



Summer 2012 - Ranger Newsletter 1316 38th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122

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## Descendants of WWII Rangers National Reunion October 17-20, 2012

### PRESIDENT'S REUNION MESSAGE AND INFORMATION

**DATE:** October 17-21, 2012,  
**HOST HOTEL:** Holiday Inn, (706) 324-0231  
 2800 Manchester Expressway, Columbus, GA. 31904  
**Room Reservation:** (800) 465-4329 GROUP CODE "WAR"

The planning for the next reunion starts immediately upon returning home from a reunion. The first item on the agenda was to confirm hotel, prices, etc. After weeks of emails, it was determined that it was too expensive to hold a reunion in St. Louis. Going back to Ft. Benning was a no-brainer. It is the home of 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, Third Ranger Battalion, Special Troop Support, Ranger Training Brigade and the first phase of Ranger School, Fourth Ranger Battalion. So back to Columbus, GA. we go.

If you are planning to attend the WWII Ranger Reunion, reserve your room early. The **deadline for reserving a room is September 16**. After this date reservations will be accepted on a space and rate available basis only. You can always cancel, but you cannot always get a room.

Please fill out your registration form and mail to Lynn as soon as possible. The RBA will reimburse all funds should you find that you are unable to attend.

**Host Hotel: To reserve a room for the WWII Ranger Reunion - Holiday Inn (800) 465-4329, Group Code WAR.** The room rate per night is \$69, plus tax. It is a special rate.

Breakfast buffet is \$10, includes tax and tip, pay at the restaurant cashier or charge to your room. For those who want to pre-order lunch for Saturday, you must get your form to the restaurant by 8 AM Friday. The cost is \$11.37, includes tax, can be paid by cash or charged to your room. The form will be at the hotel registration desk when you check-in.

**Wednesday, October 17:** Come early and relax. Registration and Hospitality will be open for business. We will have a greeter at the door to assist all Rangers with their luggage and then to their room.

### Rangers & Widows: RBA Roster

If you haven't attended a recent reunion and haven't received an RBA Roster, drop us a note to the address in the header of this page and we'll send you one.



## Ranger Roll Call

Rangers we've been informed as lost since the last RANGER publication in the Summer of 2011

### 1st Battalion

Charlie Eineichner	1Hq
Lee Bullington	1B
Joseph Przybylo	1
Jim McVay	1E/4B

### 2nd Battalion

George Crook	2E
John Fende	2B
William Geitz	2Hq.
George Kerchner	2D
Kendall McClure	2D
Duke Slater	2Hq / 2D
William Tibbets	2/Hq

### 3rd Battalion

Charlie Eineichner	3Hq.
Lee Bullington	3B

### 4th Battalion

Jordan Markson	4E
Clarence Thompson	4F
Jim McVay	4B

### 5th Battalion

Calvin Templeton	5 HQ
Richard Bendix	5D
Stephen Zaher	5 Hq
Bob Villant	5 Hq

### 6th Battalion

Bernard Ostrowski	6E
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**2012 Reunion Schedule of Events & Location**

<b>REUNION CHAIRS</b>	Jerry Styles / Lynn Towne
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Lynn Towne
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Steve & Vicki Ketzer
<b>RANGER STORE</b>	Stan and Lily Kinmonth
<b>MEMORIAL SERVICES</b>	Kathy Wiseman

**WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 17, 2012**

9 AM - Mid-night	Hospitality	Dogwood
1 PM – 4 PM	Registration	Dogwood
7 PM – 9 PM	Registration	Dogwood

**THURSDAY- OCTOBER 18, 2012**

9 AM – 1 PM	Hospitality / Registration / Store	Dogwood
1:30 PM	Rangers Loading Bus to Museum Shoot-Out	#1 Bus
2:30 PM	Rangers & Families Load Bus to Museum	#2 Bus
4:00 PM	Buffet Dinner at the Museum	Fife & Drum Restaurant
4:45 PM	Load Bus Return to Hotel	#1 Bus
5:30 PM	Load Bus Return to Hotel	#2 Bus

**FRIDAY-OCTOBER 19, 2012**

8:00 AM	Meet in Hotel Lobby Start Boarding Bus	<b><i>Please do not be late and risk being left behind</i></b>
8:30 AM	Buses Leave	
10-11:30AM	Rangers In Action / Graduation	
11:30-12:30PM	Lunch	RTB MESS HALL
12:30-3:00 PM	Tour Ft. Benning by Bus	<i>Tour Bus</i>
6 PM	Cocktail Hour	Dogwood Room
6:30 PM	Southern Buffet	Azalea Room

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2012**

10:30 AM	Board Meeting	Board Room
11 AM	Business Meeting	Dogwood
1:00 – 2:00PM	Demonstration Regiment / Regiment Store	TBD
4:30 PM	Memorial	Dogwood Room
5:30 PM	Cocktail Hour	Dogwood Room
6:00 PM	Pasta / Fajita Buffet	Azalea Room

## **PRESIDENT'S REUNION MESSAGE AND INFORMATION continued from page 1**

**Thursday, October 18:** Registration /Hospitality/ Store open. We will have a greeter at the door to assist all Rangers with their luggage and then to their room. Korean War /Vietnam Ranger Maj.(r) Bill Spies has contracted with the National Infantry Museum to host another Ranger Shoot Out and simulator gallery. A bus will be leaving from the hotel promptly at 1:30 PM and a second bus leaving at 2:30 PM. There will be 4 Ranger teams. Teams consist of a WWII Ranger teamed with an active duty Ranger. Two teams will shoot at the same time while the other two teams will be at the Simulator Gallery. Then they switch places. Ranger Spies has made it possible for all Rangers to have a free shoot out and dinner. When you see Ranger Spies, please give him a hearty thank you and hand shake for all he continues to do for the WWII Rangers. He also was a major player in the 2009 Shoot Out held at the Holiday Inn. For all others, you can watch the shoot out or walk around the Museum. Dinner Buffet will be held in the Drum and Fife Restaurant at the Museum at 4PM.

**Friday, Oct. 19:** Rangers In Action/Graduation/Lunch/Tour. We will be attending the Rangers In Action and Graduation. In order to not be disrespectful to the Ranger graduates and their families, we must depart promptly at 8:30 AM. Be on time or risk being left behind. After RIA and Graduation, we will have lunch at the Ranger Training Battalion's mess hall, a tour of RTB and Ranger Hall of Fame then get back on the bus for a tour of Ft. Benning. The tour will highlight the Ranger Memorial and the WWII Ranger Monument at Sacrifice Field. This monument lists all WWII Rangers killed in action. Ranger Jim Altieri was responsible for the design, creation and donations that made this Monument possible. You might have seen the replica that was displayed at the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2011 Reunions. The social will be at 6 PM in the Dogwood Room, followed by buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. Ranger Maj.(r) Spies will be our guest speaker.

**Saturday, Oct. 20:** Membership Meeting 11 AM, Dogwood Room. If you have an agenda item for the meeting, please contact Lynn Towne, Secretary, so she can place it on the agenda to be discussed. For those who pre-ordered lunch through the hotel, you can pick up your lunch before noon at the restaurant. Memorial Service will be in the Dogwood Room at 4:30PM, followed by the social, then dinner at 6 PM.

Reunion information and forms are on the website: [www.wwiirangers.org](http://www.wwiirangers.org) If you have any questions, needs or concerns, please feel free to contact either Lynn Towne at (415) 661-5646 or myself at (770) 427-3735. We are here to assist with any needs that you may have in order to attend this reunion.

**RANGERS:** should you have financial concerns, please contact Ben Temkin at (718) 464-9382. All calls are confidential.

**Jerry Styles**

### **REASONS FOR MAKING EARLY HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SENDING IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS (PLEASE HELP)**

There were two situations at the last reunion causing hard feelings for some and stress and hours of extra work for us. Several people arrived without a hotel reservation only to find the hotel was sold out. The other problem was people showing up without having registered, or making room or dinner reservations.

We contract with the hotel for a block of rooms and are given a deadline to fill that block. When that deadline is reached, the rooms not reserved by us, go back into the Hotel's bank of available rooms. We watch faithfully to check between registration forms received, hotel rooms reserved, and those who have not done either but have expressed a desire to attend. We can usually add more rooms; however, there is the risk the hotel has no rooms available as was the case in New Orleans. It is very important to reserve your room early and certainly before the hotel reservation deadline. **You can always cancel, but cannot always get a room.**

The registration form is used for several things. We use the registration form to update the roster, head counts of meal selections and the amount of money coming in to pay off expenses of the reunion. It is also used to give the hotel headcount for meals, which we are required to give weeks before the start of the reunion. This headcount allows the hotel to purchase the amount of food needed for the banquets and to set up the banquet room: number and size of tables to accommodate the size of the room. The banquet room has already been set up according to the headcount given, and the amount of food already purchased and prepared from the head count given, before we arrive. This does not allow for additional tables to be set up nor additional amount of food to be added. **Please send in your registration form as early as you can.**

To organize a reunion is a time-involved, intense process. The pay off is seeing everyone happy and enjoying one another's company. The downside is having people upset because they can not get a room or stay for dinner. **Please send in your registration form and book your room early.**

## Message from Jerry Styles Descendants of WWII Rangers President

This past year, the leadership of the RBA and S&D organizations worked with attorneys to consolidate these organizations into one. At the general meeting of both organizations in New Orleans this past October, the membership voted and passed new by-laws to form a consolidated organization. The by-laws will be posted on this website. The lawyers have filed the proper documents closing the RBA and S&D organizations, and have filed all documents for the newly formed organization "Descendants of WWII Rangers." This name more fully describes who and what we are. The by-laws state that the organization is to be run by a five member board to be elected for a two year term. Following the meeting, the five members elected are to meet and vote amongst themselves a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and At-Large. The following were elected and will serve a two year term as President, Jerry Styles; Vice President, Stan Kinmonth; Secretary, Lynn Towne; Treasurer, Ben Temkin; At-Large, Karla Merritt. Colleen McDevitt will continue to act as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. She has already placed a new icon on the website "Newsletter". As articles and news come into her, she will post them at this site.

The Descendants of WWII Rangers will maintain the same intent, dedication and purpose as the former S&D organization. We are dedicated to honoring the history of WWII Rangers, seeing that a reunion is held each year with their interests in mind, researching information for those who email with requests, assisting with funeral arrangements, sending out birthday cards, and holding events in local areas.

The first reunion of the newly formed organization will be held October 17-21, 2012, at Columbus, Georgia, with the host hotel being the same as in 2009 and 2010, Holiday Inn at Manchester Expressway. I will co-chair this event with Lynn Towne. We are in the process of finalizing menus and working on a Thursday outing. We have already confirmed the Friday event to be Rangers In Action and Ranger School Graduation, Ft. Benning, GA. The chairs for this event you will recognize from past years: Steve Ketzer, Hospitality; Stan Kinmonth, The Store; Lynn Towne, Registration; Kathy Wiseman, Memorial Service. If anyone is interested in assisting these chairs, please contact them directly.

I look forward to serving this organization as I have for the past years. If you have any comments, thoughts or need assistance, please contact me, or any member of this Board.

***President Jerry Styles***

***Rangers lead the way!***

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# Bon Appetite, Ranger!

by Steve Ketzer, Jr.

I once asked my father for his most vivid recollection of North Africa. While I expected something about invading Arzew, being wounded or maybe being captured in Tunisia, he replied, “The smell of oranges and figs.” Having spent considerable time listening to WWII Rangers since the New Orleans Reunion in 2001, I have determined they were speed marching if not galloping gourmets, with definite likes and dislikes as it pertained to war fighting cuisine. As to dislikes, growing up under my father’s roof, I do not recall ever seeing a turnip, nor lamb, nor—to be sure—mutton. Such were verboten. And when I sent him smoked fish from Alaska (quite expensive!), he fed it to the dog.

Ranger Dick Hubbard offered the following story that explains the mutton antipathy as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion’s disdain of chicken: *During the battalions second day in Bude, England, and then later while training at Swanage, England, the battalion was introduced to mutton and disliked but accepted on occasions. Mutton not to be confused with lamb. The sheep aging process affects the flavor and odor of the meat. Americans as a majority eat beef or pork. Mutton has a distinct odor rather unpleasant to G.I.’s. The battalion was sent to Swanage to train for cliff climbing that included chalk cliffs, which presented different obstacles and climbing techniques. Somehow the meat ration was changed to mutton instead of beef. Rudder had a rebellion on his hands that was rather serious. More than half the battalion threatened to volunteer out if we got any more sheep meat. Rudder called a meeting of all personnel to discuss alternatives for our diet. Chicken was offered as an alternative and roundly accepted. (How naïve we were.) So we got chicken three times a day for several months and to this day chicken is repulsive to men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. However, time has mellowed the distaste to be acceptable, but not a preferred menu item. At a recent (by recent I mean several years ago) Ohio chapter meeting, someone suggested chicken as an alternative to the beef menu. He was one of our new guys who had not known of our chicken rebellion. To say the least, he was admonished roundly for that grievous error in his training.*

While chicken may have been welcomed in other battalions, I think all Rangers had their fill of turnips, either those cast aside as garbage, or pulled—not quite ready to eat—directly from the earth, as Lynn Towne’s father, Ranger Maurice Jackson, once told her. Ranger Zelly Dineen recalls dining on turnips and horsemeat at a POW camp in Italy. There also appears to be general agreement that if the Rangers wanted food, they stole it, or came into possession by other nefarious methods. Darby’s 1<sup>st</sup> Rangers, while in Scotland, were chastised, fined and indeed infamous for thinning out an already thin population of “Royal” deer.

David Williams, nephew of Ranger Jim Lyle, relates another instance of Ranger thievery that graced the pages of Barrel Land Dance Hall Rangers: *Andy Arnbal records a story about the Rangers, battle hardened in Tunisia, raiding a U.S. military warehouse while on a train ride from Tunisia back to Western Algeria. The train stopped for some reason in front of the warehouses. Andy reported that the entire battalion of Rangers emptied the train, wire cutters in hand, opened holes in the barbed wire, and raced past armed guards to help themselves to whatever they could grab. Not until they got back on the train and opened the boxes did they know what they had. Andy’s men had grabbed tomato juice and all ended up with severe indigestion. Capt. Jim Lyle’s men had grabbed beer and canned condensed milk, with the same disastrous result from having had little to eat for several days while cooped up on the train.*

## Bon Appetite, Ranger!

by Steve Ketzner, Jr.

(continued from page 6)

Ranger Red Gilbert's thievery, however, had more positive results (Red told me this story down at Ft. Benning). During the invasion of Sicily, prior to landing, Red and other Rangers broke into the ship's galley stores. The stock was in a wire cage, but Red had wire cutters to be used once ashore. Once in, they found ice cream and had just polished off a five gallon bucket of the sweet, culinary delight when the ship's loudspeakers announced, "Attention on deck! First boat team, man your boat!" Being in the first boat, Red made for the landing craft, but not before grabbing another bucket and balancing it on the stack of mortar tubes that hung at his midsection. On the way to shore, the bucket was passed and each Ranger scooped a handful. Red said that he was later asked if he was scared during the invasion. He replied, "No, I was eating ice cream."

Red also showed me a recipe for Black Bread Broat that the Germans "rationed" out to the POWs. The best mixture was given as, 50% bruised rye grain, 20% sliced sugar beets, 20% tree flour (saw dust), and 10% minced leaves and straw. Now, that's good eatin'. Ken Markham and Jim Brennan were foxhole buddies, both in 1F, and both captured at Cisterna. In a letter, dated December 30, 1945, Ken asked Jim, "Ranger, how would you like to have a bowl of grass soup with your bread ration? Do you ever think about those days anymore? I think of them quite often."

On the other side of the world in the South Pacific, Leo Strausbaugh, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Rangers, ate so much rice that he refused to touch it for years after the war. In New Guinea, Leo said the Mule Packers dined on, "buggy oatmeal, powdered eggs, powdered milk, dehydrated potatoes, canned spam and canned Australian rabbit including some hair." On Homonhon Island, when the Rangers ran out of C rations, Leo bought a pig from a Filipino with his signed IOU. The verbal contract stipulated that the pig be roasted. Years after the war, Leo's IOU was submitted to the Defense Department and was paid in full. Unfortunately, on Homonhon, Leo got sick from eating the greasy pork.

At a recent BBQ at Sergeant Major Arlie Nethken's house in Fairbanks, Alaska, Sergeant Major Lester Cook was heard to say that since 1942 in Scotland, being repeatedly served half-raw fish in a milky gruel for breakfast, he—now at 88—has not been able to stomach fish, not even shrimp. Arlie, accustomed to chowing down on snake, gator and opossum while running the training program at Camp Rudder, has progressed to bear, moose and caribou since moving to Alaska.

For many years, I've had the honor of chairing the RBA reunion hospitality suite. The snacks provided have been, at best, a nice gesture, but I have never heard a Ranger complain, nor have I heard Ranger wives complain, who experienced wartime rationing and the great depression. I imagine they figured, "Well, it's not much, but it's better than raw fish, rabbit hair, mutton, horsemeat or turnips."

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## Ranger Tribute

by Ronald Kennedy

I am a freelance cameraman and have worked for companies such as the BBC, CNN, Fox News etc. In 2003, I was approached by a company that makes special interest videos and was going to produce one for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

The opportunity to meet Len Lomell ( Pointe du Hoc) was a childhood dream. He was so keen on being interviewed that, before I had a budget to go to the USA, he was badgering me to come. It was so intense that I had no choice but to finance the trip myself. January 1994 my brother John and I set out for Tom's Rivers where Len had laid on interviewee after interviewee. The filming went very smoothly and the film was shown at a press launch at the Imperial War Museum in London, and later on both the History and Discovery Channels.

Following the death of Len Lomell, I have decided to relaunch a documentary *Battlefield to Remembrance* (The Directors Cut). The film is a combination of two former documentaries concerning living historians and includes scenes from Normandy and a brief interview with Len. The film is dedicated to Len Lomell and all Rangers of WWII.

Included is a bonus DVD covering the Ranger's visit to Normandy in June 1994 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary . It is essentially a home movie but will be of great interest to those families and relatives that took part in the event.

"You know why I do this, Ron? "It's for the guys that never came back so they are never forgotten." Len Lomell 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion

**The two set DVD can be purchased on Amazon.com and it is entitled: Battlefield To Remembrance (The Directors Cut).**

As Limey's, my brother and I are extremely proud of being honorary members of the NE Chapter and being part of the Ranger family. We have also forgiven you for the slight misunderstanding in Boston. (That always was a storm in a tea cup.)

## Ode To A Soldier

by Stephenie Meyer, Granddaughter  
of Ranger Noel Dye, 1F

He does not go by name,  
But by the rank on his chest  
This man does not do it for the fame  
Though he is the best of the best.  
He does it to beat the sick game  
And beat every test.

This very man risked everything  
And yet his face is still brave  
Now as he leaves this world, the  
angels sing  
Thanking him for a job well done,  
And all the lives he died to save.  
He is welcomed home with a heavy  
heart and a broken wing  
Because he has to look down on a  
young widow crying over a grave.

To everything he won't see  
Like the very first time his newborn  
daughter opens her eyes.  
Not knowing how wonderfully beau-  
tiful she will soon be  
The little girl that won't be able to  
meet her daddy  
The father, husband and soldier  
died for Americans; for me...  
And all we can do is rise  
And say, "THANK YOU" .

## Ranger Delbert Griffith's, 6B, First Reunion

By Gary Griffith, son of Ranger Griffith

With my dad, Ranger Griffith, now living in Georgia, my brothers and I urged him to attend the Reunion in New Orleans. Without hesitation, he adamantly insisted on going. He waited anxiously for the day when my two brothers, his grandson and myself would accompany him to his first national reunion and the first reunion for us too.

We arrived Thursday to the cheers and warm reception by WWII Rangers and their sons and daughters. It was obvious a Ranger 'family' reunion, filled with excitement and camaraderie, was in full swing. Already, we knew the experiences would be ones always remembered and cherished. What follows are some very special moments for our Dad:

There was a wonderful surprise awaiting our dad at Friday's Banquet. Right after dinner, we were treated to a speech by MGS. Usie, a veteran of 5 deployments and one of the nine Rangers sent by the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment Ranger in support of the WWII Ranger Reunion. MSG Usie went into detail about the differences the Rangers were making on the "War on Terror", in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan describing the bravery and resolution of the deployed Rangers. These Rangers have a tremendous aptitude for resilience, innovation, loyalty, tenacity, and mental agility. After the speech, MSG Usie stood at the podium for a few seconds. He looked over the audience in the room. His eyes stopped when he found our dad, Ranger Griffith.

Raising his voice to command volume, the MSG Usie barked out an order, "Sergeant Major, front and center." Coming from the back of the room, the Sergeant Major marched with intention until he reached MSG Usie and stood smartly at attention at the base of the podium.

MSG Usie reached under the podium and retrieved a package. He looked out over the audience. He spoke again to the anticipating crowd with a smile and a lift in his voice. He said, looking directly at our dad, "I understand there is a Ranger here that somehow never managed to get himself a Ranger beret. Well, Rangers always look after their own." Still looking into our dad's eyes, he continued speaking, "Sir, it is my privilege and honor to present you with your 6th battalion Ranger beret." Looking at the Sergeant Major standing right below him, MSG Usie handed him the beret. The Sergeant Major reached up to take the beret as MSG Usie said in a steady voice, "Sergeant Major, please make the presentation." The Sergeant Major, holding the beret, executed a left face and began marching up to our dad. Looking directly into dad's eyes, he smiled and said, "Sir! May I present you with your beret!?"

Our dad was stunned and we were overwhelmed. Dad smiled back and nodded. My brother Keith reached over and removed the Ranger cap that dad was wearing. The Sergeant Major leaned over revealing eight campaign hashes running up his military jacket sleeve and gently put the beret on our dad's head. He then snapped to attention and saluted dad crisply. He executed an about face and marched to the back of the room. The audience went nuts. Everyone stood up clapping and really let Ranger Griffith know that this was a special moment. I knew they were applauding the Ranger's camaraderie, loyalty, and benevolence almost as much as the honor that was just bestowed upon Ranger Griffith.

Another special moment for Ranger Griffith, happened when the Sergeant Major, who put the beret on his head at Friday's banquet, came over and gave dad an emblem from one of his deployments, placing the honored keepsake in dad's hand, he said, "Sir, it would be my highest honor if you would accept this symbol of my admiration and respect. I am serving because of your example. I am who I am, because you are who you are." Ranger Griffith looked at the young Ranger with tears in his eyes. Two Rangers looked across the spanning years and saw only one Ranger. The years melted away as Ranger Griffith shook that young Ranger's hand, passing his legacy that night to a new generation with the cherished emblem in his hand held with a death grip.

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## THE END OF AN INCREDIBLE RUN

by Gary Griffith, son of Ranger Griffith

What appeared on the surface as a typical start to the last Banquet of the Reunion, by the close of the banquet, it would not be typical at all. The Banquet started as usual with everyone standing at attention, while the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment Ranger Honor Guards marched into the room to post the colors of the WWII Rangers. The proud Rangers saluted as Old Glory, Battle Flag and the Campaign Streamers passed by, carried proudly by the Honor Guards. The rest of us put our hands over our hearts to commemorate the future and past as it marched before our eyes. This night, the WWII Ranger Battle Flag and Campaign Streamers would be encased and retired; given into the hands of the RTB for safe keeping.

Following the speech given by SMG Marsh, who inspired and touched each Ranger in attendance with his words, Ranger Ben Temkin presented to Ranger Ed Black, a Flag flown by LTC Jeff Stewart, Commander, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1-25 SBCT on September 11 for 9 minutes and 11 seconds in Honor of WWII Rangers. You could see by the look on Ranger Black's face, he was surprised and overwhelmed with this presentation of such a special flag. The smile on his face and the humbleness of his presence was obvious to all of us. This was such an overwhelming moment for Ranger Black. At the close of the banquet, Ranger Temkin asked that the colors be retired. As the pomp and ceremony of encasing/retiring the colors began, you could see the ghosts of 70 years hung heavy around the Rangers' eyes. Their solemn stare seemed to carry the weight of sought absolution and unfound salvation for memories long past. Saturday's dinner would prove to be a special night, one filled with pride and sadness, one filled with almost 70 years of the Ranger Brothers. It didn't matter which battalion you served in, or the commander who led you, it was one ranger battalion; one brotherhood; one family.

The Master at Arms asked the 1st Battalion Rangers to stand. Four stood. There was much applause. Then the 2nd Battalion Rangers were asked to stand. Five in there number and the clapping was intense. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Rangers were asked to stand and three of them stood. The acknowledgment from the crowd was powerful. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rangers were asked to stand. There were four that stood and their ovation was grand. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rangers were asked to stand. Three of them stood up and everyone clapped. Then, the last of the battalions was asked to stand, the 6th Battalion Rangers. There was only one, and he was dressed in a brand new Rangers shirt. Tears began to run down from Ranger Griffith's clear blue eyes. His sons and grandson eyes were watering up too. My brother Keith and I took our dad by the arms and slowly raised the lone 6th Ranger to his feet. He looked amazed and awed and stood there in disbelief as all 120 stood, faced him and began a thunderous applause. Applause that was sustained, grew with a crescendo, and began to boom into his only ear.

There were many tears that night. The kind of tears that deal with remembrance and solitude. Tears that run with the firm knowledge of absolute acceptance and gratitude from peers and family. There were the tears of pride and admiration from the wives, sons and daughters of these few remaining men of indomitable spirit. There were the tears of self forgiveness with the certain knowledge that the carnage they both endured and delivered was the most absolute necessity in the history of mankind.

The Rangers' moment was here. Their legacy of active Rangers asking WWII Rangers to autograph their copy of Bob Black's books: *Ranger Force and The Battalion*, given to them as a gift from the RBA. These are the signatures of the legendary WWII Rangers, the history of WWII Ranger Battalions. These books with signatures are a treasure to the Rangers; these signatures will be the inspiration for generations to come. WWII Rangers continue to be the inspiration of each Ranger to follow in their foot steps; their brothers-in-arms. This Reunion was more than special, it would be filled with pride and accomplishment, it would be filled with a touch of sadness knowing this night would be the last night the WWII Ranger Battle Flag and Campaign Streamers would be posted as the RBA Battle Flag and Campaign Streamers were formally retired.

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Visit us on the Web:

RBA / S&D sponsored website

[www.WWIIrangers.org](http://www.WWIIrangers.org)

RBA News, history, obituaries,  
current events

(voluntarily maintained by Colleen McDevitt)

Private website

by Julie Fulmer & Ron Hudnell

[www.RangerRoster.org](http://www.RangerRoster.org)

Searchable database of  
who served as  
Rangers - WW II

## Descendants of WWII Rangers Contacts:

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## Newsletter:

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**Send change of address to:**

Ranger Roster  
Lynn Towne  
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San Francisco, CA 94122  
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# ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION!

The Descendants of WWII Rangers has a website! Visit it often [www.WWIIrangers.org](http://www.WWIIrangers.org)

Colleen is the webmaster and Ron Hudnell has graciously offered his services as co-webmaster.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Colleen at [colleenmcd59@yahoo.com](mailto:colleenmcd59@yahoo.com)

## WWII Ranger Emergency Fund:

The "Ranger Burial Fund" has been replaced by the "WWII Ranger Emergency Fund" which, in addition to the mission of the burial fund (providing for a proper burial at the Ranger's choice of place), will also cover other emergencies that we may encounter at this stage of life.

Any requests will be, as always, held in strictest confidence by the officers of the **Descendants of WWII Rangers**. To contribute, send check and specify in the memo line that your donation is for this purpose.

*Send donations to Descendants of WWII Rangers Treasurer Ben Temkin, address on page 11*

# Rangers Lead The Way!



Ranger Newsletter  
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