

MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Darby Ranger's Farewell

James McVay

B Co, 1st Ranger Bn; E Co, 4th Ranger Bn



**Ranger James
McVay**

Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, American Campaign Medal, European/African/Middle Eastern Medal, Victory Medal, Presidential Citation, 4 Bronze Service Stars, Arrowhead Device.

A former Ranger Cpt. John Kocon wrote to Jim's parents the following: "I got to know Jim pretty well. We were in the same squad and company and we practically lived together at Anzio. He is a swell guy and he sure has nerve and guts. I often told him he had a charmed life. If it wasn't for Mack, I wouldn't be writing this letter today. He saved my life when we were on patrol. He also saved our platoon Sgt's life one day. At Anzio, Mack ran across a field to get the sergeant and dragged him into a gully. The sergeant lost half of his leg. If it wasn't for Mack, he would have been a goner."

We are not surprised by his hero actions, thinking of others. He lived his life taking care of those he loved; he never stopped being a Ranger and never stopped being a hero to others.

His memorial service was filled with stories of his friendships, love of his family and his many tributes to rangers. The VFW held a ceremony showing their respect and to honor a fellow veteran; it certainly touched us all. The final ceremony was the Once An Eagle performed by modern era Rangers Pete Parker (2/75), Alex Argumedeo (1/75), Tony Barela (1/75), Richard Cantu (1/75), Ed Tinoco (3/75), Dan Wagoner (P/75) and Daniel DeMara (H/75). (submitted by Pete Parker).



**Ranger and Rangel
McVay**

Original Darby Ranger, James McVay, 89, passed away May 24, 2012

By Eduardo Tinoco

James McVay, an original member of Darby's Ranger passed away on May 24, 2012, in Fountain Valley, California. Born in Bellaire, Ohio on December 8, 1922, McVay joined the US Army at the age of 18 and served in a tanker battalion prior to volunteering for service with Darby's Rangers. McVay, who turned down an opportunity to attend OCS or stay as cadre at the tank training unit in Fort Benning, wanted to "fight" and his first assignment was with a tank unit.

In 1942, McVay was one of 600 soldiers, out of 1500 volunteers, to be chosen for the 1st Ranger Battalion, which was activated on June 19, 1942. With service in North Africa, where the 1st Ranger Battalion spearheaded an invasion at the Port of Arzew in Algeria and subsequent campaigns in Tunisia, El Guettar, and Anzio.

"These early successes of the 1st Ranger Battalion precipitated the creation of the 3rd and 4th Battalions. The original 1st Battalion was divided into thirds. One third of the Headquarter and each company was placed in each of the 1st, 3^d and 4th. The battle seasoned 1st Battalion trained their Ranger brothers. The 1st, 3^d, and 4th Battalions were trained under Darby in Nemours, North Africa and prepared for the invasion of Sicily and Italy," according to the Descendants of WWII Rangers website, found at: www.wwiirangers.org/.

Ranger McVay's awards include, two Presidential Citations, Commendation from the 5th Army, Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars and Arrowhead device, American Defense Medal, Army Occupation Medal, and WWII Victory Medal.

Memorial Service for Ranger James McVay took place at the Dilday Brothers Mortuary in Huntington Beach, California. Officiated by Robert Jabro, the service included an honor by the VFW and a "Once an Eagle Ceremony." Members of the

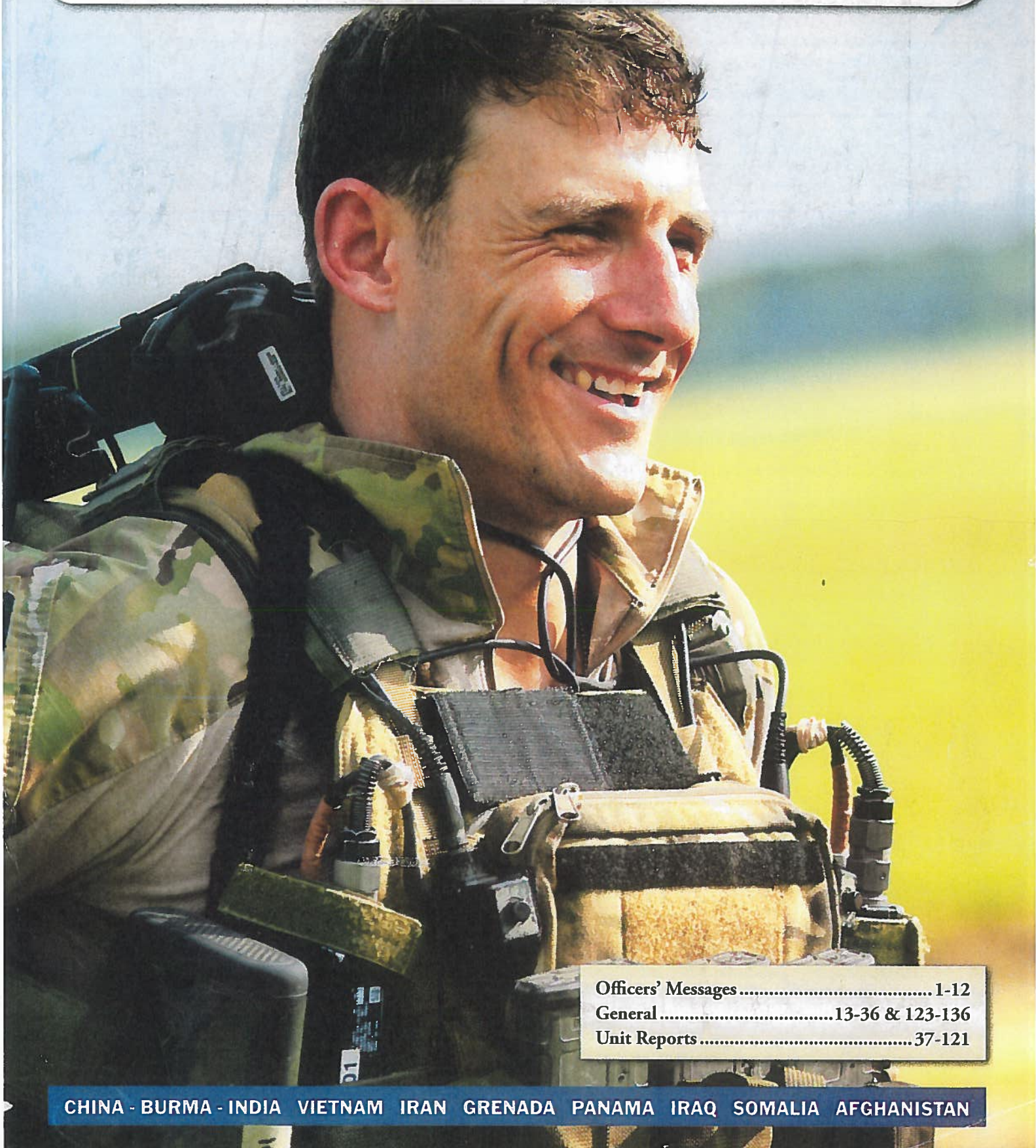


**Modern era rangers who
represented at the memorial service.**

75th Ranger Regiment Association took part in paying respects and provided a final salute to Ranger McVay. Interment took place on June 5, 2012 at 11:15 am at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California.

PATROLLING

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Officers' Messages	1-12
General	13-36 & 123-136
Unit Reports	37-121

CHINA - BURMA - INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA AFGHANISTAN