

VERTICAL RISE

SUPPORTING THE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES OF SECOND RANGER BATTALION



Volume 2

The Official Newsletter of the Pointe du Hoc Foundation

Issue 1 – Spring 2017



This Year's Ranger Regatta Scheduled for Thursday, August 24th, 2017!

Ranger Regatta III marks the third collaboration between your Pointe du Hoc Foundation and the skippers, crews and staff of the Tacoma Yacht Club. This year's key Foundation fundraiser is again scheduled for the month of August at the Yacht Club's facility on Commencement Bay.

2016's Regatta was a huge success for the Foundation, and a lot of fun for our guests and volunteers. The event yielded \$25,000 for our support activities in 2017.

This year's event will change things up a little, while keeping some of the features that everyone enjoyed last year. Last year's event was a dinner cruise. This year, we'll kick things off at 9 AM, with an opportunity for our guests to tour the 35 boats that the members of TYC are furnishing, followed by a lunch and program at the Club, and an afternoon cruise. We'll have you home and dry by dinnertime.

We are aiming for 250 guests this year, making this our largest Regatta to date. The TYC is opening their entire facility to us to make visiting easier and more comfortable.

We will be holding another auction of luxury merchandise, fine liquors, travel, sporting and outdoor equipment of all types.

Helping us manage this year's program of events is Seattle-based Landmark DJ.

We'll also be recognizing the contributions of those who went above and beyond in supporting the Foundation in 2016-17. Last year's awards went to longtime supporter and contributor Joe Williams, and Ranger Family Readiness Group member Laura Suders.

Your contributions to this year's Regatta, whether in donated merchandise or services, financial support or Ranger sponsorships, makes our continued support possible. We hope that you'll take this opportunity to catch some rays, take in the salt air, enjoy a meal and a day sail with some of the Army's elite special operators, pick some quality swag at our auction and contribute to the Foundation. Over 90 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to funding student scholarships, promoting life-skills training programs for Ranger families, assisting the transition of Rangers to civilian life after their service is over, and funding wounded warrior programs.

We'll be updating you on our plans for this year's Regatta in our July Newsletter, via periodic e-mailings and at our web site and Facebook pages as our plan evolves. And as always, thank you so much for your generous support of the Foundation

2017's First Ranger Open House is Just Around the Corner

Come and be a part of our annual "State of the Battalion" Visit at JBLM



This year's first Ranger Open House is set for Thursday, May 18th, at the Second Ranger Battalion Headquarters, Joint Base Lewis McChord.

Each year, we sponsor at least one Open House to give our donors, supporters and friends an opportunity to meet and talk with Army Rangers, to learn about their continuing national security mission, and to tour their facilities and see some of their equipment. At past events our visitors have been surprised to learn that, though famous for their ability to travel long distances on foot, the Rangers have added some modern mobility to their toolkit, including the Army's newest combat vehicle, the Stryker.

The tour will include the Ranger Fitness Center, Motor Pool, and the recently completed Second Battalion Memorial and Garden, started by the Foundation in 2011 to honor Rangers lost in training and combat. The day will end with a briefing from the Ranger Chain of Command, and lunch at the Dining Facility.

If you've been a guest before, please come again, and bring a friend or two. You are our best ambassadors, and sharing your support for our Rangers and families with others helps them understand why the Foundation exists, and why we're committed to supporting the finest special operations soldiers in the Army.

Guests without access to Joint Base Lewis- McChord will meet at the DuPont Park and Ride at Wilmington Drive and Palisade Boulevard at 8AM. We'll meet you there with a van and driver, and get you to the Open House in plenty of time.

If you'd like to join us, please contact George Tatarinow at tatarinow@comcast.net or Randy Inman at rsm1175@aol.com.

Thanks for your interest and support. We'll see you in May, and send another newsletter with updated Regatta information in July!

The Pointe du Hoc Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization commemorating and supporting the Rangers of Second Battalion and their families. We provide academic scholarships, transition assistance, life skills counseling, wounded warrior family support and unit activity assistance.

The Pointe du Hoc Foundation is not officially endorsed by the Department of Defense or the 75th Ranger Regiment. Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation respects the privacy of its donors and will not share or sell donor information.

Subscribe to our newsletter online at: pointeduhocfoundation.com.

Donor Profile: Mike & Dena Johnson

Some of our staunchest supporters have important causes of their own.
This makes their time and effort even more special to us.



Mike and Dena Johnson

Tacoma, “The City of Destiny,” is like any other large US city. Every day, its’ residents wake up and prepare for another day of work, school or retired bliss, and goes about their business secure in their homes and families.

But for some Tacomans, daily life is rougher. They wake up wherever they managed to find some kind of shelter, they aren’t sure when their next meal is coming, and they do what they have to to survive. Dealt a bad hand by circumstance, suffering from mental illness or just plain out of hope for a normal life, they look for a way to get by.

The couple behind this issue’s Donor profile is there to offer these forgotten men and women some hope and a way forward.

Mike Johnson arrived in Tacoma in 1988 as a US Army Ranger with C Company, 2/75th Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis. While serving, he met and married Dena, a student of Tacoma Community College. They now have 25 anniversaries and 7 adopted children. All 4 of their sons were adopted from the state foster system, through the Tacoma DSHS office.

Mike graduated at the top of his class at Abilene Christian University (BA '95) and Pepperdine University (MS '97). After a decade in pastoral ministry, Mike joined Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission in 2007 as the director of downtown Seattle operations.

Soon Mike was teaching, writing and consulting nationally within the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions regarding effective programs to help people overcome homelessness. His legacy has been one of innovation and technical depth, with relational emphasis and real outcomes.

On the fun side, Mike spearheaded ‘Climbing Out Of Homelessness’ starting in 2011. His teams have conducted 6 successful ascents of Mt Rainier, leading 25 men and 2 women overcoming addiction and homelessness to the summit. The program has been the subject of Emmy Award-winning TV news coverage and a forthcoming documentary film, A New High, which has been screened this year at both the Los Angeles and Twin Cities Film Festivals.

Mike is a member of the Pierce County Workforce Development Council, where he also chairs the Adult Literacy Taskforce. Mike sits on the 2025 Citizen Advisory Committee with other leaders committed to helping Tacoma move into a strong and healthy future.

Dena has been a successful private-practice Licensed Mental Health Counselor for over a decade. She holds two Bachelor’s and two Master’s degrees and home-schools 5 of their 7 children.

Do you have a donor, supporter or Director you’d like to know better? How about an accomplishment you’d like to share with other friends of the Foundation? Just drop us a quick e-mail at info@pointeduhocfoundation.com, and we’ll make sure we get the word out to our family of supporters.

Since Last Time...

Our sponsored activities peak in the Spring and Summer. Here's what's happened this quarter.

THE BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH MARCH 25TH 2018

The Foundation sponsored this year's 2/75 Ranger Team in this annual event. The march is a challenging, 26-mile trek through the high desert terrain of White Sands, New Mexico. It honors the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health, and, in many cases, their very lives.

Our team, CPT Haynes, SSG Carroll, SSG Fowler, SPC Sennett, and SPC Green, completed the event in fifth place, out of 25 teams participating.

Our congratulations to the team for their participation and their outstanding effort.



The 2/75 RANGER ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The Foundation also sponsored this year's Easter Egg Hunt held at the Battalion Headquarters.

Over 300 Rangers, spouses and children attended the function, which featured games and competitions, a barbecue lunch and of course, the great egg hunt.

The event was sponsored under our Unit Morale & Welfare line of effort.

That wraps up this issue of Vertical Rise. Please send any comments, ideas for future articles, questions about Foundation activities or requests for information on our Directors to George Tatarinow at tatarinow@comcast.net. Thanks for your attention, and see you again in July!



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