

DESCENDANTS OF WWII RANGERS
Minutes of the General Meeting October 4, 2014
Branson, Missouri

Call to Order: President Karla Merritt calls the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Secretary Nancy Taube read the minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ben Temkin was unable to provide a treasurer's report for expenses since the last reunion so President Karla Merritt and Secretary Nancy Taube prepared a report based on known finances. This report is was provided to members at the general meeting. David Williams moved to approve the report with one correction and seconded. Motion Approved.

Old Business: There was no old business to be addressed at the general meeting.

New Business:

- **New Members:** President Karla Merritt announced that we have had 15 new members join since last year.
- **Ranger Hall of Fame** – President Karla Merritt announced that one ranger had been accepted into the Ranger hall of Fame.
- **Treasurer Ben Temkin** resigned from his duties as treasurer. The board accepted his resignation and will be searching for a new treasurer.
- **501©3 Tax Exempt Status** – President Karla Merritt announced that the IRS had revoked our tax exempt status. Art Leyden and Karla Merritt are working on getting this reinstated and are confident it will be reinstated. Karla explained that while we are confident our tax exempt status will be reinstated it may be with financial penalties.
- **Jim Alteri Donation** – Vanacore Intl notified us in 2012 that the RBA was a beneficiary of the funds. Art Leyden filed documents to show that we are a direct descendant of the RBA. Due to our tax exempt status, President Karla Merritt put the acceptance of the funds on hold until the tax exempt issue is corrected.
- **Monuments** –
 - WWII KIA Monument at Ft. Benning – monument is showing wear. Mortar is cracking, etc
 - Two new monuments are being created – One in Cisterna Italy to honor the Rangers. This is being worked through the American Monument Company. The second is a monument to Col Darby at Ft. Smith Arkansas, called the Darby Project.

Dan Williams asked if a list could be put together of all the monuments are dedicated to the rangers and who supports them. President Karla concurred and asked Dan to take this effort on.

Karla then stated that we need to proceed as though our tax exempt status is still in place. To that end donating to Ranger monuments, Ranger scholarships, and Ranger assistance meets the tax exempt status. The board has decided to hold supporting these efforts until the issue with our tax exempt status is resolved.

- Budget Lines – the board would like to set up budget lines for specific donations purposes. I.e. monuments, reunion. Getting this set up will be something the board will be working on. Glen Dykes asked if there will still be a general fund to donate to. This is accurate
 - Congressional Gold Medal - Ron Huddell made the suggestion that we obtain a Congressional Gold Medal for all WWII Rangers. The Board approved this action. A justification packet was initiated, Karla has been working with congressional staffers to find the best senators and congressmen to sponsor this effort. The goal is to get the bill read into the record at the start of the next congressional term – January 2015. Stan Kinmonth asked if there would be a time when the Descendants will be needed to contact their Senators or Congressmen to approve our Bill. Karla stated this was accurate. When the time was proper we would email all descendants to contact their senators and congressmen via telephone and email to support our bill. In the meantime descendants are asked not to contact their representatives until we are ready.
 - Ranger Store – Stan and Lily Kinmonth have run our Ranger Store for the last 10 years and are resigning from this effort. The board does want to continue the ranger store and supporting this effort. We are looking for a volunteer to run the store.
 - Website and Newsletter – Ron Huddell is looking for a backup or replacement for these activities.
 - Organizational Structure – The board wants to create committees to handle some of our major tasks. Currently we are establishing a committee for History – David Williams has volunteered to chair. Also for Communications – Jane Schappel has volunteered to chair. Other potential committees are Chaplain, Membership,
 - Ownership of the Ranger scroll with the 1-2-3, 4-5-6 – we need to determine who is the owner of this design. Karla will ask Art Leyden if the logo was copy righted by the RBA.
 - Personnal Issues - Members need to know that the organization cannot get involved in issues that we do not know all the facts. Members cannot speak for the organization as a whole. Members need to be clear that they are expressing a personal opinion and not the opinion of the organization.
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- **Location of Next Reunion** – President Karla Merritt announced that the 2015 Reunion will be located near the 6th Ranger Battalion Training Brigade located at Ft. Eglin AFB in Ft. Walton Beach Florida. Eugene Dykes and Andrea Buchanan are our co-chairs for the next Reunion. They are both descendants of the 6th Battalion. Dates proposed by the

training brigade are September 19th – 22, 2015. Which are Saturday – Tuesday. We did look at trying to have the reunion during the summer as requested by members, we found that the hotel rates for summer are well over \$200 per night.

- **Future Reunions** – Karla stated that the board has been looking at future reunion locations. This is to provide information to descendants so they can plan their schedules and save for travel expenses. Tentatively we are looking at 2016 – Savannah – 1st Ranger Battalion, Tampa – Special Operations Command. 2017 will be the 75th anniversary of the formation of the 1st ranger battalion. We are thinking of Ft. Benning for 2017.
- **Next year goals** – board and descendants are challenged to think of ways to increase our membership. If our organization is going to continue we need to increase our membership and the contributions of our members. Eventually we would like to set up tours to Europe where our Rangers fought. Working on our relationship with other Ranger Organizations.

Karla Merritt closed the meeting at 11:41am.