

From: jbkanger@aol.com
Subject: Last Tennessee WWII Ranger Passes Away
Date: Feb 15, 2022 at 5:24:10 AM

I am sad to report that the last WWII Ranger in Tennessee, Rene Kepperling, passed away yesterday. We had the honor of meeting him at our monthly lunch in December 2021. Ranger Kepperling was a member of the 5th Ranger Battalion and climbed Pointe du Hoc on D-Day. Will the circle be unbroken.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Joey B. King
XO, Minatra Ranger Base



Front Row Ranger Rene Kepperling 5th Ranger Battalion WWII. Back Row: Mike Wagers, Preston Grantham, Richard Aldridge, Joey King, Kent Farmer, Thomas Payne: Back Row Nathan Lyons, Bobby Hampton

From: jbkramer.com
Subject: After Action Report: Ranger Lunch 12 Feb 2022
Date: Feb 12, 2022 at 6:35:00 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers

Today was our largest gathering ever! We had about 25 Rangers, friends and family. We were happy to have 4 first timers (also a record) including 2 Rangers who served with 1SG Hall in the early 1990's (B Co 1/75). Our next gathering will be 12 March at high noon at Quinn's Neighbourhood Pub 1010 Murfreesboro Road Franklin.



Around the table left to right Rangers _____

MM Documentary @ March 7, 2022

I am passing along some info from our brothers in North Georgia. This was at the screening of the new Marauders documentary.

From: **Michael Wagers** <mikew_31907@yahoo.com>

Joey please fire these pics out to the rest of the Base members. The Guests of Honor were three of the remaining Marauders still alive, the most agile and looking in very good shape is Marauder Gabe Kinny. The screening of the MM Documentary was conducted at the University of North Georgia and was a very good time

Mike



Continued on Next Page



From: jbkramer.aol.com
Subject: AAR From The Pulaski American Legion Fundraiser
Date: Mar 12, 2022 at 8:46:42 PM

Howdy Rangers

Hope y'all had a great lunch today in Franklin. I want to catch everyone up on today's fundraiser in Pulaski TN. For you newbies, let's get you caught up...

A few years ago, when we were first approaching the US Army Ranger Association about getting chartered as a Ranger Base, we had to pick a name. The guidelines stated that we had to name our Ranger Base after a deceased local Ranger. Further, we had to get permission from the family authorizing us to use the name.

Ranger Wagers and Ranger Hall had gotten to know Ranger John Dorval Minatra (pronounced "men-a-tree") and his family from Pulaski TN. Ranger Minatra is a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame. The Minatra family eagerly authorized the use of the family name. After we began the charter process, local Rangers began asking, "What can we do as a Ranger Base?" We decided to start a scholarship. The Minatra family wanted the scholarship to be locally available to all high school seniors in Giles County.

Last year, we were proud to offer a \$500 scholarship for the first time. Mister Riley Young won the award. When I gave the check to the family, Riley's father literally cried with joy because his son was the first person to get the scholarship. Instead of going to college this year, Riley joined the Army and is currently serving as a Forward Observer in Germany.

To date, we've raised funds through coin sales, t-shirt sales, and donations. We are somewhere in the \$2400 range. As we all know, \$500 does not go far, so we've been looking for ways to raise funds. Ranger Wagers and I reached out to the local American Legion in Pulaski a few months ago, and they voted to help us with the scholarship.

I am very pleased to announce that we had a chili dinner fundraiser today. Ranger Toohey and I, along with the Minatra Twins, assisted American Legion Post 60. We raised about \$1,150! This is a big step in maintaining liquidity of the scholarship! Thanks for all your support.

RLTW!

Joey B King
XO, Ranger Base Minatra



Left to right: Berry and Larry Minatra, Rangers Joey King and Jim Toohey, and Diana Steelman (American Legion Post 60 Adjutant).

From: jbkranger@aol.com
Subject: After Action Report Ranger Lunch
Date: Apr 9, 2022 at 4:43:06 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers

We had 14 gathered for our monthly lunch in Franklin TN, including Ranger Wagers' youngest son who will be heading off to Coast Guard boot camp in 2 weeks.

A quick reminder that the Minatra Ranger Base will hold elections at next month's lunch. Yours truly is running for CO and Nathan Lyons is running for XO. Voting is limited to current USARA members...but since it looks like there is only one person for each slot, the counting should be easy.

I also want to personally thank Ranger Wagers for doing a fantastic job getting this Ranger Base up and running for the last few years. We could not have done it without him!

RLTW!

Joey B King
XO, Minatra Ranger Base of Tennessee



Around the table left to right _____

From: jbkranger@aol.com
Subject: AAR Ranger Base Minatra
Date: May 14, 2022 at 7:08:19 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers

We had another great lunch with seventeen attendees including two first timers. Today, the torch was passed. Our first commander, Ranger Mike Wagers, handed over the reins of the Minatra Ranger Base to Joey King. We were proud to present Mike with a certificate of appreciation from USARA president Travis West. We are so grateful to Mike for launching the Minatra Ranger Base and guiding us through the early years. Nathan Lyons was elected XO.

Wish us luck. We have big shoes to fill.

RLTW!

Joey B King
CO, Minatra Ranger Base



From: jbkranger@aol.com
Subject: AAR: Ranger Lunch 9 July
Date: Jul 9, 2022 at 7:13:44 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

Just a quick AAR and a couple of updates:

We had 18 at today's lunch including 2 new Rangers, a Green beret, and a Ranger buddy from Clarksville (photo below). Good to see everyone!

One thing we discussed is Veterans Day, which will be Friday 11 Nov this year. Last year we held a memorial service at Ranger Minatra's grave in Pulaski. Last year, four of us made the trek down there and about 25 townspeople came. The weather was pretty crappy that day, so we might have had a bigger crowd if the weather was clear. Do we want to do the same thing this year? Other options: Murfreesboro has a Veterans Day celebration without a parade, so that is a possibility. Murray County is having a parade this year, but I did not get the feeling that many Rangers present today want to march in a parade. Of course, we could do nothing. Be thinking it over and we can finalize plans over the course of the next month.



Around the table left to right _____



Finally, we were able to award the scholarship and certificate to this year's winner of the Ranger Minatra scholarship, Nolan D. Robertson. Presenting the check is Brian Turner (Commander of our partner American Legion Post 60) and Larry Minatra (green shirt). Thank you for your contributions to the scholarship.

Subject: Purple Heart Proclamation for Ranger Base Minatra

Date: October 28, 2022 at 9:36 PM

Hi Everyone

Just to catch everyone up...

The Post Adj at my AMVETS Post, Andrew Farrer, received the Purple Heart for his actions with the Marines in Iraq. He has been very successful in getting various county and city entities to declare themselves "Purple Heart Cities" here in Middle Tennessee. Now, he is also working on getting various veterans orgs in our area to declare themselves "Purple Heart Posts." Our AMVETS post will become an official Purple Heart Post on Thursday.

At the October Ranger Lunch, I pitched the idea of becoming a Purple Ranger Base. This proposal was met with a rousing "hell yeah!" Andrew will be presenting the proclamation below at our November lunch, and we'll vote on it.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart provides "boiler plate" lingo for veterans organizations to present. I have edited it to fit the Minatra Ranger Base. I would appreciate you giving it a look and seeing if I missed anything

I hope that USARA, the Flora-Bama Ranger Base, and the 75th RRA consider similar proclamations

Andrew is copied and you can ask him any specific questions.

RLTW

Joey

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782. It was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the US Army Ranger Association (USARA) is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, make sure we never forget.

The Purple Heart Designation is one of the most prestigious honors a Ranger Base can receive. It is with much admiration, honor and respect that we should salute all of the Veterans and Purple Heart Recipients.

The only requirements for it is that Ranger Base Minatra honor, thank, and acknowledge Purple Heart Veterans. Once the Proclamation is signed by the commander and XO declaring the post a Purple Heart Entity, it will be added to the Purple Heart Trail Website for all of the nation to see.

There are more than 900 Purple Heart locations in the United States, honoring the 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients. I hope that Ranger Base Minatra can be amongst the other locations.



PROCLAMATION

Declaring Ranger Base Minatra a Purple Heart Post

Whereas, Ranger Base Minatra has great admiration and the utmost gratitude and respect for all the men and women who have, and are, selflessly serving their country and this community in the Armed forces; and

Whereas, Veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and,

Whereas, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

Whereas, many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, citizens of our country have received the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

Whereas, Ranger Base Minatra seeks to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

Therefore be it resolved, that Ranger Base Minatra is to be proclaimed a Purple Heart Ranger Base, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform, wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect our freedoms.

ADOPTED, this 12th day of November 2022. Now, therefore, I, Joey B. King, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Commander of Ranger Base Minatra, do hereby proclaim Ranger Base Minatra to be a Purple Heart Ranger Base in recognition of our communities' Purple Heart Medal recipients.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Ranger Base Minatra to be affixed this 12th day of November 2022.

Joey B. King, Commander

CERTIFICATE

I, Nathan Lyons Executive Officer of Ranger Base Minatra, do hereby certify that the foregoing proclamation is a true and exact copy.

Nathan Lyons, Executive Officer

Subject: Minatra Ranger Base is a Purple Heart Organization

Date: November 13, 2022 at 10:26 AM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

I am pleased to announce that, recently, we were approached by Marine Corporal Andrew Farrer about designating the Minatra Ranger Base as an official organization with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am very pleased to announce that we voted to approve the proclamation on 12 Nov 2022. Below are Ranger Hall of Fame Member Mike Wagers (left) and Ranger Jim Toohey (right) holding the proclamation. Both men received the Purple Heart in Vietnam. Also, I am including the link to the website where our approval has been posted.

<https://www.purpleheart.org/PHTrailState/TN?fbclid=IwAR1dAB3au7O9cAg8OWOB-A-qOyceXzxJJ9bYh5YR9Oxox-FglvuhUBYBmU>

