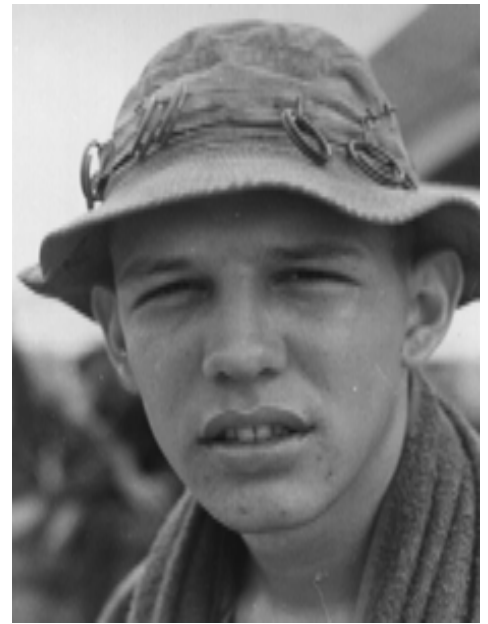


THE POINTMAN

NEWSLETTER - JULY 1998

A Publication of Company F 50th (Inf) LRP / 75th (Inf) Ranger



FIDEL JOE AGUIRRE * RICHARD C BABB JR * JOHN O BAUGHMAN * LARRY PAUL BLACKMAN * STEVEN E COLLIER
JOHN F CRICELAIR * DONALD ALLEN DAVIS * DUANE A DE VEGA * MACK DENNARD JR * JOSEPH E FITZGERALD
CARL D FLOWER * ALVIN W FLOYD * REID E. GRAYSON JR * HOWARD B HANDLEY * KENNETH HARJO
EARNEST HEARD * JOHN A JAKOVAC * LENNIS GODDARD JONES JR * GREGORY KELLY * ERVIN L LAIRD
MILAN L LEE * CHARLES MACKEN * DONALD R MAYBERRY * GARY R MCFALL * BRIAN K MCGAR
HUBERTA MERIDETH * MORRISON LOUIS PICKETT * DOUGLAS POLLOCK * ROBERT B PRITCHARD
CHARLES ROGERSON * RAYMOND SULLIVAN * MICHAEL F THOMAS * ROBERT C THOMPSON
DONALD W TINNEY * ARTHUR TOMASCHEK * JOHN H WHITE * FRANK WILDER



Hey Guys-

For a minute I thought about putting April 98 on the mast head for this issue, but quickly thought better of that idea (that's approximately when I should have had it out). You will most likely be picking it out of the mailbox on your way to the airport for this summer's big reunion at Fort Benning.

Lotsa stuff has taken place since our last one, for sure! Ron Harrison tells me he is interested in carrying the F Company Representative to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association position for another term (2 years), so lets all get behind that one by filling out the survey on the back page and getting it in the mail to him. Got anything else to add, scratch it into the margins or include another sheet! Only way anyone is going to know what you want/think is for you to tell 'em.

Who are these guys on the cover? Well, top-left, and going clockwise are Lou Nagel, Mel Bennard, Fred Forehand, Harvey Lameman (with James Thompson in the background), and David Riddell. Reason I put 'em up there is cause at least "someone" has had contact with them, so we know their still out there somewhere. This is just a small sampling of those who have been located or found us (perhaps thru the website), and a number of us are hoping they, and others like them, will be thinking seriously about joining us at this or the next F Company reunion or get-together (hint-hint!).

Our website, <http://www.lrrp.com>, has really come together thanks to those of you that have been gracious enough to loan me your In Country pics long enough to scan and put up. We have received quite a number of favorable comments through the guestbook and personal e-mail. Remember, you can update your information at the Operations Page, and find links to related sites and useful software there. Also, with the Real Audio plug-in you can view any of the 5 video slide shows set to music we put up recently. We will use it as a vehicle to keep you informed and, hopefully, entertained. You can get a current F Company alpha-roster by going to: <http://www.lrrp.com/roster/roster.htm> (.txt for a text version), you will need to remember or bookmark this because there is no direct link to this information. You can e-mail me or any of the guys that have kept us up on their e-mail address by clicking on the clickable links at the Operations Page -- Take a few minutes, check it out and, go by the Orderly Room and sign the guestbook.

Last I checked the host hotel, the Sheraton still had a few rooms left--when you call be sure to tell them you are coming for the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion, 17-21 August. If their sold out or you want to save some bucks give Bruce Craft a call -- Bruce has weilded his magic wand again by arranging for some excellent accomodations across the street at a savings -- from what I am told he's pretty good at cheap plane tickets too!

I am hoping that Emmett will arrange for both an afternoon pavillion out on Fort Benning (maybe we can pitch some horse shoes or burn a few burgers this time?), and an evening out at that Barbeque place he has taken us to our last two trips to Columbus--get'n to be kind of a tradition!

Jay Hickey has arranged for a first jump program (read more about it later in this issue), and cooked up some other fun for those of you arriving early in the week -- be sure to give Jay a call **706-327-7614** if you are going to partake, as we are running seriously short on time . . . AIRBORNE!!!

Before running out of space I need to say thank you to all who have supported this effort, be it monitarily, by writing something or just by wishing me well -- I appreciate it! This issue would not have even been possible had it not been for those who has presented some material, offered me their coaching or understanding along the way . . . it's a long list and if I tried to name everyone I would leave someone out, but you know who you are -- thanks for the phone calls, letters, encouragement, and all that you do so unselfishly to the benefit of others.

Pointman Fund is solvent--we have \$886.04 in the bank as of 6/25/98 (this issue will cost \$400 to print and mail), a complete accounting will be posted in the next issue. This may be my last issue . . . already resigned actually, but I am re-considering--hope its not too late. Whoever ends up with it will need a lot of help to produce a quality product--how you can help is simple . . . write something down to share with the rest of us in future issues.

This is your reunion -- come to it if you can. We have, I can tell you, others among us that have left our number only too recently without having the opportunity to commune with the rest of us and we are, after all, closer to the end than the beginning. We've tried to present what we were able here, some of it just didn't fit, but turn on your computer (or a friends if you don't have one) get the late word and, whether you are coming this time or not, pick up the telephone and give someone a call that has been waiting to hear from you for the past thirty years. See ya in the circle!

AND DON'T FORGET:

**JOIN THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT
SEND YOUR STORIES & COMPLAINTS HERE
KEEP US ADVISED OF ADDRESS CHANGES
VISIT OUR HOME PAGE OFTEN
WE MEET AT THE WALL EACH MEMORIAL DAY
BECOME INVOLVED
CALL AN OLD FRIEND
AND NEVER, NEVER FORGET!**

RON HARRISON - Co F Representative

It is my sad duty to inform you that we have lost two of our brothers this year. Michael Kuhn died of renal failure on 4 February 98, and a heart attack took Roger from us on 15 February. We are still searching for anyone who knew Michael Kuhn; and have no information concerning any surviving next of kin. Roger Winchester served in Co. F on Nick Demongeot's Team 2-Alpha, and is survived by his wife Vicki. Nick's words to me can best express our feelings: Nick wrote:

"I first met Roger Winchester at CuChi when I was assigned to Co.F Rangers. He was a fine and very patriotic young man, well liked by everyone in F Co. I soon got to know him very well when he was assigned to my Team-2 Alpha. Roger was an excellent Ranger. He always expected and performed exceptionally well any and all tasks assigned to him. The positions ranged from rifleman to grenadier to walking point, and he did them all with skill and confidence.

Roger was actually one of the coolest, calmest men under fire that I have ever seen. Roger's premature passing is certainly a loss for all who knew and loved him. I know all of us who served with him in Vietnam will miss him tremendously. Our love and prayers go with him and his loved ones always." -- Nick Demongeot

Anyone who served with Roger is invited to write Vicki Winchester at: 1634 East 2nd Street, Harve, MT 59501. If you served with Michael Kuhn in Co. F, we welcome your input; please contact us with any relevant information.

ON TEMPORARY LIGHT DUTY: I heard thru e-mail that Chuck Boyle, Joe Little, and Fred Stuckey have all experienced worsening spinal problems so that they had to undergo spinal surgery recently. I was able to speak to Chuck and Joe, but had a wrong number for Fred... so I e-mailed Fred to express my concern and best wishes. Chuck says he plans to attend the reunion. Because Joe's surgery was so recent, (he's trapped in a "turtle shell") he probably won't be able to attend this Reunion, so we will see him at the next one. HE SUGGESTS HAWAII FOR THE LOCATION. I like that idea, and we will discuss that option at our business meeting at the Reunion. If you haven't already, you might contact these guys and offer your encouragement. Chuck's phone is (916) 632-0933 and Joe's is (602) 877-3797. Fred's is (903) 643-2478. As a fellow broken back alumni, I know what it is like. Guys, we wish you all a speedy recovery. Thanks!

THE REUNION! We are looking forward to seeing you at Fort Benning 18 - 22 August. Emmett Hiltibrand will print the latest, up-to-the-minute schedule information downloaded from the 75th Ranger Regiment Association's web site. I am informed that the schedule still might change... But WHAT DO WE CARE IF IT DOES? We spent our entire careers

"adjusting fire!" In this case, the most important thing is to get to the objective prepared to join your comrades in arms for a time, SO WE WILL SEE YOU THERE!!

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT THE REUNION: As this goes to press, we plan on participating in two memorial services during the reunion: one with the entire 75th Ranger Regiment Association honoring all Ranger dead from Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Somalia; and one ceremony specifically honoring our own 25th ID LRRP - F/50th LRP - F/75th RANGER war dead, which (depending on their schedule) will perhaps include participation by members of 3d Ranger Battalion. Tom Cahill is our pointman on this issue. As a gesture of brotherhood to honor those young Rangers in our lineage, Tom will present the Commander, 3d Battalion with a plaque engraved with the names and dates of death of our Vietnam KIA's, and the 3d Battalion's KIA's.

PRE-REUNION ACTIVITIES: If you can make it down to Benning a day prior, Jay Hickey has arranged for a day of fun, involving a STRICTLY CIVILIAN JUMP with a Civilian Jump Club in Alabama. Jay has explained that this entire day is not affiliated with Co. F or the 75th Assn in any manner except we can participate the same as we could buy tickets to Disneyland. Jay reports that the jump is to be conducted at the airfield where the Tuskegee Airmen trained for their participation in WWII, and reportedly there is an excellent museum which in itself is worth the trip over. If you can't jump, come on out and show your support. Jay has invited all jump participants to join in a barbeque that same evening, and welcomes Co. F campers and RV'ers to camp on his land. He also plans a "Best OLD Ranger" competition later in the day, complete with prizes. Further details and application forms are elsewhere in this issue; check with Jay on any other questions and if you plan to participate, get those apps in to Jay as soon as possible so he and his crew can plan accurately.

MEMORIAL DAY AT THE WALL: Elsewhere in this issue, Bill Mrkvicka has written an account of Co. F's Memorial Day gathering at The Wall. I missed Memorial Day, but I put on my baseball hat with a Company F scroll, and spent many hours there prior to the Fourth of July, paying my respects to our fallen comrades and watching people as they came to search for names of their loved ones, or a friend or neighbor. Several people, including young people, asked me respectfully how to look up a person's name in the reference books and if I had served in Vietnam.

Others of our vintage were in attendance. In fact, some unknown veteran, old, gray haired and grown fat like me had his school class present for duty, and with a couple of middle-aged females, was quietly teaching them that what we fought for over there was freedom for the people of Southeast Asia, and what Duty, Honor, Country and sacrifice was all about, and the children were paying rapt attention. No matter the daily ration of BS you hear from the majority of the Socialist/

Communist US media, it gave me renewed good hope for the future of our nation. In addition, I visited the final resting place of our three recovered MIA's from Team 3A, over in Arlington National Cemetery. The administrative staff was most helpful and issued me a pass so I could drive into the Cemetery rather than walk, which I wasn't doing so well that day. Our guy's remains were laid to rest in the shade downhill from a large tree in plot #1184, area 34. I got down on one knee and brushed away the leaves and grass cuttings and planted American flags on either side of their tombstone, and on either side of McGar's tombstone, located right next to them in plot 1183. I told them that their team leader would visit them later this year as he and I have discussed. I spent minutes reflecting upon their bravery and sacrifice and thought, there, but for the grace of God, go any of us. When the blistering heat (in the high 90's) reminded me of how often we were out of water in Vietnam, I almost went back to the car and got out a bottle of cool water and walked back to pour a little on their grave... if I had done so, I know that some of the other visitors would have considered me to be crazier than I really am. But I seriously considered it before I drew myself up to the position of attention, saluted and walked away. I will forward a photo of their headstone and flags to David Regenthal to be posted on our web site.

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY INCLUDED ON THE BACK PAGE, AND RETURN IT TO ME. THANKS IN ADVANCE!

STAY IN THE NET! Please keep us current on your address and phone number; and stay on the lookout for our "lost souls." Transmit their POC information to us and convince them to attend the reunion with you. You will be glad you did!

NOTICE!! * MY POC INFO HAS CHANGED:**

Ron Harrison <Wombat19@Juno.com>
PO Box 383, McKenna, WA 98558-0383
(253) 843-1347

Visit our website at www.lrrp.com, it's excellent! As always, "Rangers Lead the Way!"

Some early threats to attend this years reunion are:

Thomas Finnie, John R. Rowland, Michael G. Turner, Francis L. Jarvis, Marshall C. Huckaby, Nickolas J. Demongeot, Richard Ewald, Jeffery Sandell, Harvey J. Lindsey, Richard Benner, Thomas Panti, John Starnes, Steven Franklin, Steve Morey, Bruce Craft, Emmett Hiltibrand, Tom Cahill, Ron Hart, Bill Mrkvicka, David Regenthal, Ron Harrison, Chuck Boyle, Fred Stuckey, Jay Hickey, Joe Gentile. Gene Parsons, Joe Stevens, Dan Nate, Tom Fevurly.

BILL MRKVICKA

Gentlemen - On 1 April, 1969 John Baughman started a tour in Vietnam. He joined Co F, Rangers and on 18 April, 1969 he was killed in action. He was in Co F for two weeks or less. In March I received the following Email:

From: Patrick Baughman
To: lrrp6@ix.netcom.com

Hello Bill...

My name is Pat Baughman and I had a brother, John, who was in Co F / 75 Inf (Rangers) in the early part of '69. He was KIA 19 Apr 69 RVN. I've been trying to find out information about his time there and what happened on the mission he was killed with no real luck until I ran across the Company F home page on the Internet. In scrolling through some of the information, I noticed your name and email address and that you also served at the same general time.

I was wondering if you knew John or had any names of men who may have been in the unit around the same time. The only name I have been able to come up with is for a CPT Marshall L. Sharp. I'm assuming he must have been the company CO or XO as he signed a letter from the unit back in May of '69 that was sent to my Dad.

I would be grateful for any information you could provide. The loss of my brother nearly 30 years ago still greatly effects my entire family- there's not a day that goes by that he's not thought of.

Thank you for your time now . . . and for all your sacrifices for our country.

Pat Baughman

Can any of you help Pat with information regarding John? If you remember any of the details, please call or write me or get in touch with Pat Baughman at:

131 Kahout Road
Curtis, WA 98538
(360-245-3430)
pbaughm@co.pierce.wa.us

Pat and some other members of John's family are thinking of attending this years reunion.

Thanks guys,
Bill Mrkvicka

HEARTS & MINDS



A couple of years ago, Bill & I decided we wanted to sell our house in the mountains, buy a boat and run away to sea. It's not quite as crazy as it sounds; Bill spent at least 10 years as a captain on research vessels until he lost his job when the company discovered he had non-insulin dependent diabetes. The shock of losing a job he had excelled at for 10 years was the trigger that activated (reactivated?) his PTSD, but that's another story.

We put out the word that our little house with its 2 ½ creekside acres backed by forest was for sale and went about our business. Bill found the perfect boat on the internet last fall. She's a steel schooner, gaff rigged, 36 feet on deck, and the main living area can be converted to a cargo hold. The house sold in April, we bought the boat in May, left Colorado in June, and were visiting Dave & Corky on the 4th of July.

Bill has been sailing all his life; I have very little experience with boats. He and a couple of friends sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where we bought the *Caper Dreams*, to Buzzard's Bay, just below Cape Cod where I would catch up with Bill. Bill's buddies were heading home about the time I arrived. I had a moment of panic as the plane taxied down the runway in Denver and I saw the panorama of the Rockies spread across the horizon. What was I doing? We had a nice little house on a beautiful mountain stream; I had a really good job with great benefits; we had friends. But I dreaded every day at work. It was crushing my spirit. It was time for a change and I was certainly staring change in the face.

So far, we've been aground in the Intracoastal Waterway, sailed onward through the fog and now we're docked at Dave & Corky's, within sight of Atlantic City! We can comfortably make 30-50 miles a day motoring, which is mainly what we've been doing. We had the sails up twice and it was great, but I'm not ready for sailing yet. I'm still trying to get mooring, anchoring and docking down.

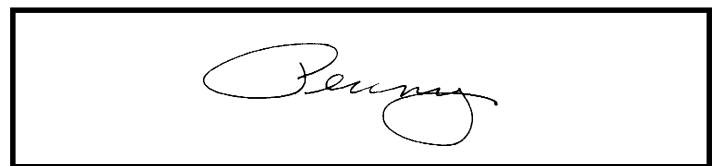
Lying aground was interesting. When a bridge tender failed to answer our radio call (3 calls, actually) for a bridge opening, we were forced to turn around.

Well, the channel gets shallow in a big hurry and we ended up stuck in the mud. Unable to winch the boat around, we got as comfortable as you can when you're at a 45-degree angle and settled in to wait for the tide to float us out. This took about 9 hours, with the boat lying on its side the whole time. What I learned from this experience is that running aground at low tide is much better than running aground at high tide.

Anyway, once we were afloat again, it was dusk and we had to figure out what to do for the night. We weren't inclined to spend any more time in that neighborhood, so we decided to drive all night, taking turns at the helm. We made it to Atlantic City, decided to try the Intracoastal again, and phoned David & Corky Regenthal when we got to Great Bay. David and a fishing buddy met us in a motorboat and led the way around the shoals. We anchored in a deep part of the bay, hopped in their motorboat and went home with Dave. It was decided that we'd have to wait for high tide the next day, then follow Dave to his dock. The neighborhood is built on canals and each house has a dock, but the water is relatively shallow.

By the next day, all the neighbors had heard about the Regenthals' weird friends with the really big boat ("no way he'll get that boat in here") and they were all out in their yards to watch the big event. Dave & Corky led the way in the motorboat, pointing out the shallows. Bill maneuvered right up to the dock and it all went off without a hitch. We all enjoyed our 15 minutes of fame — Bill & I for creating a spectacle without tearing anything up; Corky & Dave for bringing in the entertainment. All the neighbors have toured the boat, strangers stop and stare, and Bill's local nickname is Columbus.

I'm afraid Dave & Corky think we've moved in for good! We've been here for about 10 days now and plan to leave Thursday, when spring tide (the highest tide of the month) is in. From here, we head for Cape May, up Delaware Bay, and on to the Chesapeake I think our next major purchase will be several 12-volt fans. It's HOT and we're still pretty far north! Our goal is to sail to the reunion, but if we can't make it in time, we'll dock her and make the trip by land. We look forward to meeting you there.



Last night we watched Dateline's program about Hill 881 and some of the Marines who fought there. I don't have the words to express the sadness I felt listening to their stories, but I can name other times I've felt it. Reading an article by Bobby Etheridge in *The Pointman* a couple of years ago; a look in Bill Mrkvicka's eyes as he said goodbye when he and Nancy visited us in Colorado; the one time I saw my husband cry and he said he was afraid if he started he'd never stop. He did — far too quickly.

I haven't mentioned this to any of these men before, although I always felt I should. Thank you for allowing me a brief glimpse into your hearts. I know it isn't an easy thing to do.

CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Brother Dave, Just a few of the ideas I'm going to share with my congregation on Sunday night.

\$7.50 to get into the show! Are you kidding me? You grumble a bit under your breath to your wife about how we can't afford to do anything anymore and then you plunk it down, \$15.00 before popcorn and a drink! How come we haven't been having salad lately, babe? They expect me to pay \$2.00 for a head of lettuce!, that's why. Ever since we bought this new house, we don't seem to have money for anything but the mortgage. I know and I'm really sorry babe, but \$200,000 for this little ole place is just what it costs nowadays.

Just what it costs. On this Memorial day I began again to ponder how I could best honor the men and women who have laid down their own lives for this Country so that you and I could breathe free air, criticize the govt. and meet without fear to worship God the way we choose to. I have come up with some interesting parallels between Jesus and the soldiers who have died to provide and insure our liberty.

The first similiarity is in the fact that both had to submit to an authority. The Bible quotes Jesus as saying that He must do the will of Him who sent Him..I remember all to well raising my right hand and swearing on the flag of the United States of America that I would obey my superiors and that I would fight to defend the Constitution of the U.S.. I was at the induction station on 16th and Clay in downtown Oakland, Ca. Oct. 22, 1967. From that moment forward, the government was responsible for my food, clothing, housing, medical care, training, equipment, transportation, and everything else that I would need to accomplish the tasks they set before me. It was not infrequent the the government failed in this charge, especially while I was in sunny S. Viet Nam. Jesus' heavenly Father, however, never failed to meet each of His promises to His son. At His baptism, when Jesus began His messianic ministry here on earth, God's Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in a very powerful way. It was not as if Jesus had no previous relationship or experience with the Holy Spirit, but rather the Holy Spirit "manifested" Himself in Jesus in power. This power is what Jesus would need to accomplish His mission here on earth, that is the redemption of humanity. Jesus' authority never failed to provide for His needs. When the U.S. govt. failed to supply the field soldier's needs the result was generally injury or death and this is why so many combat vets have problems with authority in their private lives today.

Another aspect that Jesus shares with the fallen veteran is that neither of them really wanted it to go the way that it did. They both needed to surrender their will to the authority placed over them. I can just hear Jesus saying to the Father, " Look, Dad, I think we should just call this whole thing off. They're just not getting it!" and again in the garden before His crucifixion and death, "Daddy, this is looking really bad for me. Is there any other way?"

I recall the conversation I had with Fidel Acuirre the night before he was killed. He somehow knew that he was not going to survive. He had everything to live for, a new wife, and a brand new 3 month old baby girl named Dina. Yet much in the same way as Jesus did, he said, "not my will but thine be done." He was a soldier on a mission. I am personally so thankful to Jesus that he surrendered His will to the Father's because for you and me that means the possibility of eternal life. I am also very thankful to every soldier who put himself in harms way on behalf of freedom but this day is reserved for those who paid it all and so we remember.

Remembering is the third element shared by the fallen soldier and our great saviour and Lord Jesus. As a pastor, I am constantly challenged to think of ways to keep our remembering of the Lord's death through communion fresh and vital. How soon we seem to lose the memory of that rugged ole tree and the wonderful wounded lamb who hung there just for you and for me. " Every Sunday we gather and every Sunday we always eat. We sing some songs, we pray a little but the sermon for me is quite the treat. Oh, yeah communion, we do that too, and by the way, how's it goin' with you?" Communion is remembering! Jesus commanded us to do very little else. And now to our fallen soldiers. " The music blares, the parade goes by. Somewhere near, a mother, a widow, a child softly cries. High upon his daddies shoulders, a baby laughs and claps and cheers. But all to soon the music fades then it's off to B.B.Q. and beers."

dismember: to separate into different parts as in chicken for the grill -- remember: to put back together as if they were living still

Remembering you all, **Pastor Patrick Serna**

75th Ranger Regiment Reunion Schedule 1998

Tuesday, August 18, 1998

0800: Group assembles at the Sheraton Hotel Lobby Area for movement to Special Airborne Operation coordinated by F Co, 75th Ranger Association. Open invitation for all LRRP/LRP/Rangers, friends and family members to attend "jump school" and make a jump. A great event for a great price!

0830: Group departs for Tuskegee, Georgia and an Airborne Operation and Barbecue. Invitation and Form.

1400-1500: Ranger Memorial Foundation Meeting at the Ft. Benning Officer's Club.

1600: Barbecue Social Event begins in Fortson, GA for those involved in the Airborne Operation.

Wednesday, August 19, 1998

1030-1230: 75th Ranger Regiment weapons demonstration and range firing at Farnsworth Range.

1330-1600: 75th Ranger Regiment Open House. Open invitation to dine in the 75th Ranger Regiment Dining Facility.

Thursday, August 20, 1998

0700-0830: "Sunrise" memorial service to dedicate the additional bricks of over 380 of our KIAs, former brothers and teammates who died fighting for their country in Vietnam, 5 from Grenada, 5 from Panama, and 6 Rangers who died in the action in Mogadishu. The bricks will already have been installed in the walk of the Ranger Memorial.

1330-1430: A Distinguished/Honorary Members of the Regiment Induction Ceremony at the Ft. Benning Officer's Club. (Invitation only)

1600: Ranger Hall Of Fame inductions.

1800: 75th Ranger Regiment cookout/banquet at the hangar at Lawson Field.

Friday, August 21, 1998

0800-1200: Ranger Golf Tournament at Ft. Benning Golf Course. Interested Rangers should contact 1SG Greenway at (706) 545-2358 for additional information.

0900: RTB change of command.

0900-Completion: Ranger Fishing Tournament on the Chatahoochee River. Limited pairings are available with active duty Rangers with Boats who are willing to provide gear and tackle. Interested Rangers contact 1SG Greenway at (706) 545-2358 for additional information.

1300: Demonstration by the 507th Airborne Infantry Bde. (Airborne Dept). Jumps from the 34 foot towers.

Saturday, August 22, 1998

0900-1200: Association business meeting at the Sheraton Inn. Please make alternate plans for family members attending the week as this meeting is for association members only.

1600: Iron Works, Columbus, GA. Cocktails preceding the banquet.

1700: Banquet begins. Guest speaker will be Mark Bowden. Mark is the author of the acclaimed series "Blackhawk Down" which ran in the Philadelphia News in November and December 1997.

MEMORIAL DAY 1998

A small contingent of Co F personnel met in DC this past Memorial Day weekend. Rich Martin, Joe Gentile, Jeff Sandell, Gary Lemonds, Emmett Hiltibrand, Tom Cahill, Gene Simpson and I rendezvoused at the Wall. Missing were some of the old standbys - Dave Regenthal, Joe Cassilly and Dan Nate to name a few.

After several visits to the Wall, Emmett and Tom did rubbings of all 37 Co F names on the Wall. Unfortunately, Tom had a commitment so he and Emmett had to leave early.

As usual, Rich Martin rode his Harley in lead group in ROLLING THUNDER on Sunday. Gary Lemonds brought his new Harley and rode for the first time in the parade. (What was Gary's feeling about riding in the parade? I could write what Gary said, but, you would miss the emotion behind the words. Next time you see him, ask him.)

Gary's two daughters (Kim and Jennifer) and his granddaughter (Jessica) stood on the Memorial Bridge and watched the parade with the rest of us.

On Monday, Joe and I ended the weekend festivities with a walk into Arlington Cemetery where we visited the gravesites of three from team 3A.

The weekend was a very satisfying one with good friends - those physically with us as well as those only there in spirit.

Bill Mrkvicka



EMMETT HILTIBRAND

Dear Co. F Brothers-

Recently I was making my calls to several of the guys and received some very dis-heartening information. A woman answered the phone and I asked for Roger Winchester. She said Jr. or Sr.? I said Sr. She informed me that Roger had died in February of this year. I was speechless. I quickly wanted to say I'm sorry miss, I must have the wrong number. I didn't want to believe it, but I knew it was true. The woman I was talking to was Vicki, his wife of 27 years. We talked a while and I did a fairly good job of not crying. After we had finished talking, I set the wheels in motion to inform our fellow brothers. After that, I became afraid of calling anyone else for fear of more bad news. Maybe if I just buried my head in the sand I wouldn't be exposed to any bad news and have a piece of my heart ripped away. After I came to my senses I realized that you can't hide from it (the bad news) but you have to be there for the ones that are left.

Our unit existed for about 5 years, give or take. And in that period there was a definite number of people assigned to that unit. It doesn't matter when you were assigned or what unit designation you served under. We all volunteered, we all worked in small team elements, we all did missions no one else wanted to do and we all worked in generally the same area. For those of you that were the very first ones that formed the unit, I very proud of you. You learned some valuable lessons that were passed down that I probably used that most likely saved my ass and that of my teammates.

For those of you that came during the middle, I am very proud of you too. You not only picked up where the other guys left off but you improved and redefined what was handed down to you. You saved me too. Those of us that came toward the end enjoyed the knowledge and lessons learned from you guys, and survived. We still did what you did, we still operated in the small patrols, we still did the missions that no one else wanted to do and we still operated in the same areas that you did. Time or unit is not of the essence here gentleman, it is all a matter walking in another mans foot steps. And I for one am proud to have stepped in yours.

That fixed number that I mentioned before will never grow. It is etched in the stone of history. Some of our brothers never returned, and even though I wasn't personally acquainted, I still feel a deep sense of loss mixed with an equal amount of pride in what they did. Some of our brothers were successful in surviving that era only to come home and meet a tragic end in either a senseless way or at Gods hand. So, that fixed number continues to get smaller. The man who dies last wins?

NO! I want more. I want to meet those of you who came before me and thank you personally for saving my life. I want to shake you hand and buy you a beverage of your choice . .

I want you to tell me what kind of hell you went through to ensure my safety. But I will never get the chance to thank you unless we meet. And I would really rather do other than at your grave side service. We may have thought that we were immortal back then but that has since worn off. I am sorry to inform you but we are all mortal now and will some day have to go on that eternal patrol that never ends. I've never much cared about going out on patrol with someone that I knew nothing about.

So, what say we get to know each other before hand???

Waiting to meet you --

Sincerely,

Emmett W. Hiltibrand

P.S. Dave, I received the following letter from Vicki Winchester shortly after she received the flowers and card from the Company F guys. Her desire is for it to be placed in the Pointman as a thanks to everyone. I've typed it verbatim.....

April 20, 1998

Dear 75th Rangers

I got your flowers today. Thank-you for thinking of me. They were lovely. Roger came home from Vietnam 27 years ago this month, and on April 22 we would have been married 27 years.

He was a wonderful husband and a super father and a loving grandpa. He was my best friend. I will never be the same. I only wish Roger could have made one of his reunions, it would have meant so much to him. He loved you all, and his Ranger Brothers would have been proud of him, he was a respected Detention Officer for the US Border Patrol and a good, kind man.

One half of the Church at his funeral were law-enforcement from all over the state plus the VFW which gave me the US Flag.

He was truly proud of being a Ranger and serving his country, and I was so proud of him and I hope he's proud of me. I'm trying to be brave, some days are good, some are very bad. I have never been so lonely.

Thank-you & love you

Vicki Winchester

Ever want to attend Jump School?

Well, your chance has arrived! We talked about this at Ft. Lewis a couple of years ago and at that time we thought the fee would be around \$400.00. Now we can for a measly sum of \$175.00 - total cost! This fee includes ground school, plane rental, parachute, etc. One jump for \$175! Wow!

So here's the way it works - see the attached application, fill it out and get it back to me immediately. We'll be inviting folks that jumped at Normandy and Korea and other combat actions as well as active duty Rangers. No matter who you are, whether you've never made a jump in your life or you've logged thousands, everyone will go through the same jump school and everyone jumps the same rigs under supervision.

We'll be jumping at beautiful downtown Tuskegee airport. Do you remember the movie Tuskegee Airmen? While we are there we'll get a chance to wander through their museum. They have some incredibly beautiful W.W.II aircraft. This will be worth the trip, whether you choose to jump or not.

Either way I'd like to invite you to come and help. You can photograph, be envious (if you are not jumping), or help us in general in any way you can that is dictated by the circumstances. We'll have a light lunch, a sarsaparilla or two, and of course take class photos. In short we'll do everything you do in 3 weeks of Army jump school in 3 hours! This is a pure, total, 100 proof civilian activity. It will be associated with the folks that will be putting this jump on for us. We will individually contract with them.

You may bring a friend, son wife, daughter or grandchild. Any one over the age of 16 years may jump. Same fee - \$175.00. If you want an additional jump it will cost \$25.00.

Once I receive your application it will be turned over to the folks who will be putting on the jump. You will contract with them and send them your money. You will not send your money (\$175.00) to anyone else. This is going to be held on Tuesday, before our regularly planned 75th activities (Wed. - Fri.) Rain date will be Saturday, Aug. 22nd. Our jump date is Tuesday, August 18th.

I will request a fee for your jump wings, very special shirt, etc., for approximately \$20.00 - \$30.00. We'll see the exact amount as we get closer to our date. There will be one instruction sheet mailed to you about 21 days before you arrive. It will have a map, general instructions and I will ask my wife to include a sheet with the various shopping activities that are available around here (for those who may not want to sit through our meetings). Charge till you drop!!

I Live 15 min. from Calloway Gardens and great golf facilities, 1 hour from Andersonville, 21 min. from Ft. Benning, 6 min. from the Sheraton Hotel 38 min. from our drop zone,

20 minutes from the Little White House, where President Roosevelt died, so I am real close yet I'm truly in the country. Following the jump we will assemble at my house where we will have a Ranger type dinner, hosted by my wife. Anyone who cares to give her a hand please drop her a note. She is a teacher and her 1st teaching day is on Aug. 18th. We'll eat around 4 or 5 P.M. Having finished our meal there will be a Best Senior (Old Fart) Ranger Competition at my place. It will include doing some things we've done before. No need to practice because I will not tell you of the specific activities. We will shoot some and we will try some things well within our physical abilities. At the end of this event there will be a very nice award for the person worthy of being called "Best Senior Ranger" in F Co. This is limited to F Co. and your invited guests. Because we'll need to know how many steaks to buy and drinks to have available (with designated drivers on hand) you will need to fill out this information on the application blank stating that you are going to jump (or not jump but help out).

Finally, cost is always a factor on a trip like this. I know that many of you have never attended an event. I only waited 22 years! But I encourage you to come. Having done so, it is a terrific thing to do. This will be my 3rd event. A lot of folks have a great more attendance notches in their belt. I encourage you to come if you have never attended one of these events. F Company is the most intact Ranger Co. from Viet Nam. Thanks to the great efforts of these very special men - David Regenthal, Dick Ewald, David Jacob, Bill Mrkvicka and our Unit Representative to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Ron Harrison.

The activities for the 75th Association gathering start on Aug.19th. They'll be headquartered at the Sheraton Hotel - that's always our traditional headquarters at Ft. Benning. If you choose to make reservations at the Sheraton (and want the remainder of the other Ranger Assoc. members. Use your priority as F Co. -- sign up first -- within the next 30 days. Send no money - not yet. The folks putting on the jump will contact you on that matter - or else they will have you pay at the Drop Zone.

Park a mobile home or camp if you wish . . .

If you want to stay with us (free), We live 6 minutes from the Sheraton so getting to the various activities is easy. Hang your hammock, pitch your tent, pull you trailer or drive your motorhome. We can hook up to about 60 outdoor electrical outlets. In a bind we could probably take on 125 trailers and tents. You are welcome to stay here with us. We have an indoor bathroom for the ladies and an outdoor shower point for the men. You are welcome - "my home is your home" - and it will cost you nothing. Feel free to stay here with us through the events (Tues. 18th -Sat.22nd).

Rangers Lead The Way,
Jay L. Hickey (706) 327-7614
Ranger - 6 F/75 70/71 RVN

Civilian Jump School Application Form

YES, I want to go to civilian jump school on August 18, 1998.

Name _____ Age _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone number _____
 Fax number _____
 E-mail _____

PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO:

1. Have you been to any military jump school? YES NO
2. Are you a parachutist? YES NO
3. Have you been to a civilian jump school? YES NO

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

4. How many jumps have you completed? _____
5. Please write your Para license number? _____
6. As a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, which units have you served with?

LRRP/LRP/Ranger Unit	Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Did you serve in other units in any conflicts?

Unit	Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. I guarantee I will be there to make the jump. Circle one:
 100% sure 75% sure 50% sure
8. I will bring the following people with me who are 16 years or older.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone number _____
 Relationship to member _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone number _____
 Relationship to member _____

9. Do you wish camping space? YES NO

If yes, what type camping?(circle one) Tent, RV, Trailer

Number in your party? _____

SPECIAL NEEDS

Please state any special needs you or those in your party may have.

10. Do you understand that you will be asked for a \$20 - \$30 contribution about 1 Aug ? YES NO
11. Do you understand that F Company, who has coordinated these activities, has a 30 day lead on all other units? YES NO
12. Do you understand that you can camp free? YES NO
13. Do you understand that this may never happen again? YES NO
14. If you are not jumping will you come and support? YES NO
15. What can I do to get ready?

P.T. (Has it been so long that you need to ask this question?)

The following are points of interest in and near the Columbus Georgia area that may offer you a side visit for pleasure. For the wives or significant others that may become bored with hearing old war stories of how we used to be invincible and be able to leap over tall building in a single bound, then you can spare yourself by visiting one of these places.

Columbus was the foundery for the Confederate Army during the War of Northern Aggression. Cannons and cannon balls were made here along with the Confederate Navy's Merrimack ironclad ship.

Columbus was the site of the last major land engagement in the War of Northern Aggression.

Columbus has developed a river walk along the Chattahoochee River that forms the state boundary with Alabama.

At the River Walk can be seen a group of rock out cropings that are the last known and most southern rocks connected the the Blue Ridge Mountains, which are the foot hills to the Appliations Mountain range.

Columbus, Phinex City and Ft. Benning are considered the tri-city area because each in it's own is a city, therefore making this a rather large and spread out population zone.

Swift Textiles which is located here makes all of the demim which are used in any blue jeans.

The Olympic Womans Softball games were played here.
There is a Confederate Naval Musuem located here.

Ft. Benning houses the Home of the Infantry, Airborne School, Officers Canidate School, Ranger School, The Army Marksmanship Unit, The Army's Sniper School, the 3rd Bde of the 3rd Infantry Division, The Ranger Regiment and it's 3rd Battalion.

The National Infantry Musuem is on Ft. Benning.
Ext. 4 Has The Comfort Inn which was coordinated for by Bruce Craft. It also has near it a Chinaese Restrant all you can eat, Waffle House, Burger King, McDonalds, Denny's, Shoney's, a movie theater and a night club.

Ext. 5 Has Peachtree Mall which is a very nice shopping mall with Montgomery Ward, Gayfers, JC Penny and many more shops. Also there is a Ruby Tuesday, Kristels, a movie theater and a night club.

Ext. 6 Has The Sheraton Hotel were the main reunion will be held. It also has a Burger King, McDonalds, Hardee's, Capt. D's, Texas Steak Houses, Out Back Steak House, a Sousi bar, Poor Folks, Mexican Restrant, Apple Bee's, Chinaese Restraunt, Kentucy Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, a movie Theater, and a night club.

A short distance away is Atlanta, 6 Flags Over Georgia, Andersonville and Jimmy Carter's Plains Georgia. A little farther away is Panama City Florida.

For more information on local area's of interest you may contact me, Emmett Hiltibrand (706) 653-7544 or at the reunion.

FRED STUCKEY

In my opinion, attendance at the reunion was really a means towards peace of mind for me. I've only been to one reunion in 94, having to miss the 96 reunion because of a once in a lifetime chance to be on the Security Team for the 96 Olympics. I will be at this one if I have to low crawl. On my way to the 94 Reunion, I actually turned around three times, not knowing if I was prepared to face what I thought would be an experience that would wake up a bunch of my personal ghosts. I even sat in my car in the Hotel parking lot for 30 minutes before going inside, not knowing what to expect. As soon as I got into the lobby, SFC C Hall grabbed me up and threw me into a bus going to a Barbeque at Ft Benning with some comment like " still running late aren't you ". The bus was filled with our folks, raising hell, just like old times. Within a matter of minutes I felt that I was back among FAMILY!

I would URGE any of our folks to attend the reunion. You'll have a chance to have breakfast with 30-40 of the closest friends that you will ever have. The main topic is not the war but rather " What the hell have you been doing for the past 27 (or more) years? or, remember when?"

There's plenty of time for socializing, with groups pulling Airborne Assaults on Restaurants and running off all the REMF's and civilians. There is very little sleeping going on so prepare yourself, bring your pictures and albums to see if Dave Regenthal needs copies of your stuff for the Web site.

I would like to see all our folks show up at the reunion, but I know that is unrealistic. Don't put it off for another two years ---that is two more years that you'll miss being in contact. Consider this as a mission ---a vital mission.

RLTW! Fred B Stuckey

BRUCE CRAFT

"The reunion has brought back so many happy memories of Co. F. My family never believed the stories I told about the men. Since my wife went to her first reunion she is hooked on them. She looks forward to them as much as I do. Please encourage someone in your family to attend if possible."

Always A Friend, Bruce Craft

We have accomplished our mission of memorializing all our KIA's with bricks in the Ranger walk at Fort Benning, GA. Now we together need to decide which direction we should steer our organization. I believe that this is (and should always remain) a member-driven organization, so our next logical step is to determine what our members think. Please take a minute to complete this survey and mail it back to me. We will publish the results in our next Pointman. They will form the basis of our business meeting agenda at Fort Benning in August.

Thanks in advance for your time and ideas, "RLTW!" **Ron Harrison**

1. What should be the goals and objectives of our organization?
2. What should be the frequency of our reunions?
3. Where would you prefer to hold the reunions?
4. What activities should we plan for future reunions?
How many hours of these Ranger-oriented activities should we schedule each day; and how many hours of free time should we leave for you to conduct your own individual, Team, and family activities?
5. How important is it to you to conduct our reunions with the Regular Army and/or the 75th Ranger Regiment Association?
How important is it to conduct our reunions near a military base?
6. How do you prefer to get information concerning our organization?
7. How often should we publish The Pointman newsletter?
8. Would you be willing to contribute to printing and postage for The Pointman?
9. Do you have a computer? Are you using the Internet?
Do you visit our website, www.lrrp.com? Do you communicate using e-mail?
10. Would you be willing to be one of our state Team Leaders?
11. Would you be willing to participate in a phone tree and call others in your state with information of interest to us an organization?
12. Would you be willing to participate as a member of the Company F. Hall of Fame committee (soon to be formed), or other committees as required?
13. Good ideas you wish our leadership would implement:
14. Other topics which are important to you:
15. Your recommendations for the Ranger Hall of Fame:

the POINTMAN
1150 Radio Road
Mystic Islands, NJ 08087
(609) 296-5886

**Forwarding and Address
Correction Requested**

<http://www.lrrp.com>