8TH ANNUAL
RANGER HALL OF FAME

OCTOBER 2000
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
United States Army

1st Ptn, 2nd Ptn, 3rd Ptn, 4th Ptn, 5th Ptn, 6th Ranger Bn

WORLD WAR TWO

8th Annual
RANGER HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
October 4, 2000
“RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!”

75th Ranger Rgt
GRENADA-PANAMA
DESERT STORM
SOMALIA

75th Ranger Inf
VIETNAM WAR

Inf Ranger Co’s
KOREAN WAR

Ranger Airborne
Training
Brigade

U.S. Army Ranger Assn, Inc.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

75th Ranger Regiment Association
Ranger Terry Roderick, President

U.S. Army Ranger Association, Inc.
Ranger Jim Grimshaw, President

Ranger Infantry Companies (ABN) Of The Korean War
Ranger Minor Kelso, President

Merrill’s Marauders Association, Inc.
Ranger Philip B. Piazza, President

75th Ranger Regiment
Colonel P. K. Keen, 11th Colonel of the regiment

Ranger Training Brigade
Colonel Frank Helmick, Commander Ranger Training Brigade

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Major General (R) Kenneth Leuer, President
Colonel Frank Helmick, Member
Colonel P. K. Keen, Member
Command Sergeant Major Mike Kelso, Member
Command Sergeant Major Walter Rakow, Member
Ranger Philip B. Piazza, Member
Command Sergeant Major (R) Warren “Bing” Evans, Member
Colonel (R) Ralph Puckett, Member
Command Sergeant Major (R) Michael Martin, Member
Ranger Terry Roderick, Member
Captain Todd Bearden, Recorder
The members of the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Board members are proud to introduce the 2000 Ranger Hall of Fame inductees.

The Ranger Hall of Fame began to honor and preserve the spirit and contributions of America's most extraordinary Rangers. The members of the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Board take particular care to ensure that only the most extraordinary Rangers earn induction, a difficult mission given the high caliber of all nominees. Their precepts are impartiality, fairness, and scrutiny.

Select Ranger units and associations representing each era of Ranger history impartially nominate inductees. The Selection Board scrutinizes each nominee to ensure only the most extraordinary contributions received acknowledgment.

Each Ranger association and U.S. Army MACOM may submit a maximum of 3 nominations per year. Medal of Honor recipients if otherwise qualified for the Ranger Hall of Fame will be inducted without regard to quota.

Selection criteria is as unique as our Ranger history. Eligibility for selection to the Hall of Fame includes the following, a person must be deceased or have been separated, or retired from active military service for at least three years at the time of nomination. He must have served in a Ranger unit in combat or be a successful graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School. A Ranger unit is defined as an Army unit recognized in Ranger lineage or history. Achievement or service may be considered for individuals in a position in state or national government after the Ranger has departed the Armed Forces.

Honorary induction may be conferred on individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Ranger units, the Ranger foundation, or the Ranger community in general, but who do not meet the normal criteria of combat service with a Ranger unit or graduation from the U.S. Army Ranger School.

The 2000 Selection Board published the nomination criteria and accepted nominations. Nominations were accepted from the Army at large and nominations were also accepted from the following associations:

a. Ranger Battalions Associations of World War II.
b. Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.
c. The Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War.
d. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
e. United States Army Ranger Association, Inc.

On behalf of the 2000 Nominating Committee and Selection Board, we would like to extend our congratulations to the Ranger Hall of Fame inductees. These inductees represent some of the most extraordinary Rangers in the history of our nation.

Their seemingly endless list of significant contributions, selfless sacrifice, loyal service, and profound character stand as examples to all professionals. They are a tremendous source of pride and inspiration to us all.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Hazen L. Baron
Colonel, Infantry
Board Member

P. K. Keen
Colonel, Infantry
Board Member
Each inductee is presented with the specially cast bronze Ranger Hall of Fame medallion, suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. The medallion was designed and drawn by Mr. C.J. (Duke) DuShane, 1997 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductee who served in combat with Company P, 75th Infantry (Ranger) during the Vietnam War. The eagle represents strength and in Native American lore symbolizes the warrior. The United States flag represents the proud commitment to our country. The arrows show resolve and the readiness to fight and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The eagle flies over the Ranger Memorial acknowledging the courageous and selfless contributions of past Rangers to their country, the United States Armed Forces, and to the proud tradition of today's Rangers. The laurel wreath represents the Rangers' competitive spirit and will to succeed, regardless of the challenge. The Sikes-Fairbaine stiletto represents the Rangers' ability to successfully plan and conduct special operations. The medallion signifies selfless sacrifice, professional excellence, and remarkable accomplishment in the defense of the greatest nation in the world and to the highest ideals of service.
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN RANGER

The history of the American Ranger is a long and colorful saga of courage, daring and outstanding leadership. It is a story of men whose skills in the art of fighting have seldom been surpassed. Only the highlights of their numerous exploits are told here.

Rangers performed primarily defensive missions until Benjamin Church's independent company of Rangers from Plymouth Colony proved successful in raiding hostile Indians during King Phillip's War in 1675. In 1756 Major Robert Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, recruited nine companies of American colonists to fight for the British during the French and Indian War. Ranger techniques and methods of operation were an inherent characteristic of the American frontiersmen; however, Major Rogers was the first to capitalize on them and incorporate them into the fighting doctrine of a permanently organized fighting force.

The type of fighting used by these first Rangers was further developed during the Revolutionary War by Colonel Daniel Morgan, who organized a unit known as Morgan's Riflemen. According to General Burgoyne, Morgan's men were "...the most famous corps of the Continental Army, all of them crack shots."

Another famous Revolutionary War Ranger element was organized by Francis Marion, "the Swamp Fox". Marion's Partisans, numbering anywhere from a handful to several hundred, operated both with and independent of other elements of General Washington's Army. Operating out of the Carolina swamps, they disrupted British communications and prevented the organization of loyalists to support the British cause, substantially contributing to the American victory.

The American Civil War was again the occasion for the creation of special units such as Rangers. John S. Mosby, a master of the prompt and skillful use of cavalry, was one of the most outstanding Confederate Rangers. He believed that by resorting to aggressive action he could compel his enemies to guard a hundred points. He would then attack one of the weakest points and be assured numerical superiority.

With America's entry into the Second World War, Rangers came forth to add to the pages of history. Major William O. Darby organized and activated the 1st Ranger Battalion on 19 June 1942 at Carrickfergus, North Ireland. The members were all hand-picked volunteers; 50 participated in the gallant Dieppe raid on the northern coast of France with British and Canadian commandos. The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions participated with distinction in the North African, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns. Darby's Ranger Battalions spearheaded the Seventh Army landing at Gela and Licata during the Sicilian invasion and played a key role in the subsequent campaign which culminated in the capture of Messina. They infiltrated German lines and mounted an attack against Cisterna, where they virtually annihilated an entire German parachute regiment during close in, night, bayonet and hand-to-hand fighting.

The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach, Normandy. It was during the bitter fighting along the beach that the Rangers gained their official motto. As the situation became critical on Omaha Beach, the division commander of the 29th Infantry Division stated that the entire force must clear the beach and advance inland. He then turned to Lieutenant Colonel Max Schneider, commanding the 5th Ranger Battalion, and said, "Rangers, lead the way." The 5th Ranger Battalion spearheaded the entire breakthrough and thus enabled the Allies to drive inland away from the invasion beaches.
The 6th Ranger Battalion, operating in the Pacific, conducted Ranger type missions behind enemy lines which involved reconnaissance and hard-hitting, long-range raids. They were the first American contingent to return to the Philippines, destroying key coastal installations prior to the invasion. A reinforced company from the 6th Ranger Battalion formed the rescue force which liberated American and Allied prisoners of war from the Japanese prison camp at Cabanatuan.

Another Ranger-type unit was the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), organized and trained as a long-range penetration unit for employment behind enemy lines in Japanese-occupied Burma. The official unit designation was later changed to the 475th Infantry commanded by Brigadier General (later Major General) Frank D. Merrill, its 2,997 officers and men became popularly known as "Merrill's Marauders".

The men composing Merrill's Marauders were volunteers from the 5th, 154th, and 33rd Infantry Regiments and from other Infantry regiments engaged in combat in the southwest and South Pacific. These men responded to a call from then Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, for volunteers for a hazardous mission. These volunteers were to have a high state of physical ruggedness and stamina and were to come from jungle-trained and jungle-tested units.

Prior to their entry into the Northern Burma Campaign, Merrill's Marauders trained in India under the overall supervision of Major General Orde C. Wingate, British Army. There, they were trained from February to June 1943 in long-range penetration tactics and techniques of the type developed and first employed by General Wingate in the operations of the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade from Burma. From February to May 1944, the operations of the Marauders were closely coordinated with those of the Chinese 22nd and 38th Divisions in a drive to recover northern Burma and clear the way for the construction of Ledo Road, which was to link the Indian Railhead at Ledo with the old Burma Road to China. The Marauders marched and fought through jungle and over mountains from Hukwang Valley in northwestern Burma to Myitkyina and the Irrawaddy River. In 5 major and 30 minor engagements, they met and defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division. Operating in the rear of the main forces of the Japanese, they prepared the way for the southward advance of the Chinese by disorganizing supply lines and communications. The climax of the Marauder's operations was the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all-weather strip in northern Burma. This was the final victory of "Merrill's Marauders" which was disbanded in August 1944.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War in June of 1950, the 8th Army Ranger Company was formed of volunteers from American units in Japan. The company was trained in Korea and distinguished itself in combat during the drive to the Yalu River, performing task force and spearhead operations. In November of 1950 during the massive Chinese intervention, this small unit, though vastly outnumbered, withstood five enemy assaults on its position.

In September of 1950, a Department of the Army message called for volunteers to be trained as Airborne Rangers. In the 82nd Airborne Division, five thousand regular army paratroopers volunteered and from that number nine hundred men were selected to form the initial eight Airborne Ranger Companies. An additional nine companies were formed from volunteers of Regular Army and National Guard Infantry Divisions. These seventeen
Airborne Ranger companies were activated and trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, with most receiving additional training in the mountains of Colorado.

In 1950 and 1951, some 700 men of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th Airborne Ranger companies fought to the front of every American Infantry Division in Korea. Attacking by land, water, and air, these six Ranger companies conducted raids, deep penetrations and ambush operations against North Korean and Chinese forces. They were the first Rangers in history to make a combat jump. After the Chinese intervention, these Rangers were the first Americans to re-cross the 38th parallel. The 2nd Airborne Ranger Company was the only African-American Ranger unit in the history of the American Army. The men of the six Ranger companies who fought in Korea paid the bloody price of freedom. One in nine of this gallant brotherhood died on the battlefields of Korea.

Other Airborne Ranger companies led the way while serving with infantry divisions in the United States, Germany and Japan. Men of these companies volunteered and fought as members of line infantry units in Korea. One Ranger, Donn Porter, would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Fourteen Korean War Rangers became general officers and dozens became colonels, senior non-commissioned officers, and leaders in civilian life. They volunteered for the Army, the Airborne, the Rangers, and for combat. The first men to earn and wear the coveted Ranger Tab, these men are the original Airborne Rangers.

In October 1951, the Army Chief of Staff, General J. Lawton Collins directed that "Ranger training be extended to all combat units in the Army." The Commandant of the Infantry School was directed to establish a Ranger Department for the purpose of conducting a Ranger course of instruction. The overall objective of Ranger training was to raise the standard of training in all combat units. This program was built upon what had been learned from the Ranger Battalions of World War II and the Airborne Ranger companies of the Korean conflict.

During the Vietnam Conflict, fourteen Ranger companies consisting of highly motivated volunteers, served with distinction from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ. Assigned to separate brigade, division and field force units, they conducted long-range reconnaissance and exploitation operations into enemy-held areas providing valuable combat intelligence. Initially designated as LRRP, then LRP companies, these units were later designated as C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O and P (Ranger) 75th Infantry.

Following Vietnam, recognizing the need for a highly trained and highly mobile reaction force, the Army Chief of Staff, General Abrams directed the activation of the first battalion-sized Ranger units since World War II, the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger), 75th Infantry. The 1st Battalion was trained at Fort Benning, Georgia and was activated February 8, 1974 at Fort Stewart, Georgia with the 2nd Battalion being activated on October 3, 1974. The 1st Battalion is now located at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia and the 2nd Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The farsightedness of General Abrams' decision, as well as the combat effectiveness of the Ranger battalions, was proven during the United States' invasion of the island of Grenada in October 1983 to protect American citizens there and to restore democracy. As expected, Rangers led the way! During this operation, code--named 'URGENT FURY," the Ranger battalions conducted a daring, low-level airborne assault (from 500 feet) to
seize the airfield at Point Salines, and then continued operations for several days to eliminate pockets of resistance, and rescue American medical students.

As a result of the demonstrated effectiveness of the Ranger battalions, the Department of The Army announced in 1984 that it was increasing the strength of Ranger units to its highest level in 40 years by activating another Ranger battalion, as well as a Ranger Regimental Headquarters. These new units, the 3rd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, and Headquarters Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry, have increased the Ranger strength of the Army to over 2,000 soldiers actually assigned to Ranger units. On February 3, 1986, the 75th Infantry was re-designated the 75th Ranger Regiment.

On 20 December 1989, the 75th Ranger Regiment was once again called upon to demonstrate its effectiveness in combat. For the first time since its reorganization in 1984, the Regimental Headquarters and all three Ranger Battalions were deployed on Operation “JUST CAUSE” in Panama. During this operation, the 75th Ranger Regiment spearheaded the assault into Panama by conducting airborne assaults onto Torrijos/Tocumen Airport and Rio Hato Airfield to facilitate the restoration of democracy in Panama and protect the lives of American citizens. Between December 20, 1989 and January 7, 1990, numerous follow-on missions were performed in Panama by the Regiment.


In August 1993 elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope and returned in November 1993.

The performance of these Rangers significantly contributed to the overall success of these operations and upheld the Ranger traditions of the past. As in the past, the Regiment stands ready to execute its mission to conduct special operations in support of the United States’ policies and objectives.
PREVIOUS RANGER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1992 INDUCTEES

GEN Richard E. Cavazos
CPT Benjamin Church
BG William O. Darby
COL Francis Dawson
LTG David E. Grange, Jr.
CPL Glenn M. Hall
SP4 Robert D. Law
MG Kenneth C. Leuer

COL George A. McGee
MG Frank D. Merrill
COL John S. Mosby
COL Ralph Puckett
SSG Robert J. Pruden
SSG Laszlo Rabel
MAJ Robert Rogers
MG James E. Rudder

COL Max Schneider
COL Arthur Simons
COL Elliot P. Sydor, Jr.
SGT Martin E. Watson
COL Logan E. Weston

HONORARY INDUCTEES
GEN Creighton W. Abrams
Mr. Richard A. Leandri

1993 INDUCTEES

CSM Henry Caro
SSG David C. Dolby
CSM Neal R. Gentry
CPT Nathan Hale
COL Charles N. Hunter
President Abraham Lincoln

CSM Gary L. Littrell
LTC Andre C. Lucas
PFC Robert L. Mastin
MSG Roy H Matsumoto
1SG Harvey L. Moore
SMA Glen E. Morrell
COL Roy A. Murray

COL George A. Pacerelli
SGT Donn F. Porter
COL Arthur C. Stange III
LTG Samuel V. Wilson

HONORARY INDUCTEES
Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.

1994 INDUCTEES

SGM Fred E. Davis
CPT Gregory E. Gardner
LTC William E. Gore
LTC William C. Grissom
1 LT Mayo S. Heath
SSG Jack E. Kuhn

SGT Peter C. Lemon
SSG Gary L. Lemonds
GEN James J. Lindsay
1SG Leonard G. Lomell
BG Francis Marion
SGT Andy B. Pung

MAJ James C. Queen
SFC Randall D. Shughart

HONORARY INDUCTEES
Senator Strom Thurmond
GEN Lucian K. Truscott, Jr.

1995 INDUCTEES

1SG Anders K. Arnbal
MSG Aubrey M. Batts
COL Charles E. Beach II
COL Robert W. Black
SGT William C. Clark, Jr.
MAJ Gerald M. Devlin

LT Robert T. Edlin
GEN John W. Foss
MSG Gary L. Gordon
1SG Randall Harris
SEN J. Robert Kerrey
GEN Fred K. Mahaffey

CSM Michael N. Martin
BG John Hugh Mcgee
LT Philip B. Piazza
SGM Fred M. Shepherd
BG Joseph S. Stringham
CSM Patrick Tadina
### 1996 INDUCTEES
- 1SG Joe C. Alderman
- Father Albert E. Basil
- SSG Clarence Branscomb
- CSM Richard C. Burnell
- CSM George Chaney
- COL Robert I. Channon
- SGT Ormand B. Crabtree
- CPT Warren Evans
- CSM Larry A. Fletcher
- SGM Hubert H. Frost
- PFC Norman Janis
- GEN Robert C. Kingston
- Monsignor Joseph R. Lacy
- LTC Roy S. Lombardo
- MAJ Richard J. Meadows
- COL Lee Mize
- LTC Berkeley J. Strong

### 1997 INDUCTEES
- LTC Richard P. Sullivan
- PFC William E. Anderson
- CPT Donald W. Delorey
- SSG Henry Gosho
- LTC Charles G. Ross
- MAJ Warren E. Allen
- COL Herman W. Dammer
- COL Lewis L. Millett
- COL John P. Lawton
- 1LT Stephen H. Doane
- COL Robert B. Nett
- CSM Mariano R.C. Leon-Guerrero
- CSM William T. Mixon
- SSG Cyrille J. "Duke" Dushane

### 1998 INDUCTEES
- CPT Walter E. Block
- CSM Gary R. Carpenter
- BG Richard J. Eaton
- SGT Richard S. Ehrler, Jr.
- COL Henry A. Mucci
- COL William L. Osborne
- CPT Charles H. Parker
- CPL Eugene C. Rivera
- PFC Leo G. Samborowski
- SFC Wilton White

### 1999 INDUCTEES
- COL Edmond Abood
- CPT Paul W. Bucha
- COL Joseph G. Clemons, Jr.
- SGM Joseph R. M. Cournoyer
- LTC John S. Daniel, Jr.
- CWO William "Doc" Donovan
- GEN Wayne A. Downing
- LTC Cafison Johnson
- SFC Donald L. Lehew
- SGM Santos A. Matos, Jr.
- SFC John L. McCoy
- MAJ Robert W. Prince
- SGM Arthur Werner
- HONORARY INDUCTEE
- WO2C Arthur "Robbie" Robinson
RANGER HALL OF FAME
2000 INDUCTEES

75th Ranger Regiment Association
SFC William Butler
SSG Ronald Lesley

United States Army Ranger Association, Inc.
CPT Humbert Versace
COL Walter Marm

Ranger Infantry Companies (ABN) of the Korean War
CPL Emmett E. Fike, Jr.
SGT William Kirshfield, Jr.
MAJ Albert Clement

Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.
SSG Warner Katz

75th Ranger Regiment
SMA Julius Gates

Ranger Training Brigade
GEN Colin L. Powell
COL Robert "Tex" Turner
MAJ William Spies
MASTER SERGEANT WILLIAM E. BUTLER

Master Sergeant William E. Butler is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his extraordinary valor, and 43-years of dedicated service to this nation as a Ranger. Master Sergeant Butler’s dedication to his Country began 1946 when he attended basic infantry training and lasted through 1989, when he performed his last jump at the age of 59. He has mentored and trained Ranger troops during peacetime and war, as well as performing acts of valor while engaging the enemy in combat. During his first of two tours in the Korean War, MSG Butler was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, and Purple Heart. His fire team spotted an enemy element trying to cut off the unit’s line of withdrawal. He moved his team to a more effective position and brought the platoon-size enemy element under automatic fire. Though wounded twice in the engagement, then, Corporal Butler moved from position-to-position to direct accurate fire upon the enemy. Disregarding enemy fire and his own safety, Corporal Butler directed air support on the enemy element until they broke contact and fled. He then led his small fire team out of the enemy area to safety. During training for Vietnam at Fort Benning, he was awarded the Soldier’s Medal when he saved a soldier from drowning during a river crossing exercise. While in Vietnam he was awarded his second Silver Star, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, and Purple Heart. His team spotted two enemy soldiers moving in the area. After an hour and a half of observation, the enemy element increased in size to over thirty troops. Suddenly the enemy soldiers moved into an assault formation and began advancing toward the five-man team. As the hostile troops began firing, then Sergeant Butler disregarding the enemy fusillade, opened fire with his rifle. Though wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade, he maneuvered forward to effectively engage an enemy rocket-propelled grenade team. An accurate burst from Sergeant Butler’s rifle hit and detonated one of the grenades, killing both members of the enemy weapons team. His devotion to the Rangers would bring him to take a voluntary administrative reduction in rank in order to remain the Operations Sergeant for the LRS detachment that he organized and trained in 1986. His legendary career goes to the heart of the Ranger Creed and is an inspiration to all past, present and future Rangers.
MAJOR ALBERT V. CLEMENT

Major Albert V. Clement is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exceptionally meritorious and valorous service to his country during peace and war. In response to ominous signs of a pending world conflict, Ranger Clement joined the U.S. Army in June 1941, and fought 41 months in the Pacific Islands as a machine gunner and expert demolitionist. Shortly after the Korean War started he volunteered to fight there as a Ranger, but was promoted and selected to remain at Fort Benning as an instructor. Shortly thereafter he volunteered again and was assigned to the 32d Infantry and was hand-picked to organize and lead a raider platoon against menacing enemy forces entrenched in the Iron Triangle. Clement's Raiders turned the enemy tide and filled a critical void left by the formerly assigned 2d Ranger Company. Within four months he was awarded three medals for heroism, received two purple hearts, promoted to master sergeant and granted a battlefield commission. In 1960, Ranger Clement and two Special Forces professionals were called to affect a daring rescue in the Congo. The country had just won its independence and was in a state of crisis. Mutiny and rebellion were rampant. A soviet ideologue was vying for power and hundreds of missionaries and doctors were being held hostage. In three weeks 239 people were rescued and safely evacuated from various tribal areas. The mission ranks as a huge special operations success story. He was indeed the embodiment of Ranger excellence. His induction symbolizes the contributions of this most extraordinary Ranger.
RANGER EMMETT E. FIKE, JR.

Ranger Emmett E. Fike distinguished himself as a leader in heavy fighting while in the Counter Fire Platoon of the 187th Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) on TDY to the 1st Cavalry Division. In just three weeks of fighting the platoon of 22 men lost their officer and 10 enlisted men including 5 Rangers. It was then and there that the zeal was ignited in Ranger Fike to memorialize his fallen comrades. He was determined that they would not be forgotten. Ranger Fike later fought with the 187th Regimental Combat Team in the re-taking of Koji-do Island POW Camp and in the Kumwa Valley attached to the 7th Division. During these campaigns more of his friends were lost and his zeal became a vow. In 1984 Ranger Fike help organize The Ranger Infantry Companies Association (RICA) and served as president from 1987 to 1989. His battlefield vow to his fallen Ranger comrades had not diminished and in March 1985 he volunteered to serve as RICA’s Memorial Affairs Officer, a position which he holds to this day. In that capacity Ranger Fike has visited the graves of 58 Rangers killed-in-action and has held 53 memorials at Ranger gravesites and installed 69 bronze Ranger scrolls on the gravestones of Rangers whom were killed-in-action. This is work that he loves, and in which he continues to be active. Ranger Fike worked tirelessly, often fighting uphill battles for the establishment, the site selection, the naming of Ranger Field at Fort Benning, Georgia, and for the construction and upgrading of the monument that bears the names of fallen Rangers.
JULIUS WILLIAM "BILL" GATES

Sergeant Major of the Army (Retired) Bill Gates, a native of North Carolina, entered the U.S. Army August 12, 1958 and attend initial training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Ranger Gates attended Ranger School in 1961 and graduated as the Honor Graduate of his class. During his military career he served three tours in Germany, two combat tours in Vietnam, and a tour in the Republic of Korea. In his second tour of Vietnam, two operations stood out. The first provided critical information about enemy movements which prevented a surprise attack on a division's base camp. The second operation, an area ambush between Pleiku and An Khe resulted in the capture of a high-ranking North Vietnamese officer. His stateside assignments include duty with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; served at the 5th Ranger Training Battalion in Dahlonega, Georgia as chief instructor of the patrolling committee, supervising instruction in patrolling and aggressor operations in 1973; the Ranger Department at Fort Benning, Georgia, the 1st Ranger Battalion at Fort Stewart, Georgia, the Virginia Military Institute of Lexington, Virginia, and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. As a soldier leader, Sergeant Major Gates served in several noncommissioned officer leadership positions. Highlights of his assignments were: squad leader, platoon sergeant, platoon leader with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry (Airborne), and platoon sergeant with Company K, 75th Rangers (Airborne) during the Vietnam War, First Sergeant of the 3rd Ranger Company, Ranger Department, First Sergeant of Company A, 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, Company Commander of the Infantry Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, first commandant of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized), Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Armored Division (Forward), Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Command Sergeant Major of the 3rd Infantry Division NCO Academy, and Command Sergeant Major of the United Nations Forces, United States Forces, and the Eighth United States Army in Korea. On July 1, 1987, Sergeant Major Gates was sworn in as the Eighth Sergeant Major of the Army.
Staff Sergeant Warner Katz is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his heroic actions while a lead scout for the I&R platoon of Merrill’s Marauders 3d Battalion. After volunteering at the request of President Roosevelt, for what was termed a “dangerous and hazardous mission”, Staff Sergeant Katz repeatedly demonstrated his experience and keen observation abilities by detecting trip wires and scattered mine emplacements which he scouted out, marked, and planned by-pass routes through the dense jungle. His actions saved innumerable additional casualties. A number of times in various situations, he left his safe position within the perimeter to drag wounded comrades to safety. He was the first Marauder to kill an enemy and also the first to be wounded but he refused to be evacuated. Prior to his service with the Marauders he saw considerable action in the South Pacific in combat with the Americal Division in the Solomon Islands. Sergeant Katz exemplifies the motto of the Marauders, “Sua Sponte”, of their own accord, and the Rangers, “Rangers lead the way”. Sergeant Katz’ decorations include the Bronze Star with cluster, Purple Heart with cluster, Presidential Unit Citation and numerous service awards.
SERGEANT WILLIAM KIRSHFIELD

Sergeant William Kirshfield was born in Fort Benning, Georgia on January 27, 1927. He served with honor in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, then joined the U.S. Army in 1950. Ranger Kirshfield was an original member of the 5th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne). His principle job was that of a Browning Automatic Rifleman (BAR) within the 2d Platoon. In early April 1951, Ranger Kirshfield and his fellow members of the 5th Airborne Ranger Company were attached to the U.S. 25th Infantry Division while fighting in Korea. On the morning of 10 April 1951, the 5th Airborne Company was assigned the mission of infiltrating Chinese lines and seizing Hill 383, a dominating terrain feature to the rear of Chinese positions. It was anticipated that the Chinese would be occupying the hill and surprise was critical to the Ranger success. When the 5th Rangers had seized the objective, other forces from the Division would attack the Chinese lines from the front and flank, break the Chinese line and relieve the Rangers on Hill 383. As soon as it was dark, the Rangers moved from concealed positions and crossed the Hantan River. Ranger Kirshfield led a scouting party and reported important information back to his unit. Despite heavy fighting, the 5th Ranger Company succeeded in taking the objective and paving the way for the 25th Infantry Division attack. Relief did not come. The heavily entrenched Chinese chose to attack on three sides of the hill, the fourth being a cliff face that the enemy deemed an unsuitable avenue of approach. Ranger Kirshfield again voluntarily placed himself in harms way. Moving forward on the slope of the hill, he provided early warning to his unit, alerting them to the oncoming Chinese. Their lead elements discovered, the Chinese pounded the Ranger position with mortar fire. Ranger Kirshfield's position took a direct hit killing his assistant gunner and severely wounding him from the waist down. The ensuing battle raged for 40 minutes with Rangers inflicting a heavy toll on the enemy. Chinese reinforcements continued to pour in and concentrate on the flanks of the perimeter. It soon became evident that this engagement, being fought deep in enemy territory, would soon overwhelm the small Ranger force. With the Chinese attacking the hill on three sides, the decision was made to withdraw to friendly lines. In order to accomplish this the Chinese had to be contained for a short time longer. Sergeant Kirshfield, though badly wounded, unselfishly volunteered to remain behind to provide covering fire while the remainder of the platoon and company withdrew. When last observed, Ranger Kirshfield was still firing his Browning automatic Rifle to ward off the enemy assault. Sergeant William Kirshfield sacrificed his life that night so that his Ranger comrades could live to fight another day. His example goes to the heart and soul of the Ranger Creed and is an inspiration to all present and future Rangers.
First Sergeant Ronald Lesley is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary gallantry and service to the United States Army. After completing Basic, Advanced Infantry, Airborne and Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Training, and while serving as a staff noncommissioned officer at Fort Benning, First Sergeant Lesley requested orders for Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam 6 June 1969 and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, but sought out opportunities to volunteer for Long-Range Patrol units. Ranger Lesley volunteered to serve with Company C (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne) and was transferred to the Company’s rear area in An Khe, the central highlands of the Republic of Vietnam. New recruits to Company C were required to complete an intensive 4-week training program that stressed physical fitness and patrol operational procedures. Ranger Lesley excelled in all phases of the program and upon completion was sent forward for assignment as a team leader to a 6-man Ranger patrol. Company C was in a high state of operational readiness fielded twenty-eight 6-man teams. Ranger Lesley assumed leadership of Teams 1-6 after a very brief orientation period, completing forty-four missions in his first year. After being promoted to Staff Sergeant in January 1970, Ranger Lesley requested an extension of his Vietnam service and immediately began to recruit and develop a cadre of senior scouts. Following leave to CONUS, Ranger Lesley returned to Vietnam in July 1970, and implemented training techniques that greatly increased the effectiveness of Company C Rangers and reduced the level of killed-in-action and wounded-in-action of those who completed the 4-week in country training. In addition to training new Company C recruits, Ranger Lesley provided training to the Republic of Korea White Horse Division, and returned to the forward area as a team leader for a short period during Company C’s incursion into Cambodia. By the end of his Vietnam service, Ranger Lesley had become a respected and valuable asset to Company C (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), and embodied the prestige, honor, and high “esprit de corps” of a Ranger noncommissioned officer. Although Huntington’s Disease shortened his career in 1995, his service reflects a consistent pattern of excellence and leadership. Throughout his military career Ranger Lesley has set the example for others to follow, clearly exemplifying that, “Rangers Lead the Way!”
Colonel Walter J. Marm is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exceptional valor and unwavering dedication to duty during his distinguished 30-year career. Upon graduation from Duquesne University in 1964, Colonel Marm enlisted in the Army. He completed Infantry Officer Candidate School and the Ranger Course in 1965. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). While serving as a platoon leader, Colonel Marm (then 2d Lieutenant) demonstrated indomitable courage during a combat operation on November 14, 1965 in the vicinity of Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam. His company was moving through the Valley to relieve a friendly unit surrounded by an enemy force of estimated regimental size. Colonel Marm led his platoon through withering fire until they were finally forced to take cover. Realizing that his platoon could not hold very long and seeing four enemy soldiers moving into his position he moved quickly under fire and annihilated all four. Then seeing that his platoon was receiving intense fire from a concealed machinegun, he deliberately exposed himself to draw its fire. When he located its position, he attempted to destroy it with an antitank weapon. Although he inflicted casualties the weapon did not silence the enemy fire. Quickly disregarding the intense fire on him and his platoon, he charged 30 meters across open ground and hurled grenades into the enemy positions killing some of the eight insurgents manning it. Although severely wounded when his grenades were expended and armed with only a rifle, he continued the momentum of his assault on the position and killed the remainder of the enemy. Colonel Marm’s selfless actions reduced the fire on his platoon, broke the enemy assault, and rallied his unit to continue toward the accomplishment of this mission. For his valorous actions, President Lyndon Johnson awarded Colonel Marm the Medal of Honor on December 19, 1966. Colonel Marm’s gallantry on the battlefield and his extraordinary intrepidity at the risk of his life are in the highest traditions of the United States Army, and personify the spirit of the Ranger Creed. “Rangers lead the way”.
General (Retired) Colin L. Powell is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame as an officer whose distinguished 35-year military career left a lasting imprint on the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, and the Ranger community. He served in combat during the Vietnam War and in positions as a commander from company to corps level. Throughout his career, General Powell exemplified the Ranger Creed, and was always found "leading the way" whenever his unit was given a mission. His selfless and heroic leadership has been recognized with numerous U.S. military awards and decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and decorations from fifteen foreign countries. As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Powell's unparalleled leadership, knowledge of training, and team building during Desert Shield/Desert Storm ensured that his units always possessed the highest levels of combat readiness, cohesiveness, and Ranger-like proficiency. General Powell led with deeds not words and a compassionate committed sense of duty throughout his career. His leadership at the highest levels of military command left a lasting impact on the entire United States Army. General Powell continues to serve his country since his retirement from active duty in numerous positions of responsibility and continues to demonstrate that "Rangers Lead the Way!"
MAJOR WILLIAM "BILL" SPIES

Major William Spies is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for outstanding service as a Ranger throughout his military career. He served as an instructor in the 3d Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy and was later selected and graduated from Officer Candidate School. As a young airborne officer, his platoon was attached to the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 327th Infantry for Operation Checkmate in 1961. After a tour as a rifle company commander, Major Spies was selected as Commandant, 7th Infantry Division Counter-guerilla Warfare School in Korea. In Vietnam, Major Spies was assigned as senior advisor of the 2d ARVN Division Reconnaissance Company. This unit operated separately and in coordination with the 1st Marine Reconnaissance Battalion to conduct: point and area reconnaissance, bomb damage assessment, trail watching, ambushes, TPQ-10 strikes and adjustment of artillery, air and naval gunfire. During these operations he was wounded twice – 13 April and 29 June 1966. Despite his wounds, he continued to direct fire against the PAVN force. So serious were his wounds that he was MEDEVAC’d first to Chu Lai, then to Walter Reed Army Hospital where his right foot and lower leg were amputated in March 1967. In the hospital and in later Ranger assignments, Major Spies was an inspiration to soldiers, students, and Rangers. He recovered and returned to “lead the way” by passing PT tests, completing 25-mile road marches, grading patrols, and making parachute jumps into unimproved drop zones. In addition to serving as the Ranger Department S3, Chief of Benning Ranger Division, and Deputy Assistant Director, Major Spies worked with Sergeant Major James Collier to develop the table of organization and equipment, and devise doctrine for the soon-to-be 1st Ranger Battalion. He helped develop the concept of a Desert Phase into the Ranger Course. Major Spies’ superb leadership and exemplary service to the nation throughout his military career deserves the very special recognition of induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame.
Colonel Robert A. "Tex" Turner is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his dedication to duty and contributions to the U.S. Army as a distinguished Ranger Leader. Colonel Turner embarked on a career that was marked with a unique balance of professional Army virtues: charismatic leadership, red-blooded patriotism, unerring performance and unfailing mission accomplishment. He started his 31-year military career as a Platoon Leader in Co A, 2nd BN, 509th ABN Infantry Battle Group in Germany. He was reassigned to Vietnam as a battalion advisor to the 35th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. Returning back to the states he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of the Patrolling Committee, Ranger Department. It was upon his second tour of duty in Vietnam that Colonel Turner personified "Never Shall I Fail My Comrades...". Colonel Turner was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on 6 May 1970 while serving as a member of a command group during the defense of Fire Support Base Henderson. Despite the intense mortar fire, Colonel Turner landed at the firebase and moved from position-to-position assessing damage and directing the defense of the firebase. He left the firebase to return with badly needed medical supplies and with no regard for his own safety, leapt from the hovering aircraft and began personally unloading the supplies despite intense mortar fire raining down around him. Though seriously wounded by an impacting mortar round, Colonel Turner administered first aid and again, subjecting himself to the hostile fire, carried a wounded soldier out to the landing pad for medical evacuation. Colonel Turner’s most significant impact to the Ranger Community came while he served as the Director of the Ranger Department from 1982 to 1985. He created the Desert Phase of Ranger School and oversaw the critical combat task of live fire exercises being incorporate into Ranger School. Colonel Turner and MG Leuer saw the necessity in the upcoming world threat to start a Desert Phase of Ranger School in 1983. For over 12 years, 132 Ranger Classes and 20,000 Rangers gained valuable combat training through desert instruction and live fire Exercises. Since his retirement in 1990, Colonel Turner has maintained his passion for training Rangers through his motivational speaking engagements at the U.S. Military Academy and as an advisor to the 43rd Virginia Volunteer Search and Rescue Company. His legendary career reflects great credit upon himself; past, present and future Rangers; and the United States Army.
CAPTAIN HUMBERT R. VERSACE

Captain Humbert Rocque (Rocky) Versace is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary valor and unyielding determination as a United States Army Ranger. In October 1963 CPT Rocky Versace was a U.S. Army MAAG intelligence advisor assigned to support Province forces (Civil Guard and Self Defense Forces) operating in An Xuyen Province (IV Corps Tactical Zone) in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. On October 29, CPT Versace made a liaison visit to the Special Forces Team A-23 camp at Tan Phu to exchange intelligence reports on enemy activities in the area. A determination was made to launch an attack against VC forces in the area. Captain Versace accompanied the attacking CIDG force with Special Forces Team members 1st LT Nick Rowe and SFC Dan Pitzer. Captain Versace was seriously wounded while helping to cover the withdrawal of CIDG forces in the face of a determined and very heavy Viet Cong Main Force attack. At that point CPT Versace, LT Rowe, and SFC Pitzer as well as the CIDG forces were almost out of ammunition. Captain Versace had 7 rounds left in his carbine and was about to charge the Viet Cong in one last valiant effort to stop their pursuit when he was wounded. Lieutenant Rowe and SFC Pitzer were also wounded and all three captured by the Viet Cong. Though suffering from a badly wounded and infected leg, and barely able to see when his glasses were taken from him, CPT Versace assumed the position of Senior American Prisoner and demanded that the Viet Cong treat the American prisoners according to the protection of the Geneva Convention. He protested vehemently when the VC cadre refused to recognize them as “prisoners of war,” but treated them instead as “war criminals,” subject to the whims of individual cadre to decide matters of life and death. For his vociferous protestations against their barbarous and sub-human treatment, CPT Versace was soon ordered to be placed in a locked isolation box and brutally treated and tortured. Captain Versace willingly sacrificed his life by focusing all of the anger of the VC cadre on him instead of LT Rowe and SFC Pitzer so that they might have a better chance to survive. He refused to violate the Code of Conduct and lived the tenets of the Ranger Creed. Captain Versace told his captors that he was willing to accept death rather than compromise the Code of Conduct and the ideas of Duty, Honor, and Country. His unshakeable belief in God sustained him throughout his 2-year captivity until his death. Captain Versace demonstrated those qualities and attributes essential for Ranger Hall of Fame selection.