

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: AAR Ranger Lunch  
Date: Feb 12, 2023 at 10:56:46 AM

Howdy Rangers

We had 20 today including a newbie who served with 1/75 and Chris and Jane Rivers from the Flora-Bama Ranger Base. I believe we had 21 total.

To summarize the announcements:

Our chili and chicken fundraiser for the Minatra Scholarship will be 4 March at the Pulaski American Legion Hall. If you'd like to donate or work a shift, let me know.

Ranger Toohey has agreed to be our official historian. Initially, he will be gathering info on the formation of the Ranger Base and bios on the charter members. As the charter members get their bios together, please send them to Ranger Toohey.

On 29 March at 1130, various Rutherford County Veterans Organizations will be holding an event to welcome home Vietnam veterans. It will be at the Fountains on Medical Center Parkway. All veterans and family are welcome.

The Best Ranger Competition and Mountain Ranger Open House/Critter Cookout are coming in April. Both are great events

Around the Table from left to right \_\_\_\_\_



After Lunch on Saturday, Ranger Kast was seen playing Bingo at the TN State Veterans Home in Murfreesboro .

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)

Subject: Great Day For The Ranger Base (and a Senior)

Date: Mar 4, 2023 at 5:11:56 PM

Members of the Minatra Ranger Base, American Legion Post TN-60, and the Minatra Family participated in a chili/chicken fundraiser today. All told, we raised a little over \$1800 for some lucky scholarship winner in Giles County TN. Special shout out to Jeff Paysinger for his monster donation of \$500!!



Left to right: Ranger King, Larry Minatra, Jeff Paysinger, Barry Minatra, Ranger Toohey.



Left to right: American Legion Post 60 Commander Turner and Ranger King.

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: AAR Ranger Lunch 11 March 2023  
Date: Mar 12, 2023 at 4:52:59 PM

Another great Ranger lunch! We had 17 in attendance including Chris, a first-timer who served in the 2nd Ranger Battalion. He's bringing his brother next time. The legendary Art Cobb visited with us also. It was my first time meeting him. What an honor!

A few announcements:

1. The Critter Cookout at Camp Merrill is the last weekend in April. Several of us are going.
2. The Best Ranger Competition is coming up in mid-April
3. In case you missed it, Ranger Toohey has agreed to ben our official historian. Some of this info will be at <http://www.Ranger.org>. We'd like your Bio's. Please send your bios to me or Ranger Toohey for posterity
4. We will have our election in May. I plan on running for commander again (unless someone else wants the job).

Finally, Ranger Wagers suggested something, and I forgot to bring it up yesterday. For the lack of a better term, for now let's call it a "Ranger Ball." We may not choose to gussie-up in tuxes and formal gowns, but we all know our spouses like dressing up and going out occasionally. Maybe sometime over the holidays in November, December, and January? I am thinking of a night-time event at a nice restaurant, but that is open for debate. Give it some thought and get back with us..



Left to right:



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: After Action Report 8 April  
Date: Apr 9, 2023 at 8:51:01 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers

We had 16 Rangers, spouses and friends on 8 April. We were pleased to give a baby gift to XO Lyons and his lovely wife who are expecting their first child next week.

A few announcements:

1. The Mountain Ranger Association is hosting their annual Critter Cookout at Camp Merrill in Dahlonega at the end of the month. Ranger Toohey, Ranger Lyons, and yours truly will be attending
2. Speaking of our historian, he is doing a great job documenting the history of the Minatra Ranger Base. He needs YOUR participation. Please send your bio to me or Jim.
3. I forgot to mention at lunch, but our elections are next month. Ranger Lyons and I are planning on running again. If any USARA member would like to run let me know. If you can not make the next meeting, and your USARA dues are current, you can vote by email.

RLTW

Joey B. King  
Commander, Minatra Ranger Base



From Left to right \_\_\_\_\_



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Ranger Minatra Scholarship Winners  
Date: May 12, 2023 at 1:24:28 AM

Hello Tennessee Rangers and Friends

I am pleased to announce that we have two scholarship winners this year. Allow me to explain.

We normally give one, local scholarship to a deserving student in Giles County (where Ranger Minatra is from). This year, we had one applicant who got her application in under the deadline (we thought). Last week, we discovered that another young lady had gotten her application in before the deadline. It was mixed in with the US Army Ranger Association national scholarship program and was overlooked.

After consulting with the local leadership, the national scholarship director, American Legion Post 60, and the Minatra family, we decided to award two scholarships this year. It was the only fair thing to do. Below are our winners. Gracie Braden, Richland High School (pictured with Barry Minatra) and Sadie Watkins, Giles Co HS (Pictured with Barry and members of American Legion Post 60)



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Ranger After Action Report  
Date: Jun 19, 2023 at 4:45:51 PM

Sorry for the delay getting the After Action Report out to y'all. We had a good turnout with one new Ranger (Jonathan Troop with 2/75) We had about a dozen in attendance with great weather.

We had two announcements:

All of you qualify for funeral benefits in the Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries. If you think you might want to be interred in a state veteran's cemetery, you can pre-register with a DD214 (and a marriage certificate if you are married). It is a good idea to pre-register because that gives the state and national veterans officials numbers for planning purposes

Our historian, Ranger Toohey has been working diligently on getting bio's on file for everyone. Please send yours to me or him. Photo of event.



Around the table left to right:

From: jbkramer.com  
Subject: Donation for Ranger Down  
Jun 21, 2023 at 9:19:14 PM

Here is our donation to Ranger Coble, the Nashville Police Officer who was recently shot in the line of duty. In the notes, I wrote that it was a donation from all of us.  
RLTW  
Joey

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Fund the First <noreply@notifications.fundthefirst.com>  
**To:** "jbkranger@aol.com" <jbkranger@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 09:16:36 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Fund the First Donation Receipt



**Thank You!**  
Joey B King,

Thank you for making a donation to the fundraiser *The Coble Family Support* on our platform [FundtheFirst.com](https://FundtheFirst.com).

Donation Amount	Donation Date
\$378	Jun 22, 2023

Thank you for including a **\$3.78** contribution to Help Us [#FundtheFirst](https://FundtheFirst.com). [FundtheFirst.com](https://FundtheFirst.com) is a fundraising platform FREE of fees and we rely on your additional support to operate our trusted and verified services.

*This optional and voluntary contribution will be charged separately.*

**Transaction Summary**

Donation to [FundtheFirst.com](https://FundtheFirst.com) Fundraiser: The Coble Family Support \$378

Contribution to Help Us [#FundtheFirst](https://FundtheFirst.com) \$3.78

**Amount charged** \$381.78

Thank you for using our one of a kind, verified and trusted fundraising platform!

The [FundtheFirst.com](https://FundtheFirst.com) Team

Have a question? Contact us at [info@fundthefirst.com](mailto:info@fundthefirst.com)!



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: AAR for 8 July  
Date: Jul 9, 2023 at 6:46:24 PM

We had a bit of a wet one for about 15 or 20 minutes, but we've all been a helluva lot wetter and hotter. There were about 15 in attendance (including Ranger Lyons Jr., Magnus, and new mother Katelyn). Speaking of Ranger Lyons, let me say he's been doing an especially good job lately. We appreciate it.

Welcome to first timer Ranger McPherson, with Reboot Recovery. Hope to see you next month.

A couple of notes:

As many of you know, Ranger Burns is the Post Adj for the American Legion in Waverly. They did (and are doing) a great job with the flood recovery that killed more than 20 people a year-and-a-half ago. Many of us are American Legion members of various posts and Waverly is in need of some help. Their building is over 100 years old and in need of repair not related to the flood. We passed the hat at the meeting and you can donate online at: <https://gofund.me/c3f969da> or call 915-740-5174.

We had a meeting recently and decided to change the amount of our scholarship award. Going forward, we'll donate \$1,000 to both schools in Giles County.

RLTW

Joey



Around the table left to right:

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Our Article Got Published in Legiontown!  
Date: July 31, 2023 at 8:05 AM

Thanks to our historian, Ranger Toohey, for suggesting we write an article about our partnership with American Legion Post 60 about our scholarship work.


This email is to notify you that your story, Two organizations together for one goal, has been published on [Legiontown.org!](http://www.legiontown.org/)

Thank you for sharing your story with us.

<http://www.legiontown.org/>

7/31/23, 9:33 PM

Two organizations together for one goal | Legiontown U.S.A.



**Two organizations together for one goal**  
**Pulaski, TN**  
July 28, 2023

American Legion Post 60, located in the quiet town of Pulaski, Tenn., certainly has a lot going on these days! One of the most important community service projects it has taken on lately is the Master Sgt. John D. Minatra Scholarship for high school seniors in the county. The genesis of this project began when the US Army Ranger Association approached the post leadership a few years ago. The Rangers named their base after MSG Minatra and wanted to have a "dancing partner" for a recently created scholarship. Everyone felt that a connection to the post would increase the outreach and award. MSG Minatra was the first Vietnam veteran to become a member of Post 60. The post leadership jumped at the chance. Besides the natural fit with Ranger Minatra's membership in Post 60, many members of the Tennessee Ranger Base belong to various American Legion posts.

Master Sgt. John D. Minatra was born in Giles County, Tennessee, in 1935. He attended Campbellsville High School, where he was a star football player. Minatra voluntarily enlisted in the Army in 1954, where he completed his education and began a career which lasted 20+ years, becoming one of the most decorated soldiers from the state of Tennessee to serve in Vietnam, and one of the most decorated soldiers in Giles County history. He served honorably with the

7/31/23, 9:33 PM

Two organizations together for one goal | Legiontown U.S.A.

101st Airborne Division with the elite soldiers of the U.S. Army Rangers as well as service in Korea, France and Germany. During the Vietnam War, he volunteered for three tours. He received, among other awards for gallantry and valor in combat, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal. In 2001, following his retirement from the Army, Minatra was inducted into the prestigious Army Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF) located at Fort Moore, Georgia. In September 2017, Minatra's military service was highlighted in a submission for the U.S. Congressional Record by Rep. (now Sen.) Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, followed by a celebration with family, friends and retired members of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Tennessee. Ranger Minatra passed away in 2018 and is buried in Pulaski.

From his Ranger Hall of Fame induction: Master Sergeant John D. Minatra was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2001 for his extraordinary valor and heroic service to the nation and his Ranger spirit in three tours in South Vietnam. Also for his distinguished duty as a Ranger instructor.

**Submitted by:**  
Diana Steelman

« Previous story (/sal\_legacy/11118/my-hero-clarksville-american-legion-post-289-helps-families-arrange-proper-burial)

Next story » (/be-the-one/11111/department-commanders-model-importance-save-training)

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Purple Heart Day, August 7th  
Date: August 2, 2023 at 9:11 PM

Howdy Rangers:

Let's take a few minutes to remember our brothers and sisters with a Purple Heart on 7 August. For those who don't know, the Minatra Ranger Base voted to become an official Purple Heart Organization in November 2022. Let's give a special shout out to Rangers Wagers and Toohey who received the Purple Heart in Vietnam

[https://news.va.gov/122550/purple-heart-day-august-7-wounded-killed/?utm\\_source=middle&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=02AUG2023](https://news.va.gov/122550/purple-heart-day-august-7-wounded-killed/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=02AUG2023)

Here is a picture of Rangers Wagers and Toohey holding the Ranger Base Purple Heart Proclamation:





From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)

Subject: After Action Report Ranger Base

Date: September 12, 2023 at 8:11 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

We had 14 Rangers and spouses at our last gathering on Saturday. It is always too good to see first (or second) time Rangers in attendance.

A couple of items of note:

**October:**

There are 3 different events of interest on the first Saturday in October.

**A)** The Mountain Ranger Association's fall event in Dahlonega. Their website has details: <http://usmountainranger.org/> Ranger Toohey is probably going if anyone is interested in reaching out to him

**B)** The 50th Anniversary of the US Army Ranger Association will be held at the Flora-Bama Ranger Base in Perdido Beach FL. Ranger Rivers is the POC there: [mideastinf2@icloud.com](mailto:mideastinf2@icloud.com)

**C)** VetFest in Brentwood. I will be at the AMVETS table. Ranger Kast will be joining us (I think). Ranger Ward's Civil Air Patrol cadets will be there also. More details can be found here: <http://www.vetlinx.org>

**Veteran's Day**

At lunch, we had a discussion about Veterans Day. It didn't dawn on me until later that Veterans Day falls on our normal lunch date. To give you a brief history of our previous two Veterans Days:

Two years ago, we had a memorial service at Ranger Minatra's grave in Pulaski. A handful of us attended, but it was a bit of a drive.

Last year, we elected to help install and take down the stick flags on the graves at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. To my knowledge, nearly one of us participated.

So as you can see, we have a checkered past when it comes to our participation in Veterans Day as a group. Of course, many of us participate in Veterans Day events with our various posts (American Legion, AMVETS, VFW, etc).

Three Minatra members (including me) are members of AMVETS Rutherford County. A couple of months ago, our guest speaker was COL Rickey Smith, who is the current president of the MTSU ROTC Alumni Association. He told us about their 52nd annual Salute to Service. This is the oldest celebration of its kind in the country. Coincidentally, MTSU has never held this event on Veterans Day proper during a home game. Ranger Kast's last job was the Professor of Military Science at MTSU and he speaks highly of this event.

Here is the sequence of events at MTSU:

**1100 hrs Veterans' Memorial Service (Tom Jackson Building)**

**1200 hrs Pre Game Picnic (grass area in front of Tom Jackson Building) free to veterans and their families**

**1430 hrs Kick-off Middle Tennessee vs Florida International University (tickets free to veterans and their families)**

**At halftime, veterans walk across the football field on the 50 yard line behind their Service's banner for recognition from the crowd. The band plays each Service song when that veterans group crosses the field.**

After speaking with some wise men in this Ranger Base (for which I am eternally grateful), and given our checkered past with recent Veterans Day celebrations, here is what we'll go with:

- a) There **WILL** be a Ranger lunch at 1200 hours on Veterans Day at Quinn's.
- b) Some of us will have local obligations with our posts (like, for example, Ranger Burns who is the post adj for the American Legion in Waverly).
- c) All Minatra Base Rangers are welcome to attend the Salute to Service at MTSU for free food and free tickets to the football game.

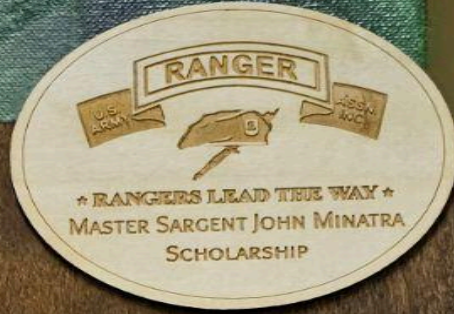
To summarize, it is your choice how you celebrate Veterans Day this year.

RLTW !!! Joey

Thank you Ranger Wagers for reminding me that I forgot to attach a photo in the last email. It also reminded me that American Legion Post 60 in Giles County sent me a photo of a plaque they made with the names of the scholarship winners. TEAMWORK is the name of the game!



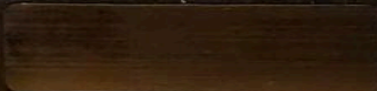
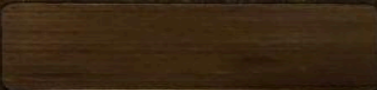
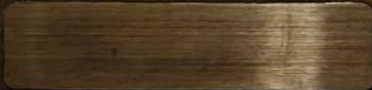




John D. Minatra, a native of Giles County, was a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army, having served with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY and later with the elite soldiers of the Army Rangers, headquartered at Fort Benning, GA. Minatra was a Korean War veteran, and served three voluntary tours of duty in Vietnam, where he served as an Airborne/Ranger Advisor to the Airborne and Ranger battalions of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). Minatra was one of the most highly decorated Vietnam Veterans from the state of Tennessee. He received, among other awards for gallantry and valor in combat, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Army Cross for Gallantry. In 2001, following his retirement from the Army, Minatra was inducted into the prestigious Army Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF) located at their headquarters at Fort Benning, GA. More recently in September 2017, MSG Minatra was a retired resident of Giles County until his death on March 7, 2018, and he was buried with full military honors in his beloved Giles County. Since 1973, the U.S. Army Ranger Association, Inc., (USARA), has served as a social membership organization dedicated to supporting active duty and veteran Rangers. Its purpose is to strengthen relationships among all US Army Rangers - past, present, and future; foster camaraderie among those who have earned the title, US Army Ranger; and provide an extended community for all US Army Rangers and their families, and to those who support the broader US Army Ranger community.

**Riley Young**  
Giles County High School  
2021

**Nolan Robertson**  
Richland High School  
2022





From: [jamestoohy@icloud.com](mailto:jamestoohy@icloud.com)  
Subject: Salute to Service  
Date: November 11, 2023

While some Ranger Base Minatra members had lunch at 1200 hours on Veterans Day at Quinn's and others had local obligations with their Posts (like Ranger Burns who is the Post Adjutant for the American Legion in Waverly) a few Rangers attended a football game.

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) hosted their 52nd annual Salute to Service celebration during a half time football game against Florida International University (FIU). Coincidentally, MTSU had never held this event on Veterans Day proper during a home game. At half time several hundred veterans from all branches of the service forces walked across the football field on the 50 yard line behind their service banner for recognition. Being the oldest service, the United States Army led the way. MTSU's band played each Service's song when that veterans group crossed the field. Three Ranger Base Minatra members attended, two of whom manned a display as members of Rutherford County AMVETS.

MTSU convincingly won the football challenge and commemorated Veterans Day with a very special Salute to Service event.



Ranger King and  
Wife, Cheryl.



Rangers Toohy, TK,  
and King.



Ranger Toohy with  
8th grandson, US Air  
Force ROTC cadet,  
Marshall Noah Graves

From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Wreaths Across America  
Date: October 5, 2023  
Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

It is that time of year when veterans start thinking about Wreaths Across America, December 16, 2023. AMVETS Rutherford County is participating this year, and our post gets \$5 each. Just about every state and national veterans cemetery is available from the link/QR code on the flier.

Thanks!

RLTW

Joey



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)  
Subject: Special Guests on Saturday  
Date: December 6, 2023 at 7:04 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

A few months ago Freedom Sings USA approached me. They are a group that uses music and songwriting to heal veterans. They connected with the Flora-Bama base earlier this year also. They are based in Tennessee. We were supposed to have a spot at Honky-Tonk Central downtown with them on 9 Nov, but they had to cancel due to some major repairs to the building.

All that to say, they are gonna speak with us at lunch on Saturday. Below, you can read about the high-caliber musicians associated with this project. They will be playing Saturday, but Jeff will have the Army Navy Game on. GO ARMY! **JOEY**

Don Goodman is among the top 100 country music songwriters of all time. He is Grammy nominated and wrote Ol Red that Blake Shelton made a hit and Angels Among Us by Alabama and has many number one hits. He is a co-founder of Freedom Sings USA. Will Taylor is our Marketing Director and I know it is the day of the big game, but if you need anything else like a video he can bring it. Thanks! Bobbie

From: [jbkranger.aol.com](mailto:jbkranger.aol.com)  
Subject: AAR Ranger Lunch 9 Dec  
Date: December 10, 2023 at 6:33 PM

Howdy TN Rangers

First, let me apologize. I took a few pics, but the lighting was horrible and none of them came out very well. If anyone has a decent photo, please share it.

We had about 15 Rangers and guests. Our special guests were Don Goodman and Will Taylor with Freedom Sings USA. They talked with us about their program that helps veterans through music and songwriting. We hope to have a showcase in the spring at Honky Tonk Central.

We were glad to welcome US Coast Guard member Mike Wagers Jr. who was home on leave.

After pitching the idea of a Ranger of the Year for our Ranger Base to a few "regulars" a couple of weeks ago, we've decided to roll with it. Ranger Ward has agreed to head up the effort. I'd like a couple of more volunteers for a committee with the goal of presenting the award in May when we have our election. We'll give a plaque to the lucky winner.

Doc Wells, our SF brother, was hit pretty hard by the storm. He's OK, but his house ain't. Ranger Ward is trying to access some SF and American Legion funds to assist. If anyone else has been hit, let us know.

I hope each and every one of you get to spend time with your friends and family over the holiday season. **RLTW ! JOEY**



From: [jbkranger@aol.com](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)

Subject: Opportunities for the Ranger Base this Spring

Date: December 16, 2023 at 7:04 PM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers,

Opportunities are coming up this Spring and I wanted to get them on your radar:

\* 2 March - This will be our annual fundraiser for the American Legion Post 60 in Pulaski. We could probably use a hand or two (or a donation or two).

\* First weekend in May - Another opportunity sprang up today out of the blue , and I'd like your feedback. As many of you know, during WWII, two Ranger Bns formed at Camp Forrest in Tullahoma. They trained for D-Day in a 21 county area known as the "Tennessee Maneuvers." A few years ago, a group of people started an annual event in Carthage to commemorate this piece of Tennessee history. The Facebook page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/smithcountyhistoricaltourismsociety>.

This event has steadily grown in popularity since it began from my understanding. They had a Facebook post today about a cliff near downtown Carthage where the Rangers supposedly trained. I reached out to verify this claim, which led to a phone call with the main organizer. She was excited to learn about our Ranger Base and offered us free booth space in May. She also offered to speak with us about this event at our monthly lunch.

I think this is more of an educational opportunity than a recruiting opportunity. I don't think it would hurt to hear what she has to say and make a decision. It is a 2-day event so we would need 4 volunteers minimum I'd think. What are your thoughts? If we do it, we'll need to get a table-skirt and maybe a canopy (unless someone has one we can borrow). Note, when I went to "Memphis in May" 20 years ago, I read that the first weekend in May is usually rainy. Since then, I have noticed that it usually rains on the first weekend in May.

\* May Lunch - That will be our election time! We have the CO and XO positions up for grabs. I plan on running for CO again, unless someone else wants the job. I would also like to present the Ranger of the Year plaque at that time. Ranger Ward has agreed to chair the committee. I would like two more volunteers to be on the committee. Don't make me "volun-told" someone, because I will ! **RLTW!**

**Joey**



End 2023

