to rest, multiple Rangers and Ranger families a year to ensure sanctuary at the Bruser Family of their own accord while pursuing a trophy bass or trout, bloodying a broad head or award-winning cuisine, the Bruser Family of their own accord saw that Rangers needs were met.

In Buddy's final days, while surrounded by his family, he was visited by numerous Rangers. During his final days, Buddy was given the coveted Tan Beret by a Ranger and the following was read:

"For the countless prayers sent on Ranger's behalf. For the sturdy roof provided for Ranger's in need of rest. For the bed provided for Ranger's in need of rest. For the unwavering love shown to our brethren. For the example you will always be and for the standard you have set. For choosing us, I thought I had earned this beret Buddy, then I met you."

Honorary Member - Sergeant Major (Ret.) Justin Shaffer was born and raised in Denver Colorado where he graduated from Arvada High School in 1994. He enlisted as an Infantryman and was assigned to B Co 3/504th 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Justin served for 25 years across a multitude of assignments and positions including 3 different Scout Sniper Sections to include serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for U.S. Army Alaska prior to his retirement in 2019.



During his career he worked in 3 different Scout Sniper Sections to include serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for U.S. Army Alaska prior to his retirement in 2019. Assigned as an instructor at the US Army Sniper School, he is credited with helping to modernize the U.S. Army Sniper School. He's also a founding member of the U.S. Army Sniper Association. Sergeant Major Shaffer's unmeasured passion and commitment to the profession of long-range precision marksmanship led him to compete in the International Sniper Competition while assigned as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Ranger School's Sniper Course. This global event has become the world's largest competition of its kind, ultimately winning six different competition titles.

Sergeant Major Shaffer's accomplishments in uniform are only matched by his efforts out of uniform. Major Shaffer developed partnerships with numerous organizations across our service members, Veterans, and Gold Star Families. In retirement, he has continued his partnership with the 75th Ranger Regiment. In retirement, he has continued his partnership with the 75th Ranger Regiment and family loss of Rangers, healing the planet from the horror of combat. Justin continues to live in Alaska where he works for the Military and First Responder's Program at KUJU Ultralight, Inc. He successfully transitioned his platform to become a full-time advocate for the Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment.



Honorary Member - Matt Powell is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist who has served as the 1st Ranger Battalion's elite human performance coach for more than 13 years. Over his career, he has focused on optimizing physical readiness, strength, and resilience for U.S. Army Rangers, integrating advanced sports science with battlefield-tested training methods.

Matt holds a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Temple University and a Master's degree in Nutrition from the University of Connecticut. His work has included designing and implementing comprehensive strength and conditioning programs, performance nutrition protocols, and recovery strategies tailored to the unique demands of Ranger operations.

Through his efforts, Matt has helped countless Rangers improve performance, reduce injury risk, and extend operational longevity. He credits his success to the trust and commitment of the Rangers he serves and remains dedicated to advancing human performance in the special operations community.

None of this would be possible without the support of his wife, Chelsea, their daughter, Maci, and their dogs. He is also grateful to his parents and family for their continued encouragement. Matt extends his sincere thanks to all Rangers, past and present, who have allowed him the honor of contributing to their mission and readiness.



DISTINGUISHED & HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT

2026

continued



Distinguished Member - COL (Ret.) Brendan Dunne retired from active duty in 2023 as a Cyber Warfare Officer with 22 years of service. He held command and key leadership positions within the Special Mission Units, serving extensively in support of the Global War on Terrorism and overseas contingency operations.

Brendan served for over a decade in the 75th Ranger Regiment across RSTB, Regimental HQ, holding positions including Regimental Military Intelligence Company Commander, and S2. His leadership in standing up the Regiment's human and signals intelligence, offensive cyber, and critical enabling capabilities.

Brendan brings extensive interagency experience, having served as a deployed J2/JTF J2, and as the RU-SOCOM Liaison Officer to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. He later served as the Joint Cyber Operations and Squadron Commander for the Joint Cyber Operations Group (JCOG).

Prior to his retirement, Brendan co-founded Lovelace AI, a technology startup that delivers advanced solutions for national security and financial targeting applications designed to employ data as a weapon system across the USIC and DoD.

Following his retirement, Brendan serves as a public sector adjunct professor, teaching undergraduate courses to National Security Agency students.

Brendan is actively engaged in the veteran community as a board member of TF 7/294, a nonprofit dedicated to U.S. special operations and intelligence professionals. His children, Rangers Nick Goshen and Antonio Rodriguez, established the nonprofit.

A proud alumnus of St. Brendan High School, Brendan holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a master's from the University of Maryland, College Park. He and his wife, Rebecca, are the proud parents of two sons, Hayden and Andrew.

Distinguished Member - Command Sergeant Major Brett Johnson enlisted in the Army in September 1989, from Houston, Texas. After successful completion of Infantry and Airborne Training, Air Assault Course, and the Ranger Indoctrination Program, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.

CSM Johnson has served in every enlisted leadership position in the 75th Ranger Regiment including Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and First Sergeant. CSM Johnson's Command assignments include the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Regimental Special Troops Battalion, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Ranger Training Brigade, and Command Sergeant Major for the 75th Ranger Regiment. Prior to his assignment at Fort Benning, Georgia, and serving as the Command Sergeant Major of the Ranger Training Brigade, he was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, and is preparing to take his next role as Command Sergeant Major of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

CSM Johnson has completed all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System including the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 56. Additional courses completed include Airborne School, Air Assault School, Jumpmaster School, U.S. Army Ranger Course, and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (Level C).

CSM Johnson has deployed 19 times in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

CSM Johnson's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, seven Bronze Star Medals, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, five Army Commendation Medals, seven Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He is a member of the Order of Saint Maurice and received the Knowlton Award for Military Intelligence.

CSM Johnson is married to the former Candice Godwin of Savannah, Georgia and they have two sons, Kevin and Tyler.





DISTINGUISHED & HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT

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continued



Distinguished Member - COL Ben Hopper is a native of Indiana, where he attended Indiana University through ROTC. He received his commission through ROTC in 2001. He holds a master's degree in security studies from Kansas State University after attending Army Command and General Staff College and later the Army War College. He is married to a fellow Indiana native, Olivia, and together they have two children, Olivia and Avery.

COL Hopper has served in a variety of commands and organizations. Ben's active duty military career includes serving as Battalion S2 and BDE S2 in the 82nd Airborne Division. He has been deployed to both Ramadi, Iraq and Jalalabad, Afghanistan with Battalion and BLM. He has a variety of interagency experiences including at JIIM. He has served in the Joint Special Operations Command and Joint Task Force National Capital Region. He most recently served at the Pentagon as Division Chief to the Headquarters, Department of the Army G2.

COL Hopper has extensive experience in Special Operations. Ben first attended Ranger School and was assigned as BN S2 for 3rd Ranger Battalion. He served there until 2013 and conducted numerous joint deployments. Ben was later selected for service in the Joint Special Operations Command and served in the JASPO until 2018 and was selected by the Department of the Army as Regimental S2 for the 75th Ranger Regiment. Ben served as the first CSL officer to serve as Commander of the Regimental Military Intelligence Battalion. In his six years with REG, he was the first Military Intelligence officer to serve as the Department of Defense Battalion Commander. His numerous awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal and Joint Service Medal.

Distinguished Member - Joel Casey Starke enlisted in the U.S. Army on 9 January 2002 and served as an Intelligence Analyst assigned to MID, 75th Ranger Regiment. He completed 4 years of active service, including service with combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Parachutist Badge.



Following active duty, he supported Joint Special Operations Command as a civilian intelligence specialist supporting 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from 2011–2022 with multiple deployments to Afghanistan. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Washington and earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences in May 2020. He is a recipient of a civilian service award and remains a member of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He resides with his wife, Tanya, and their daughters, Reagan (13) and Quinn (9).



Distinguished Member - LTC Xavier Peña has been serving in the United States Army for the last 15 years, most of which has been in the Special Operation Community (SOF). After completing the Residency program, he was selected for the 75th Ranger Regiment and served as the Regimental Psychologist for 5 years. Following his time with Ranger Regiment, he served as the Training director with Tripler Army Medical Center Psychology Residency Training director time, he was selected again for SOF and served in a Special Mission Unit for just under 5 years. He is currently the Command Psychologist for the US Army Special Operations Command and serves as the Operational Psychology Consultant/Deputy Consultant to the US Army Surgeon General. LTC Peña received his Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology and Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from Adler University in Chicago. He has been married to his talented and successful wife, Laura, for 16 years and is privileged to be the father of two amazing young children Xander and Leila.



DISTINGUISHED & HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT

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continued



Distinguished Member - Brigadier General Jim (JD) Keirse received his commission as an Infantry Officer from the United States Military Academy. Brigadier General Keirse is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, United States Army Basic Airborne Course, Jump Master Course, Air Assault Course, and the United States Army Ranger Course.

Within the Regiment, Brigadier General Keirse has held the positions of Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Staff Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive Officer, Regimental Operations Officer, Regimental Executive Officer, and has served as the 3rd Ranger Battalion Commander and finally the Regimental Commander.

Additionally, Brigadier General Keirse has served as a Platoon Leader in the 101st Airborne Division, as a Company Commander and Operations Officer within the 2nd Infantry Division, and as the Battalion Commander of 2/503 Infantry (Airborne) in Vicenza, Italy. He is currently the Commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School and Chief of Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Brigadier General Keirse has served and deployed with 2nd Ranger Battalion, 3rd Ranger Battalion, and the 75th Ranger Regiment Regimental Headquarters. He is Ranger qualified, a master parachutist, a recipient of the Expert Infantryman's Badge, and has been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Brig. Gen. Keirse's education includes masters degrees from Stanford University and the Naval War College.

Brigadier General Keirse and his wife, Alexa, have two children: Hank and Ila.

Distinguished Member - CSM (Ret.) Bruce Rock entered active duty in February 1984 serving in the United States Army for 24 years, including 14 years with the 75th Ranger Regiment. During his career, Bruce participated in 14 combat operations, completing tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and five others.



In August 2001, Bruce was assigned to the 3rd Ranger Battalion, where he served as the BN CBRNE NCO, Squad Leader, and Platoon Sergeant. Bruce transitioned to the 1st Imperial Ranger Battalion, taking on the role of Echo Company First Sergeant. In January 2012, for his final assignment with the Rangers, he assumed the role as the Regimental CBRNE NCOIC, Headquarters, 75th Ranger Regiment.

After graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy in 2015, Bruce became the Garrison Command Sergeant Major of Blue Army Airfield, where he commanded several large-scale Ranger projects. Bruce retired in December 2010 and has continued with the Ranger Foundation, assisting both active-duty and retired Rangers. His military education includes Basic Airborne Course, the Ranger School, the Ranger Course, the Ranger Indoctrination Program, and the Technical Escort Course.

Bruce's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Ranger Tab, Combat Action Badge, and the Jumpmaster Badge.



Distinguished Member - Mr. Paul Goldean is a distinguished military veteran and accomplished business leader. His career began in the United States Army's 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he earned honors such as the Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab. He was recognized as the 1st Battalion's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and participated in operations such as Torrijos-Tocumen, Chalk 13 jump, and Operation Just Cause (Panama).

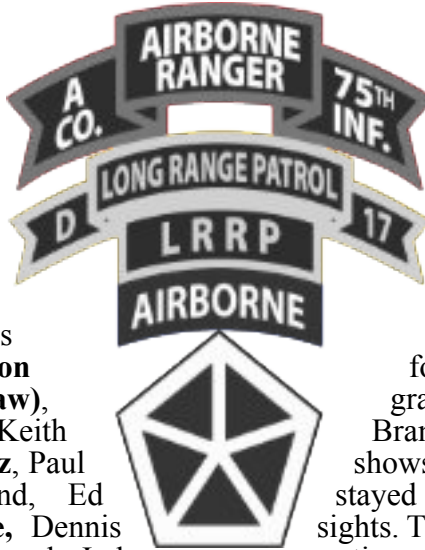
After military service, he earned a BBA at Southern Methodist University, graduating cum laude, and later pursued law review and international business. He rose to leadership roles including Chief Administrative Officer and CEO of Pace-O-Matic, an NYSE-traded company, credited with driving its success as a leading developer of skill games. The biography emphasizes his continued commitment to the Ranger Creed and giving back to military organizations.



A/75-D/17 LRP-V CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - STAN JONES

Well, the 2026 Branson Reunion has come and gone. **IF** you missed it, you missed a really great time. If my count is right and everyone signed the guest roster, we had 28 Rangers, 18 wives, and 7 children, friends and other family members. Attending were Bob and Olga Keehu, Pete and Debra Rothrock, Roy and Robin Bissey, Roy and Debbie Barree, Stan and Michelle Jones, EJ and Roseann Alexander, Bill and Noris Bowman, **Donna and John Pearson (Bowmans sister and brother-in-law), Joshua Bowman (Bowman's son),** Keith Bowman, **Tomas and Rosita Rodriguez,** Paul and Kathryn Rock, Chauntel Bland, Ed Thurman, **Kins and Maureen Wiltse,** Dennis Black and son **Dustin Black,** DJ and Judy Dejarnett, Tiffany Kelley and Jack Barsotti, Bob and Vanessa Roth, Rich Behrens, Don VanArsdale and Sheris Shaw, John Schook and son **Connor Schook,** Eddie Davis, Fred and Tresina Stuckey, Gene Gilsdorf, Butch and Debra Hancock, Felix Gonzales SR and JR, John Mikulak and son James Mikulak, Paul Akscin, **Robert Hall,** Ron and Cindy Witte, Leo Horton, **(bold 1st time attendees).** And our guest speaker and his wife. Gary and Barbara Linderer.



I've included a picture of most of the Rangers in attendance. Seems like some slipped away, shy, I guess. The video of the Memorial Service is on YouTube. As EJ read the list of 87 names, their picture, if we had one, was displayed on the screen behind him. Bob Kehue rang the bell after each name. This reunion had a different format than those previously in Waco. The Savell Ranch will always be the home away from home for A Company, and we will forever be in gratitude to the Savell's for their hospitality. Branson offered a lot of local restaurants, shows and things to do. Some came early, some stayed late and some did both to take in the sights. The entire reunion itself was held in a large meeting room in the Clarion Hotel, with large round tables to eat, drink and be merry, while sharing stories and just taking in the activities. Our rooms included a breakfast buffet, the reunion funds provided a taco bar for lunch on Friday and a southern style buffet for our dinner Saturday night, all cooked in the hotel kitchen and served in our meeting room. The hotel is locally owned, and the owner's wife took care of us personally most of the time we were there. It was preseason for the city, so we had the place mostly to ourselves.



A Co. 75th INF Group Photo

Members from the American Legion Post 434, Nixa MO. presented the Colors for the Opening Ceremony and played TAPS after the Memorial Service. Thanks to Pete Rothrock for arranging the Honor Guard. Ranger Bob Kehue was the MC for the day and did a fine job. Gary Linderer, Vietnam LRRP/Ranger and author did an outstanding job as guest speaker. There are several videos and pictures from the reunion on YouTube at:



Plans have not started yet, but I would assume from the feedback and we need more, that we will go back to the same hotel in 2028. EJ said he talked with a guest on Sunday morning that was having his unit reunion there the next week for the 14th time. HUGE shout out and Thank You to Robin Bissey and Judy DeJarnett for their work on organizing the raffles, name tags and other things that we don't see that make the reunion work. The planning committee would like to thank all those who donated money or items for the raffles and support for the reunion. It would not be possible, or we would have to charge big bucks for the same set up. Any thoughts or comments on this or future reunions, contact one of the members of the committee, Roy Bissey, EJ Alexander, Ed Thurman, Bill Bowman, Bob Kehue, Pete Rothrock, or Stan Jones.



Sad to report the passing of two Rangers:

Ranger Leo Harris passed away February 28, 2026. Leo was in HQ Platoon in A Co, having served 3 tours in Vietnam before arriving in A Co. A link to Leo's obit:



Leo Harris

Sidney Statzer passed away 4/9/26. He was a rigger in A Co and before that, he spent time in Thailand as a Rigger, preparing loads and sometimes delivering for SOG and other Special Ops in Laos and Cambodia in 71 and 72. His funeral was in Westfield IN on Monday, April 13th. I attended along with a lifelong friend of Sid's, Kenny Shaffer. Kenny and I went through Basic together and later, we worked 30 years together at the Post Office. Kenny and Sid and I would get together once in a while back in the 80's, but then Sid kind of dropped off. Funny story on Sid, he caused/forced me to get a new car. I think it was in



Sid Statzer

April 1980, Sid called and said another A Co. Rigger, Ralph Alvarez was coming to Ft. Harrison in Indianapolis for training and wanted to get together for a beer or 2. I picked up Sid in Noblesville and Alvarez "somewhere" and we did a little bar hopping. Dropped Ralph back off "somewhere", just don't remember where we met and took Sid home. I had turned on Sid's road, and he said pull over I got to puke. I said we are almost to your house. He said never mind, opened his coat and proceeded to puke all over himself and the back seat of my 1976 Chrysler Cordoba. Really liked that car, but could not get it clean, so within a few days, traded for a new Plymouth TC 3



Sid Statzer, Rigger 1974

hatchback. Not nearly the car the Cordoba was. Picture shows Sid getting into my 69 Judge with a busted windshield. We were playing softball out in front of the barracks and my car became the victim of someone's home run. Here's a link to Sid's obit:



From Ed Thurman: I just received this email from Danny Parrott a former member of D/17. In his original message Danny commented on the videos. I responded by telling him that I occasionally met with Dick Foster, one of his old teammates. I also told him that D/17 sure seemed like a great unit. His next response stated that D/17 was really a big "sperm bank." I asked him if that meant that they donated frequently and for free. He responded below. I thought that the insight he provided on his service was worth sharing with you. In his opening sentence, he was trying to relate that the news that someone's grandpa died would spread like wildfire....similar to the Rangers of D/17. We got around like a grandpa's dead. That's why there's so many weeds in the woods now ha ha. I plan on being at the reunion next year. I'll be 80 but I'm in good shape considering all my military entries in surgery said I've had. I'm 100% disabled I made 34 jumps in 23 months. I was a busy little LRP my first assignment was with 101st airborne. I was with them for about eight months, first battalion at the 506 after that, I was shipped off to Europe and other places. I worked in our companies operations, and CO was Captain Charles Wertenberger. Also, Captain Hart, Charlie was my operations officer, him operation sergeant, colonel, 173rd airborne three tours Vietnam. We were all a bunch of great guys crazy like most airborne rangers were in those days, but we survived, like I always tell people when they find out that I was an airborne ranger LRRP we all bleed, the same we all die the same but what separates us from other soldiers is that uniqueness of perfection and wanting to be the best not just settling to be a soldier. God has a special place in the portals of heaven for airborne rangers. His forgiveness is unlimited because we were the soldiers that made us a free world. Dan Parrott

There was an article in a recent AARP magazine about Lou Clason. I guess we can't copy and paste without permission, so here are a few highlights from the article. Lou Clason is listed as an SSG. In 2nd Platoon on our rosters. I have included a photo of him while in A Co. Lou Currently resides in the State of Montana. During



A/75-D/17 LRP-V CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - STAN JONES

continued

his 20 years in the Army, he spent almost 5 in Vietnam. He was awarded 2 Silver Stars, 5 Bronze Stars all with "V" Device, 4 Purple Hearts and over 14 Army Commendations. Something we might not have known about Lou, he spent 2 years in the Air Force, spending time in Morocco and Korea before joining the Army. SSG Clason was part of the Detail from A Company that went to the Johnson Ranch for former President Johnson's funeral. He recalls sitting in the rain and was invited to come into the kitchen and have chow and coffee with Lady Bird Johnson. Since retiring from the military, Lou has worked on a ranch with a friend working with show horses and for a travel agency.



Lou Clason - 1973

From Mike Theisen: In a recent phone conversation, he said after great thought they decided to sell their 3-story home on the golf course in Brooklyn Park and move to a single-story home. There is a finished basement, but Mike said that's for the kids when they come to stay. Mike says dialysis is wearing him out, but him and Karen are doing OK.

Talking about cars (in Sid's obit), how many of you wish you still had that.....?? I know I do, my play list would be a 1965 Mustang convertible with 289, 3sp, 1967 Chevelle SS, 1969 GTO Judge, 1970 Plymouth 340 Duster

That is all for now. Send me some stories. Do your buddy checks, someone needs a wakeup call.

- Stan

Stan served in Alpha Company From November 72 - July 74, then shipped to Berlin Bde., Leaving the Army after 4 years. He worked at the USPS for 35 years. He has 2 sons, 7 grand kids and 8 greats. He is in his 39th year as a volunteer firefighter and currently the Chief of Department. Current status - Tanker Driver. He hails from Indiana.

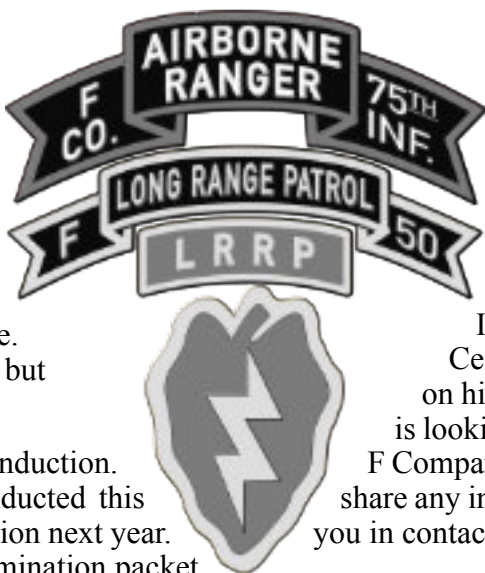


F/75-F/50-25th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - JOHN MCGEE

Just a quick article for this issue. Just returned from the Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning in late June. Company F had a great turnout as always. Our family always shows up. There was Bobby and Theresa Byrd, Bill and Lynn Eberhardt, Fred and Tresina Stuckey, Rick Ellison and Georgia Springs, Jim Freeman, Phil Davis, Joe Gentile, Ted Miller, Bob Gericke. George Timmons, Don Purdy and not but not least Ron Harrison.

Attended the Ranger Hall of Fame Induction. There wasn't any of our company inducted this year, but we hope to remedy that situation next year. I am in the process of writing up a nomination packet for one of our very deserving members.



The company is looking at our reunion being held in Las Vegas next year. Phil Davis is taking point for this operation. We will keep everyone informed as the plan develops. Time is taking its toll on our numbers, these Company reunions become increasingly important.

I was contacted by the Grandson of Cecil Hamm. He is a young Staff Sergeant on his way to the Wolfhounds in the 25th. He is looking for anyone who served with Cecil in F Company. If you served with Cecil and want to share any information. Contact me and I will put in you in contact with his Grandson.

John McGee
Unit Director

Major John McGee (RET) Enlisted in 1967 serving in Company F 50th INF LRP 75th Rangers 25th INF DIV. until 1968. He reentered the Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1977. Graduating flight school in 1978 began a multi decade career in Army Aviation that saw him serve in multiple command and staff positions until 1995. In 2006 John volunteered to be recalled to active duty for the War on Terror. He re-retired in 2008, then continued to serve as a DA Civilian at Fort Rucker AL until he retired, again, in 2015.



B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

VII CORPS (LRRP)/ C-58 (LRP)/ B-75 RANGER

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks...

DOC JEANS & DON PURDY

Doc called me and wanted to ask Don Purdy to get in touch with him. Don did so, and they had a long chat.

Don and I then talked. He reports that he is doing quite well, and quite happily on his remote acreage in Alabama. "The Purd" was my team leader at one point, with Steve Bump and Jim Coughlin comprising



the other members of the team.

I posted Doc's contact info in the groups on Facebook. If you are not on FB – email me for contact info.

PAPPY VOYLES / GREG PHILLIPS

I also posted Ranger Voyles' contact info in the groups on Facebook.

John Henry is still managing his own medical issues, as well as tending to his wife Jane's (as he is driving Miss Daisy hither and yon).

From: Greg Phillips: Marc, Thanks brother! I just hung up with RV, a good hour catch up call.

HEARD FROM (in no particular order)

Jim Reynolds, Bob Lund, Chris Christopherson, Tony Richardson, Stan Harrell, Mike Moser, Mike Herrin, Leo Starkey, Pat Fuscaldo, Tim Leadbeater, Joe Chetwynd, Dick Foster, Tom Forde, Kirk Gibson.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Since these issues of Patrolling are now published in the open on the internet machine, we don't want to compromise anyone's personal security, or encourage identity theft. If anyone else would like to touch base with someone, email, call, or text me, and I will provide you with the phone number (if I have it or can locate it).



SGT Pat Fuscaldo (Ft. Carson) 1972
(photo by Jimmy Horner, courtesy of Pat Fuscaldo)

PAT FUSCALDO

Hi Marc, It's been many years since I last emailed you. I will email you again with more detail if you would like. I was in 1st. Platoon May 1972 - May 1973. SFC Pappy Voyles was the Platoon Sergeant at the time before he moved to H.Q.

Sorry that some of the names are misspelled. If interested I found a box of photos (many had water damage). If you would like me to scan more please let me know. I have a few from Alaska also. I realize the scans are of poor quality. (EDITOR'S NOTE: am asking Pat to scan as many photos as he can).

An old quote from SFC Voyles: The 2 best combat soldiers he ever served with were SSG Sam Snyder & SSG Jerry Roberts (both with the 1st. Platoon). I know Sam has passed but he truly was a good man. He roomed with a Staff Sergeant Mike Kinnear. Sam hated running the hill in P.T. but he never quit. (Unit Director's NOTE: Mike Kinnear was also previously from CCN. Sam had been with the Mike Force for CCN. As an aside – if you never hung out at Sam and Mike's apartment, you missed a great opportunity to hang out with them... AND their python. Somehow that snake never managed to stay in its "aquarium". It loved to hang out on the back of the sofa).

Front doorway of 1st PLT. 1972



SSG Karrel & Sam Snyder with Dayroom in the background 1972
(photo courtesy of Pat Fuscaldo)



B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

continued

Jerry Roberts was also one good man as were almost all of B. Co. Sam took over (temporarily) as Platoon Sgt. when Pappy moved to H.Q. Then SFC Ocenas (sp.?) took over. Another good man.

Yes I remember DOC Wentzel! I slept under his truck the night of the BEAR. I think **The Bear grew over the years** (to many people). I remember **it was maybe the size of a big Rottweiler**. Maybe I'm wrong, **but I don't think so**.

FROM ALASKA:

For the photos: you know the invitation is there for more photos. I have 2 photos of my patrol from First Platoon capturing a patrol from the Second Platoon on the Pikes Peak Reservation.



*Do you remember these cards???
Alaska 1973
(photo courtesy of Pat Fuscaldo)*

TIM LEADBETTER – NEW BOOK

A NARRATIVE ON HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH:

I just finished building the website for my book “Second Summit: the Stronger Half of Life”. I still have more editing to do before I send the book to a publisher to see if they are interested. The target audience is men between 45-75. Building the website has been very time consuming but I’ve learned a lot including how to use AI’s like Gemini, Claude and Grok to build a website.

Change in subtitle of my book Second Summit (31 May 2026)

Things percolate with time (and patience) and usually in a good way. I have changed the title of my book from “Second Summit: the Stronger half of Life” to “Second Summit: Keep Climbing” which is more succinct and better captures the thesis. I’ve also made several more revisions to the book.

Cheers my friends and “Keep Climbing”

P.S. No comments or reviews needed or expected. I am exploring publishing options including self-publishing.

“Second Summit” (A Memoir and a Blueprint) Status Update (9 May 2026)

I had a phone conference with a representative of Amplify Publishing this past Wednesday and submitted my manuscript to them for consideration. The book is a memoir and a blueprint for those who may benefit from my “lessons learned”. Self publishing with Amazon is also an option. At

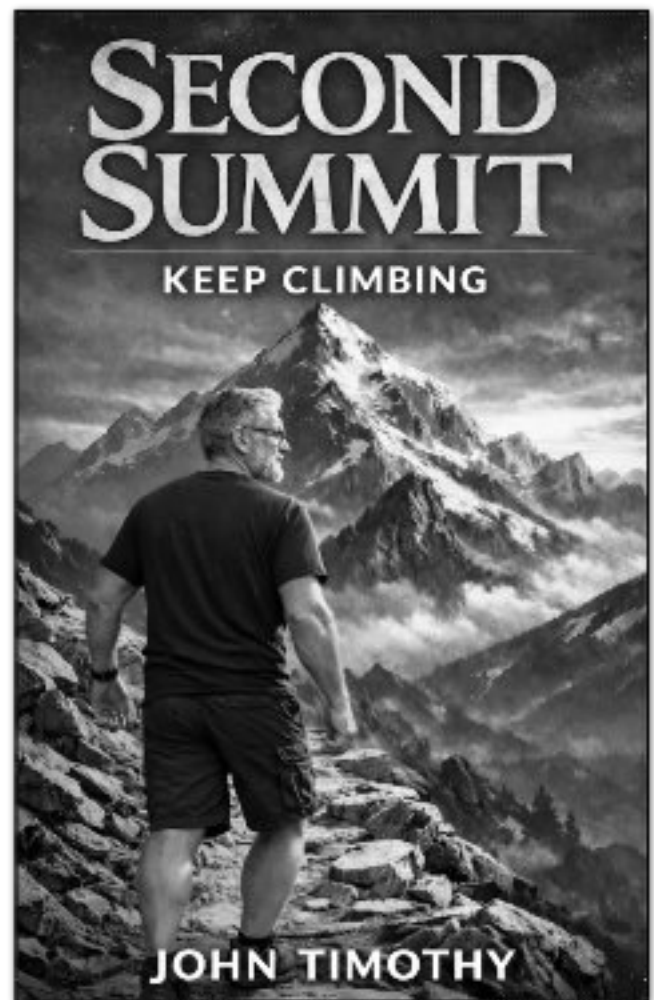
(Unit Director's NOTE: Pat also has other photos which I will try to publish both here and in the Facebook groups.)

The Best,
RLTW
Pat Fuscaldo



Unit Director's NOTE:
Pat also has other photos which I will try to publish both here and in the Facebook groups.

*Simpkins & James
'Jimmie' Horner
Backdoor of 1st PLT.
1973
(photo courtesy of Pat
Fuscaldo)*



*Tim's Book 'Second Summit'
(courtesy of Tim Leadbeater)*



B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

continued

this point, I can recommend the exercise of writing a memoir even if it will only be read by the author and family members. Call it a delayed diary with the risks of "false memories". No comments or feedback expected even if you do read parts of it or skim it. My favorite parts are chapter 2 (about motorcycling two-up with my Uncle Reg in his final years) and chapter 3 (about Doug Traxler saving me from a life of pressure cleaning roofs in south Florida), and the end matter titled "The Super Summit" about my wife Barbara.

Second Summit Final Manuscript (20 May 2026)

This is what I'm submitting to the publisher. Yesterday, I had Claude AI do the proofreading and edits for clarity, style, and phrasing which saved me about \$8,000 versus what it would have cost if I had hired someone to do that. I had Google's Gemini AI create the cover using a "cover design brief" produced by Claude. That would have cost another \$4000. These cost savings are based on part of the quote I received from a publisher, Amplify Publishing Group. With the help of

LLMs like Anthropic's Claude and Google's Gemini, and my own experience as a retired lawyer, I've determined that I can manage this book project on my own saving about \$40,000 by self publishing on platforms like Amazon's KDP and managing the marketing piece myself.

Although the idea for this book has been percolating for a while, the time I've had available since early March with the loss of use of our Cirrus SR22 G7+, gave me the space needed to put it to paper. With the plane hopefully returning to service in early June, the timing appears fortuitous, if not by design. I'll take it either way.

Keep climbing!

Cheers!

Tim (aka "John Timothy")

www.secondsummitbook.com

That's all I can fit in the allotted space with the photos included, gentlemen. Will try to get more in next time.

Stay safe & stay healthy... To Absent Friends:

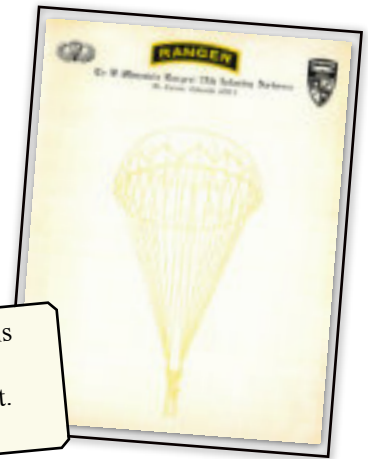
Until next time...

V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

*B75 Company Letterhead
(photo courtesy of Pat Fuscaldo)*

Unit Director's NOTE: I converted this jpg file to PDF in 8.5x11 format – available to anyone who wants to use it. Let me know.



Originally from Colorado, Marc Thompson now calls Pennsylvania home. He served in B Company Rangers from 72-74, was an 'original' NCO of 1st Ranger Battalion and served in other airborne, special operations and infantry units. He attended Tufts University earning a BA in Political Science and History. He is the CEO Thompson Technologies and has been the UD since 2004.



**is someone you know
...of the Scroll?**

**Scan the QR code with your
phone's Camera to join
The 75th Ranger Regiment Association**





BACK TO BENNING BY BUS

(June 22nd to June 26, 2026.)

Great opportunity for D Company Indiana Rangers to go back to the place where it all started. May 10, 1968, to December 27, 1968. Jump School, Ranger School, Pathfinder School, and many other instructive opportunities for preparation for deployment to Vietnam.

Our Indiana friend of the Rangers, Army Veteran, Dave (HoHo) Hoeheimer, arranged the FREE bus transportation provided by Free Enterprise Bus Service from Jeffersonville IN. Our drivers Dale and Charlie were very professional and friendly.



D151 Rangers on their 'appropriately' sized transport

City AL. The cost of the rooms was covered by donations from three Groups in Evansville.

Here is a list of what we did attempting to get the most out of our 3.5 days at Ft Benning.

Victory Pond demonstration of Rangers inserted by Black Hawk and Chinook. Lunch with the families of the Rangers.



We arrived just in time Monday evening to have barbecue dinner with our man on the ground and host, Ranger Kurt Buchta, before checking in at the Marriott in Phenix

City AL. The cost of the rooms was covered by donations from three Groups in Evansville.



B Co. 3/75 Memorial Bar



D151 LRRPS at Ruth Anns, The Columbus breakfast diner!

Real Southern style Breakfast at Ruth Ann's. (so good we ate there twice)

Drive by inspection of Ground Week at the Airborne school.

Special permission to enter the Compound of the 3rd Ranger Battalion Headquarters. A visit to the Ready Rooms and Arms Room. Many weapons including the new XM8 Carbine firing a hybrid case 6.8mm Caliber round.

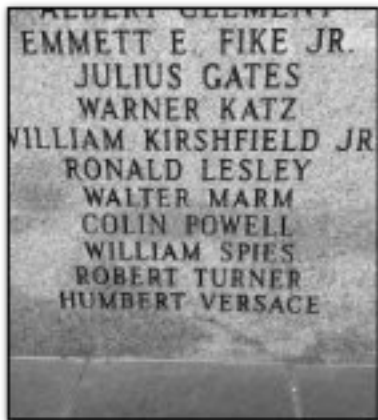
A special visit to the upstairs private bar established by the daughter of 1Sgt Glenn Harris who drowned in a training jump landing in the Chattahoochee River on Dec 4, 1994. Tara Harris, who was only 9 years old at the time of his death, has been



D/151st - LRP / LRS

UNIT DIRECTOR - C. LARRY RHODES

A visit to the Ranger Memorial locating some of unit's members stones.



*National Ranger Memorial
Ft. Benning Georgia*

The Ranger Hall of Fame 2026 Induction Presentation.

A tour of Kelly Hill--our old 2 story block barracks are long gone

replaced by 3 story dormitory like barracks. some of the Admin buildings up where the gym and small PX still remain and still painted same yellow color.

A visit to the National Infantry Museum. Sorry to say Ted Dunn's homecoming photo is no longer on display, but we did locate and copy of the Indiana Rangers in Vietnam print, but no reference to Company D. Curt Hester and Billy Faulks in contact photo were displayed with no names.



The main event was a visit to Camp Butler Army National Guard Warrior Training Center Brigade. His legacy lives on with leaders of training facility, especially Thomas Siter who was there from day one as an CSM and now as a Deputy Commander GS-15 civilian. Several Army specialties are taught members of the National Guard.



Camp Butler

Friday was the Change of Command Ceremony, and we were fortunate to meet both of the Colonels.



*D151 LRRPS and the Commander & RCSM
of the
75th Ranger Regiment*

No tour of southern highways would be complete without a stop at Buc-ee's. We had Friday lunch on the way back to Indiana. We had what was for most of us, the last trip to the School for Boys.

Airborne Rangers forever!!

More D151 on following page!



***EDITOR'S NOTE:** Content was missing in the previous issues's article about Ted Dunn. I have included a reprint with images that should have been included before.

Ted Dunn joined the Indiana National Guard immediately after graduating from high school in 1964. He served two years on active army duty and five years in active guard duty.

He married Karen in 1965, and three weeks later, he left for basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. This was followed by AIT at Ft. Dix, NJ. After six months, he returned to his guard unit in Winchester, only to learn he had been transferred to the Muncie unit of Company D LRRP 151 Inf.



Ted Dunn equipped for missions in the Jungles of Vietnam

In July 1967, Ted joined the rest of the unit at jump school. Then, in March 1968, he attended Jungle School in the Panama Canal Zone. He was called to active duty in May 1968, along with 212 other members of D 151. The next six months were filled with patrolling techniques, airborne operations, and three weeks of RIP at Ranger School before deploying to Vietnam in December 1968.

Ted initially served as a first platoon RTO and Assistant Team Leader. In August 1969, he became a team leader after Sgt Robert G

White was injured. Ted served with several teams, including team members Billy and Dave Waters, Jim Rose, Gene Hendricks, Ed Kelly, and Jim Stover. He took over as the team leader of Ranger 1-1 in August 1969, following several early departures for college. He completed 33 missions with 10 contacts.

His most memorable contact occurred with Jim Rose and a heavy team of 12. Jim and Gary Porter were scouting for an ambush site when they walked into a VC trap. Vic Vicario intervened with his M60, allowing the team to conduct a sweep and encounter a base camp with several bunkers and tunnels. Despite throwing in grenades, the results were unclear. One Cobra helicopter provided cover while the team extracted to the LZ.

Eventually, it was time for the company to stand down and hand over operations to Co D 75th Rangers. D 151 moved to

a holding area at Binh Hoa airport, with about 70 men remaining from the original 212. They spent three weeks there, sleeping in tents and staying well lubricated with beer.

The company returned home on three different aircraft, all headed to Ft. Knox, KY. A photographer captured a photo of Ted holding his three-year-old son, Greg, and his wife, Karen. This photo later appeared in the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning.

Upon returning, three-day passes were issued, and everyone hurried home. They then returned to Ft. Knox for out-processing and were bussed to Downtown Indianapolis for a homecoming celebration. A couple of years later, Ted re-enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in Anderson Signal Corps and served three more years before retiring.



*Ted Dunn and Family
(previously featured at the
Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning
GA.)*

Military service has been significant in the Dunn family. Ted's oldest son, Greg, served 20 years as an aircraft mechanic on AWACS, including deployments and three years at Cape Kennedy as a safety officer on the launch pad.

Nathan, Ted's youngest son, spent 20 years in the 75th Ranger Regiment, enduring 14 deployments to war zones. He was eventually assigned to the scout dog unit of the Rangers, overseeing the selection and training of all Ranger dogs. He spent his last three years training ROTC students at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, retiring as an E8 but continuing to work as a civilian contractor at the university.

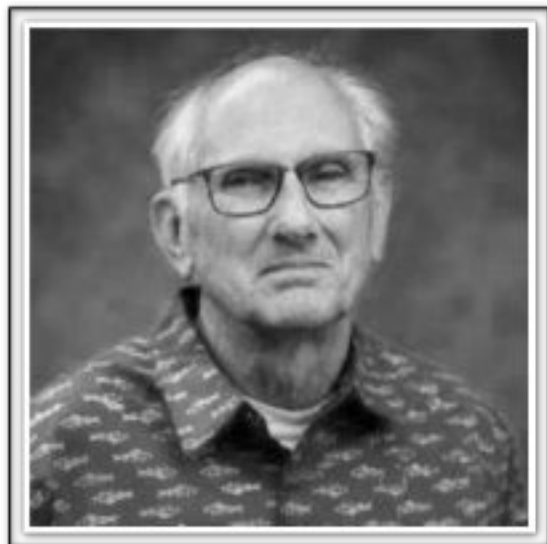
When asked which was tougher, serving in Vietnam or being a father with a son deployed, Ted expressed that having a family member deployed was more nerve-wracking. He now understands what his parents went through while he was in Vietnam.

Ted hopes his sons will not have to experience their children being in harm's way.



We Lost another brother on May 24, 2026. Jerry Shane was the team leader of the patrol in which all team members were wounded and one KIA, Charlie Larkins. This contact occurred on the night of February 11, 1969. D 151 first KIA sent shock waves thru the unit. We could see the contact area from our base camp, as the team was inserted east of the Long Binh ammo dump. Almost immediately the team was in contact as many VC were working their way into the ammo dump. (the VC was successful in blowing up the dump in Tet 1968.) Jerry was shot thru the lung and immediately evacuated to Camp Zama hospital, Japan. As we were to discover, the members of the unit never got to see or visit the wounded, so after 42 days in Vietnam, Jerry was out of the war. Jerry was a quiet man, never came to any of the unit get-togethers. Some members report running into him on his USPS mail route but could never convince him to join us. He suffered PTSD alone, not sharing much even with his family.

On a positive note, I found out about his passing the afternoon of his funeral service. Thru Facebook, I was able to locate his son Glenn and his wife Michelle. We talked for about 30 minutes. He wanted to know about his father's service in D 151 Rangers. I invited them to join us for our last Friday of the month's breakfast. He said he would try. We were very surprised when not only Gleen came, but his wife Michelle, his brother Kyle and his wife Stephanie, and sister Victoria who also brought her 3-week-old baby, Rosalina. We talked for 2 hours about Jerry and our service in Vietnam. They were full of questions and very grateful to hear about what their dad did in the war. They were able to locate a small phot album in the home and shared that with us. Some photos are below of Jerry .



Obituary for Gerald Glenn Shane

Gerald Glenn "Jerry" Shane, 83, of Evansville, was granted eternal peace in the early morning of May 24, 2026. He was a beloved and cherished husband, father, Papaw, brother, and friend. He will be deeply missed and always remembered.

Gerald was born the oldest child to the late Glenn and Betty (Rheinlander) Shane on February 15, 1943, in Evansville. In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by siblings, Diane Willis, Sally Jane Shane, and Michael Shane.

Jerry served his country in Vietnam as an Army Airborne Ranger as a member of Company D 151st Infantry of the Indiana Army National Guard. During his service, Jerry received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with a V (valor) device. When he returned to civilian life, he worked as a postman for the United States Postal Service until his retirement.





Reunion and Annual meeting

We held our annual meeting. New and reelected Officers are as follows.

President	John Everly
Vice President	Ken Taylor
Secretary	Stephen Minner
Treasurer	Dean Barker
Administrator	Stephen Minner
Sargent at Arms	Steven (Doc) Gove
Asst Treasurer	Stephen Minner
Asst Admin	Charleen Taylor

Our reunion was at Fort Benning this year June 22nd-26th. We made trips to the Infantry Museum, Ranger Memorial and we were able to visit the Jump School.



Everyone hard at work setting up for the reunion



More hard work before our Reunion



Rangers Larry Hensley and George Clark Reunited for the first time since Vietnam



E/20th LRP C/75th Ranger Reunion Banner



*Rangers at the Ranger Memorial
(L-R) Corey, Hensley, Clark, Everly, Taylor,
Rubenstein, Holtz and Rapp.*



*Monte Wirtz with his brother Ranger John Wirtz
and LRP/Ranger Stephen Minner viewing the
Ranger Hall of Fame Metal of Honor Recipients
display.*



*Ranger/Medic Steven 'Doc'
Gove with Sign he created for
our reunions*



LRP Ranger Stephne Minner and Ranger John Wirtz



Rangers Everly, Mayberry, Hanson and Holtz



Ranger John Wirtz (L) with his Brother Monte (R)



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

Remembering Clarence Genji Matsuda - Part 2: Previously in Part 1, we discussed, in the words of then, now deceased, 1LT Rick Stetson, Capt. Matsuda's arrival and vetting of his new command - E Co. 50th Inf. LRRP Platoon, 9th Infantry Division.

This article is based on a copy of an original article from *The Overseas Weekly* (Pacific Edition) newspaper titled "Wet Year for Gutsy Guys Who Spy in Mekong Delta". The article appeared in the Saturday, February 3, 1968 edition of the newspaper. The author's name is lost to posterity.

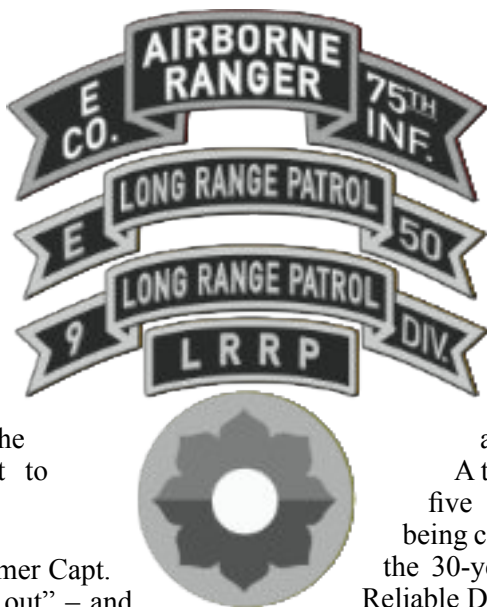
It captures the essence and success of former Capt. Matsuda's efforts to "straightening them out" – and instill much needed professionalism as well as discipline in the 9th Inf. Div. LRRP platoon in 1967.

The hallmark of his efforts was the establishment of the 9th ID's Long Range Recondo School – in an active war theater - to teach his new soldiers reconnaissance and surveillance tactics, techniques and procedures. The POI covered 12 major subjects and provided 205+ hours of training by experienced 9th ID LRRPS. The newspaper article follows:

BEARCAT, South Vietnam – The new year promises to be a wet one for 9th Inf. Div. LRRPS, the gutsy guys who slip out in small groups to spy on the VC. During 1968 they'll make more and more patrols into the rice fields of the Mekong Delta.

In the past, explained a long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) team leader Sgt James Martin, 22, most of the unit's missions have been in the jungles around the division base camp. But as American troop take on a bigger share of the Delta war, the Lrrps will go along as their eyes and ears.

The 9th Div. men already have made several patrols in the Delta and find some major differences from the jungle missions. "It's a little more exciting down there," understates Martin. "It's usually a one night stand. We usually monitor a hot spot." In the jungle the



"VC will mass," he added, whereas in the more open Delta country they travel in smaller groups.

Success of a mission depends on the team staying hidden while its men watch Viet Cong movements. In LRRP language a team is compromised when it's spotted by the enemy. The handful of troops must get the hell out fast before a larger Red force can descend on them. The populous Delta contains nearly half of South Vietnam's people and many of them are VC or sympathizers.

A team can't expect to stay out for the four or five days of a normal jungle patrol without being compromised, said Capt. Clarence Matsuda, the 30-year old Hawaiian commander of the Old Reliable Division Lurps.

A Delta mission may be shorter but it's likely to be more miserable while it lasts, according to Martin. "You may spend the night in rice paddy water up to your neck." Since the water in paddies is muddy, filled with fertilizer and garbage, immersion foot can be one of a trooper's worries.

In another switch, teams on Delta assignments must stay hidden in the daytime, when they're more likely to be seen and move at night, said Matsuda. In the cover of the thick jungle they move in the day and stop during darkness.



LRRP PFC Chinos Jackson watches warily from high grass.
(photograph from the June edition of *The Overseas Weekly Newspaper*)

The Lurps often work with the Navy Seal teams on their Delta operations. The Seals operate in much the same way as Lurps, except they get to their AOs in boats instead of helicopters. From their jungle or paddy hiding places long-range patrol men spot VC units and call in strikes on them by radio. Lurps feel their teams are the best of the fighting forces in Vietnam and many commanders agree they're among the most effective.

"You can manipulate a few men a heck of a lot easier than a company or even a battalion and achieve the same results with artillery and air strike support," says Martin, "and with fewer casualties on our side".



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

Sgt Herbert C. Frost, 30, who sports a bushy black mustache, believes, "You'll find as this war goes on that this type of units is really the answer. We're going after Charlie on his own terms. In fact, we're going him one better. The VC like to stick to trails. They won't go through the jungle the way we do. We'll spend five or six days in an area of operation and they won't even know we're there. We come back with all sorts of intelligence on them. I think Charlie's missing his mind a little bit. He's got artillery coming in sometimes and he doesn't know where it's from."

"He's sitting in a base camp somewhere eating chow and first thing he knows he's got jets coming in on him," agreed SSgt. Emory C. Parish, 24, another team leader. Martin, a veteran of six months as a Lurp, feels the Viet Cong are basically lazy.

"They come di-di bopping on down the trail, weapons slung over their shoulders, carrying on a conversation," he said. "They feel they're king of the jungle. This is to our advantage because we'll be able to hear them 50 or 60 meters off."

Matsuda, who has built up the outfit from only a few men to a large and efficient unit, is proud of the fact that only two men have been injured in the last six months. None have been killed. Team honcho Parish believes one big reason is the fact that all of the men know "exactly what the other guy's going to do if something happens. We're all trained exactly the same way."



Ronald Kneer, Joseph Castagnia (KIA 12/21/1968) & Diniel Bien

Reconnaissance is the Lurps' major mission but about one patrol out of 10 has a different - hairier - assignment. It may be a "prisoner snatch, small-size ambush, getting tax collectors and so on," said Matsuda. "These take a little more finesse," he added. Whenever possible the teams carry Asian guides with them. They have used ARVN scouts and for a time had several mercenaries from border tribes assigned to them.

We had our ups and downs with them," said Matsuda of the mercenaries. "We had 12 of them and four of them were real good. The rest sort of ruined the program for the four good ones. Their endurance is very weak. After three days in the field they're just about shot. Some of them had a problem with noise discipline. And surprisingly we had a few that just couldn't control themselves once they saw Charlie in the field. They panicked. So rather than jeopardize the team, some of the team leaders refused to take them out," he continued. Of the four good ones he said, "Their sense and perception is better than ours. They pick up trails, signs, things we very seldom pick up."

The Lurps have a fierce pride in their outfit and don't take kindly to any suggestion that it isn't the best. Concertina separates the Lurp area from their next door unit, the Reliable Academy, division training center for replacements. Asked about it, Matsuda laughed and said only, "We had a little neighborly disagreement." The cocky Lurps and the special privileges they've earned because of their hazardous jobs sometimes sparks envy among other GIs.



Bob Pegram, Larry Houghs and James Vessels at BearCat

The long range patrol men are excused from most details, including guard and KP. Instead of regulation jungle fatigues and baseball caps, they wear tiger suits and black berets. The billets, clubs and offices in the Lurp area, built by the trouper themselves and mostly with scrounged materials, are roomier and more comfortable than the homes of other units. In addition, the Lurps are given a priority on R&R spots. "If a guy wants Hawaii, he'll get Hawaii. If he wants Australia, he'll get Australia," said Matsuda.



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

"When these men get out of the field, they put out 100 percent," said the captain, "when they come back they need to just relax for a day or two because of the tension these people go through out in the field is something different."

"You're out there for four or five days and not a word is said," he continued. "Everything is arm and hand signals. Everybody's all tensed up because you've only got a few people. One slight mistake means annihilation of all of them, so you're in first gear and adrenalin is pumping all the time." The men are given tranquilizers when they return from missions. "They're all keyed up and we've had cases where on the first night they couldn't sleep because they were so tense. A tranquilizer and a bottle of beer does wonders," said Matsuda.

Poncho's Notes:

The Overseas Weekly (Pacific Edition) was an independent military tabloid read by GIs during the Vietnam War. In 1968, a pivotal and exceptionally deadly year of the war, the publication opened a Saigon bureau to cover taboo and controversial topics the Pentagon preferred to hide. The Pacific edition gained immense popularity among enlisted troops but revulsion from military brass for its muckraking journalism. For more information on the Overseas Weekly Collection (C4779), visit the State Historical Society of Missouri. Because original 1968 physical copies are rare, historian and veterans rely on archival efforts to study this era of independent GI journalism.

2. The original newspaper article has not been edited.

On their patrols the Lurps are loaded down with pills. They carry tablets to stop bad colds, Darvon, which is a pain killer, antidiarrheal and malaria tablets, vitamins and pep pills to keep them awake or, as one put it, "If you have to run real fast or get real tired you take them." They also carry morphine and albumin blood, a blood expander for use in treating wounds.

Matsuda believe his Lurps are "the best in Vietnam" and tells them so. "In a unit like this you've got to have a little bit of cockiness," he said. "I don't stifle it as long as it doesn't get out of hand. I think these kids should believe they're a little better than the rest of them."



9th ID LRRP Insertion/Extraction Platforms



F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER

Transition from F Company 51st Infantry to P Company 75th Ranger Regiment

Transition from F Company 51st Infantry to P Company 75th Ranger Regiment

I recently viewed the video I had purchased in Nashville back in 2012. The video showcased P Company 75th Rangers. I had placed it in the loose-leaf binder that I had been filling over the years. Every time I added something to the binder, I would tell myself I needed to take the time and view it. Finally, I watched the video with some special friends.



While watching the video I was reminded how difficult and dangerous it was to pull missions in the "Catchers Mitt" (the area we operated in as F Company 51st Long Range Patrol). How could anyplace else be any worse?! I would soon find out. The DMZ would be our new area that we would be pulling missions in as P Company 75th Rangers. Upon arriving in Quang Tri Province, we were driven to our new home in the back of four 2½ ton trucks. As we were enroute, we passed through a village also



named Quang Tri, the villagers all came out yelling welcome to P Company Rangers, this was a little strange because we were told not to talk or write to anyone telling where we were going.



F Company Crew who were sent north

We spent the rest of that day and the next settling into our new "home". Early morning of the third day we were going to meet the commander of the Fifth Mechanized unit, the unit we were now assigned to. His name was General Gibson. I don't remember how many stars were on his collar, but I'm pretty sure he went out and bought his next Star as soon as he was notified that he would be getting his own Ranger unit. In good airborne fashion, we double timed to his headquarters. As General Gibson welcomed us to his unit, he had a gleam in his eyes as he said, "Welcome P Company 75th Rangers - Merrill's Marauders."

A day or two later, myself and another team leader were able to get a quick ride on a slick to get a glimpse at some of our area that we would be pulling missions in. We maintained high altitude because of the potential of ground fire. I remember the sight; the DMZ was nothing but crater upon crater upon crater for as far as you could see not much vegetation, no triple canopy. The missions would not only be in the DMZ, but northern fringe areas. That

ride would be my last time on a slick. There were no choppers for insertion or extractions. The options were walk in, ride in a jeep or a 2½-ton trucks, or ride on backs of tanks and half-tracks. In my mind's eye was the image my father told me about tanks. My father was a medic in World War II. His first taste of war was the horrific battles of North Africa, tanks were rolling tin coffins. I didn't want to be within 100 miles of a tank and here I am with my team, wearing camo and painted faces, on the back of a tank. Of course, no one noticed us slide off and slip into whatever cover there was. In two or three hours, the mechanized unit would move out back to a more secure area.

The good news is that P Company did get slicks after I left Vietnam. In order for us to be the most effective, we needed the slick for stealth insertions and quick extractions. We were assigned to the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry, but also collected intelligence for the 3rd Marine Division. The operations of both units were not always well coordinated as we would soon find out! Just for a size comparison, any given time P Company, had a max of 7 teams compared to the 28 teams that F Company was authorized to have. We were small in number but charged with a major task. There was a high level of anxiety and frustration because they had no clue what we were about, what we did, or how we did it.



It's now late March 1969 and in about 2 ½ months I would be leaving Vietnam. I requested R&R to go to Australia since I probably would never be back in this part of the world. To my surprise a day or 2 later my request was approved, and I was told to pack my bag for my R&R, the only catch was that they wanted me to seriously consider extending my tour.

I had a great time in Australia and was thinking maybe I would extend (mainly because I thought I might be able to get another R&R back in Australia). That thought quickly evaporated when I was picked up from my R&R. I don't



remember who the driver was, but on the way back to the company area he wanted to show me something. We drove to a nearby river and there were some of the guys from P Company, paddling around in rubber rafts. The driver quickly realized by the look on my face that he needed to explain what was going on. He told me that the day before they had gone out and practiced using 90mm recoil-less rifles. They were training for a mission where they would float down the river at night with the 90mm's and take out some NVA tanks. We probably



Training with a 90mm Recoilless Rifle

would be able to succeed, but my question was how would we be extracted? The sound of silence was deafening!! I left Vietnam in late May 1969, I never had such mixed emotions. So happy to be leaving yet having a hollow burn in my stomach, leaving my little brothers in such a hell hole!



Training with the Rafts

It would be 20 years before I would find out anything or had any contact with the men I served with. One day my phone rang while I was at work. It was Dave Barfield, he said he was planning a reunion of our little core that had gone north. Dave asked me if I would be interested and I said, "Hell yes!! I will be there." That was when I learned that SSGT Carter had been killed about 2 months after I had left the country. When P Company moved farther west, they named the new camp after SSGT Carter.

Two years later Speedy Gonzales put together a reunion in Austin, TX that was 1991. It was there that I had a chance to set down with First SGT Butts. He said, "Sit down Private Moyer." He never forgot the lousy haircut I gave him. He went on to tell me one of the hardest decisions he had to make while in the service was dividing up the company. He said he didn't think any of us sent north would survive. He was quite happy that most of his "little bastards" did indeed make it out of there. I served with F Company 51st for 9 months and P Company 75th for 4 months. It is with great pride that I had the honor and privilege of serving with these elite units. Such good men. I will close for I may have already written too much. Happy trails to you all until we meet again.

- Dick



WHAT *UNITED STATES V. HEMANI* MEANS FOR GUN RIGHTS AND MARIJUANA USE

By Rebecca R. Miscone and Travis James West

As most Rangers are aware, the Second Amendment protects the right of Americans to keep and bear firearms, including for self-defense. Like most constitutional rights, courts have found that the rights afforded under the Second Amendment are not unlimited. Lawmakers and courts have long debated who may possess firearms, where they may be carried, and when the government may lawfully take that right away.

One federal law at the center of that debate is 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), which prohibits certain categories of people from possessing firearms. Some categories include people convicted of certain crimes, fugitives, and people subject to specific domestic-violence restrictions. A provision of this law that was, until recently, lesser-known applies to anyone who is an “unlawful user of” or “addicted to” a controlled substance. The core of this statute was adopted in 1968, with the current statutory structure enacted in 1986. The timing of this statute is not insignificant, because over roughly the same period of time states began decriminalizing the use of marijuana. More specifically, in 1973, Oregon became the first state to decriminalize its use; in 1996, California became the first state to legalize marijuana for medical use; and in 2012 Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize the drug for adult recreational use. As of today, 40 states have adopted some form of legalization or decriminalization of marijuana, and only two (Idaho and Kansas) maintain complete, zero-tolerance laws on cannabis in all forms. This matters because despite the state actions, marijuana remains illegal under federal law.

As a result, questions exist as to how and whether § 922(g)(3) can create serious consequences for people who both use marijuana and own guns. On June 18, 2026, the Supreme Court addressed this question in *United States v. Hemani*. Specifically the Court addressed whether the federal government may prosecute a person for possessing a firearm based solely on regular marijuana use without showing that the person was dangerous, intoxicated while armed, or misusing a firearm.

The Facts of the Case

The *Hemani* case involved a man named Ali Hemani, a Texas resident who lived with his parents and had steady

employment. In 2022, federal agents searched the family home while investigating suspected terrorism-related activity. Hemani cooperated and surrendered a gun kept in the house, directed agents to marijuana on the property, and agreed to an interview. During that interview, Hemani informed law enforcement that he used marijuana about every other day.

About six months later, the government charged Hemani under § 922(g)(3). The prosecution’s case was based on the theory that because Hemani regularly used marijuana -- a fact he freely admitted -- he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance and therefore, under federal law, he could not lawfully possess a firearm. If convicted, Hemani could face severe consequences. A violation of § 922(g)(3) can result in up to 15 years in federal prison and a long-term loss of firearm rights. In Hemani’s case, the government argued that his admitted marijuana use alone was enough to justify such severe consequences.

The Supreme Court disagreed.

The Legal Framework

When considering Hemani’s case, the Court applied the approach used in recent Second Amendment cases. First, it examined whether the Second Amendment covers the conduct at issue. If it does, the conduct is presumed to be protected. The second step then requires the government to show that its restriction fits within the nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.

This can be a challenging, but not impossible burden for prosecutors. It does not mean the government must find an identical law from the 1700s. Modern problems can require modern regulations. However, the government must show a meaningful historical comparison by looking at two basic questions: Why did the historical law restrict a person’s rights, and how did the historical law impose that restriction? In plain terms, courts must determine whether the old and new laws were aimed at similar problems and whether they restricted rights in similar ways.

In this case, the government compared § 922(g)(3) to historical laws regulating “habitual drunkards.” It argued that because American law historically allowed firearms



restrictions on people whose alcohol use created serious problems, Congress may likewise disarm unlawful drug users today.

The Court was not convinced. It noted that historical habitual-drunkard laws generally did not apply merely because a person drank regularly. In early America, drinking was common, and regular alcohol use alone did not ordinarily make someone a “habitual drunkard” in the legal sense. The laws the government cited focused more narrowly on people whose drinking left them incapacitated, unable to manage their affairs, or dangerous to themselves or others. The issue was not mere use, but the effect of that use on the person’s ability to function safely and responsibly.

That distinction mattered. The government did not claim Hemani was addicted to marijuana, impaired while possessing the firearm, unable to manage his affairs, dangerous, or that he used the firearm unlawfully. Its position was that regular marijuana use alone was enough.

The Court also noted that the government’s theory had a process problem. Even though many historical laws restricted firearms, they typically required some sort of proceeding or tribunal before a person lost liberty or legal rights. Under the government’s reading of § 922(g)(3), by contrast, a person could lose the right to possess a firearm automatically.

The Supreme Court’s Ruling

For the Court, a broad firearms ban based only on regular marijuana use did not closely match the historical laws the government identified. The Court held that prosecuting Hemani under § 922(g)(3)’s unlawful-user provision on these facts, violated the Second Amendment and affirmed dismissal of the indictment.

Although this ruling has been commonly viewed as a good outcome by Second Amendment advocates, it does not mean that § 922(g)(3) has been struck down entirely or that every firearm restriction involving guns and drugs is unconstitutional. The *Hemani* decision is intentionally narrow. The Court left the door open for constitutional review of other firearm restriction laws and individual circumstances. Moreover, it did not resolve the broader conflict between state marijuana laws and federal law. The Court also does not say that drugs and guns are a safe or constitutionally protected mix. However, the Court did say that the government cannot automatically strip a person of Second Amendment rights based only on a broad label, without showing that the restriction fits the country’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.

Practical Take-aways for Gun Owners

For gun owners, one practical lesson is not to assume that state-based marijuana laws answer every question. State law and federal law can point in different directions. A person may believe he or she is acting lawfully under state law and still face federal risk. At the same time, *Hemani* makes clear that the government’s power has limits. Regular marijuana use, standing alone, was not enough in this case to justify a felony firearms prosecution under § 922(g)(3). The Constitution requires more than a general public-safety concern or broad classification.

United States v. Hemani is not a blanket approval of mixing marijuana and firearms. It is a constitutional decision that limits how far the federal government may go when it tries to take away firearm rights based on marijuana use alone. Under the Second Amendment, the government must do more than rely on a broad category, it must show that the restriction matches the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.

Travis James West is an owner and one of the managing partners at the Wisconsin-based law firm West & Dunn. He practices in the areas of veterans disability benefits and civil litigation. Travis has been inducted into the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation, is a past president of the Dane County Bar Association (DCBA), and is a member of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) where he serves on the organization’s Amicus and Litigation Committee.

Travis served as a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment from March 2001 through June 2004. He maintains an active role in the Ranger Community, where he currently serves on the boards of directors for the Three Rangers Foundation, National Ranger Memorial Foundation, and United States Army Ranger Association. He previously served as a Unit Director for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and was a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame’s voting board. He also maintains memberships with Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

Travis lives in Madison, Wisconsin with his wife, Ryan, and his daughter, Julia. He enjoys sailing and backcountry hiking.



14TH ANNUAL RSF INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

By STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON



On Thursday, April 9, 2026, the day before the 2026 Best Ranger Competition, the 14th Annual Rangers Scholarship Fund Invitational Golf Tournament was held at Maple Ridge Golf Course in Columbus, GA.

The
RANGERS
Scholarship
Fund

A generous lunch and Skol shots gave everyone a good start before we headed to the first green. Thank goodness for GPS.



During our round, LPGA player Shasta Averyhardt hit a provisional shot for our group in exchange for a donation to the RSF. Even by cart, it took us several minutes to find the ball. Wow!

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association and the broader Ranger community thank Bill Morgan and the event organizers for their efforts, which helped raise funds for additional scholarships for Rangers and their dependents.

The Rangers Scholarship Fund was created in 2008 to honor those who performed selfless service to our Nation. Scholarships are awarded on a merit-based process and



Kurt Buchta & Rick Berela

available to Rangers (current and former) and their dependents.

The RSF encourage and recognize family members who emulate the dedication, integrity, and selflessness of their sponsors.

The 75th RSF sends a strong, real-time message to 75th Ranger Regiment members and their families that their exemplary and dedicated service to our great Nation is hugely appreciated.

Pam and I always look forward to playing this event prior to the BRC. Representing the 75th RRA was Rick and Barb Barela plus Stephen and Pam Johnson to round out our foursome. Rick and I were the only two seniors who played from the gold tees. Regardless, the team managed to score under par for the round but were not even close to the 50-year-younger Rangers.

Most importantly, we had fun and enjoyed the Ranger camaraderie while supporting an important and worthwhile cause.



Steven and Pam Johnson & Barb and Rick Barela



BEST RANGER - 2026

By STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON

ALL PHOTOS CREDITED TO DANIEL ALBERT



BEST RANGER COMPETITION

The 75th Ranger Regiment made history at the 42nd annual David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia. Topping the first three spots, they secured their sixth consecutive victory at the grueling three-day event.



Starting Line 2026 Best Ranger Competition



Not since *Ford v Ferrari* have we seen such a thrilling finish, with the 75th Regiment teams claiming the top three spots through extraordinary individual effort rather than a side-by-side *fixed* showdown.



Grey Beard Ranger Cadre



BEST RANGER - 2026

By STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON
ALL PHOTOS CREDITED TO DANIEL ALBERT

continued



The incredible sweep and dominance of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment at the competition played out as follows:

- **1st Place (Team 49):** Sgt. Drew Schorsch and SPC Caleb Godbold. They made history as the first specialist and sergeant team to win in nearly 40 years.
- **2nd Place (Team 51):** CPT Joe Tritle and SPC Diego Martinez
- **3rd Place (Team 50):** SGT Isaac Smith and CPT Lane Peters



There were 61 two-man teams from 23 different Army units who faced more than 60 miles of grueling tactical events, including land navigation, obstacle courses, and a harrowing night of challenges with minimal sleep.

The 2026 Best Ranger Competition took place earlier this year in April.



All photos are courtesy of Ranger Daniel Albert and his wife, Katja, from Orlando, Florida

Stephen Odin Johnson - Ranger! Former editor of Patrolling Magazine! Former president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnam LRRP Veteran - Legend!



INTERVIEW WITH A RANGER

JUSTIN CARLISLE

By STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON



We're here at the Uptown Tap with new co-owner Justin Carlisle, and this interview took place during the 2026 Best Ranger Competition.

Patrolling: "So, Justin, thank you very much for allowing Patrolling magazine the opportunity to talk with you."

"Absolutely."

Patrolling: "Retiring from the Army at 20 years."

"Yep."

Patrolling: "In service (Army) with 15 years as a Ranger."

"Yes, sir."

Patrolling: "What made you decide to become a Ranger?"

"Uh, funny story. I didn't actually know what Rangers were. I was in AIT at Fort Gordon, and they said, *Who wants to go to the Ranger Regiment briefing?*

So, I decided to go to see what it was all about, and they told me, *When you're an E-5, and you go through Ranger School, you'll get extra money*, and I was like, okay, that's cool.

You get the latest and greatest equipment. I was like, ah, that's cool. And then they said, *You'll be doing 3-to-5-month deployments instead of 18-month deployments, like regular army.* And I said, sign me up. That's, that sounds, sounds like what I want to do.

You wanna do the hard hitting, quick months, opposed to the long and drawn out 18 to 24 months that they were doing at the time? Because I joined in 2006, where they had the huge recruitment boom, there were 10s of 1000s of people joining at the same time. So, I just thought that was interesting, and instead of going to my 1st duty station in Germany, I decided to join the 75th Ranger Regiment."

Patrolling: "Can you share with us what units you served with and what you did, what was your specialty, your specialties MOS?"

"So, I'm satellite communications. Okay. 25 Sierra. But in the 75th Branger Regiment, you do a lot of cross training, so I have done satellite communications; I have done networking; I have done computer work; and I've done radio telephone operator work. I've done a little bit of all the communications assets that we had available on the 75th. I joined in 2007 and I started in the Regimental Special Troops Battalion before the Regimental Special

Troops Battalion was officially stood up.

I joined in July, and they officially provisioned in October of 2007. So, technically, I've have been in this RSTV before it became RSTB, which I find pretty cool. Yeah. When I joined, it was still the Regimental Communications Detachment and the Regimental Recon Detachment. And a few months after that, they changed it to the Regimental Communications Company and the Regimental Recon Company. I thought that was pretty cool that I could get a little bit of the old school and was there when they turned it into what it is currently now."

Patrolling: "So, you basically served within that MOS and that category, pretty much for the entire 15 years in the 75th Regiment?"

"I did, yes."

Patrolling: "Outstanding!"

"So, I joined in 2007 to the 75th Ranger Regiment, started in RSTV. And then in 2010, I went over to 3rd Battalion, and I worked as a team leader in 3rd Battalion for 3 years. Okay. And I moved from 3rd Battalion back to RSTV to the communications company as a platoon sergeant."

Patrolling: "So, all on Fort Benning?"

"Yep. All in Fort Benning. I spent three more years as a platoon sergeant, and then they pulled me over to the Regimental Headquarters as the Regimental Staff 6 Communication Section as a platoon sergeant. I moved from there, back over to the communications company, as a platoon sergeant and as first-sergeant, eventually.

And then I moved from there to the recon company as the recon company's signal NCOYC. Once I moved from there, I moved to Fort Stuart, Germany, working for the Special Operations Command Europe in the 112 Signal Battalion. And that's where I am now.

Patrolling: "So, sot beyond the Ranger units and other units, like you described, any other units outside the Ranger Regiment?"

"Yep. Those are the only two I've been in, the 75th Ranger Regiment and then the 112th Signal Battalion.

Patrolling: "That's quite interesting. Shifting gears, how did you become



UpTown Tap outdoor



INTERVIEW WITH A RANGER JUSTIN CARLISLE

By Stephen Odin Johnson

continued



owner of the Uptown Tap? Was this a transitional plan? How did the Tap come into play?"

So, I'm a co-owner of the Uptown Tap. My other co-owner would be Jay Patel. He also owns a pizza place next door, and the other co-owner is Ryan Lake. So, me and Ryan have been friends for almost 20 years now, and he called me up one day and said, *I have an opportunity for you. They're selling the Uptown Tap and we want to buy it.*

I've believed in him. He has been a manager of hotels, bars, restaurants almost his entire adult life. Believing in him and believing in the dream and the opportunity that we were presented, we decided to buy the Uptown Tap two and a half years ago. Now, here we are today, co-owners of the Uptown Tap. Got to love it. I remember coming here as a private.

Patrolling: "Another question into the future, what do you envision your business to look like in 10 years?"

"10 years from now? Um... The Uptown Tap has been... a very big staple of Broadway and Columbus shore for a very long time. It ran for over 17 years, and then COVID happened, and they ended up shutting down for COVID. Once we received the place, we knew that this town believed in the Tap. So, we wanted to revitalize that belief and reopen the Tap as a mix between what it used to be and what it could be. We're trying to throw more events like we just did yesterday, the Best Ranger Competition event with *Black and Tan*, which was awesome. Everybody came out and had a great time. And we



Black and Tan Event at the Uptown Tap in Columbus GA

would like to do events just for the entire community, as often as we can.

I believe there's another event coming up in June that we're going to be doing with our... I guess you would say

advertising manager, social media manager, Tanya. She helps us get these events going through and everything like that. It just helps out being able to do events for the community, and we want this place to be what people see as the place to go to, the place to be at, for events, parties, all sorts of things like that. And we just want the Tap's name to be big again."

Patrolling: "Family?"

"Yes, sir."

Patrolling: "Are they behind you 100%?"

"Absolutely. So, my girlfriend, Amaya, is behind me 100%. Okay. I have a daughter in Tampa right now with her mom, but she believes in this as well. She can't wait to come out here whenever she turns 21 and just hang out with her old dad."

Patrolling: "Justin, how about fun? What do you... do for fun or recreation?"

"So, when I did live here before I moved to Germany, I did like to bike a lot, so that's why I would like to have a good relationship with bike rides, ride down the street. I am a big outdoors person ... what was the name of it? Sportsman *Hunt-Fish-Feed*. Those were the people who were a part of the *Black and Tan* event yesterday. I love having things like that come out and sponsor events because I enjoy the outdoors.

I enjoy hunting, fishing not so much, but I'll go fishing every once in a while. But for fun, like I said, I enjoy biking, I like being outdoors, things like that. I would go to a shooting competition every once in a while. Well, this is a beautiful area for any kind of outdoor recreation."

Patrolling: "Absolutely. Reminds me a lot of my recreation where biking is an important part of my life, too."

"Absolutely. And that's pretty cool. I've actually been around here substantially longer than the white-water rafting that's down there now. I've been here for the last 20 years of my life, and I've seen this place expand to add places like the whitewater rafting, which is awesome, before they completely gutted the river and turned it into whitewater rapids. Wow. I've seen it. That's really cool."

Patrolling: "Anything else you want to add, Justin, that the readers might find interesting or... a little bit... being from the 75th Ranger Regiment?"

"I do believe in the 75th, and I do enjoy being able to have the camaraderie. So, as you saw, I added these plaques today. I want to get more Ranger things out here. I want the Ranger community to know that they are welcome here. I hear stories

Stephen Odin Johnson - Ranger! Former editor of Patrolling Magazine! Former president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnam LRRP Veteran - Legend!



INTERVIEW WITH A RANGER: JUSTIN CARLISLE

continued

By Stephen Odin Johnson

of *back in the day* when it would get really rowdy, and at some point in time, the 75th Ranger Regiment was banned from the Tap, just because they're a rowdy-rowdy bunch, but I would just like them to know that they are welcome here. It is co-owned by a previous 75th Ranger."

Patrolling: "Well, the 75th I saw last night wasn't so rowdy."

"Oh, yeah, they were awesome. I actually saw quite a few people I knew from before. I've known them for many years. It was a nice, fun crowd. I enjoyed the opportunity to be here whenever we are able to host this event, cause I missed it last year. And I look forward to being able to host the *Black and Tan* event again next year and the year after, and as



Justin Carlisle pouring a shot of Jameson



long as long as they want us to run the event, we will be here for them to come back over and over."

Patrolling: "Well, that sounds like a good time, Justin. We enjoyed the *Black and Tan* this year and last year's too. *Patrolling* and our Ranger community thank you very much for sharing your story of service to the Army, the 75th Regiment, and now at the Uptown Tap!"

Stephen Odin Johnson - Ranger! Former editor of Patrolling Magazine! Former president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnam LRRP Veteran - Legend!



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CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

THE NATIONAL RANGER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

By BLAIR BROWN

Walk beneath the stone Ranger Tab at Fort Benning and you'll pass thousands of granite pavers, each one engraved with the name of a Ranger. At the end of that walkway, a Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife rises between two granite pillars. This is the National Ranger Memorial — dedicated in 1994 and, for more than three decades, the place where the Ranger community comes to honor those who earned the Tab, those who wore the Scroll, and those who never came home.

The National Ranger Memorial Foundation exists for two reasons: to maintain, preserve, and improve that Memorial, and to invest in the people who carry the Ranger legacy forward. We take both seriously.

Investing in Rangers and Their Families

This year, the Foundation awarded \$180,000 in college scholarships to U.S. Army Rangers — active duty and retired — and their family members through the Kenneth C. Leuer/Joseph S. Stringham NRMF Scholarship Endowment. These merit-based scholarships support full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, graduate schools, and vocational and technical institutions.

Since 1994, the Foundation has returned more than \$1.1 million to the Ranger community. That's not an abstract number. It's a Ranger finishing a degree after leaving the Regiment. It's a daughter starting nursing school. It's a grandson stepping onto campus knowing his family's service opened the door. Every dollar came from people who believe Rangers and their families have earned more than our gratitude — they've earned our investment.



Keeping Faith with the Memorial

The Memorial is not a monument we built once and walked away from. It's a living site that grows as the Ranger story grows. The Foundation funds its year-round care — preservation of the granite, upkeep of the grounds, and the engraving and placement of new pavers honoring Rangers past and present. When families travel to Fort Benning to find a name in the stone, our job is to make sure that name, and everything around it, stands as proud as the man it honors.

Join Us

None of this happens without the Ranger community behind it. Purchase a paver, support a scholarship, or make a gift at rangermemorial.org. Honor the legacy. Invest in the future.

Rangers Lead the Way!



G/75-E/51 LRP-196th LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - AL STEWART



Ahhh! Being with fellow Rangers. There is a magic when you see someone you served with in the Rangers. I occasionally get a call or make a call to a fellow Ranger. Like Shakespeare spoke in his Band of Brothers speech. The bond is even closer if you worked together on a Team and shared the bond of jungle warfare. Bonds and memories of years gone by may fade in some respects, but there is always the brotherhood even if you were years apart of your time in country. Our wives can tell our stories as well or better than us.

Alas, we age and move more slowly, our vision blurs and our joints ache. We wonder where the guys are that are gone or can no longer travel. We all believe that we will live forever and laugh and shed tears when we lose a close friend.

I am now a regular at the VA and have issues more serious than vision and hearing. I am happy and blessed to have a wife who is a retired nurse, and I get great care from different people. My memory is still good, but my hearing aids don't seem to work as well as they use to, and I wear glasses to read.



Heart issues, kidney issues and sorting all the pills I take in the mornings to start my day, and if I am lucky, I remember to take my evening meds. Life is still better than I deserve. Cognitive issues are now creeping in, and I sometimes can't finish a sentence that use to come to me easily. My Dad had Alzheimer's, and he may have passed it on to me, or maybe it may just be the ageing process.

This information is not sad or negative, it is simply the way it is. I am better off than many I know, and I have no reason to complain.

I hope we have a large gathering in Louisville, and the Vietnam Helicopter Association enjoys the company of the Rangers as much as we appreciate those who hauled us around and came to our rescue when needed.

Take advantage of the bourbon while in Louisville. I will toast the Rangers here at home.

Al Stewart (Sugar Bear) My code name came from Captain Mataxis and not of my choosing!



First Reunion Group Photo - 1990



K/75-E58 LRP 4th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROGER CRUNK

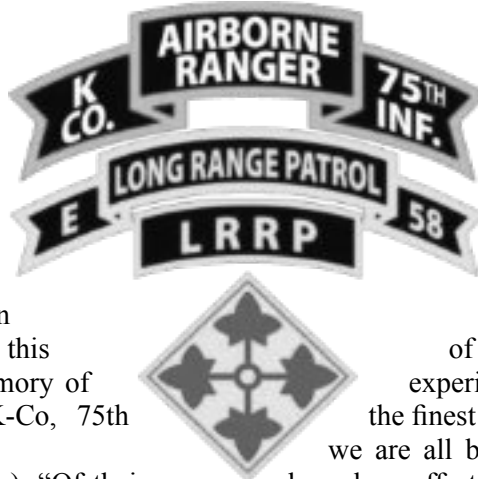
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My Brother LRRPs and Rangers, my health has not been good lately so I will Just include the speech that I gave at our memorial in honor of our fallen Brothers.

"Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, I am truly thankful that you have come to share in this memorial service. Please join me in thanking Jim and Antoinette for expending so many of their own dollars and so much of their time to build this beautiful monument placed here in memory of the fallen LRRPS and Rangers of K-Co, 75th Infantry Rangers.

The motto of the Rangers is (Sue Sponte), "Of their own accord". In true Ranger tradition Jim has carried out this mission, "of his own accord." A true testament to that unbreakable bond that even those of us held in its embrace, little understood. Formed and solidified in blood, sweat, and tears, in a faraway jungle so many years ago.

Before we dedicated this memorial a few years ago, I received this letter from my daughter Andria, and I want to read it especially for you, my Brothers:



Dear Dad,

I have been thinking about this memorial for a few days, and these are my thoughts. Feel free to use them if you want. It has always been my wish that you all find some peace and let go of your survivor's guilt. I don't think your brothers who died want you to grieve so hard for them. They will never be forgotten as the children of the survivors will always be grateful for their sacrifice because our fathers came home. So, I wrote this for you.

Let the mourning end here
Lay your grief at the gates
The dead have long rested gently in their peace

The lost demand not your grief, your sorrow, your guilt,
It honors them not
They had plenty of that at their death

Lay at their feet in tribute
Your loves, your triumphs, your joy
Let them share in your life
And know your daughters, your sons, your wives

So lay your burdens down my brothers
And leave them there forever
Come here again with a peaceful soul
And honor the dead by living

In the context of the Vietnam war, the LRRPS and the Rangers are one and the same. The Division LRRPs of E 58 and 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Brigade LRPS were the forerunners of K Company 75th Infantry Rangers. When the 75th infantry Rangers were formed in 1969, K company assumed the mantle carried by those first brave LRRPS. With the support of great company Co's and First SGTS., their experience and sacrifice helped mold K-Co into the finest Ranger Company in Vietnam. In this way, we are all brothers, united by duty, sacrifice, and the herculean effort of serving as the eyes and ears of the 4th Infantry Division, encompassing the Central Highlands, the largest, most rugged divisional area of operations in Vietnam. We became known as the Highland Rangers.



As an all-volunteer force, the military historians tell us now that we performed the most dangerous missions in Vietnam. I don't think any of us looked at it that way back then. I suppose if you consider that we operated in 4 or 5 man teams deep in enemy territory, with support of any kind many long minutes, sometimes hours away if the weather or darkness prevented the choppers from flying. Yes, it was dangerous.

Despite the fact that the Viet Cong and the NVA placed a price on our heads and formed headhunter teams tasked to hunt us down and kill or capture us, we all stepped forward and said "I will" take on that mission. We were just a motley bunch of cocky, independent, brash Kids who thought of it as a way to do something of importance.

We carried out our missions alone, were wounded



and died in the jungle, alone with only the help and comfort of our Brothers to see us through.

The team leader was the authority on the ground. He made the decisions to carry out the mission and to protect his team, rather than the brass back in base camp. He had at his disposal the full firepower of the U.S. Army. He could call in helicopter gunships, 105, 155, 8 inch or 175 mm artillery. Depending on what was available or his location. Sometimes he had the firepower of a naval destroyer off shore. There were times when fighter jets were used. That was a heady feeling for a 20 year old kid. Talk about your video games.



But reality was always at your shoulder, and it reared its ugly head, when Brothers fell and Brothers died. I and each of my brothers have attended the K company memorial services in Viet Nam for brothers lost. We were deeply affected in that moment, but most often we had another mission to plan, prepare for and execute, many times on that same day. We never had time to absorb and mourn their passing. We internalized that hurt. But with each other's help, we picked ourselves up...knowing no other way, we carried on. Our survival and the survival of our teammates depended on it.

Each of us have many stories to tell. To me, they simply point out the commitment, the character, and stature of the men we chose to surround ourselves with. It was my greatest honor to serve with the bravest, most honorable men I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

My favorite quote by Theodore Roosevelt reads: *"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds should have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold*

and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."

There are fifty two names on this plaza, the names of our Brothers who did not return home to their loved ones. Even one is too many. But we have, and will continue to bear the loss of each of our fallen brothers. We have born this burden since the moment of their death. We "must" and "will" bear this burden because it is our duty, our honor,

to carry them with us every day of our lives.

One of my favorite quotes from Shakespeare reads:

"From this day to the end of the world

But we in it shall be remembered

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers

For he today that sheds his blood with me,

Shall be my brother"

So lest we become full of ourselves (as Rangers are want to do), otherwise we would not be who we are, we only need to look upon this monument, to read the names inscribed thereon to remind us of who they are, who we are, and where we have been together.

I'm not sure who the author of this quote is but it is a poignant truth: "You may be lost but you are not forgotten. Those who have traveled far to fight in foreign lands know that the soldier's greatest comfort is to have friends close at hand. In the heat of battle we cease to fight for a flag. Brother, we fight for the man on our left; we fight for the man on our right. When armies are scattered and empires fall away, all that remains is the memory of those precious moments we spent side by side."

The Bible tells us "No greater love hath a man than he lay down his life for his friend".

These men were not just our friends, they were, are, and will forever be our Brothers. I

earth I will once again be among my Brothers who gave their all. You are gone now, but rest in Peace Brothers. Rangers lead the way.





H/75-E/52 LRP - 1st CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - PETE DENCKER

Greetings Brothers – Hope everyone is getting ready for New Orleans! If you haven't already signed up – please do so! Anyone needing a sign up sheet please check the Cav web site.

Wanted to start this article off by honoring William Joseph Francis who was KIA on March 9th 1970. On March 9, 1970, Ranger Patrol 52 was performing reconnaissance of its assigned area in the Song Be River Valley, approximately eight miles south of Bu Dop in Phuoc Long Province, RVN. The patrol established an NDP at 4:30 PM. Ninety minutes later, the Assistant Team Leader (ATL) suffered a medical emergency and began convulsing similar to an epileptic seizure. The team leader immediately requested an aeromedical evacuation. At 6:25 PM, the medivac helicopter came on station over the team's position. The pilots requested that the team mark its location with a smoke grenade. The hovering helicopter dropped a jungle penetrator down through the canopy, and the ATL was strapped into the anchor-like seat and hoisted up. Aware that their position had been compromised, the team leader called for a lift ship to extract the remaining team members. A set-down landing zone was not available, and the aircraft commander informed the team they would have to be extracted by jungle penetrator. At 7:30 PM, as the last two members of the team were raised to the aircraft, one member of the team reportedly lost his grip and fell approximately 125 feet to his death. PFC William J. Francis died after suffering multiple fractures and blunt trauma injuries to the head and abdomen. His body was recovered and taken to Camp Radcliff where it was turned over to 15th Medical Battalion personnel. An investigation into the incident determined that Francis fell after the foldable seat on the penetrator broke. Evidently, the seats were rated to hold 300 to 350 pounds, and at the time of the extraction, Francis was carrying his pack and that of the ATL, exceeding the weight rating. In addition, he was not hooked onto the penetrator in any way. Following the investigation, the jungle penetrators were modified to increase the load-carrying capacity and were equipped rings so personnel could snap link themselves to the devices.



PFC Francis was a major factor in helping me make it through in-country Ranger training in Vietnam. During our final day of training we had to complete a 5 mile run with gear in stifling heat to complete the Ranger course and have the opportunity to become a LRRP. I struggle during the run but Ranger Francis encouraged me with verbal commands and helped me complete the run and earn my way to becoming a LRRP Ranger. This was in February 1970. PFC Francis was KIA in early March 1970. I never got the opportunity to thank him, so I am saying it now, RIP Ranger Francis.

This was a significant blow to the Francis family as Ranger Francis' brother was KIA in Vietnam 3 years earlier serving with the 101st

I would like to thank Mike Blymer and Tim Greenly for spending time with me reviewing their mission on 1 May 1969. Also, thanks to John Lebrunn as this account also appeared in Historical Occurrences.

It seemed like it was going to be a normal mission. There was nothing out of the ordinary as we prepared at our rear base at Phouc Vinh. As usual the mission was recon and surveillance. We had planned for a late afternoon/early evening insertion (suicide insertions as Steve Curtis called them) into our AO (area of operation). As we helicoptered into our LZ (landing zone) it was approaching twilight. Exiting the Huey we moved off the LZ and into the tree line to monitor the LZ for any movement/enemy. As the bird cleared the LZ and headed back to Phouc Vinh the silence was deafening. After feeling it was safe we moved towards our planned night position in our standard patrol formation.

We hadn't moved very far before we found what appeared to be an overnight position for a platoon of US army infantry. There were a lot of discarded and unopened C-rations. As we paused to take a look at what had been left, rounds started going through the foliage around us. We hit the dirt and got "small" as our TL (team leader), Tim Greenly, got on the radio to find out what was going on. We were told that the 11th ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment) was in contact on the other side of the river. Our position, apparently, was getting the "spent" 50-cal rounds



from that engagement; kind of spooky. We quickly moved on towards our night position. A short time later we came across a "high speed" trail (looked like a dirt road). Tim decided this would be an excellent ambush site and night position. We set up to monitor the trail in our classic pinwheel formation (our packs set back to back in the middle, with our feet towards the trail, sides, and rear like a wagon wheel). We only put out one claymore on the trail hoping for a fast ambush. After setting out our claymore we watched the trail and jungle around us for movement and waited for darkness.

As we continued to maintain full alertness, we heard movement to our left. Within a few seconds NVA (North Vietnam Army regulars) soldiers came into view and Tim told us to get ready to engage the enemy. As they approached the team, Tim observed another group coming behind the first group and we hunkered down to wait for a better opportunity. The first group went past, the second group went past, and more and more enemy came down the trail.

When we had set up our night position it seemed that we were hidden within the jungle behind bushes and trees with no clear or open view of the trail. Now, however, with the enemy moving through our ambush zone we could see two to three soldiers at a time from their boots to their faces with full NVA uniforms and weapons. It was unsettling to consider that any of these NVA soldiers, if they were alert or attentive, only had to turn their heads to the side and they would see us.

Part of the enemy column stopped right in front of our position and we could hear the moans of their wounded. The NVA started pulling bicycles out of the brush across the trail from us and used them to move the wounded. As the column continued to pass in front of us Tim attempted to make radio contact with Slashing Talon, our TOC, informing them of the high number of NVA passing us. Tim remembers when Xray picked up our squelch-code and asked if we had enemy close by and he coded back "yes". Xray then asked him to break squelch once for each

one in sight, and he coded back "no". They finally asked him to break squelch once for each five enemy in sight and Greenly started breaking squelch. With that change in squelch-code they finally figured out the problem and relayed to Talon 65 that Team 31 was in deep doo-doo. As the TL was communicating that we were approaching 300+ NVA passing our position it became dark. About that time the NVA column stopped and set up their night position in front and around the team. Tim was talking about blowing the claymore and getting out of Dodge. Blymyer remembers thinking that he really, really didn't want to attempt an E&E (escape and evasion) with that radio on his back slowing him down. He was also wondering how healed his ankle really was and if it would hold up to a run in the dark (he had goofed it up pretty badly on a fumbled attempt at a PLF on another mission about a month



William Joseph Francis

earlier). As the NVA settled into place they moved their security soldiers out around their column. Roberts recalled that we heard movement to our left and when the soldier stopped we heard a metallic clicking sound (like our old Halloween/4th of July clickers) coming from that soldier, and then movement of another soldier to that location. The original soldier moved on to another location and stopped, which was to the rear of us, and once again we heard a metallic clicking sound and another soldier moved to that location. This action went on for a long time with a number of NVA now surrounding the five of us and the enemy column still directly to our front. As these soldiers continued to move to their night guard positions we hoped they would not trip over or into us. We were lucky that none of the sentries they put out around us discovered we weren't NVA.

The enemy starting laying down around us and Blymyer remembers that his stomach started to growl and rumble. One NVA came over next to him to relieve his bladder and Blymyer knew the enemy had to hear his stomach and wasn't sure how long he was going to be able to keep the ol' sphincter muscle



tightened up. He remembers not being very optimistic about living to see the sun come up.

Roberts recollects that he sat there, trying to be motionless and calm, watching soldier after soldier carrying their wounded, heavy machine guns, mortars, AK-47s, RPG's, and a complete arsenal of weapons. He remembers becoming more and more fearful as each soldier passed. The NVA soldiers were close enough for us to see and hear everything they did. The smallest sounds they made; packs creaking, water sloshing in canteens, the moaning and groaning from their injured, playing grab-ass with each other, laughing, talking, and playing music from transistor radios. It seemed surrealistic and odd but it made them seem human. The scariest thought Dan had was if any one of the 300+ soldiers turned their head to the right they would see our team and we would have the firefight of our life. Dan remembers shaking so much he made the jungle floor under his body make noise. He tried to control his fear, but continued to make noise that could have given our position away. Greenly leaned over and told him that he had to try and stop making noise. Dan acknowledged that he'd try (while still watching soldier after soldier passing us). Dan became aware of just how scared he'd become. Never before, during, or after Vietnam had that level of fear gotten a hold of him (that was a sentiment probably shared by all the team!). Dan thought he would die that night and began to negotiate with the Man. He can personally attest to the fact that "There are no atheists in the foxhole". He vividly remembers that he negotiated with God telling him if he lived or got out of this he would go back to church and at some time build him a shrine. Greenly decided that he and Curtis would stay awake for the remainder of the night and we would not rotate guard as we normally do. Tim whispered for the remaining three of us to get some sleep; that it'd be a long night.

As Dan continued to negotiate with God he fell into a deep sleep. The next thing Roberts noticed were birds singing their beautiful songs. He knew there had to be birds in heaven and said to himself, "I made it to Heaven, thank you God!". As he lay there with his eyes closed and listened to the birds singing he felt warmth on his cheek. Curious about the source of the warmth Dan opened his eyes one at a time to locate the source. He saw a ray of light shining through the double and triple jungle canopy

and it was the only direct light making it through the trees. It was this ray of light shining on his face and warming his cheeks. As Dan considered if this was truly heaven or a Divine intervention, he heard laughter coming from his right and turning his head towards the laughter, he saw his team members laughing at him. Roberts then knew that this was not Heaven but was still deep in the jungles of Vietnam and in harms way. "What happened?" Dan asked. They told him the NVA pulled out about sunrise and the Huey and pink team (a Cobra gun ship and a light observation helicopter, LOH) were on their way to pick us up, but they wanted to ensure that the NVA got further away before they picked us up. Dan wanted to know why no one on the team woke him up. Someone replied, "You looked like a sleeping baby and no one on the team had the heart to wake you up". Dan then wanted to know when we were getting outta' here and was told "shortly".

After the NVA had clearly left the area Tim called in a fire mission on where he thought they might be. The team collected the claymore, which to our amazement had blood from one of the wounded NVA on it, and packed our packs. As we were leaving we even found an NVA helmet. As the team moved towards our LZ for extraction we saw the pink team come into view. Shortly the Huey was on his final approach to the LZ to pick us up. We loaded onto the Huey and flew back to base for debriefing and a warm beer.

An overflight the next morning didn't find anything and nobody believed us at Division. A day later that Regiment attacked a fire base. The CO made mention of that mission in his farewell letter where he says we proved the doubting Thomas's wrong. Dan (and the rest of the team) are still not sure if our mission had some Divine intervention or just dumb luck by our not engaging them or the NVA not physically falling over us!

Thanks Tim and Mike – for reliving this mission with me!

That's it for this issue – hope to see everyone at Benning!

"For those who've fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know!"



I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1st DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL



Our 2026 LRRP/Ranger reunion brought us together in the historic and welcoming city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, from May 6 to May 10. With Debby Douglas as our gracious host, and with the help of Cheryl Allday, Nancy Bennett, Wendy Hund, and Judi McGath, the gathering was made even more special. We stayed at the lovely "SpringHill Suites by Marriott", nestled along the Tennessee River, beside "Scottie's by The River" restaurant, a setting that made the time together even more memorable.



We had a wonderful turnout with 16 veterans, 14 wives and 14 descendants in attendance and a fantastic time at our 1st Inf Div LRRP-Ranger Reunion this year. While we were thrilled with the number of people who were able to join us, we certainly missed those who were unable to make it and hope to see them next year.

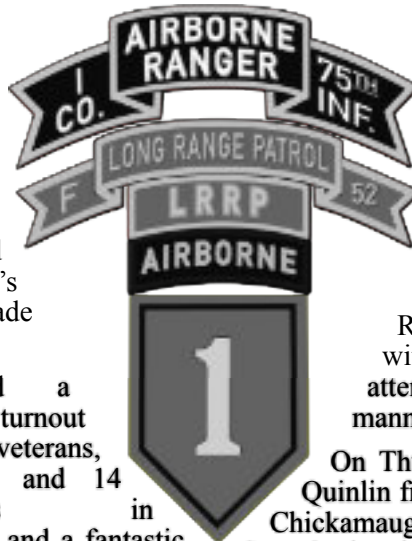
Guests Reunion and Dinner: Peggy and Purl Ward and Louanne Collins and Dave

Special Guests: General B.B. Bell, our keynote speaker; Major General Bill Raines; LTC Carl Poston; LTC Terry, and Bobbie Fiest; Chief Warrant Officer J.O. Ratliff; and Charlie Hobbs, President of VVA Post 203 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, along with Sharon Hobbs.

Because this was not a business meeting, our agenda was brief: selection of the host city of our 2027 1st Infantry Division LRP-Ranger Reunion. By unanimous vote, Kentucky's state capital, Frankfort, was chosen. Located in beautiful Eastern Kentucky, steeped in history (including



1 Co. Rangers at the 18th INF RGT Chickamauga Battlefield Memorial



being the final resting place of Daniel and Rebecca Boone), and the trailhead of the state's renowned "Kentucky Bourbon Trail", it is sure to be yet another great reunion. Our volunteer hostess, Judi McGath, will explore the possibility of scheduling the reunion in September 2027. Debby Douglas will be Judi's "backup", the same capacity in which Cheryl Allday had served for our Chattanooga Reunion.

Reunion activities began Wednesday evening with a pizza gathering at the hotel to welcome attendees to Chattanooga in our traditional reunion manner.

On Thursday Civil War historian and author Brad Quinlin from Suwannee, Georgia, led a VIP tour of the Chickamauga Battlefield, which is situated in northern Georgia, just below Chattanooga. Our momentous day and evening were "capped off" with a great outdoor meal at Chickamauga's Railhead Station Grill and courtesy of "Freedom Sings USA" we were serenaded by Country Western Singer-Songwriters "Mutt" Cooper and Grammy Award-Winner, Steve Dean. Mutt traveled all the way from Columbus, Georgia, and Steve all the way from Nashville, just to entertain us. We also had the pleasure of meeting our hostess for the full-day adventure, Bobbie Standefer, Executive Director and Co-Founder of "Freedom Sings USA" – a national songwriting/



Teddy Hill getting professional lessons from C&W Artist Mutt Cooper

music-production and publishing organization, which is a non-profit totally dedicated to helping America's Military Veterans "Heal Through Music".

On Friday, we toured "The Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center" and its many exhibits. It is an institute devoted to educating its visitors about American Military Heroes who, since 1863, have received the Nation's highest combat valor award – The Medal of Honor. Among its



Bobbie Standefer & Deb Douglas



I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1st DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL

continued



shows and tells the story of his daring rescue of a four-men Team, call-sign "Wildcat 2", of our 1st Division Vietnam LRP-Ranger unit, which included Dave Hill, as its Assistant Team Leader. As both Capt. Taylor and his Wingman had expended all their rockets and ammunition, and Team "Wildcat 2" had also expended all of their ammunition, Capt. Taylor risked his life to extract the still surrounded "Wildcat 2" —on the "outside" of his 2-man attack helicopter (there being no internal cabin in which they could ride). Larry's (then) Co-Pilot, CW02 J.O. Ratliff, along with J.O.'s and Larry's fellow D Troop (Air), 1st Sq/4th Cavalry "Cobra" Pilot, Terry Fiest, and his wife, Bobbie, attended our reunion, and we were honored to have them join us throughout the event. After our guided tour of the MOH Center, we held our Ranger Reunion Dinner at the MOH Heritage Center, catered by "Veteran-Owned" Mission BBQ. Jim Savage gave the "Invocation". Dave Flores then conducted our traditional solemn, "Missing Man" tribute, standing before its symbolic "Table", in honor of those Americans who were killed, missing in action, or prisoners in any of America's wars. General Bell then shared remarks on the history of the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, and their tremendous historical importance in the American Civil War. Following the dinner, a very successful auction was held,

numerous individual exhibits, one honors Chattanooga native, Captain Larry L. Taylor, a U.S. Army attack helicopter pilot who received the Medal of Honor on September 5, 2023, for his actions in Vietnam on June 18, 1968. The display includes a full-size replica of Capt. Taylor's AHI-G "Cobra" Attack Helicopter, and features a "perpetual" video, which

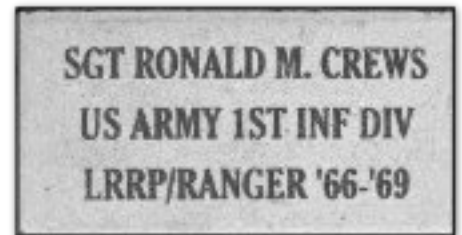
which added greatly to our company funds.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Leslie Scara, Director of Annual Giving and Special Events, and Tom Mundell, President and CEO of The Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center, for their invaluable support and hosting our Reunion in the MOH Center and making the tour and dinner so memorable.

Located between Louisville and Lexington, our Reunion host city, Frankfort, with a population of just over 28,000 residents, is Kentucky's Capitol. It sits right in the heart of the "Bluegrass State", offering deep roots in the spirits industry: It is well-known for being the trailhead of the "Kentucky Bourbon Trail". Some well-known bourbon distilleries located in or near Frankfort include "Buffalo Trace Distillery"; "Castle &



Missing Man Table



*Memorial Brick
National Medal of Honor Center*

Key Distillery"; and "J.Mattingly 1845 Distillery". If you would like your bourbon tour by water instead of land, there's no better way to do it than by booking the only water-based "Bourbon Trail" tour. Kentucky River Tours' flagship Kentucky River Bourbon History Tour gives visitors a unique perspective on the river and the early distillers who decided to build their fortunes along its bank. Cruisers will see remains of bank-side buildings – some in ruins – that marked the beginnings of the commonwealth's signature industry.

Look for updates on our 2027 Reunion from our Secretary, Cheryl Allday. I hope you will be able to join us.



Dave Hill was born in 1948 in California and worked as a firefighter in the 60s before joining the military as an 11 Bravo. He was assigned to the 41st Inf Plt (Scout Dog), 1st Infantry Div., Phouc Vihn, RVN, F Co./52nd Inf. (LRP), 1st ID, Lai Khe, assigned to LRP Team "Wildcat 2" as the Assistant Team Leader, 5th Bn/6th Inf., 1st Armored Division, Plt. Sgt. He was awarded the Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). After his military service he earned a BA in Political Science and an MA in International Affairs and worked at the US Commerce Department as an international economist, and as a Logistics Director in the private sector.



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

The following are excerpts from Steve Nahay (advisor 5th VN Ranger Group) in a conversation with an unknown individual and a response from Ken Teel (Senior Advisor 5th VN Ranger Group).

Steve: Then Captain Ripley and his Vietnamese Marines were in the same area as my 5th Vietnamese Ranger Group in April of 1972. He blew up the bridge just north my unit's position which was facing west against the NVA. I joined the Rangers about 10 days later. If the NVA had gotten across the river just north of Kong HA, my unit would have been flanked from the rear and put into a vise with no escape! I would have had no unit to join.

Ken: Steve, I'm going to correct some of your information. Our 5th Ranger Group had not arrived until after the Dong Ha Bridge, was destroyed on Easter Sunday. When the magnitude of the NVA offensive became apparent, we were airlifted from Cu Chi to Phu Bai on April 4th and moved into position northwest of Quang Tri, relieving the 258 Vietnamese Marine Corps Brigade on April 6th. All the fire bases north and west of Quang Tri manned by the Vietnamese Marines and units of the 3rd ARVN Infantry Division had been overrun of abandoned from March 31 to April 2.

On April 2nd, the Dong Ha Bridge was destroyed due to the heroism of Marine Captain John Ripley, advisor to 3rd VNMC Battalion, and Major James Smock, advisor to ARVN 20th Tank Battalion. On April 8th our 33rd Ranger Battalion relieved the 3rd VNMC Battalion at Dong Ha, and I have a vague recollection of meeting CPT Ripley then. If that bridge hadn't been destroyed, the 5th Ranger Group might have been having to fight our way into Quang Tri city instead. A well deserved award of the Medal of Honor.

April 2nd was also pretty significant for our friend 1LT Jankowski, (Bilk 34), who played such a key role in our lives a month later. On that day he was flying as a FAC when the electronic warfare plane carrying LTC Gene Hambleton, call sign Bat 21 Bravo, was shot down north of Cam Lo. Bill spotted Bat 21's parachute descending as was able to provide detailed information that launched the ultimately successful search and rescue operation.

Ken Teel was commissioned as an Infantry officer



through ROTC at Oklahoma University and served 29 years on active duty, including two tours in Vietnam. 1967-68 as an advisor with the 5th ARVN Division. 1971 he served on the staff of the 101st Airborne Division until it was redeployed back to the US. He then assumed duties as Senior Advisor to LTC Ngo Minh Hong, commander of the 5th VN Ranger Group in March 1972. His career included command at company, battalion and Brigade level. Ken resides in Amarillo, TX.

Ranger Adventures:

Colonel Lewis L. Millett was born December 15, 1920 in Mechanic Falls, Maine.

He is a combat decorated veteran of three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

His family has fought in many of this nation's war and conflicts, going back to 1675 when an- ancestor died during an Indian massacre in Massachusetts Bay Colony and up to 1985 when his youngest son was among 347 Mideast peacekeepers kicked in a plane crash in Newfoundland.

Lewis joined the military after his junior year of High School, because he wanted to fight. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that no American boys would be sent to fight in Europe, Lewis deserted, went to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Army. He soon found himself in London manning an anti-aircraft gun during the Blitz.

With American troops began to arrive in England, Lewis to advantage of a provision whereby it allowed American citizens serving with an allied country to transfer to the U.S. military. He served in North Africa where he was awarded the Silver Star and promoted from Private to Sergeant. He also fought in the Battle Salerno and Anzio. It was at Anzio that his old records caught up to him and he was told that he had been Court Martialed for Desertion. His sentence was a \$52 fine. That same day he received a battlefield commission to Lieutenant for his fearlessness in combat.

When the war ended Lewis went to college and then joined the Maine National Guard. When the Korean War broke out he joined the 8th Field Artillery of the 25th



ARVN RANGER ADV, BIỆT-ĐÔNG-QUÂN

UNIT DIRECTOR - BILL MILLER

continued



Division and was sent to Korea. When the commanding officer of an Infantry Company was killed. Lewis took over. On February 7, 1951 Lewis was in command of about 100 soldiers of the 27th Infantry (Wolfhounds) near the village of Soam-Ni. They were proceeding up a road when they were attacked by Chinese Communist soldiers in the hills above them. Running low on ammunition Captain Lewis Millett ordered his men to fix bayonets and then he lead the charge up the hill. With his large red handlebar mustache, he reached the enemy trench line and bayoneted two enemy soldiers. He then used his rifle as a club against other soldiers forcing them to break and run. He was wounded by grenade fragments but refused to be evacuated until the position was secured. For this action Captain Lewis Lee Millett was awarded the Medal of Honor which was presented to him on July 5, 1951.

After the war in Korea, he attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course, and Ranger school as a Major. He was assigned to the 101st Airborne and became involved in the Special Operation community. During the

Vietnam War he instrumental in setting up the Vietnamese Ranger School and the Commando training program in Laos.

Colonel Millett retired in 1973. During his long career he made five combat paratroop jumps and was the first Officer ever to rappel from a hovering helicopter and is the founder of the U.S. Army Recondo Schools. And oh by the way he was the American to be awarded the coveted "Biet Dong Quan Badge", known as the Vietnamese Ranger Badge.

At the time of his retirement, he was the only Colonel in American history to have been found guilty of desertion. He died in a Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda, CA November 14 2009.

Biet Dong Quan Sat!

Mu Nau
Bill Miller
Unit Director



RANGER HALL OF FAME

BY: RICK BARELA



I hope the summer is finding you in good health and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Rendezvous in June. This year we reviewed a total of 11 packets for Ranger Hall of Fame, and we selected the 3 best to move forward to the full board. The 3 that were selected were:

MAJ (Ret) Doug Phillipone of 3rd Ranger Bn and the Special Troop Battalion

SGT Stephen Johnson of G Co 75th Ranger

CPT (Ret) Pete Dencker of H Co 75th Ranger

This year was a selection that was more difficult than in the past as we only selected ten rangers to be inducted. In the past we had 15 packets but per our new by-laws that were implemented this year our number is now ten. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is proud to announce the following rangers were inducted in June to the class of 2026:

MAJ (Ret) Doug Phillipone of 3rd Ranger Bn and the Special Troop Battalion

CPT (Ret) Pete Dencker of H Co 75th Ranger

Sadly, Steve was not selected. As stated, selection is much more difficult, the board is not only looking at the military

service record but also what has been done to support the ranger ethos and has he supported outside veteran Service Organizations.

Lastly, I want to thank all the units that submitted a packet this year. We seem to be moving forward by your unit's selection of this worthy of the Ranger Hall of Fame. As I have stated in the past, we look for the absolute best who have served in a Ranger unit and have promoted the Ranger Ethos after their service. We look at the whole person not just their military career. Have they supported the Ranger Associations, do they live and support the ranger creed and especially do they promote our association in their communities.

This is the time for all UD's to get your company membership and start looking at Ranger Hall of Fame packets for 2027. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me regarding this or any matters regarding the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Rangers Lead the Way!!

Richard (Rick) S. Barela
Chairman, Ranger Hall of Fame
75th Ranger Regiment Association



VSO ADVICE

By: RICK BARELA



In the past I have posted the citations of two Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees. However, the site from which I was able to pull that information has now been taken down.

Instead, I am going to add comments as an Accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for the VFW and how to assist you in filing your VA Claims and appeals.

Initial Claims

Before you go to a Lawyer or claim agency, remember they charge you. Some will charge up to 40% of your 1st years benefits.

Seek out a Veteran Service Organization, i.e. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), your state Dpt. of Veterans

Affairs. These organizations all have accredited VSOs and can assist you in filing your claim and guiding you through the process. They do not charge and you **do not have to be a member of the organization** to have them assist you. If you have gone to one a lawyer or claim agent and want to make the change, you must get a letter of release before seeking out a Veteran Service Organization for assistance.

VSO | VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

What to bring on your initial visit:

- DD-214 showing all dates of service – Discharge paperwork from Reserves/National Guard.
- Any previous claim forms and letters of “denied claims or approved claims” so we can ensure we file for the correct items per the previous claims.
- If you have a service-connected rating, please provide this documentation for review.
- Bank Account Information
- Bank Name and location along with Bank Routing Number and Checking or Saving Account Number
- If you are filing to add your spouse and/or dependent children, you will need to provide a copy of your current marriage License, any divorce decrees, and birth certificates for your dependent children under the age of 18 along with the SSAN numbers.
- APPEALS: This requires all documentation for the initial claim and denials and letters of terminating current benefits. Important: You will need new and relevant data to attach to the appeal.

Be honest with the VSO in filing your claim. Make sure what you put down as service-connected injury or illness is documented on the medical records.

Ask questions regarding PACT Act and Burn Pit registry. There are many presumptive illnesses that you may have incurred and are eligible for benefits.

Call your local VA regional office and they have a list of the accredited VSOs in your area.

If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact me and I’ll try and guide you in the right direction. Each state is different, but the national standards are set for each Veteran Service Organization to assist and support you the veteran and their dependents.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Richard (Rick) S. Barela
Chairman, Ranger Hall of Fame
75th Ranger Regiment Association



P/75-79th LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - GARRY NORTON

By Thomas A. Jones

Each February, a unique gathering takes place that blends camaraderie, fieldcraft, and conservation into a single operational-style weekend event: the Special Operations Wounded Warrior (SOWW) Hog Hunt. The highlight of this event for me is that I get to spend time with Eddie Oglesby a teammate from Vietnam and his son Squirrel. This year's third-week in February event brought together roughly sixty operators representing all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and several family members. On Friday Rob Schneider successful actor/comedian showed up and entertained us. Though informal in structure, the atmosphere carried the familiar rhythm of coordinated planning, shared purpose, and disciplined execution.

A Unified Force in the Field

Despite differing backgrounds and specialties, the participants quickly coalesced into a single working group in support of eight primary hunters assigned for the weekend. The mission profile centered on managing an overpopulated feral hog population on private lands along the North Carolina, South Carolina border with local landowners granting access in support of SOWW.

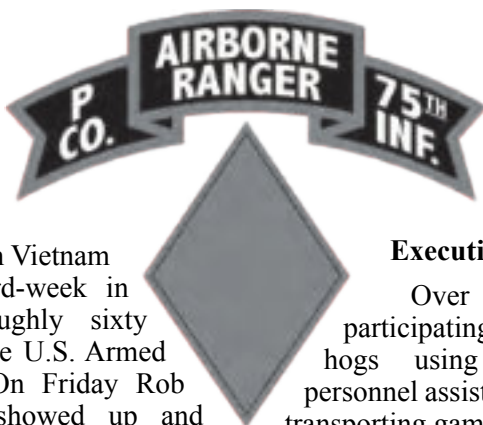
The hunters were equipped for close-range harvest using knives Wow, while additional operators assisted in field coordination, animal handling, and logistical support throughout the event. The emphasis remained on safety, teamwork, and efficient processing in a rural field environment.



Tom & Actor/Comedian Rob Schneider

Preparations and Field Setup

Preparation took place during the year leading up to the week of the Hunt when Eddie and a I and few of others initiated baiting operations on Monday ahead of the Thursday hunt. By all accounts, the preparation paid off—activity levels at the sites increased steadily leading up to the event, setting the



stage for a productive weekend in the field.

By Thursday morning, staging areas were established, communications were briefed, and hunters were assigned to their respective guides.

Execution and Results

Over the course of the hunt, the eight participating hunters successfully harvested 35 feral hogs using close-quarters methods. Supporting personnel assisted throughout with tracking, handling, and transporting game from the field to processing areas.

A key operational component was the on-site processing team led by Skinner and his wife, who once again provided essential services in field dressing and breakdown. In addition to their processing work, Skinner played a critical role in advance coordination—contacting local landowners and securing access permissions across multiple properties, ensuring the continuity of operations. He also coordinated with Wildlife Services to get special hunting licenses for the hunters allowing them to hunt in both states at no cost to the hunters.

Morale, Hospitality, and Tradition

Beyond the fieldwork, the event maintained a strong focus on morale and fellowship. Evening gatherings featured a well-prepared breakfast and lunch prepared by volunteers and an evening meal donated by local restaurants that participants consistently described as high quality five star meals. A nighttime fireworks display added a celebratory close to the primary operational day, reinforcing the sense of community among participants.

Closing Reflection

As with previous years, the Wounded Warrior Hog Hunt demonstrated how shared mission experience, outdoor skills, and veteran camaraderie can come together in a structured yet relaxed environment. With successful field outcomes, strong participation, and continued support from landowners and volunteers, organizers and participants alike are already looking ahead to next February's event with anticipation



America's Best!!!



Eddie & Audra



P/75-79th LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - GARRY NORTON

It is with heavy hearts and enduring love that we announce the passing of Jerry Yonko, 75, of Mississippi, who left us on June 11, 2026. Though the world knew him as Jerome Martin Kelly Yonko, to everyone who mattered, he was simply Jerry.

Jerry was born on October 2, 1950, in Gary, Indiana, and made his way to Mississippi as a teenager, a state he would call home for the majority of his life. Before settling into that life, he answered his country's call and served as an Airborne Army Ranger during the Vietnam War, where he earned both the Bronze Star with valor device and the Purple Heart on three separate occasions. He carried that service quietly and with great dignity.

Jerry had a gift for music that never left him. He was an avid guitar player who found his greatest joy strumming alongside his friends, filling rooms with the kind of warmth only live music can bring. Whether it was a backyard gathering or a quiet evening at home, Jerry with a guitar in his hands was Jerry at his best.

For 40 years, Jerry was devoted to his wife, Marie Kelly Yonko. A partnership built on love, loyalty, and the kind of steadiness that anchors a whole family. In their younger years, Jerry and Marie were afforded the rare opportunity to travel the world with Seagram's, the company to which Jerry devoted a large portion of his life. If you visited his home, you'd quickly learn that one more soul held a very special place in his heart: his cat, Rocky, who was with him right to the end.

In his final three years, Jerry faced adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare and relentless form of cancer with the same grit he brought to everything else in his life. He liked to say he was fighting cancer like it owed him money. And he meant it. Those who knew him were never surprised; this was a man who had already stared down harder things and come out the other side. He faced his illness not with bitterness, but with fight, humor, and grace.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Marie Kelly Yonko; his son, Joseph Kelly Yonko; his daughter, Mallory Kendall Yonko; his sisters, Nancy Yonko and Bobbie Bourne; his grandchildren, Rowland Yonko and Alison Yonko; and his Papa Company brothers. He was preceded in death by his parents, George Yonko, Billie Yonko, and Jessie Yonko; his brother, George Yonko Jr.; his sister, Phyllis Wheeler; and his son, Matthew Martin Yonko.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Sebrell Funeral Home in Ridgeland, Mississippi. The visitation will be held at 1 pm, with the Celebration of Life at 2 pm and a reception to follow. Family and friends are warmly invited to share their memories of a man who gave so much of himself to his country, his music, and the people he loved.

A soldier, a musician, a husband, a father, and a man who always made time for one more song.





L/75-F/58 LRP - 1/101st LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY



With the risk of turning this issue into another obituary page, I feel it's my duty to inform all the Rangers and LRRPs of our company to learn of the recent passing of retired Colonel James Montano. He came to "L" Company in 1971 to replace Lt. James Leroy Smith who had been killed-in-action during a rescue mission in February of that year. Lt. Smith was very popular with the men and replacing him would be a tall order, to say the least. As a newly-assigned lieutenant, Montano immediately took it upon himself to prove he was up to the job. Even though officers were not required to go on missions, Montano volunteered for as many of them as he could and tried to get as much field experience as was allowed for someone of his rank. This experience later gave him the opportunity to lead a platoon-size element in the A Shau Valley in April of 1971 that would prove to be one of the most fateful missions the company ever had. As most of you know, that particular mission involved Ranger Team Cubs being

attacked on Hill 809 and the subsequent rescue missions that followed. Montano's group was initially supposed to be involved in the main mission on the valley floor, but the attack on the Cubs left them little to do but hunker down and try to remain undetected while the battle action swirled around the hill. This was not an easy thing

to do. NVA soldiers were all over the valley floor and searching for any sign of U.S. soldiers. After three days of keeping out of sight and out of mind from the NVA, Montano's platoon was given new assignments which involved securing the downed helicopters from the previous action which were now spread out all over the valley terrain and adjacent hills. These were not easy tasks as enemy



CPT William Collum

soldiers remained in the area and Montano and his men were subjected to constant but sporadic fire. By this time, what was left of Team Cubs and their rescuers had been evacuated. Montano and his men then went to work. When it was all over, they were able to return to the company without taking casualties and accomplishing their assignments. It wasn't the original mission Montano or Captain Dave Ohle had planned on, but all things considered, it was still the best possible outcome for that group of Rangers. Obviously, if the NVA had discovered their position, things might've turned out much worse for all involved.

Montano's military career took off after his tour with "L" Company ended and he rapidly climbed up the ladder of success. During his 26 year career, he accumulated numerous awards including the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), Bronze Star, Air Assault Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V", Purple Heart, Master Parachute Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge and Jungle Warfare Badge and others. Montano served during Operation Desert Storm as the G3 of the XVIII Airborne Corps, among other commands. After leaving the service, Montano made it a point to attend as many "L" Company Ranger reunions as possible and was a welcome presence. At our reunion several years ago in Scott, Louisiana, Montano gave a heartfelt speech during a ceremony at the town's City Hall which was well-received. He talked about the courage of the Rangers for putting their lives on the line on some of the more hair-raising missions back in the day. It was an emotional speech and Montano had tears in his eyes at the finish. Montano retired as a full-bird Colonel, which was a major accomplishment.

Colonel Montano leaves his lovely wife Jessica and two sons, Trevor



COL. James Montano (ret)



and Jason. He also had a number of grandchildren and a host of in-laws. For many years, he and his family lived in Huntington Beach, California. The last few years, he moved to the state of Delaware to be closer to some of his relatives. On a personal level, I knew Col. Montano well and visited him at his Huntington Beach home which was only an hour or so from my own residence in Manhattan Beach, California. He was a gracious host and my wife Ilene also got to know him. The last time I saw the colonel was at a memorial service for the West Point class of 1969 at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. This was in October of 2024. Two of our officers from "L" Company who were casualties from that class were remembered in the service (Lt. James Smith and Lt. Paul Sawtelle). Montano was an invited guest as was our former company commander, ret. Lt. Gen. David Ohle. Unfortunately, because of his illness, Montano was unable to attend our last "L" Company reunion last year in Las Vegas. I have included two photos of Jim for this publication: one in his full-dress greens and the other one



COL Montano and Mrs. Jessica Montano

with his wife Jessica. Jim Montano was 80 at the time of his death.

As the years pass, only time can heal the pain of losing loved ones---and even that doesn't truly put an end to the painful feelings and sense of loss. When I look at posts on Facebook from relatives of some of the men lost on Hill 809, that fact hits home---even after all these years. Recently I noticed the family of Captain William Collum celebrating his life and service on Facebook. They included many photos of the captain during his days as a helicopter pilot for the 2/17th Cavalry. Collum was one of the brave pilots who gave his life during the initial stages of the fight on Hill 809 and he will always be remembered by the Rangers who he gave his life for. I have included a photo of Captain Collum for this issue.

So, we're all getting older and I don't have to tell you that with this aging process, illnesses and the inevitable follows. We all see it and there's not much we can do about it except try to stay as healthy as possible. Similar to our time together as Rangers and LRRPs, we are once again "all in the same boat." It seems we attend more funerals than weddings now and there isn't a damn thing anyone can do about it. But despite everything, you have to find ways to move forward. No matter how difficult and perilous our Ranger missions were, my old team leader, William "Fido" Vodden used to say "F...k it, drive on." And we did---through hell and high water, as they say. When I first arrived in Vietnam, I was with Charlie Company of the 2/506th Infantry up at Camp Evans for a few weeks before being assigned to the Rangers. Before my time with the unit ended, my platoon leader, Lt. Ken Pitetti, suffered severe wounds and was extracted from the field under duress. I kept in touch with him over the years. He lost a leg that day, but it never slowed him down. After leaving the army, he completed his education and surprisingly became a professor of Physical Therapy at Wichita State in Kansas. The secret of his success was similar to old Fido's mantra. In a recent interview he stated. "Life just is what it bloody is. You have to find ways to move forward or you're doomed. You must move forward." And do you ever. It was good advice when SSG Vodden told us to keep going and it remains good advice coming from Lt. Pitetti. Lastly, I have included a photo of Ken and myself from one of our recent get-togethers in Los Angeles.



Lt. Ken Pitetti and Charles Reilly

Well, I'll leave you with that message of perseverance and until next time...have a great Summer of 2026! As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Charles Reilly
Unit Director



REST IN PEACE RANGER HALE

CHARLIE COMPANY 1ST BATTALION 75TH RANGER REGIMENT



Please join us in honoring the life and sacrifice of Private First-Class Maxwell "Max" B. Hale, a proud Ranger of C Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Born on 27 June 2005 to Aaron and Sara Hale, Max knew from his freshman year of high school exactly what he wanted — to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment. He walked away from a path that could have taken him to top Division 1 water polo programs across the country, choosing instead to answer a higher calling. He loved fitness, music, the outdoors, and most of all, his family and friends.

Those who served alongside him remember a Ranger who was relentless. His Team Leader called him one of the hardest working men he'd seen in a long time — always pushing to improve, always pulling more than his share. Grounded. Strong. Stubborn in the best way. Max was superb at what he did, and he was deeply loved by the men beside him.

But what set Max apart wasn't just his strength — it was his heart. He treated everyone



with respect, whether it was a teammate, someone at the gym, or a stranger he crossed paths with. He trained his whole life to earn his place among Rangers, and when he got there, he never once acted like he was above anyone.

He was proud to be part of something bigger than himself. His humility, sharpness, and heart made him an example to every Ranger who knew him.

PFC Hale in-processed with 1st Platoon, Charlie Company in January 2026 and was quickly deployed in support of highly sensitive national strategic objectives. Though his time with C/1/75 was short, Max served with everything he had — every single day, for his country and for his fellow Rangers.

He was a graduate of U.S. Army Infantry One Station Unit Training, Airborne School, and Ranger Assessment and Selection Program I (RASP I).

Max is survived by his mother, Sara Hale; his father, Aaron Hale; his three sisters,

Evelyn, Paige, and Lenora; and his two brothers, Owen and Townsend.

Lord, wrap this family in Your peace and hold Max in Your arms. Thank You for a young man who gave everything, all the way to the end. We will never forget him.

Rest easy, Ranger. Your watch has ended — you are Home.



Ranger Maxwell Hale & Sara Hale

In lieu of flowers family kindly requests donations be made to

In lieu of flowers family kindly requests donations be made to:

Maxwell Hale H20POLO memorial Foundation

(official foundation pending)

Venmo: @HaleH20POLO

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REST IN PEACE RANGER COLLETT

THREE RANGERS FOUNDATION



The Three Rangers Foundation is saddened to announce the passing of one of its founders, SFC, Retired, John Matthew Collett, who passed 14 July 2026.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family, as well as the many friends and countless lives he touched.

We will do our best to keep everyone informed while honoring the wishes of John's family, which remains our highest priority. We also ask that everyone respect the family by being thoughtful about any information shared publicly and consider how it may affect them during this difficult time.

John was loved by many and will live in our hearts forever.

John not only helped establish the Three Rangers Foundation, but he was also deeply involved in many charitable causes, selflessly giving his time and energy to serve others. If you were ever in Chicago and happened to pass beneath a bridge where someone was genuinely engaging with a person experiencing hardship, trying to understand their needs and find a way to help, there is a good chance it was John.

Below is John's bio, written in his own words—a reflection of what he wanted people to know about him. It is a true testament to the humble man he was. I've added just a few notes of my own, and those are clearly attributed to me [Mike Hall]:



Ranger John Collett

John Matthew Collett was born on January 15, 1972, in Santa Ana, CA. He lived most of his life with his family in Costa Mesa, CA.

John graduated high school in 1991 from Marshfield, MO, and the following month joined the US Army. His basic training was at Ft. Benning, GA, where he joined the Rangers.

In 1993, his unit was sent to Mogadishu to aid in the country's hunger plight. He was in the Battle of Mogadishu on October 3-4, 1993. (Edit by Mike Hall. John was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his actions)

In 1998, he was injured during Special Forces training at Ft. Bragg and was medically discharged from the Army after 9 Years. Following his discharge from the Army, he returned to Costa Mesa. He was asked to participate in the making of the movie *Black Hawk Down* as a Technical Advisor and stuntman. He spent one year on the college speaking circuit talking about his experiences in Somalia and also the movie, *Black Hawk Down*.

In 2006, he received an AA degree from Orange Coast College in Music, where he also was on the rowing team. He received a BA from Columbia College, Chicago in 2009 in Film.

John is the Founder of the Three Rangers Foundation and Three Rangers Whiskey. Their mission is to assist veterans of the 75th Regiment with counseling, education, and transition out of the service. TRF started as a concept on a napkin for a way to help Veterans. Stepping away from both the Whiskey and Foundation in 2018, heading on a journey of self-discovery, a new team has manifested TRF into what it has become, fulfilling its mission at the highest level.

(Edit by Mike Hall. John recently returned from India and reassumed leadership of Three Rangers Whiskey. This June, John attended many Ranger Rendezvous events and caught up with many old friends)

His parents are Matt and Nancy Collett, Costa Mesa, CA. He has a sister, Julie, and brother, Jeff, and two nephews and three nieces.



REST IN PEACE RANGER COHEN

By JOSEPH POSATO



Colonel (Ret.) Howie Cohen was a warrior, a pioneer, and a leader whose influence will endure long beyond his years on this earth. This photo captures him around the time he graduated from Ranger School—just before he became one of the first officers to sign into the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. As a plank officer in the early 1980s, he helped shape the standards, culture, and ethos that would define the Regiment for generations.

Across nearly 28 years of service—many spent within the Special Operations community—Howie built a career marked by extraordinary responsibility, quiet professionalism, and unwavering devotion to his Soldiers. His assignments reflected both his capability and the immense trust placed in him:

3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment:

Foundational officer whose leadership helped forge the battalion's identity and elite standards.

112th Signal Battalion (Special Operations) (Airborne):

Battalion Commander known for building cohesive, high-performing teams in demanding, high-stakes environments.

Special Mission Unit Command:

A steady, confident presence guiding elite operators with tactical clarity, humility, and deep care for his people.

White House Communications Agency:

His final command, ensuring secure, seamless communications for the President of the United States.



Howie was legendary for his ability to build unity in unconventional ways. He understood that true military strength comes not only from tactical excellence, but from trust, shared hardship, and genuine commitment to one another. He believed that when individual accountability rises, the entire team rises with it.



</ picture caption >

He never asked anyone to do something he wasn't willing to do himself. He led from the front—always. Those who served with him describe a mentor, a standard-bearer, and a leader's leader. The comments left in his memory reflect the countless lives he shaped, strengthened, and inspired.

After an eight-year battle with cancer, Howie passed peacefully in his sleep. Heaven gained a warrior of uncommon character. His legacy is one of service, community, perseverance, and leadership lived at the highest level.



Howie Cohen was a Soldier's Soldier—an example of what it means to serve with honor, lead with heart, and live with purpose. His impact will not fade. His people will not forget.





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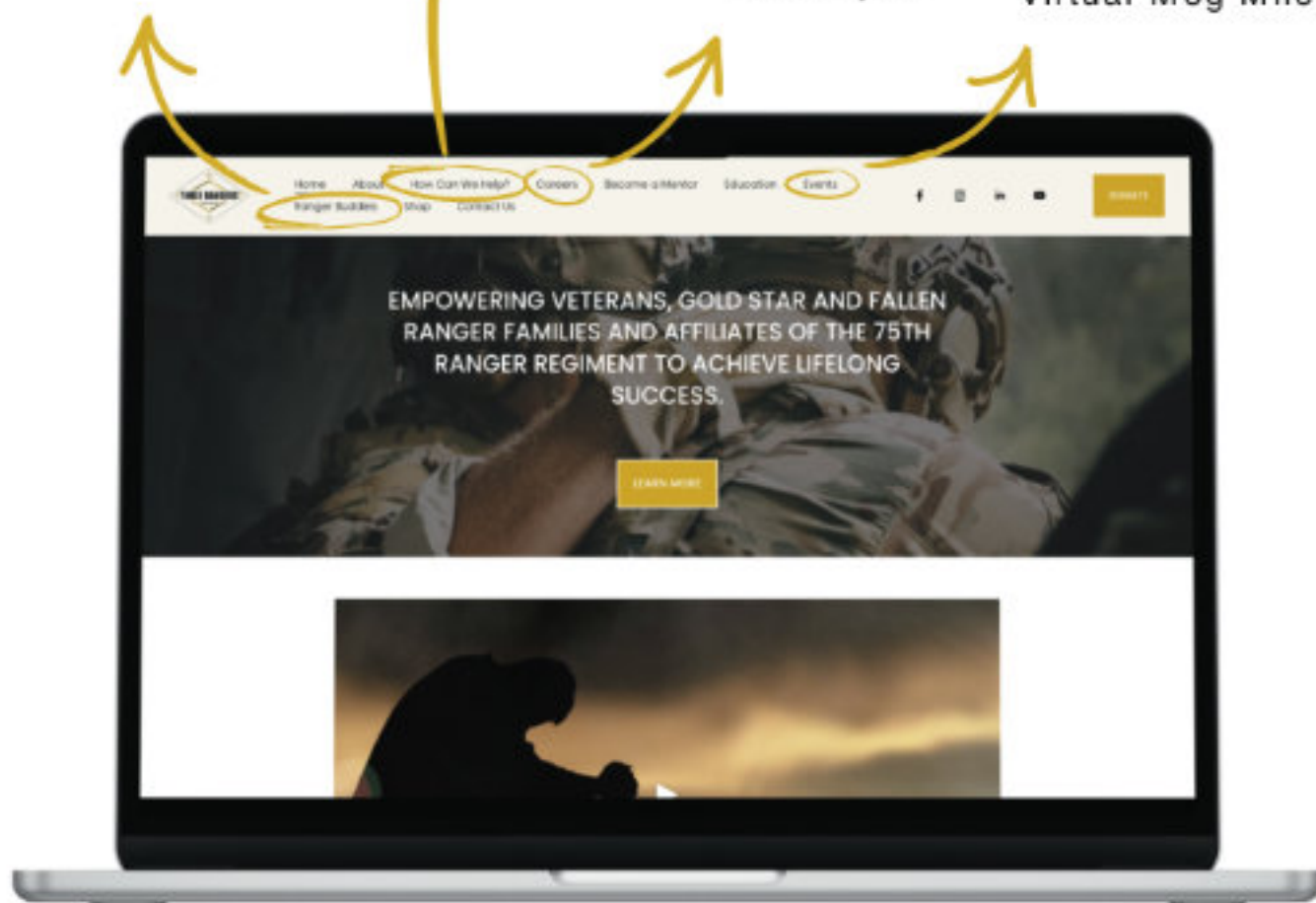


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