



★ RANGERS LEAD THE WAY ★

RANGER REGISTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION, INC. DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY RANGER.



SPECIAL USARA ELECTION ISSUE
(Ballot Enclosed)

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S TENT

The original intent of this issue was to get the USARA 2004 ballot and ARM-2004 information out to the membership. That is still the goal, but several recent events require acknowledgment as well.

The first is the death of Ranger Pat Tillman in Afghanistan. In the larger scheme of things, Ranger Tillman's loss is no different from the deaths of the many other service members fighting to protect our country and our way of life. What is unique about Ranger Tillman is that he gave up a successful career as a professional athlete to serve his country. Many other patriotic Americans serving in the Reserves and National Guard have also set aside their jobs and careers to fight the war on terrorism. Yet, how many professional athletes, movie stars or other celebrities have shelved their careers to serve their country? Answer...none! This is all the more reason for us to honor the service of Ranger Tillman and those like him.

Recent weeks have also brought sad news concerning active duty and former Rangers, as well as Ranger family members. CW3 Chuck Fortenberry, formerly of 1/75, was killed on April 14 in Iraq when his Apache helicopter was shot down near Baghdad. Ranger James Carlton "Big Jim" Queen, 78, a retired Washington, D.C. public school administrator and Army major whose actions in the Korean War as a Ranger leader led to his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame, died April 14 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He had cancer.

SFC (ret) Wesley John Kealoha Batalona was laid to rest on April 17 in Hawaii. SFC Batalona was a veteran of the Panama invasion in 1991 and the Gulf War. He was killed in an ambush in Fallujah, Iraq, while working as a civilian contractor on March 31. Also killed in the Fallujah ambush were former Ranger SGT Jerko "Jerry" Zovko, Michael Teague (a veteran of Grenada, Panama and Afghanistan), and former Navy SEAL Scott Helvenston.

Fort Benning, GA laid to rest one of the finest Army wives ever. Julia Compton "Julie" Moore, wife of LTG (ret) Hal Moore, died on April 17. She was 75, and is remembered for having performed the hardest duty of all: in November 1965, she visited the widows of those who were killed in action in the battle for the Ia Drang Valley, offering sympathy and support to the families.

Now, come June at ARM-2004 in Las Vegas, I will pass the torch to the new president. It will be a bittersweet moment. The USARA Bylaws prohibit me from serving another term, but even if I could, it is time for me to step down after serving for five years and four months. It is time for me to refocus on my personal life and move on to new challenges. Those of you who were around in February 1999 when I was first appointed know that USARA was at a low point in its existence. With the help of some great Rangers along the way, we pulled USARA out of that morass to where we are today.

It was not always easy. There were some controversial issues that created obstacles and there was a self-serving disgruntled faction that attempted to force us off our path. We overcame all of that because we provided honest and dedicated leadership and you realized that. USARA is stronger today than it ever has been because of the national leaders who keep this association running everyday and you, the general members, who give us your support. Make no mistake; maintaining this association is hard work. It is a daily task. We have instituted policies and programs that have increased our membership and made USARA financially stable. We have created opportunities to support our members, active duty Rangers and the entire legitimate Ranger community. Thanks everybody for everything! It's been an exciting ride. I hope you will give the new president and the other national leaders your continued support. Don't forget, we need you to make USARA even better! See you in Las Vegas!"

RLTW! Jim

Ranger Muster 2004 Reservations

June 20 - 24 at the Riviera Hotel Las Vegas, NV

If you have not yet made your reservations for ARM-2004 in Las Vegas, it is not too late to do it! USARA has arranged a block of rooms with a special rate of \$73 bucks a night, single/double occupancy, plus 9% Clark County room tax. This rate is good for all USARA members attending the ARM for the dates of June 18th through the 27th. While our conference is for the 20th through the 24th, the extended dates were arranged for those wishing an extended stay.

Reservations must be made individually with the hotel:

The Riviera Hotel and Casino
2901 Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Web: <http://www.rivierahotel.com> (note: uses Flash and a whole lot of bandwidth)

Phone: Toll-free (800) 634-6753 or (702) 794-9561

Fax: (702) 794-9410

**BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A
USARA MEMBER UNDER THIS PLAN.**

For more information contact:

Peter Stevens, Western Regional Director
(801) 583-8458 or (801) 294-2634

Special Guest Speaker

This year's special guest speaker at the ARM-2004 banquet will be Brigadier General (ret) David L. Grange. General Grange served with L Company, 75th Rangers in Vietnam. During two tours of service in Vietnam, Grange was awarded three Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts. During his 30-years of military service, he operated in Infantry, Ranger, Special Forces, and Delta Force units throughout the world.

NO FREE RIDES!

Rangers, when you arrive at the Riviera Hotel, be sure to sign in at the USARA ARM-2004 Registration Desk. Your pre-paid registration will be verified and you will be given a Registration Packet containing information about ARM activities, as well as receive your golf shirt and some favors. You will also receive credentials that will allow you to access the USARA hospitality room and the banquet. If you are attending ARM-2004 and the Special Forces Association convention, you pay full registration fees with both organizations.

NCO of the YEAR

The RTB NCO of the Year award for 2004 goes to SSG Eric J. Buonopane, B Co., 5th RTB. The runner-up was SSG Daniel Hayes, C Co., 6th RTB. USARA awards a set of Dress Blues to the winner.

USARA ELECTION 2004

Don't forget to return the attached ballot to arrive NLT June 1, 2004.

ARM-2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 20: Arrival, check-in and registration. Get credentials. Hospitality Room open.

Monday, June 21: BOD meeting. Hospitality Room open.

Tuesday, June 22: Open time (see exhibits, golf, sightsee, shopping, etc. Hospitality Room open.

Wednesday, June 23: General Membership Meeting, Banquet, Auction.

Thursday, June 24: Departure or remain for SFA Convention. No hospitality room.

USARA 2004 Ballot

President **Steve Maguire** _____

Chairman of Write-in _____
the Board Write-in _____

Treasurer **Tom Herring** _____

Director #5 Write-in _____

Write-in _____

Central Region **Karl Monger** _____

Director #7 Write-in _____

Write-in _____

Northern Region **Walt Eckhardt** _____

Director #9 Write-in _____

Write-in _____

Note - Only members within a Region can vote for that Director

Voter's Name _____

Member No. _____

Region _____

**Mail completed ballot to -
To arrive NLT 1 June 2004**

**USARA TELLER COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 52126
Fort Benning, GA 31995-2126**

**FROM:
U. S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 52126
FORT BENNING, GA 31995-2126**

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE ON 31 DECEMBER
PLEASE RENEW ON TIME.
SEND YOUR RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**

**SECRETARY, USARA, INC.
PO BOX 52126
FORT BENNING, GA 31995-2126**

U.S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	JIM GRIMSHAW	(520) 940-0161	JIM_GRIMSHAW@YAHOO.COM
EXECUTIVE V.P.:	STEVE MAGUIRE	(703) 979-0073	MAGUIRE46@COMCAST.NET
SECRETARY:	GREGG ORTH	(704) 503-0595	ISOLUTIONSGORTH@AOL.COM
TREASURER:	TOM HERRING	(704) 542-8918	TEH5RGR@AOL.COM

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

NORTH:	WALT ECKHARDT	(301) 370-3444	WALTRGR5@ATT.NET
SOUTH:	ART SILSBY	(478) 628-2406	ASILSBY@ALLTEL.NET
CENTRAL:	KARL MONGER	(316) 290-8813	KMONGER@KSBBBS.ORG
WEST:	PETER STEVENS	(801) 294-2634	PSTEVENS@AROS.NET
INTERNATIONAL:	LINC GERMAN	(703) 830-2484	LINCGERMAN@AOL.COM

USARA WEBSITE: WWW.RANGER.ORG

MANAGER:	JOHN_SENOR	(212) 330-1700	JOHNG_SENOR@IWAYS SOFTWARE.COM
WEBMASTER:	JAKE FREIVALD	(212) 330-1700	WEBMASTER@RANGER.ORG

RANGER REGISTER

EDITOR:	MIKE McCLINTOCK	(650) 341-7331	OLDLRRP62@AOL.COM
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RANGER STORE

The Ranger Store is now on-line at <http://armyranger.usptgear.com>