

# THE **d**ROP

FALL 2021



## A MATTER OF HONOR AND SECURITY

*Fulfilling Our Duty to Afghan and  
Iraqi Interpreters While Advancing  
Our National Interests*

**75<sup>th</sup> Innovation Command:  
Marching Into the Future**

**Afghanistan's Lesson?  
Fight to Win or Stay Home**

**Creating Elder Warriors  
Instead of Victims**





**Oak Grove**Technologies

*Our Service Continues*

## WHO WE ARE

Our staff of Special Operations Veterans have extensive experience in delivering quality training solutions to civil and military organizations across the globe, including the Regiment's future Green Berets.

## WHAT WE DO

We are leading the way in Unconventional Warfare, Tactical, and Language/Culture training. Since 2011, we've provided support to U.S. SOF, from initial Qualification Courses to Pre-Mission/External Evaluation Training.

## OUR TRAINING CENTER

We offer a full range of training, exercise and operational services at our Cultural and Tactical Training Centers located adjacent to Camp Mackall.

Find out more at:  
**[oakgrovetech.com](http://oakgrovetech.com)**





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**Special Forces Association**

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# UPDATES FROM HEADQUARTERS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **Kevin L. Harry**

SFA Members, Family and Friends,

Welcome to Fall. We had a very busy Summer with several chapters hosting SFA Tactical Skirmishes, USASOC Change of Command/Responsibility, 1SFC (A) Change of Command, and providing 31 scholarships to deserving SFA members or their immediate Family. The National Board of Officers have been in the seat for 16 months and with the help of many committee chairmen/members developed a new the public website [www.specialforcesassociation.org](http://www.specialforcesassociation.org) (this includes the SFA Store), a SFA members website [www.teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org](http://www.teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org), made initial designs of a much larger SFA HQ (available if our members decide that is the direction they want the SFA to go) and developed a SF4Life Committee. This committee is helping connect local and regional assistance to members in need, community outreach for inactive, non-members or members-at-large to help reconnect and, overall, bring additional capability to SFA Chapters and their elected officers. Great job for all the hard work of all these members!

This year's SFA International Convention (45th Annual) that is only a couple weeks away, but it is not too late to register! The convention is being hosted SFA Chapters LI (51) and LXXVIII (78) in Las Vegas, NV from October 22-25, 2021. There will have a lot to offer including site seeing, golf tournament, 5-mile run, motorcycle ride to Death Valley, casinos, and much more. Please go to [www.sfacon.com](http://www.sfacon.com) to register for this event and a link to The Orleans Hotel for lodging reservations. Don't miss it!

Looking further into the future, SFA Chapter IV-XXIV (4-24) will host the Special Forces 70th Anniversary (46th Annual SFA International Convention) in Colorado Springs, CO from September 20-24, 2022. SFA Chapter 7 and SFA Chapter 500 have expressed interest in hosting events in Destin, FL and Indianapolis, IN, respectively. Maybe your SFA Chapter (multiple chapters) can host a SFA International Convention in the future. Something to consider.

SFA membership continues to grow with over 10,675 active members. Many chapters have conducted memberships drives but Mark Arnold, SFA Chapter 45, has set a new bar. Mark and his team worked hard to recruit 43 new SFA Life members from B CO, 2nd BN, 19th SFG (A) prior to their deployment. Mark also helped raise funds to offset some of the cost for these Soldiers. Great job! It is exciting to see everything that all 89 SFA Chapters are doing to increase membership but most importantly connecting Green Berets through chapter meetings, monthly breakfast/brunch, shooting events, golf tournaments, etc... I have visited 18 SFA Chapters and hope to visit many more soon.

We want to thank Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT), Black Rifle Coffee Company (BRCC), SFA Chapter 78, and SFA Chapter 62 for sponsoring SFA Life Memberships for the 18 SFQC graduates during the Regimental First Formation (RFF) in July 2021. All (5) Distinguished Honor Graduates, (5) Leadership Awardees, (1) PT Awardee and (7) graduates with ties to Southern California received SFA life memberships and were introduced to their new SFA Chapter Presidents. These new SFA life members were affiliated with the SFA Chapter closest to their first SF duty assignment.

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In addition, we would like to thank Green Beret Foundation (GBF) and Special Forces Foundation (SFF) for sponsoring Yarbrough Knives for the (5) Distinguished Honor Graduates, (5) Leadership Awardees, and (1) PT Awardee. We greatly appreciate SFCT, BRCC, GBF, SFF, SFA Chapter 78 and SFA Chapter 62 for supporting this SFA membership/Yarbrough Knife initiative that allowed SFA National to recognize these Soldiers during the Regimental First Formation (RFF).

Looking further into the future, SFA Chapter IV-XXIV (4-24) will host the Special Forces 70th Anniversary (46th Annual SFA International Convention) in Colorado Springs, CO from September 20-24, 2022. SFA Chapter 7 and SFA Chapter 500 have expressed interest in hosting events in Destin, FL and Indianapolis, IN, respectively. Maybe your SFA Chapter (multiple chapters) can host a SFA International Convention in the future. Something to consider.

Our new member management system, [www.teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org](http://www.teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org) is now operational. If you have not received an email with your Username/Password to access all the features on this website, please contact your chapter or SFA National. This new website will help members find old teammates, help chapters/members update personal information, build calendar events, and much more. Check it out! The public [www.specialforcesassociation.org](http://www.specialforcesassociation.org) website and SFA Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/sfagreenberet](https://www.facebook.com/sfagreenberet), will also be updated with events from all our SFA Chapters. If you have an event to post, please contact Doug Livermore, SFA Director of External Communications. SFA must continue to make a priority of reaching out to the Soldiers, Veterans and Retirees from the SF Regiment and make sure they are doing well. Continue your recruitment efforts through SFA Chapter meetings, community outreach, breakfast gatherings and other activities that will attract new members to be actively involved with the SFA. Take the time to find those Special Forces Soldiers, veterans and retirees living in your AOR that may not even know about the SFA. There are many SF Alumni out there that are looking to reconnect and would appreciate a call, text or email.

Until next time, God Bless each one of you, God Bless the Special Forces Regiment and God Bless America. De Oppressor Liber

## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT **Mike Goodrich**

### **Numbers:**

As of 15 August, 2021, there are 10,644 members.

### **New Member Applications:**

I am encouraged by the number of new member applications and life member upgrades that I am receiving. The recruitment efforts by the Chapters are paying off. Keep up the good work.

### **SFA Website:**

The new SFA website is operational and has a lot of features that will expedite current member renewals and new member applications. Please use this option whenever possible. One note regarding email addresses; for our members who have DOD email addresses as their contact email, please provide a non-transient civilian email address for your SFA records.

**The Drop:** I continue to receive complaints about non-delivery of the Drop and a lot of the issue lies in incorrect member contact data. I encourage all Chapter Secretaries to scrub their membership roster through Club Express and correct any contact data errors.

### **SFA HQ Mail:**

Please do not send correspondence to our old email account. SFA has transitioned to Microsoft Outlook for all administrative email. My email address is: [executivedirector@specialforcesassociation.org](mailto:executivedirector@specialforcesassociation.org). My assistant's email address is: [administrativeassistant@specialforcesassociation.org](mailto:administrativeassistant@specialforcesassociation.org). Please use these addresses for all SFA HQ correspondence.

### **Closing:**

Finally, Gary Beikirch, CMH, is battling pancreatic cancer and any words of encouragement that his friends and comrades could pass to him would go a long way in helping that fight. His contact info is:

Gary Beikirch, CMH  
468 Crosby Lane  
Rochester, NY 14612



# THE SFA MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER WALKWAY

## Special Forces Association Board of Trustees

The **SFA Memorial Brick Paver Walkway** is located on the SFA National Grounds. It begins behind the Chapel and goes to the Memorial Garden. This program establishes a forum to honor a teammate, family member or other worthy idea, i.e. teams, special projects, etc.

**PAVERS:** You may have Two lines on each paver (Can buy a Third line for \$20) with no more than 18 letters per line. Commas, spaces, dashes, numbers etc. count as a letter. Cannot put insignias. Pavers are \$40 each. Print legibly because what you put is what is engraved on brick. Also ensure dates are correct. The MBF will order the pavers when we have 50 orders. There will be a mention in *The Drop* of your purchase and to whom.

### FILL THIS FORM OUT AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

Special Forces Association – MBF  
PO Box 41436  
Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

Name to be memorialized: \_\_\_\_\_

Person placing the order: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_






# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

*Unconventional Warriors, The Legacy Endures*

The primary mission of the SOA is to unite fraternally all Veterans or members of a branch of the US Armed Forces Special Operations Community who have conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided direct support to that element within an assigned area of operations.

Our members include combat veterans from all wars including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as those from our most recent conflicts in the global war on terrorism.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

The SOA Reunion is held in October in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting.

The reunion, SOAR, fosters an environment for camaraderie and fellowship to strengthen those friendships forged in battle and the opportunity to make new ones. The 4-day event culminates with the annual banquet celebrating our members and honoring our fallen.



*We had a special kind of brotherhood. We would have given our lives for each other, and in some cases, we did. -Jim Butler, SOA Founder*

Other programs and services include Scholarships, Video History Project, SOA Riders and the POW/MIA Committee working toward a full accounting for missing and unaccounted for personnel.

## APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in applying for membership in the SOA. You can find detailed information on qualifications, documentation requirements, member benefits and the SOA on our website or contact me directly. I look forward to working with you.

Joe Wilson, SOA Membership Chairman  
954-448-2981

[Membership@SpecialOperations.org](mailto:Membership@SpecialOperations.org)

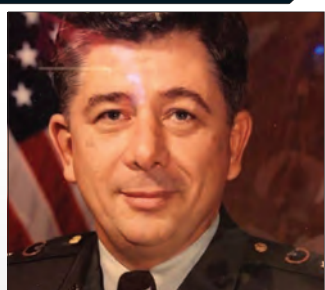
[www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)



# TAPS

## We Will Not Forget...

*Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.  
Know the line was held, your job is done.  
Rest easy, sleep well.  
Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.  
Peace, peace, and farewell*

**WHEELER H. ALSABROOK****D-891**

Harvey Alsabrook, 78, of McDonough, Georgia passed away on May 26th, 2021 after a short illness.

During his 30-year military career, Harvey served three tours in Vietnam, was awarded a battlefield commission in 1968, and served with the 7th, 1st, 5th, 3rd, and 8th Special Forces Groups.

He is survived by his wife (Patricia) and son (Wheeler Alsabrook III). At Harvey's request, no service was held.

**MICHAEL APPLEQUIST****D-8342**

Michael W. Applequist, 72, of Bedford, Texas, passed away on 18 April 2021.

Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army out of high school in 1965 and was assigned to the 7th SFG(A) until his discharge in 1968. Mike would go on to become a Police Officer with the Suffolk County Police Department on Long Island for 35 years. Upon retirement, he was elected to serve the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association and Board as a Delegate, Trustee, and Financial Secretary.

He is survived by his wife (Caroline), son (M. Scott), and daughter (Kate).

**KENNETH BARCLAY****D-439**

Kenneth (Scooter) Barclay, 97, passed away on June 29th, 2021.

Kenneth was a decorated three war veteran. During WWII, he saw combat on Makin, Saipan, and Okinawa. After the war, Kenneth returned home, finished college, and reentered the U.S. Army in 1949 as an officer assigned to the 77th SFG(A).

He had subsequent assignments with the 1st SFG(A), 5th SFG(A), and 46th Company. His many awards and decorations include: The Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star, The Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and Ranger TAB.

Kenneth was an active member of SFA Chapter 77.

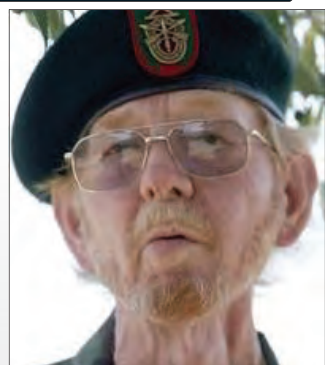
He is survived by his wife (Denise), and son (Kenneth Barclay II). Services were held on July 11th, 2021 at the Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home in Killeen, Texas.

**DAVID BENAVIDES****A-3532**

David Benavides, 74, passed away on July 13th, 2021.

David was commissioned as a 2LT upon graduation from St. Mary's University. He completed airborne training and was assigned to the 9th PsyOps Bn of the 8th SFG(A) in Panama. David separated from service and received his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. He would go on to practice law in both state and federal courts.

David is survived by his daughters (Tammy, Tara, and Catherine) and son (David Jr.). A graveside service was held at the Fr. Sam Houston National Cemetery on July 28th, 2021.

**EDGAR BOWLES****M-10954**

Edgar 'Jack' Bowles, 77 of Bella Vista, California passed away on April 29th, 2021.

Jack served three tours of duty in Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) between the years 1967 and 1971. He was medically retired from service from wounds received in combat in 1973.

Among his awards and decorations are: The Bronze Star (1st OLC) and The Purple Heart (2nd OLC). Jack was an active member of Chapter 89.

He is survived by his wife (Becky), a son (Robert), and daughters (Kim, Kristine).

**DONALD BRADSHAW, SR.****D-659**

Donald Bradshaw, 88, of Marion, Illinois passed away on June 14th, 2021.

Donald enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950 and saw combat with the 223rd Infantry. Upon return, Don elected to make the Army a career and attended Military Medical Training to become an Army Corpsman. In 1959, he accepted assignment to the 77th SFG(A) to begin a long and successful Special Forces career in which he saw service with the 77th, 5th, and 1st Special Forces Groups as well as the Special Warfare Center. Don retired from active duty in 1972 to begin a new career as a Physician's Assistant. His numerous awards and decorations include: The Meritorious Service Medal, The Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, The Combat Medical Badge (2d Award), The Korean Service Medal, The UN Expeditionary Medal, The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Master Parachutist Badge. In 1977, Don re-entered Federal Service with the Indian Health Service as the Training Director of the Rural Alaskan

Health Aid Program, retiring from federal service in 1981.

Donald is survived by his son (Don Jr.) and daughters (Laura, Kathy, Robyn). Interment with full military honors was held on June 18th, 2021 at the Busby Chapel Cemetery, Goreville, Illinois.

**THOMAS BRASFIELD****M-9572**

Thomas 'Rod' Brasfield, 88, of Meridian, Texas passed away on June 1st, 2021. Rod joined the U.S. Army in 1950 and was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He began his Special Forces career in 1964 where, after successfully completing SFQC, he was assigned to HHC of 1st Special Warfare Training Group.

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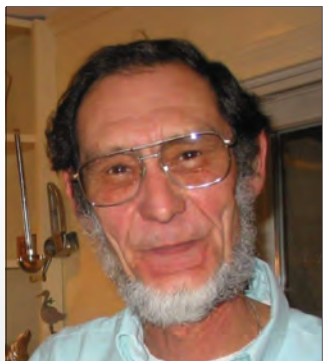
## THOMAS BRASFIELD

continued



In 1966, he was posted in Okinawa with 1st SFG(A) where he supported 5th SFG(A). Rod retired to Mt. Olive, Alabama in 1970 where he owned and operated City Gun and Key. Later Rod would retire once again from the U.S. Postal Service.

He is survived by his sons (Larry and Thomas) and daughters (Katie, Beth, and Tina). Services were held on June 5th, 2021 at the First United Methodist Church in Meridian, Texas.



## WILLIAM O. BROWN

D-5104



William O. Brown, 83, passed away on June 11th, 2021.

Bill graduated from the Greely Institute in 1956 and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1968 and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in combat. Upon retirement, Bill served as a Eucharistic minister in the Catholic Church of Yarmouth, Maine.

Bill is survived by his wife (Joan), son (William, Jr.), and daughters (Theresa, Michelle, and Kathleen). A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 22nd, 2021 at the Sacred Heart Church of Yarmouth.

## JAMES E. BUTLER

D-1936



James Butler, 79, of Corral De Tierra, California passed away on June 24th, 2021.

Jim joined the ROTC while attending the University of Maine and, upon graduation, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He would continue on to complete Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces training before being assigned to the 1st SFG(A) in 1968 before deployment to Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A). Jim served with distinction in MACV-SOG as the 1-0 of RT Python. Jim was later assigned to 10th SFG(A) and finally as an advisor at the Defense Language Institute. Upon leaving service, Jim worked for a decade as a DOD consultant. Jim's numerous awards and decorations include: The Silver Star (2 OLC), The Bronze Star (w/v, 3 OLC), The Purple Heart (3 OLC), The Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

He is survived by his wife (Diane), his son (Brett), and his daughters (Lindsay and Stephanie). A celebration of life was held on July 30th, 2021. Interment to be at Arlington at a later date.

## DAVID CHAVEZ

D-8291



David Chavez, 79, passed away on May 15th, 2021.

David joined the Utah Army National Guard and served his entire military career with the 19th SFG(A) as a Communication Sergeant. He is survived by his wife (Lydia) and daughter (Joanna).

**DAVID P. COLE****M-461**

David Cole, 89, of Norwalk, Connecticut passed away on July 11th, 2021.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1953 David was selected to attend OCS, which he successfully completed, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. David completed SFOC, and in January 1963 was assigned to the 7th SFG(A). He would subsequently see service with the 10th and 5th Special Forces Groups.

LTC Cole retired from active duty in 1973. His numerous awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the National Defense Medal (1 OLC), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger TAB, Master Parachutist Badge, and Vietnamese Parachutist Wings.

After retirement, David was active in a wide array of Veteran affairs and community service.

He is survived by his wife (Donna), and daughters (Cynthia, Karen, Kimber, Kristen, Heather, and Dana). Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**PETER DANNENBERG****M-9778**

Peter 'Pete' Dannenberg, 50, passed away unexpectedly on 6 June 2021 in McLean, Virginia.

Pete graduated from the USMA in 1993, was commissioned as an infantry officer, and was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division. He served in multiple leadership positions with the 82d before attending the Special Forces Qualification Course. Pete commanded multiple A-Teams as well as C Company, 1st BN, 10th SFG(A). Pete's final assignment was on the Special Operations and Counterterrorism Directorate of the Joint Staff.

He retired in 2020 after 27 years of service. His numerous awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Services Achievement Medal, both Ranger and Special Forces TABS, Master Parachutist Wings, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

He is survived by his wife (Christa), son (Lukas), and daughter (Sophia). A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the St. John the Beloved Catholic Church on 26 June 2021 with interment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**ROBERT E. DEIS****D-8597**

Robert Deis, 81, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away on June 19th, 2021.

Bob graduated from Ohio State University, entered the U.S. Army, and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School. Upon leaving active duty, Bob commanded a U.S. Army Reserve Unit. Bob's adventurous and varied civilian career saw him at various times in wildlife management, law enforcement, real estate broker, and property manager. Bob was an active member of Chapter 45.

He is survived by his daughters (Cynthia and Nancy) and a son (Christopher).

A celebration of life was held at the Shaw-Davis Funeral Home in Columbus, Ohio on July 17th, 2021.



## STEPHEN FILIPETTI

M-2874



Stephen Filipetti, 70, passed away at his home in Hoquiam, Washington on 7 April 2013.

Steve earned his Special Forces qualification in 1967 and served with the 10th SFG(A) in Bad Tolz, Germany and the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam. After leaving service, Steve traveled the world as an ironworker.

Cremation arrangements were made by the Coleman Mortuary of Hoquiam.



## WALTER HENDERSON

D-6259



Walter Henderson, 89, passed away on May 25, 2021.

Walter graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1953 and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. After earning his jump wings and Ranger Tab, Walter was assigned to the Third Infantry Regiment and later the 25th Infantry Division. Walt left active duty in the late 1950s and earned his Juris Doctorate in 1961. Later Walt would join a Special Forces Reserve Unit and became Special Forces Qualified. He was subsequently assigned to a Reserve billet in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. In 1983, he retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service. His many awards and decorations include: The Meritorious Service Medal, The Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Senior Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his daughter (Gwen) and sons (Ian, Kevin). Walter's memorial service was held on June 16th, 2021 at Christ Church Georgetown with interment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

## FRANK IRONS

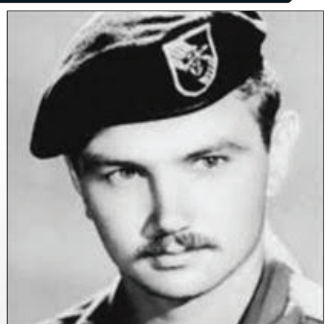
M-2533



Frank Irons, 71, of Orlando, Florida, passed away on April 17th, 2021.

Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1970. He completed his Special Forces training, was assigned for duty in Vietnam, and completed three tours before being discharged in 1975. Following his discharge, Frank enrolled in the University of Tennessee and upon graduation, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

Frank retired from active duty in 1994. Among his many awards and decorations are: The Bronze Star (2 OLC w/V), Vietnam Campaign Medal, Parachutist Badge, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Frank is survived by his daughter Emily.



## ALFRED KATZENSTEIN

M-8114



Alfred 'Nick' Katzenstein, 73, passed away on February 28th, 2021 at his home in Santa Barbara, California.

Nick was a member of MACV-SOG assigned to CCS. His awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star, The Air Medal (1st OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Parachutist Wings. Nick joined the Santa Barbara Police Department in 1971 and during his 31-year career, he received over 40 commendations.

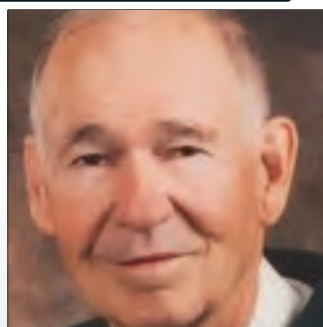
He is survived by his sons (John, Nick) and daughters (Tami, Page).

**GEORGE KUCHEN****D-1112**

George Kuchen, 84, passed away on May 30th, 2021 after a long illness.

George first entered the U.S. Air Force at age 18 in 1955. After serving in the Air Force for four years, George enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959, and in 1963 he volunteered for Special Forces training. George served two tours of duty in Vietnam (5th SFG(A), MACV). During his career, George saw service with the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th SFG(A) as well as the 46th SF Company. His many awards and decorations include: The Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star, the parachutist badge, and the Combat Medical Badge. After retirement from active duty, George served as the Installation Security Officer at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts and with the JFK Special Warfare Center Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

He is survived by his wife (Jayne), son (Thomas), and daughters (Kareann, Celeste). A funeral service was held on 9 June 2021 with interment at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery.

**NORMAN LABARGE****D-2225**

Norman LaBarge, 83, passed away on May 22nd, 2021.

Norman was a longstanding member of the 19th SFG(A) and served in numerous capacities with them. In his civilian life, Norman worked for Thiokol for 25 years, rising to director of the testing laboratory before retirement in 1999.

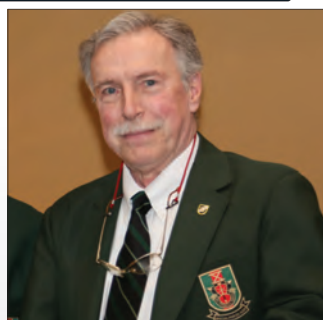
Norman is survived by his wife (Debby), sons (Cory, Brett, Blair, Nolan), and daughters (Alyssa, Maralee). A funeral service was held on June 2nd, 2021 at the Rogers and Taylor Funeral Home in Tremonton Utah.

**ROBERT MCALLISTER****D-7562**

Robert McAllister, 70, passed away in Angeles City, Republic of the Philippines on June 27th, 2021.

In the course of his military career Bob saw service with the 101st Airborne Division (Vietnam), 10th SFG(A), 11th SFG(A), and Drill Instructor Duty at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was an active longstanding member of SFA Chapter 46 as well as the VFW.

He is survived by his wife (Norma) and daughter (Wendy). An Honors and Colors ceremony was performed at Clark Veterans Cemetery on July 2nd, 2021.

**PAUL J. MEDICI****M-2796**

Paul Medici, 77, passed away on June 28th, 2021.

Paul's military career included service with the 7th SFG(A) and the 46th Company in Thailand as a radio operator. After leaving service Paul worked for Motorola until his retirement. He served two terms as President of Chapter 37.

Paul is survived by his son (Paul II) and daughter (Elise). A memorial service for Paul will be held at a later date.



**DAVID MOLEY****M-4141**

David Moley Sr., 79, passed away on June 17th, 2021 at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington, NC.

David graduated from Fairfield University in Connecticut in 1965 and enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly thereafter. After completing SFOC, David was assigned to the 6th SFG(A) and in 1968 he was reassigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam where he served as Team Captain with the II Corps Mike Force until 1969. David was honorably discharged from service in 1971.

His awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the parachutist's badge.

David is survived by his wife (Gloria), his son (David), and daughter (Lindsey). A private service is planned at a later date.

**JOHN O'NEILL IV****D-8401**

John O'Neill IV, 71, of Bovey, Minnesota passed away on May 10th, 2021.

John served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1970, until 1972 which included a tour in Vietnam with the 5th SFG(A) then transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve 11th SFG(A).

His awards and decorations include: the Vietnam Service Medal w/ 2 Stars, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm, and Parachutist Badge. In 1977, John joined the New Jersey State Police from whence he retired in 1999.

He is survived by his wife (Jennifer), sons (John III, Michael, Timothy), and daughter (Sinanan).

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on May 19th, 2021.

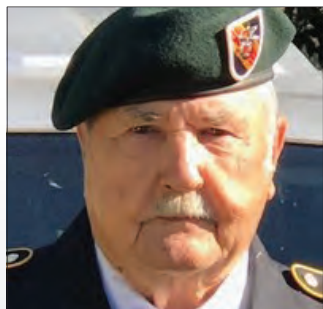
**RICHARD PALMER****M-8947**

Richard Palmer, 82, of Somerset, Kentucky passed away on June 11th, 2021.

After a tour in Vietnam, Richard accepted a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and graduated from the Army Engineer and Infantry Officer's Courses. He would subsequently earn his Green Beret in 1970.

Richard retired from the U.S. Army after 27 years of service. His awards and decorations include: The Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star (1st OLC), The Purple Heart, The Meritorious Service Medal, and The Army Commendation Medal (1st OLC).

He is survived by his wife (Janice), sons (Richard, Brad, Lange), and daughters (Kelly, Carrie, Tricia, Tammy, Sheila). A service was held at the Grace Baptist Church on June 14th, 2021 followed by interment at the Mill Springs National Cemetery.

**CYRUS PREECE****D-369**

Cyrus Preece, 90, of Fayetteville, North Carolina passed away on May 24th, 2021.

SGM saw service with the 1st, 5th, and 7th SFG(A). He was a life member of Chapter 1-18. Cyrus is survived by his wife (Inge), his son (Bill), and daughters (Mary, Lisa).

A graveside service was held on June 4th, 2021 at LaFayette Memorial Park, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**ROBERT A. SHAW****M-4293**

Robert Shaw, 72, passed away on June 2nd, 2021.

Bob was a Vietnam war veteran who later saw service with the 46th Company and 10th SFG(A).

He is survived by his son (Justin).

**ADRIAN SILVA****D-8825**

Adrian Silva, 76, passed away on 19 June 2021 in Georgetown, Texas.

Adrian enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966, and after completing Airborne School, he volunteered for Special Forces training. Successfully graduating from SFQC, he was assigned to the 3rd SFG(A). Adrian was discharged from service in 1969 and would go on to become a successful computer tutor providing private instruction to his clients.

He was a life member of Chapter 75 and served a tour as its Vice President.

He is survived by his wife (Chip) and son (Cody).

**LAWRENCE SPITLER****A-3040**

Lawrence 'Larry' Spitler, 87, passed away on May 2nd, 2021.

Larry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961 and served with the Army Security Agency, 7th, 8th SFG(A). In 1965, Larry began the first of three tours of duty with MACV-SOG as Comms Center Chief and team member of RT Wyoming.

Larry is survived by his wife (Patricia) and sons (Seth, Evan).

A funeral with full military honors will be held at a later date.



## CHESTER L. WARD

M-9542



BG(R) Chester Ward, 88, passed away on 31 May 2021 in Union City, California.

General Ward began his Army career as an Airborne Ranger serving in the Panama Canal Zone. He then attended the University of Southern California School of Medicine. Following his internship, General Ward was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and served the first of his two tours in Vietnam as the Group Medical Officer. Three years later he would return to Vietnam as the Flight Surgeon for the 17th Aviation Group. During the remainder of his distinguished military career, he would serve as White House Physician, Commander of Womack Community Hospital, 18th Airborne Corps Surgeon, and Commander of Beaumont Army Medical Center. His many awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Medal, The Legion of Merit (1 OLC), The Bronze Star, The Air Medal (5th OLC), and the Army Commendation Medal. Following his retirement from the US Army, General Ward served in the public and private sectors, including over 10 years as the Health Officer and Director of the Butte County Department of Public Health.

He is survived by his wife (Sally) and daughters (Katharine and Lynda). General Ward was interred with military honors at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on June 28, 2021.

## GEORGE YARA

M-2002



George Masami Yara, 85, passed away on May 9th, 2021 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

George retired from active duty after serving 20 years in the U.S. Army, 6 of which were with the 5th, 7th, and 10th SFG(A). He is survived by his wife (Kazuko), son (Michael) and daughters (Kay, Geri, Lois, and Colleen). A memorial service was held on June 2nd, 2021 with interment at LaFayette Memorial Park West in Fayetteville, North Carolina.



## HAROLD ZILLS

M-10681



Harold 'Roger' Zills, 70, of Huntsville passed away on June 10th, 2021 at the Huntsville Hospital.

Roger served with the 20th SFG(A), the 82nd and 101st ABN Divisions. He is survived by his brothers (Gerald, Charles) and sister (Darlene).

A graveside service was held on June 13th, 2021 at the Sanderson Cemetery.

## OTHER FALLEN COMRADES:

SFA



Arvill M. Hicks.....		23 May 2021
Robert L. Harris .....		16 April 2021
George Brierley .....	D-1165 .....	16 January 2015
Lawrence Odenbaugh .....	D-4937 .....	18 June 2016
Edward Brannan .....	M-9822 .....	January 2020
Edward Perkins .....		25 December 2020
David P. Cole .....		11 July 2021
Robert A. Shaw.....	M-4293 .....	2 June 2021
Bud Elliott .....		2 October 2015
Michael Akre .....		3 June 2014
Frederick Callahan.....		8 February 2021
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# POW/MIA UPDATE



## **MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED-FOR FROM THE VIETNAM WAR:**

The number missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is still 1,584. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on March 14th that US Naval Reserve CDR Paul C. Charvet, 26, killed during the Vietnam War, but unrecovered at the time, was accounted for March 1, 2021. On March 21, 1967, his A-1H Skyraider airplane disappeared off the coast of North Vietnam. This was the first US loss accounted for from the Vietnam War since July 2020.

During the April 29th DPAA-hosted Family/Veterans Service Organizations Quarterly Call & Update, the DPAA Lab Director affirmed that there are NO Vietnam War-related remains awaiting ID.

Of the 1,584 still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,244 (North VN-442, South VN-802); Laos-285; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 999. A breakdown by country of these 999 Americans is: Vietnam – 674, Laos – 280, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,062. A total of 288 have been accounted for from Laos, 729 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC. These 63 Americans were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

## **DPAA JOINT ACCOUNTING EFFORTS:**

COVID-19 pandemic and associated quarantine restrictions have been a significant challenge to work around, adversely impacting Vietnam War field operations more deeply than WWII and Korean War efforts. Joint field operations just concluded in Vietnam and concluded June 23rd in Laos. Joint field operations are about to begin anew in Laos, The schedule for resuming joint operations in Cambodia is unknown at present, but Cambodia is going through another “surge” in COVID-19 infections and a tragic increase in deaths as well.

There will be a briefing about the **JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION/SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION POW/MIA COMMITTEE** at SFACON in Las Vegas.

We hope to see you there.





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As the U.S. leaves and the Taliban march on,  
here's what we should learn.

# *Afghanistan's lesson? Fight to win or stay home*

*Written by*  
**Robert Bruce Adolph**





**America and its allies lost the war in Afghanistan.** The expenditure of blood and treasure was extraordinary and, in the end, shed and spent for little reason. There is no denying it. The clear winner is the Taliban, which is capturing one provincial capital after another as the U.S. troops finish pulling out. There are many reasons for the humiliating loss.

The Taliban fought a total war for the existence of their way of life. America did not. Our goal was to force the Taliban to quit sheltering Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, but that objective later morphed into “winning Afghan hearts and minds.” The former objective was possible. The latter was wildly improbable, reflecting mission creep gone mad. That led inevitably to America’s longest war.

America assiduously follows the Law of Land Warfare, which reflects our humanitarian values. The Taliban did not. America desperately attempted to avoid civilian casualties in the conduct of the conflict, especially during the Obama administration. The Taliban did not. The Taliban knew an essential old-world war-fighting truth: The winner triumphs by embracing the idea that the ends justify the means — and the end is ultimate victory.

**The winner triumphs by embracing the idea that the ends justify the means — and the end is ultimate victory.**

Back to basics: The most important principle of war is “objective.” A winning combatant must first define the desired end, and then select the most suitable means necessary to achieve clear goals. Do it poorly, and precious soldiers’ lives and resources are wasted. The Bush administration established few feasible objectives in Afghanistan.

**The key mistake made, though, was in staying.**



It was outrageous arrogance coupled with incredible naiveté that made the Bush White House wrongly assume that America and its allies could bestow democracy and liberal order on a fragmented tribalized country that had no experience with either.

That administration left a foreign policy catastrophe in its wake that was inherited by subsequent commanders-in-chief.

**If we consider ourselves to be morally superior to the Taliban...then the only acceptable ethical arc is the one leading to victory.**

We need look no farther than World War II for conflicts that had successful outcomes but were fought resolutely by an America that embraced

the objective of the unconditional surrender of our enemies in both Europe and the Asia-Pacific. America won and subsequently dictated terms to the vanquished. The result? The birth of two of the most dynamic democracies in the world.

If we consider ourselves to be morally superior to the Taliban — and we certainly aspire to be — then the only acceptable ethical arc is the one leading to victory. Attempting compromise with the Taliban was always absurd.

They never cared one whit about the deaths of women and children caught in collateral crosshairs. Tragically, if those deaths served their interests — they often did — the innocent died horribly.

War may indeed be hell. But losing a war might be worse. The only other honorable and humanitarian alternative is to choose not to fight such limited conflicts at all.

Upon reflection, this seems like a promising idea, and one worth remembering. Popular commentator and retired Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters recently suggested to me that we should **“Either fight to win or stay home.”** Given recent history, it’s hard to disagree. ✂



**Robert Bruce Adolph** is a former US Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel and United Nations Chief Security Advisor, who holds graduate degrees in both international affairs and national security studies and strategy. His previously published works have appeared in nearly every US military publication of note. Most recently, he penned the commentary series “Dispatch from Rome” for the Military Times. Adolph also recently published the book entitled “Surviving the United Nations: The Unexpected Challenge”.

This article was originally published by the *Tampa Bay Times*.

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US soldiers relying on interpreters to conduct a key leader engagement in Afghanistan.



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*Fulfilling Our Duty to Afghan and Iraqi Interpreters  
While Advancing Our National Interests*

By Doug Livermore

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This article was originally published by the Modern War Institute at West Point. Read the full article at: <https://mwi.usma.edu/fulfilling-our-duty-to-afghan-and-iraqi-interpreters-is-a-matter-of-honor-and-of-national-security/>.

**T**hroughout the nearly two decades of America's post-9/11 wars, most Americans have been largely oblivious to the bureaucratic plight of and physical dangers faced by Afghan and Iraqi interpreters who apply to the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. The State Department's SIV program, which was originally created to allow individuals who "provided faithful and valuable service to the United States" to apply for and receive special consideration for immigration, has long been plagued by inefficiencies, under resourcing, indifferent and complacent execution, and unconscionable delays in the processing of applications.

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University recently published a scathing report by

Noah Coburn highlighting the lack of progress in addressing the SIV program's many shortcomings. Reforming the SIV program is an American moral obligation and is vitally important to our national security.

A recent executive order by the new Biden administration and a soon-to-air primetime television sitcom from CBS have both raised this serious issue to the national consciousness. In his executive order, President Biden reaffirmed America's commitment to SIV applicants and directed a full review of the SIV program while demanding recommendations for reform. And despite some recent casting controversy, the television show *United States of Al* is currently introducing American audiences to the close bonds formed between many service members and their local interpreters in combat and afterward. America owes a debt of gratitude to the SIV applicants and their families, who have and continue to undertake great personal risk to support America's interests abroad.

**“The lack of a coherent, effective strategy to support these workers, and the failure to implement the program as originally envisioned, leaves applicants stranded in Afghanistan or elsewhere and vulnerable to attacks by the Taliban and criminal groups, as well as other forms of exploitation.**

**- Noah Coburn**



## Moral Obligation

Many of these SIV applicants rendered invaluable service to the United States by serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as interpreters for the Defense Department, the State Department, and other government agencies.

Over my many years of government service I have both personally and indirectly relied upon these foreign interpreters to accomplish missions essential to the national defense. Countless qualified SIV applications have languished for years before being definitively resolved, oftentimes with no justification for such delays. We have a moral obligation to provide prompt consideration, processing, and approval of deserving applicants.



US soldiers and their interpreter after returning from a successful mission.

The State Department originally established the SIV program to manage those applicants endorsed by the Defense Department in adherence with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2006.

Subsequent NDAA's modified the number of SIV applicants to be admitted each year while also expanding the potential pool of applicants to include a wider range of qualified interpreters. However, the State Department has consistently failed to resource or manage the program effectively, leading to repeated, but ultimately unsuccessful, bipartisan attempts by Congress to reform the SIV program.

Critics of the SIV program argue that, by granting asylum to former interpreters, we are “draining” talent from the Iraqi and Afghan populace. However, the number of applicants able to prove their “faithful and valuable service” to the United States is infinitesimal in relation to the overall size of the populations from which they originate.

Moreover, those interpreters seeking these visas are doing so because they face constant danger from the Taliban and other violent groups, meaning that they are hardly able to currently contribute meaningfully to Iraqi and Afghan society. Their primary concern is the survival of their families and themselves.

The United States has only issued 26,500 SIVs in the last seven years and hardly represent a massive “drain” on talent

“These are people who not only stood and fought with us—they died with us protecting the United States. Unfortunately, translators are far too often victimized and endangered as a result of their service while waiting for their visas. This legislation ensures visas are available to bring our allies and their families to safety.

- *Representative Mike Waltz*

in either Iraq or Afghanistan. Finally, the visibility that these SIV applicants bring to issues in Iraq and Afghanistan is likely far more impactful than anything they might have achieved remaining in their home countries under the constant fear of death.

Delays in processing applications have had very real and deadly effects, as over three hundred interpreters and their family members were killed since 2014 by terrorists in Afghanistan in retribution for their service to the United States.

Another estimate places total deaths for interpreters supporting America's overseas missions since the start of the post-9/11 wars at over eleven thousand. Even these estimates do not capture the full human toll paid by our Afghan and Iraqi partners and their families. Unlike their American comrades, Afghan and Iraqi

interpreters have not rotated back to the safety of the United States between tours, with many staying in a continual state of combat operations for years on end.

Our failure to effectively reform and manage the SIV program is a moral failing that should not be allowed to continue.

## National Security

Reforming the SIV program is imperative to American national security, as the health and success of the program directly supports our ability to recruit next-generation Americans with critical cultural and language skills. It will also affect our ability to hire foreign interpreters to support future overseas operations and ongoing activities.



General Scotty Miller, commander of all NATO forces in Afghanistan, with an interpreter.

An ineffective and crippled SIV program, such as that which we now possess, undermines our interests and will cost us greatly on the international stage. America is only as reliable as its word and failing to uphold our expressed commitments to Afghan and Iraqi interpreters through the SIV program would generate cascading negative effects.

America has a proud history of recruiting immigrants into our military and diplomatic services to make effective use of their unique capabilities. Irish arrivals recruited right off the docks fought valiantly during the Civil War, Eastern Europeans recruited under the

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“Lodge Act” were among the first to serve in the newly launched US Army Special Forces shortly after World War II, and the Military Accessions Vital to National Interests (MAVNI) program, begun in 2009, ensured that our armed services recruited the best, brightest, and most patriotic immigrants to great effect. Similarly, the SIV program identifies Afghans and Iraqis who have already “provided faithful and valuable service to the United States,” presenting them and their families as an invaluable recruiting pool for government service.

In today’s interconnected world, the reputation of the United States is paramount to its ability to recruit foreign interpreters to support its efforts overseas. The manner in which the United States abandoned its Montagnard

and Hmong allies in Vietnam, or the Iraqi Kurds following the 1991 Gulf War, had negative effects on the willingness of other foreign partners to trust America.

By failing to honor its commitments to Afghan and Iraqi interpreters, it is likely that we will be unable to find local allies willing to support our shared security objectives in future conflicts.

This is particularly salient given the Biden administration’s focus on foreign relationships and partnerships. The just-released Interim National Security Strategy Guidance states that “when force is required, we will employ it alongside international and local partners wherever possible to bolster effectiveness and legitimacy, share burdens, and invest others in success”.



US veteran welcomes his former interpreter to the US.

A culturally diverse and linguistically capable American military and diplomatic corps, combined with the ability to readily recruit indigenous interpreters, will prove critical to this approach to security affairs.

Although the Defense Department has not officially kept specific records, it is estimated that interpreters have been responsible for saving thousands of American service members' lives.

Moreover, American military commanders at all levels have admitted that the United States could not have accomplished its missions in either Iraq or Afghanistan without the help and support of indigenous interpreters.

Successful reform of the SIV program will buttress America's credibility abroad and help ensure that it can recruit foreign interpreters willing to support future operations and activities. Otherwise, our national security is significantly imperiled.

The past management of SIV program is a national embarrassment. Afghan and Iraqi interpreters have served bravely right alongside American men and women in intense combat throughout these wars, and the SIV program was supposed to honor and repay them for their sacrifices. Yet execution of the SIV program proved to be very far from the original vision, as under-resourcing, apathy, and immorally long delays further endangered these allies and their families.

After years of ineffectual attempts to reform the program there now is a chance to finally satisfy our responsibilities to our Afghan and Iraqi comrades.

The Biden administration's order to review and recommend changes to the SIV program provides the highest-level emphasis necessary for executive and legislative action.

There is every expectation that these recommendations, if enacted, will ensure proper resourcing, oversight, and execution of the SIV program.

“This legislation is important to our allies and our code of honor. We made a promise to the men and women who served with us on the battlefield, and we must uphold that promise to leave no one behind.

*- Representative Adam Kinzinger*





From right to left, Khalid Hamidi, Ajmal Farqiri, and Janis Shenwari, all former interpreters who now live in the US. Shenwari is the cofounder of No One Left Behind.

Most fundamentally, implementing such recommended reforms and improving the SIV program will

both fulfill our moral obligations and support our long-term national security interests. ✕

---

**Doug Livermore** serves as a civilian in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy while continuing his military service as an officer in the Maryland Army National Guard. Previously, he served for a decade on active duty as an infantry and Special Forces officer. Doug has deployed repeatedly to support combat and contingency operations. He is on the board of directors of No One Left Behind, is the National Director for External Communications of the Special Forces Association, and is a fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point.

*The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official position of the United States Military Academy, Department of the Army, or Department of Defense.*



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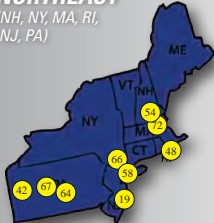
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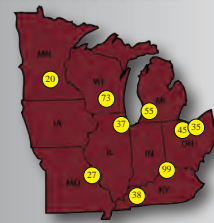
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## REGION 3

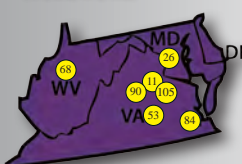
REGIONAL REP: **Louis E. Hoffman (Ch. 105)**

NATIONAL BOARD OF OFFICERS POINT OF CONTACT: **Jim Blanchard**

pg. 47

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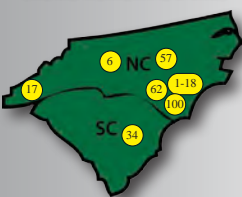
REGIONAL REP: **Jim Blanchard (Ch. 34)**

NATIONAL BOARD OF OFFICERS POINT OF CONTACT: **Jim Blanchard**

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(NC, SC, 7th, 3rd, SWC, SFCMD)



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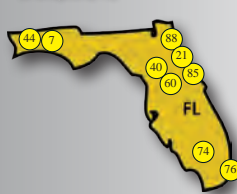
REGIONAL REP: **Rich Deininger (Ch. 85)**

NATIONAL BOARD OF OFFICERS POINT OF CONTACT: **Nick Panarella Jr.**

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(8 Chapters, FL)



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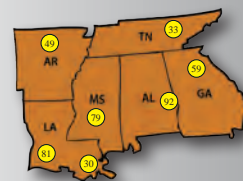
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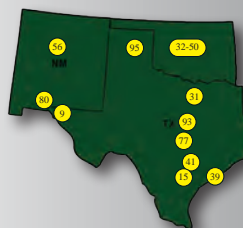
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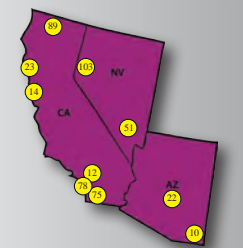
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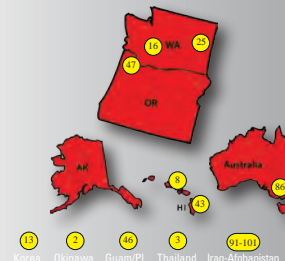
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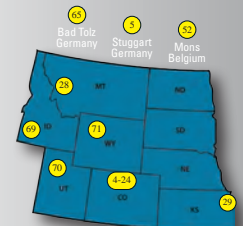
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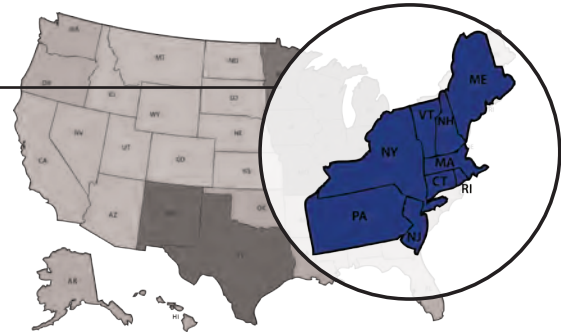
# REGION I

## Northeast Region

(NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW YORK, MAINE, NEW JERSEY, RHODE ISLAND, PENNSYLVANIA)

**CHAPTERS:** XIX (19), XLII (42), XLVIII (48), LIV (54), LVIII (58), LXIV (64), LXVI (66), LXVII (67), LXXII (72)

\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



# 19

## CHAPTER XIX

The Ed Muller & Jim Miller Memorial Chapter

New Jersey

[www.sfa19.org](http://www.sfa19.org)



**PRES :** Lawrence Taylor, Sr.  
**VICE :** Paul Callamaras, Jr.  
**SEC :** Lou Hernandez  
**TRES :** Paul Callamaras, Jr. (ProTem)

### Memorial Day

Chapter XIX laid Memorial Wreaths at the Nick Rowe Monument down in Union Beach, New Jersey. In the montage photo are 3 brothers in the Chapter we lost in the past year plus, a remembrance of Richmond J. Nail, who many of us knew from our own Phase I Selection days.

### Shooter's Gauntlet

Chapter Members were invited by our Chapter Armorer, Tony Yackowski, to attend the June Machine Gun Shoot at the Shooters Gauntlet, where he had a booth on the range (05-06 JUN 2021).

The facility is in Monroeton, Pennsylvania on 1,054 acres surrounded by 18,000 acres of State Wildlife Game Lands.

The location houses 4 ranges and a compound with 4 bunkhouses and a cooking pavilion.

Besides machine guns of all types and calibers, there were multiple mini-guns, 20 mm canons, rifles, pistols and sub-machine guns by many gun enthusiasts in a long line of booths. There were also suppressed weapons on hand to try.

Various targets were down range, including vehicles. During firing, it was not the optimum time for conversation, but we had a great day.

The website is: <https://www.shootersgauntlet.com>



Memorial Day 2021, Union Beach, NJ



Shooter's Gauntlet 2021 Montage One



Shooter's Gauntlet 2021 Montage Two



**PRES :** Vito Pezzillo  
**VICE :** Tom Duffney  
**SEC :** Steve Kelley  
**TRES :** John Hardman  
**SGT at ARMS :** Alan Tolleson



## CHAPTER XLVIII

The Rhode Island Chapter

# 48

[www.48sfa.org](http://www.48sfa.org)

Rhode Island



2021 Mday C48

We have finally resumed conducting Chapter 48 meetings and events. However, with the spread of the variant, who knows what the future holds.

We conducted our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the SF Monument located at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

VP **Tom Duffney** filled in for Pres. **Vito Pezzillo** who was preparing for knee replacement surgery. Piper CSM(R) **David Morgan**, once again, added to the solemnity of the event. Thanks to the assistance of CSM(R) **Steve Topp**, a firing party was provided by the Military Honors Detachment, RING.

Thanks to the work of **Jim Wheeler**, a breakfast buffet following the ceremony was made available for the participants.

The **Tri-Town Rod and Gun Club** graciously hosted our annual shootout, once again, in June. A sincere tip of the beret to **Larry Pezza** and **Rick Stewart** for their effort to make this event a success.

Chapter 48 made a contribution to the construction of the RI Gold Star Families Memorial Monument which will be erected in the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

**Norm Bailey** and **Rich Keene** arranged for the presentation of the check at the future monument site by President **Vito Pezzillo** to **Lynn St. Germain-Lundh** and **Sharon Serio-Valente**, Project Co-chairs. Also in attendance were other Gold Star Family members and **Jim Bessel**, the Cemetery Administrator.

A small group of our history enthusiasts visited the American Heritage Museum located in Hudson, MA. While enjoying the vast collection of tanks and other armored vehicles, **Walter May** and **Ken Benoit** recalled from their service period the challenges working with horses and mules.

A very long overdue welcome to **Emmanuel (Manny) Fernandes** who joined Chapter 48 as a Life member and **Craig Sundberg** who was awarded a Life membership as a distinguished graduate of the SFQC. Sorry Manny and Craig, Secretary had his head up his fourth point of contact. Maximum effective range of an excuse is ZERO meters. A more current welcome to Life member **Michael Durand** who transferred into our Chapter.



Tri-Town Rod & Gun Club Shootout



AmHerMusVisit



GS Monument Donation





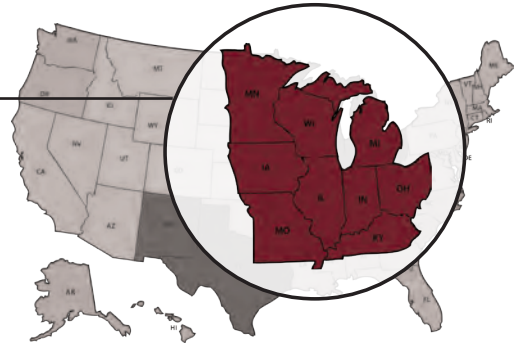
# REGION II

## Midwest Region

(MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS, OHIO, MISSOURI, KENTUCKY)

**CHAPTERS:** XX (20), **XXVII (27)**, XXIX (29), XXXV (35), **XXXVI (37)**, XXXVIII (38), XLV (45), LV (55), LXXIII (73), XCIX (99), D (500)

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



# 20

## CHAPTER XX

The Kenneth Worthley Memorial Chapter



**PRES :** Ron Lachelt  
**VICE :** VACANT  
**SEC :** Dan Kaiser  
**TRES :** Matt Mitlying

*Minnesota*

Greetings from the Midwest! It has been so nice to be able to have in-person meetings again and be able to venture out to new venues for food and drink together.

In early July we ventured to Two Harbors, MN to help celebrate their Heritage Days festival. After having to cancel it last year everyone was ready to get out and celebrate.

Our POC was Keith Larson (CCN), who is a Two Harbors native. We began with a pancake breakfast at the local fire station, wandered through the vintage car show, visited vendors, and moved to the parade march assembly area.

This year's marchers were Pat Gallegher, Mike Erkel, Jim Behr, Bob Pike, Sam Lakey, Keith Larson, Gary Hedin, Ron Lachelt, Bob Bradow, Doug Brown, and Dan Kaiser. The route was cooler this year, and the crowd was tremendous. We adjourned to American Legion Post 109 to listen to two of the marching bands and cool down. A great time and lots of great people!

Chapter XX has joined the efforts to ensure that the Afghan interpreters and their families will be able to leave Afghanistan in case of a Taliban takeover. Doug Livermore from SFAHQ and locally, Scott Walker (Cavvv.hq@gmail.com) are working with Congress and local legislators to ensure that this issue is not forgotten or delayed.

Contact your local legislators to urge support for measures to speed up the processing of the Afghanis' visas. Also, and importantly, if you served with Afghanis that helped your team's efforts and you can supply their names, contact your legislator and/or the above-mentioned individuals. Having a specific name is helpful in identifying, verifying, and processing an applicant's request. The clock is ticking. Cheers! DOL



Bob Bradow, Jim Behr, Bob Pike, Gary Hedin



"Doppelganger" Brothers-Keith and Kenny Larson



Keith Larson talking to Jean Larson, Pat Gallegher, Mike Erkel





1st row: Doug Brown, Keith Larson, Bob Pike, Jim Behr. 2nd row: Pat Gallagher, Sam Lakey, Ron Lachelt, Mike Erkel, Gary Hedin

**PRES :** Terry Buckler  
**VICE :** Mike Neer  
**SEC :** VACANT  
**TRES :** Roy Williams



## CHAPTER XXIX

The COL Arthur D. "Bull" Simon Memorial Chapter

[www.sfa29.org](http://www.sfa29.org)

Shawnee, KS

# 29

In May, The Chapter held its first get together in over a year, though still subject to gathering size restrictions. It was a great event to say hello to old friends, catch up on some chapter business, and bid farewell to several of the SOF students finishing their year at CGSC.

The highlight of this gathering was to present Honorary Memberships to two outstanding Americans and strong supporters of the Chapter and Veterans' causes. Chapter President Terry Buckler and COL Roger HC Donlon (MOH) presented framed SFA Chapter 29 Honorary Memberships to Dr. Tim Eckstein and Chaplain Sam Sanford. For years, both have selflessly given their time, energy, and spirit to assist Chapter 29 efforts supporting its members and the SOF students cycling through Ft. Leavenworth.

Chaplain Sam has been a stalwart attendee at every Chapter function as well as supporting Chapter members in their times of need and Dr. Eckstein has been a generous and humble supporter of Chapter events for many years.

The Chapter was also honored to have at its meeting Pulitzer Prize winning Photojournalist Nick Ut, whose most famous photograph captured 9-year-old Kim Phuc fleeing the napalm attack on the village of Trang Bang in 1972. To commemorate his visit to the Chapter, COL Donlon presented him with a Medal of Honor commemorative edition.

Additional business included announcing the winners of Chapter 29's raffle fundraising for the SOF Ball. The prizes included a pistol donated by CZ-USA, a knife, and an autographed copy of Chapter President Terry Buckler's book on the Son Tay raid, **Who Will Go**. Tickets were drawn by Mr. John Simmons, Director of Law Enforcement and Military Sales at CZ-USA, who has been a committed supporter of the Chapter for many years.



Chapter 29 President and COL Roger Donlon (MOH) with Dr. Tim Eckstein and Chaplain Sam Sanford holding their Honorary Chapter 29 Memberships awarded for their selfless and dedicated service to the Chapter, its members, and the broader Veterans community



COL Roger Donlon presenting Pulitzer Prize winning Photojournalist Nick Ut with a memento for his visit to the Chapter meeting

**Chapter XXIX (29) Continued...**

The 2021 Ball was cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions, but the raffle will support the 2022 SOF Ball scheduled for 26 March 2022 at the Embassy Suites in Kansas City.

Upcoming events for the Chapter include the Welcome Meet-and-Greet picnic for the next contingent of SOF students attending CGSC at Fort Leavenworth, the Chapter's Oktoberfest, to be held at The Suburban Restaurant in Leavenworth on 2 October, as well as the SOF Ball in March.

**35****CHAPTER XXXV**

The Christian Girard/Daniel West Memorial Chapter

**Northern Ohio**[www.sfachapter35.org](http://www.sfachapter35.org)

**PRES :** John Balint, Jr.  
**VICE :** VACANT  
**SEC :** Leone DiCesare  
**TRES :** David Pritash

Greetings to our SF Brothers from NE Ohio Chapter XXXV.

**May Meeting**

Chapter XXXV's May Meeting was held at DiCesare's pavilion with 14 members and one guest, Brendon Hernon. Brendan is a Chapter supporter and Honorary Member.

**Chapter XXXV**

SFA Chapter XXXV hosted our first Tactical Games Skirmish Saturday August 14th, 2021 at the APEX Gin Range in Jefferson, Ohio. There were 20 shooters, 30+ guests and 15 Chapter volunteers.



Left side: Tisone, Brick, Collins, Balint, Pearce and Baker. Right side: DiCesare (center), Lustig, Nesline, Emerson, Opritza, Pritash and Karttunen

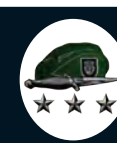


Shooter at the Boreline event carrying a slush-tube and 50 Cal. Belt, returning to the scoring table under the watchful eye of Keith Rutledge. Always good to have a Team Sergeant on hand to teach other members of the Team how to run and score this very technical shooting event

Future Chapter Events include elections at our September Meeting, Fall Chapter Gun Shoot, Gun Raffle and our annual Christmas Party.

**38****CHAPTER XXXVIII**

The LTG William P. Yarborough Chapter

**Fort Campbell, KY**[www.sfa38.org](http://www.sfa38.org)

**PRES :** Terry Pevehouse  
**VICE :** Jamie Korenoski  
**SEC :** Mike Cunningham  
**ASST. SEC :** Zach Leggett  
**TRES :** Frank McFadden

Greetings from Middle Tennessee, South Central Kentucky and Ft. Campbell. Chapter 38 continues to thrive with a growing membership and solid financial footing. We continue to serve the needs of the greater "Legion" family and the surrounding communities.

We finally got back to some sense of normalcy with the 2021 Unit Remembrance Ceremony. After last year's cancellation, there was a large turnout of family, friends, and soldiers as we remembered all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. During the weekend, the Chapter took our Gold Star families to Nashville for lunch and a cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat on the Cumberland River followed by a reception at the hotel.





2021 Remembrance Ceremony



Fireworks at the Chapter Safehouse

The month of May ended with the Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club riding to east Tennessee to support SFA Chapter 111 at their Chapter Naming Ceremony. Chapter 111 is now the "MSG Jefferson Davis Chapter". Thanks, guys, for representing Chapter 38 and the Davis Gold Star Family.

July came in with a bang, as the Chapter hosted our annual 4th of July fireworks display at the safehouse. This event continues to grow in attendance every year. As one spouse put it, "The safehouse grounds are the one place that I feel safe letting my kids run free. Thank you for such an amazing event!"

While waiting for darkness, the Chapter said thank you to COL Joseph Wortham, his wife Chris, and their family for their commitment and service to the Legion family over the past two years. Chapter President Terry Pevehouse presented Mrs. Wortham a Lifetime Honorary Chapter Membership for her outstanding support.

On 14 July, the 5th Special Forces Group pulled off a rare triple feat. Colonel Joseph Wortham relinquished command to Colonel Brent Lindeman; Command Sergeant Maurice Golden relinquished responsibility to Command Sergeant Joshua King; this was followed by a Retirement Ceremony for Command Sergeant Maurice Golden. A very busy day indeed!

In keeping with one of our core missions of taking care of one another, Chapter 38 was proud to present a custom-made walking cane to life member SGM(R) Joe Mohr at the Leatherwood Distillery. Joe and Josh Burch, Justin Curro, and Vice President Jamie Korenoski made this happen. Justin and Josh did the embedding of the Group and 3rd Bn coins in the cane.

As another school semester started, Clarksville's Academy Sports store provided Chapter 38 with a \$3,000 gift card donation to benefit 30 children of active-duty soldiers with a back-to-school shopping spree. Academy Sports and the Chapter were proud partners in supporting these children with their back to school and back to sport needs.

The Chapter will be either in the execution or after-action phase of the 60th Reunion by the time this edition of the Drop is published. Future events upcoming include Green Beret for a Day, Turkey giveaway, and associated holiday gatherings. As a reminder, Chapter Elections will be held early next year. We are always looking for the next set of leaders to take us forward. Take care of yourself and one another!



Families, Chapter 38, and Academy Sports



SGM(R) Joe Mohr Cane

45

## CHAPTER XLV

The Buckeye Chapter

Central Ohio

[www.sfa45.org](http://www.sfa45.org)


**PRES :** Mark Arnold  
**VICE :** Patrick Enlow  
**SEC :** Andy Schneider  
**TRES :** Tom McGrath



President Mark Arnold presents Kevin Harry with 43 new Life Memberships



Mike Hurdzan, from the Keepers of the Green, presents 43 new Life Membership applications and check to President Mark Arnold



The Charlie Mohr 3 Gun Shoot banner presented to Judy Mohr

Greetings from Chapter XLV, the Buckeye Chapter.

SFA President, Kevin Harry, joined our monthly luncheon/meeting in July. He briefed the chapter on upcoming events for the Association and highlighted the extensive updating of the national website that incorporates the new Club Express. Following the briefing, Chapter President, Mark Arnold, presented Kevin with 43 new Life Membership applications and fees, all of them from actively serving Green Berets.

This presentation and recruitment of members is the culminating work of several years of chapter 45's support to the men and families of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th SFG(A).

The chapter fund-raised to enable multiple events at the unit, assist individual unit members with their interests and needs, support its only Gold Star Family, and involve its members in mutual support of chapter events.

Kevin was quite surprised and thrilled by the presentation and remarked that this achievement in recruiting youthful new SFA members demonstrates what is arguably the Special Force Association's greatest strength – the ability to create and exploit networks among its members to support individuals' personal and professional needs and ambitions.

A final goodbye was said to SGM(R) Charlie Mohr as chapter members gathered for a celebration of life picnic held at a park in northern Cincinnati. Jim Butler organized the event and started it with a reflection of the National Anthem. Many friends and chapter members shared stories of Charlie at the event. Judy Mohr, wife of Charlie, was presented with a banner from the chapter that will be displayed at the chapter's annual 3 Gun Shoot; this year, it is dedicated to his memory.

We also said a final goodbye to Bob Deis as chapter members gathered at his funeral. Also present was a large group of Boy Scouts. Bob served as a Scoutmaster for many years and was even awarded the Silver Beaver for his excellent character and distinguished service to the Boy Scouts of America. Reference Bob's obituary in this edition of The Drop.

The Keepers of the Green, led by COL(R) Mike Hurdzan, is a charitable organization of golf enthusiasts and professionals who have raised money and donated to multiple charitable organizations during the past twenty-plus years. Chapter 45 and its charitable subsidiary, The Ohio Green Beret Support Group LLC, has been fortunate to be among one of these organizations. Their last donation to the chapter was in July for they are discontinuing their organization at the end of this year. We are very thankful for their generous and loyal support during the past fifteen years.

We tip our beret to SGM(R) Bob Schneider, who celebrated his 90th birthday by parachuting from 13,000 ft. Bob's last jump was 31 years ago at Ft. Bragg.

During the writing of this article, Chapter 45 is preparing for the execution of its major summer fundraising events, our Motorcycle Freedom Ride and our 3 Gun Shoot. To see the chapter's latest news, upcoming events, and memorials go to [www.sfa45.org](http://www.sfa45.org).



Bob Schneider landing during his 90th birthday jump



**PRES :** Kirk Newman  
**VICE :** Doug Sherd  
**SEC :** Richard Smith  
**TRES :** Mike Reyes



## CHAPTER LV

The Michael May Memorial Chapter

# 55

[www.sfchap55.org](http://www.sfchap55.org)

**Michigan**



*Doug Sherd presented Distinguished Member of the Chapter by Dave Feters*



*The ladies who support us*

I am sorry there wasn't an article in the last Drop. Time and circumstances ran away from me and I missed the day and date for the deadline which got away from me. A lot has transpired since then. I apologize for the oversight.

Judy Maynard, loving wife of member Ken Maynard lost her battle with cancer. Dave Feters, Doug Sherd, and Mike Reyes were able to make the funeral services. That same week, we also lost our loved and respected CSM Don McLane to cancer. Don was the CSM of Charley Company, 12th Special Forces Group, a forty year Fenton Police Officer, and, with his loving wife Mary, owned his own excavating company. A plethora of Special Forces turned out for the funeral giving Don the hero's burial he so rightly deserved. Paul Schwimmer provided the rifles and led the 21 gun salute team, and Rudy Wade played taps both at the funeral home memorial service and the graveside service.

We have many members ailing, with Andy Brown having early onset dementia and Ed Hirsch, God bless his soul, drives Andy around and brings him to the breakfast club gatherings. John Sosa has Parkinson's disease and suffers the after-effects of a stroke, but his lovely bride Kathy was able to bring him to the funeral proceedings. Doug Sherd and Bob Slivatz are having COPD challenges and try not to let them get in the way of their duties to the chapter and the association. Dave Feters had a heart valve replacement, and has been taken good care of by our past First Lady, Trudy Feters, who is recovering from her own struggles with cancer.

As this goes to press we're getting ready to have our annual campout and auction hosted by Art and Sharon Goatbe. The Christmas meeting will be held in January of 2022 hosted by Doug and Carolyn Sherd in Grand Rapids. Doug Morgan held our spring meeting in Fenton earlier this year as COVID-19 had closed the VFW in Milford which was to be hosted by Tim Leahy. With the new Delta variant now popping its nasty head, we're hoping we're not going to be locked down again. Always check the website for the latest and greatest information.

Also, as this goes to press, Afghanistan has fallen to our enemies, with troops and personnel still trapped in country. We ask again for your prayers as they are very much needed as, once again, we're over-assigned and understaffed. This pandemic has also been hard on many of us and prayers are our greatest weapon. Always keep in touch with your chapter family as it means more than words can express.

God bless and stay safe and healthy. De Oppresso Liber! Bob Slivatz – Columnist



*Members by the casket of CSM Don McLane*



*Honor detail for CSM Don McLane leading out from church*

**73****CHAPTER LXXIII**  
The Great Lakes Chapter

Green Bay, WI

[www.sfachapter73.com](http://www.sfachapter73.com)

**PRES :** Dan Wilke  
**VICE :** Jerry Smith  
**SEC :** John Gianos  
**TRES :** Mark Muehl

Greetings to all from Chapter 73.

Our summer has been a series of constant weather changes but so far, the state's sports teams have been standing tall.

The Milwaukee Bucks gave us a big treat in becoming the NBA Champions and the Milwaukee Brewers continue to somehow lead the way on the march to September. Packer football is only a few weeks away followed by the fall hunting season.

A big welcome home to John Nowak and his lovely wife and congratulations on your recent military retirement.

For everything there is a season. February brought us sorrow in the passing of Les Beam. Most of his service time was spent in 1st Bn, 12th SFG, retiring as 1st Sgt. He was a founding member on ODA 124 as well as Chapter Treasurer for 26 years.

July warmed our hearts with a gathering at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens for a celebration of Les' life and one well-lived.

Memorabilia, food, stories from the past, laughter, a few wet eyes and outpouring of love and respect for many who called him friend and comrade. Almost two dozen stood at attention and gave a final salute with the playing of "The Ballad of the Green Beret".

A half dozen spoke of the values and character that made him a special friend, a good man and the best First Shirt they served with in over 20 years. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers go with wife Faith, son Greg and family.

With wishes for a warm summer and a beautiful fall.

Stay safe AND in touch. The brothers of Ch.73



"Les was always a trooper!" Memorial Day Parade in the RAIN- Circa 2013 -John Gianos, Les Beam, Ed Prucha, Jim Anderson. (Back row - Mike Giles, Jerry Smith, Jim Fridl, Steve Leopold)

**99****CHAPTER XCIX**  
The Bluegrass Chapter

Louisville, KY

[www.sfa99.org](http://www.sfa99.org)

**PRES :** Don Wolfe  
**VICE :** Ted Riggs  
**SEC :** Tom Hudson  
**TRES :** Ted Riggs



Bluegrass Chapter 99 Annual Memorial Golf Scramble, Seneca Golf Course 11 June 2021

Chapter 99 held our Annual Memorial Golf Scramble on 11 June 2021, at Seneca Golf Course in Louisville. Thanks to the efforts of our members, we were able to enjoy a day on the links followed immediately by a dinner and silent auction at VFW Post 1170.



We especially would like to thank our sponsors and donors who contributed to our success; we literally couldn't have done it without you.

Special thanks to one of our newest honorary members, Victor Diorio, who not only provided a few bottles of special bourbon, but also catered the event and went over and above to help us ensure a great event.

Jamie Wohner and Thorntons, who has also become one of our greatest sponsors, contributed a hole sponsorship and door prizes.

Tony McGlaughlin and Golf Headquarters provided silent auction items; if you need any golf items, Golf Headquarters offers a military discount.

The Reisert Insurance Group sponsored our \$10,000 Hole-in-one and Bill Reisert was on the winning team with Don, Cody, and Kyle Wolfe. They won by 1 shot over former Champion John Holevas's team after an amazing "hole-in-one," which was made possible after Kyle used a Nolan Ryan to extend the drive and dropped in after a long throw.

Finally, thanks to everyone who participated and especially the VFW and Staff who helped make our dinner and silent auction a tremendous success. We will be holding a Special Forces Shamble on 29 October at 10am, Tanglewood Golf Course.

To quote one of the creators of this event: "if you are looking to play golf to win, you might want to pass on this shamble; if you aren't worried about playing good golf and want to have a great time, this shamble is for you!" Cost is \$55 per person and can be paid the day of the event at Tanglewood. We hope to see you there!

Finally, Bluegrass Chapter 99 resumed having in-person meetings at VFW Post 1170 in April, but also continues having meetings virtually via zoom. If you would like to join us, meetings are bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1800 hrs. Next meeting is 14 October 2021 at VFW Post 1170.

De Oppresso Liber!  
COL(R) Don Wolfe, President Chapter 99



Presenting Tony McGlaughlin, Owner of Golf Headquarters, a Certificate of Appreciation

**PRES :** Jeremy Miller  
**VICE :** John Spanogle  
**SEC :** Ken Hurst  
**TRES :** Shane St. John



**CHAPTER D**  
The Hoosier Chapter

**500**

[www.specialforcesac500.org](http://www.specialforcesac500.org)

Indianapolis, IN

First, we'd like to thank our newest chapter sponsor, Wayne Purcell of Airfeet, which offers a proven new method of speeding athlete workout recovery and improves general physical health.

You can click on the link at our sponsor page to learn more: <https://www.specialforcesac500.org/sponsors>

We are certainly feeling the growing pains and challenges of balancing chapter activities with the rest of our busy lives!

Chapter 500 has been doing many things, and has still more planned.

Our June meeting was a boat outing at beautiful Lake Monroe. We had 17 boats of all types tied lashed together in one big floating party.



Photo 1: Chapter member and VP, John Spanogle, sailed his boat during the Lake Monroe outing. Member Clay Eden in photo

**Chapter D (500) Continued...**

Chapter representatives attended A/2/20 SFG's "Christmas in July" party, which was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and various operational issues. It was a fine event, and a chance for us to interact with our currently serving brothers.

We also introduced them to another veteran organization of great value, The Catalyst ([www.TheCatalystProgram.org](http://www.TheCatalystProgram.org)), which helps veterans obtain college credit based upon their skills and experience.



Photo 2: Friend of the Chapter, Dan Hance, CEO of The Catalyst (an organization that helps vets move from "Boots to the Boardroom"), with Chapter 500 President, Jeremy Miller (right), at A/2/20 SGF(A) Christmas Celebration

On July 24th, members of the chapter visited Bonne Terre Mine for a "bucket list" cave SCUBA dive. Once the world's largest producer of lead ore, the mine now holds a billion gallons of water, which any open water-certified diver can explore. The mine averages 50-feet deep with 100-foot-plus visibility.

Chapter member and sponsor Clay Edens' company, Sunset Scuba, managed this awesome trip.

Chapter 500 is presenting its bid for SFACON 2023 at this year's convention. We would love to show our SF Brothers a great time in Indianapolis and highlight the city's outstanding events and attractions.

Tourism and conventions are one of the largest industries in Indy, and the city has a terrific, positive convention program, as well as everything necessary to make a terrific experience for any convention or trade show.

The Inaugural 2021 Hoosier Tactical Skirmish is taking shape. Planned for October 3rd, the Anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu, it looks to be an exciting and challenging event.

Competitors enter via the Practiscore website at [www.practiscore.com](http://www.practiscore.com), and you can learn all about our event at [www.SpecialForcesAC500.org/skirmish](http://www.SpecialForcesAC500.org/skirmish).

The Masterpiece Companies provided the venue and much needed venue preparation, and Harley Davidson of Indianapolis is providing the division trophies.

Vortex Optics donated the prizes for the top male and female finishers.

We have many other sponsors you can check out on our skirmish website too.

-DOL

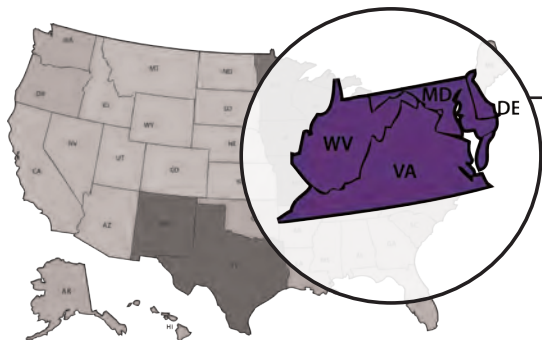


Photo 3: Bonne Terre dive with Chapter 500



Photo 4: All finishers of the Inaugural 2021 Hoosier Tactical Skirmish earn a coveted custom chapter coin to commemorate the event





# REGION III

## Mid-Atlantic Region

(VIRGINIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WEST VIRGINIA, MARYLAND)



**CHAPTERS: XI (11), XXVI (26), LIII (53), LXVIII (68), LXXXIV (84), XC (90), CV (105)**

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

**PRES :** Ray Oden  
**VICE :** David Jackson  
**SEC :** Virginia Norton  
**TRES :** Frank Levesque



**CHAPTER XI**  
The National Capital Chapter

**11**

[www.sfa11.org](http://www.sfa11.org)

**Washington, DC**



*The 2021 National Memorial Day Parade. L-R: Joe Visinski, Ray Oden, David Jackson, and John Whidden*



*Apologies for photo-shopping of Mel Hill's Funeral Attendees. L-R: Joe Daily, Willie Merkerson, Troy Gilley, Mike Eiland, Cliff Newman, Jack Frost, Ray Oden, Bill Strasburg, Andy Winfree, and Mike Taylor*

Congratulations to Chapter member and DMOR CAPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret), for receiving the Japanese American Veterans Association's (JAVA) prestigious! Wade was recognized for his long-time exemplary service, achievements, and outstanding visionary leadership as a Former JAVA Executive Council member. Ishimoto thrived in the Army, serving three tours in Vietnam as an operations sergeant with 5th SFGA and his Special Forces intelligence work continued as a Delta Force Plank-Owner and as part of the ill-fated 1980 mission to rescue 53 American hostages in Tehran, Iran.

The Chapter continues to run the LTC James K. Waters Memorial Ranger/Special Forces Monthly Breakfast for the Greater National Capitol Region so, if you're in the AO, come join us on the second Saturday of the month at 0800 Hours as we rally at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA 22150.

Chapter XI represents the Regiment for every Special Forces Soldier's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and assists the family and friends of our comrades-in-arms.

Since May we were honored to celebrate the lives of MSG Melvin "Sleepy" Hill - Team Leader for RT FLORIDA, the first MACV-SOG, High Altitude Low Opening (HALO), Combat Jump; CWO4 Daniel Knauss- 8th SFGA, 7th SFGA, 5th SFGA(VN, 46th SFCO); SSG Chris "Bo" Inboden-3/A/3/75 RGR; COL Walter Henderson-11th SFGA and Former SFA Chapter XI VP; MSG Ronald Earl Ricketts, Sr.-11th SFGA; LTC Peter A. Dannenberg-Commander, C/1/10th SFGA, SOCEUR, Joint Staff, CIA; CPT Thomas Scott Samson (AKA: Scott F. Austin)-5th SFGA, E/51st Infantry Regt V Corps' Long Range Surveillance (LRS), C /4 / 31st Infantry Regt 10th Mountain Division; Capt. Randal D. "Randy" Custard, USAF (Retired)[ Copilot CHERRY ONE-Son Tay Raid], and CSM Brian Berry (3rd SFGA, ISAF-SOC, USASOC, 1st SWTGA).

We're looking forward to having another Mosby Bus TEWT/Tour—Hosted by the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society on 26 SEP 2021.

The tour will start in Fairfax, VA 22030 (where Mosby snatched Union BG Stoughton in 1863) and then wander out into Mosby's Confederacy.

Our guides, will be Chapter member LTC Eric Buckland and Don Hakenson- they'll get us into places most people in cars couldn't negotiate.



*Hats off to Ginny Norton, our Hostess with the Mostess, once again for our Annual Chapter XI Pool Party on 3 JUL 2021*

**Chapter XI (11) Continued...**

Mosby and his men were one of the greatest and most successful guerilla units that operated during the American Civil War and maybe in our entire history of our Nation! If you're interested, the cost per person is \$75. Make your reservation by contacting Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net. Don's cell is 703 785-5294.

Also, our Chapter officers plan to attend the Annual SOAR and SFA Convention at Las Vegas in October and the Son Tay Raiders Association for the Raiders' last scheduled reunion when it's scheduled.

Finally, please save the date for the re-scheduled SFA Chapter XI Regimental Birthday Reception, Dinner and Dance on Friday, May 6, 2022 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Tickets are \$125.

We still plan to be honoring the Veterans of the Special Forces-Berlin. Please pass the word--it will be a night to come, enjoy, and remember!



Korean War Armistice Anniversary 2021 at the National Museum of the United States Army 8240 Army Unit-United Nations Partisan Forces Korea Plaque. L-R: Jim Hooker, Ray Oden, Joe Visinski, Don Christianson, John Insani, Monika Stoy, COL Lee (RoK Attaché), Tim Stoy, Jim Boatner, and Mrs. Choi. Mrs. Choi is Monika's Mother and the widow of a Donkey Partisan who served in the 8240 AU with then 1LT Charlie Norton and 2LT Rueb Mooradian

**68**

## CHAPTER LXVIII

The Vernon L. Ramey Memorial Chapter

**Kenova, WV**[www.sfachapter68.org](http://www.sfachapter68.org)

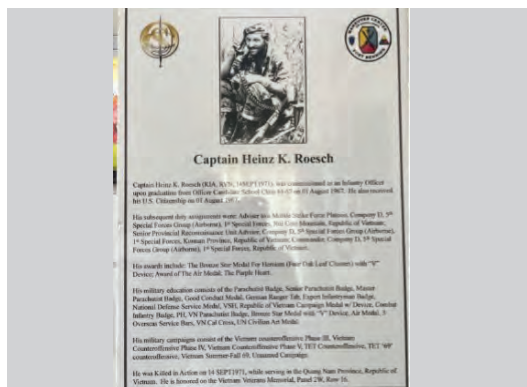
**PRES** : Charles Withers III  
**VICE** : Robert Luther  
**VICE** : Jason Smith  
**SEC** : Erik Curran  
**TRES** : Bob Polcyn

Greetings from Chapter 68 "Montani Semperi Liberi"! SFA members conduct final toast to Korean War Medal of Honor recipient and Eastern KY native Ernest E. West. Chapter 68 members Larry Carrico and Jim Ramey were employed on the railroad and knew and worked with Ernie.

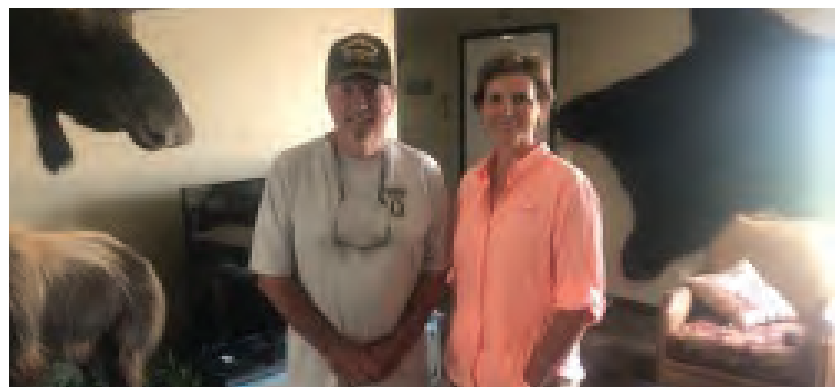
Chapter 68 members met with Gold Star family of Captain Heinz K Roesch. Captain Roesch was killed in Vietnam on September 14, 1971. Heinz escaped from East Germany and eventually made it to the US where he joined Special Forces and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant before commissioning. He was assigned to Mike Force, among numerous other assignments within Special Forces during his years in Vietnam. SFA Chapter 68 member Bob Hagaman served with Captain Roesch in Vietnam.



SFA Members conduct final toast to MOH recipient Ernie West



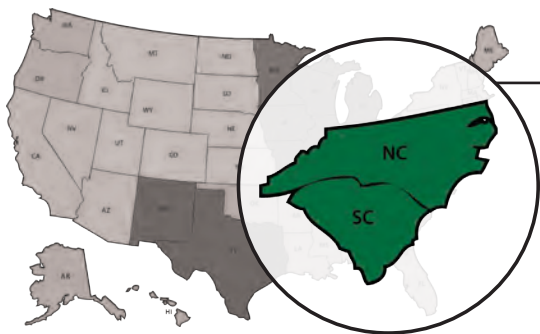
Captain Heinz K Roesch



Bob with Captain Roesch's daughter Astrid

If you have any questions about Chapter 68 or other events, you can email Chapter 68 Officers at [sfachapter68@gmail.com](mailto:sfachapter68@gmail.com). **Chapter 68 President:** Charlie Withers, **Vice Presidents:** Robert Luther, **Secretary:** Erik Curran, **Treasurer:** Bob Polcyn. Until next time, "De Oppresso Liber!"





# REGION IV

## Carolinas Region

(NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, 7th, 3rd, SWC, SFCMD)



**CHAPTERS: I-XVIII (1-18), VI (6), XVII (17), XXXIV (34), LVII (57), LXII (62), LXIII (63), C (100), CXI (111)**

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

**PRES :** Christopher Wilkerson  
**VICE :** TC Rupert  
**SEC :** André Battiste  
**TRES :** Alan Shumate



## CHAPTER I-XVIII

The Aaron Bank/Samuel S. Theriault Memorial Chapter

[www.sfa1-18.com](http://www.sfa1-18.com)

**Fayetteville, NC**

# 1-18

Greetings and best wishes to all from the original Samuel S. Theriault and Aaron Bank Memorial Chapter. This recent quarter has kept us busy and our endeavors have been productive. Our vision is, "Keep the brotherhood informed and offer venues to reunite and strengthen camaraderie while providing support to prior, current and future Special Forces soldiers and families."

As of July, Chapter 1-18 ceased paying rent and procured the mortgage for our 64-acre property. Future plans include a cell phone tower and advertisement signage along I-95 to quickly payoff the mortgage, allowing future funds to be focused on assisting in support to SWTG, chapter scholarships and families in need.

Additionally, we are working on a timber sale contract which will provide a nature trail along the perimeter with shooting lanes capable of supporting 3-gun or sporting clay events. Our future plans also include a 3.5-acre parking area, a stocked fishing pond and a playground. Our end state is to provide a family friendly environment with activities for people of all ages.



Honorary memberships presented to SF widows at the Aug. meeting



Near capacity at the August quarterly meeting

On a somber note, we've lost a couple of our brothers. SGM(R) Earl Bleacher, a Son Tay Raider and Silver Star recipient. Also, Kerry Einreiner, our long time Chapter Sergeant of Arms, passed away and was subsequently replaced by J.B. Amaker.

**Recent Chapter events:** On July 1st, our first Annual Independence Day Bash on the new compound occurred. Dirt Road Comedy Tour comedians consisting of Bryce Stanley and Jerad Langley provided laughs, followed by local bands Whiskey Revival and Bone's Fork. On July 12th, the chapter hosted a private social made up of 60 students and cadre from the Special Forces Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced Courses.

On July 13th, along with Chapter 78 (Southern California), SFA National HQs and Mission BBQ, we sponsored an SFQC graduation BBQ for over 250 students and distinguished guests. On August 14th, over 60 members and guests attended our quarterly meeting where five honorary memberships were presented to SF wives and widows.

**Upcoming Chapter events:** Participation in the Fayetteville Veteran's Day Parade, Turkey Shoots leading up to Thanksgiving (watch the website and Facebook for times), Chapter 1-18 Christmas Party (11 Dec), and Chapter New Year's Eve Party (31 Dec).

Chapter 1-18 meets at 1330hrs on the second Saturday of each month. The address is 1509 Zinnia Court in Fayetteville. The grounds are also open every Thursday at 1600hrs and Saturday at noon to members, friends, guests and visitors. Follow us online at [www.SFA1-18.com](http://www.SFA1-18.com) or on Facebook at SFA Chapter 1-18. If you're not receiving the bi-weekly email updates from the Chapter, email: [SFA118Battiste@gmail.com](mailto:SFA118Battiste@gmail.com).

## Chapter I-XVIII (1-18) Continued...



Chapter member and former Secretary, Rob Dufresne leads the Bones Fork band consisting of all retired SF members, one of four acts who performed at our Independence Day event



Dave Mullins provides history and context to two recent SFQC graduates

## 6

## CHAPTER VI

### The Camp Mackall Chapter

Camp Mackall, NC

[www.facebook.com/sfacvi/](https://www.facebook.com/sfacvi/)



**PRES :** Gary Koenitzer  
**VICE :** Rick Turcotte  
**SEC :** Keith Rutledge  
**TRES :** John McManus

This quarter, we will focus on our Chapter VI shooting program. Special Forces Chapter VI has developed a very active shooting program that serves both to raise funds for several charitable causes and to recruit new members into the SFA community. Special Forces Chapter VI has used its shooting programs to raise funds and support high school JROTC through the Chapter's Mackall Competition. This competition is modeled after West Point's Sandhurst Competition and attracts high school JROTC units from five states. The funds from Steel Challenge and Tactical Skirmish Competitions support the Mackall Competition.

Chapter VI has also conducted Outlaw Steel Matches to raise funds for the Memorial 3 Gun Foundation benefiting SOF Gold Star Families. SFA chapter VI is spearheading an SFA wide combined fund-raising effort for the Memorial 3Gun Foundation. Go to [www.memorial3gun.com/t](http://www.memorial3gun.com/t) for more info. We expect to raise over \$6,000 through our combined efforts with our brother chapters. Chapter VI conducts regular Outlaw Steel Challenge matches for the Camp Mackall area, encouraging SF qualified competitors to join an SF chapter. Lunch is always provided prepared by the Chapter led by Jack Tobin.

Shotgun competitions: 5 Stand, Skeet and Sporting Clays are on the drawing board for 2022 and are being coordinated by Earl Howle and Lannie Lucero. Chapter VI thanks Oak Grove Technologies, the Gryphon Group, Mid Carolina Rifle Club, and Chigger Ranch for hosting Chapter VI shooting competitions. If you are interested in the Chapter VI shooting programs, please contact Chapter VI Shooting Director Rick Turcotte at [rickturcotte@gintekco.com](mailto:rickturcotte@gintekco.com). Keith Rutledge (our Chapter Secretary and National SFA VP) leads an outreach program for SFA National in partnership with The Tactical Games. You can contact Keith re: The Tactical Games Skirmishes at [vicepresident@specialforcesassociation.org](mailto:vicepresident@specialforcesassociation.org).

Recent notable shooting events attended by Chapter VI members include the 2021 World Speed Shooting Championships by Rick Turcotte and the inaugural Tactical Games Sniper Competition by Keith Rutledge. Rick placed second in Master Class (see the nearby picture). Keith finished 16th overall in the sniper competition. Keith also helped SFA Chapter 35 with their Tactical Games Skirmish. See the picture nearby.



Rick Turcotte with his medal from the World Speed Championships



Jaime Sandoval keeping score (and keeping it safe) at our Chapter VI Skirmish earlier this year



Chapter members just prior to our last "friendly" Steel Challenge match



**SFA Chapter VI**

Chapter VI is contiguous to Camp Mackall. Please come and visit if you are in the area.

**The Mackall Competition**

The Mackall Competition (TMC) is our outreach program for young people. TMC is a shooting, fieldcraft and outdoor skills, civic engagement, and endurance competition.

**Support the Regiment**

Citadel Special Operations Auxiliary: The Citadel sends a group of ROTC cadets to Camp Mackall each year. Jack Tobin (COL, SF, Ret) leads that support effort. SFAS Point Sitter – Chapter VI provides point sitters for the SFAS Land Navigation exercise. Jaime Sandoval is taking a lead role in this effort. Robin Sage – Chapter VI provides role players and other personnel for Robin Sage.

**Chapter VI 2021 Calendar**

Below is our chapter calendar for 2021.

**Date - Activity**

8-11 October, 2021 – Memorial 3-Gun Competition. October 16, 2021 – Chapter VI Meeting. October 15, 2021 – Golf Tournament Fundraiser. December 2021 – Chapter Christmas Social (TBD)



Chapter 6 member Keith Rutledge (left) and Chapter 35 member Howard Pearce (right) at the SFA Chapter 35 Tactical Games Skirmish

**PRES :** Bill Gunn  
**VICE :** Phill Hanson  
**SEC :** David McCracken  
**TRES :** John Culp  
**SGT at ARMS :** Benny Wyrick

**CHAPTER XVII**

The COL Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter

**17**

[www.sfachapter17.com](http://www.sfachapter17.com)

Maggie Valley, NC



Appalachian Farm Wedding and Events venue for the chapter's picnic



SFA Chapter 17 Auxiliary Coordinator of Information Donna Culp models boots that she bid for against her husband John as a fund-raising gag (John got the boots)



Chapter 17's Vice President, Sergeant Major (R) Phill Hanson, presenting the old manual to Master Sergeant Jones or Webster, and see what I see of the special forces intelligence Sergeants course

Over thirty Chapter 17 Members and spouses gathered on 17 April 2021 at Appalachian Farm Weddings and Events for the first in-person meeting since January 2020.

Catered BBQ with all the fixin's from Haywood Smokehouse made it a truly special event, and members were able to experience the brotherhood so sorely missed over the last year. An auction of SF memorabilia, mainly from the collection of COL (Ret) David McCracken, was a great fundraiser for the Chapter, but mostly the meeting was about fun, food, and fellowship.

Sergeant Major (R) Phill Hanson, while at the Special Forces O&I Course, as Keynote speaker, presented the NCOIC, MSG Jonah Webster, with an old (50 years) Special Forces Operational Detachment Unconventional Warfare Operating Procedures manual printed by the special forces school.

The manual was used in the old Operations and Intelligence Course that was the predecessor to the current 18F Special Forces Intelligence Sergeants Course. SMG (R) Phill Hanson had the book in his professional library for the last 50 years.

**Chapter XVII (17) Continued...**

Chapter 17 (The Jerry "Robin" Sage Memorial Chapter) has republished the book *SAGE*, which is the memoir of COL Jerry "Robin" Sage.

Sage was an OSS officer who was captured by the Germans during WWII. During his three years of captivity in a German POW camp, Sage helped work on the three-tunnel escape project that helped formed the plot for the movie *The Great Escape*.

After WWII, he commanded a Regimental Combat Team in the Korean War and commanded 10th SFGA in Europe during the Cold War. He completed his lifetime of public service as "Teacher of the Year" in South Carolina.

Check the book's web site at [www.oldmp.com/sage](http://www.oldmp.com/sage) to order paperback, hardback, and hardback limited edition. Kindle version link also on the website.



Chapter 17 republished the book "SAGE" by COL Jerry "Robin" Sage. SAGE recounts COL Sage's experiences as a German POW during WWII and was the basis for the movie, *The Great Escape*

**62****CHAPTER LXII**

The MSG Lowell Stevens Memorial Chapter

Southern Pines, NC

[www.sfa62.org](http://www.sfa62.org)

PRES : Thomas Galbicsek

VICE : Vic Allen

SEC : Gary Smith

TRES : Mark Carey

Greetings from Southern Pines in the Sandhills of North Carolina. It has been a slow summer due to the COVID-19 restrictions and we here at Chapter 62 are looking forward to upping the op-tempo in the remaining months of 2021.

We continue to have good turnouts at our monthly meetings. We average around 40 plus members per meeting. In June 2021 we had 47 members present and captured many of them in the photo.



Attendees of the June 2021 monthly chapter meeting

At the June monthly meeting, we gave out four \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students. The recipients were Hayley Keller, Joseph Burton, Chelsea Dukes and Caroline Burton. Again, congratulations to all.

Our 16th Annual 9/11 Memorial Ride/Poker Run is scheduled for September 11, 2021, and we are going to join other chapters and clubs for a grand ride this year. This ride will kick off the fall and winter schedule. On November 14, 2021, we will be sponsoring and assisting with O'Donnell's Pub Annual 5K Run/Walk and Chili Cookoff. Then on December 15, 2021, we will enjoy the Chapter 62 Annual Christmas Celebration at our VFW safehouse.

Chapter 62 was a contributing sponsor of the 1st Annual Moore County Cyber Camp for Teens which took place in Southern Pines, North Carolina. In this one-of-a-kind camp, Director Pat Wylie of GreenHat Solutions, helped kids assemble their computers.

The teens in attendance learned about the capabilities and complexities of devices that surround them on a daily basis by building, configuring, and managing a micro-computer they were able to keep and take home.





Attendees at the 1st Annual Moore County Cyber Camp for Kids



Teens at Cyber Camp working on a device

This exceptional training was offered as a supplemental opportunity that allowed the students to learn about technology that is not typically offered in public school curriculum. (See photos.)

As always, anyone in the neighborhood is invited to stop in for one of our monthly meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month at 1800 hrs at the VFW at 615 South Page Street in Southern Pines, NC.

**De Opresso Liber**

**PRES :** Gavin McCulley  
**VICE :** David Reynolds  
**SEC :** Bob Welsh  
**TRES :** Lance Goforth



**CHAPTER LXIII**  
 The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter

**63**

**Charleston, SC**



Greetings from the Low Country of South Carolina home of Chapter 63, The Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion Chapter. Our Chapter is named in honor of General Francis Marion, one of the biggest pains in the ass for the British in 1780. Much is written about General Marion and the Charleston area is steeped in history from the founding of the colonies to the present. Charleston is a great destination for those on vacation just make sure to look us up if you are in town.

Our Chapter is relatively new, established Jan. 2020, and like most other Chapters, COVID-19 put us in unfamiliar territory. The Chapter would like to thank SFA Chapter 34 for their help during our first few months of startup. The Chapter did manage to conduct 10 meetings [by my count], a 9/11 Memorial Day shoot [a planned annual event], a wreath laying at the grave of General Francis Marion [also an annual event], hosted a visiting Brother from the west coast who was here for a surgical procedure and held our second election.

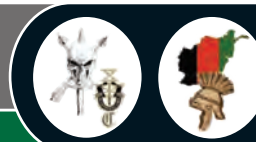
**Chapter LXIII (63) Continued...**

With the new officers and the easing of COVID-19 constraints, SFA Chapter 63 intends to have a good second half of 2021. As we continue to organize and solidify our chapter's roles within the community, Chapter members intend to be steady contributors to the SFA. Check out our website [www.sfa63.org](http://www.sfa63.org) as well as the Chapter 63 Facebook page.

That's it from one of the new kids to the team room. Stay safe, stay strong.

**100****CHAPTER C**

The SSG Robert J. Miller Memorial Chapter

**Fort Bragg, NC**[www.sfa100.org](http://www.sfa100.org)

**PRES** : Ron Bryant  
**VICE** : Adam Howland  
**SEC** : Derek Koukies  
**TRES** : Jason Orello



*3rd SFG (A) Memorial Run participants included unit members, families, and alumni*

**Greetings from Fort Bragg!**

**3rd SFG (A) Memorial Week Events.** 3rd SFG (A) hosted their annual Memorial Week events 25 May – 27 May 2021. On 25 May, 3rd SFG (A) Fallen Heroes were honored for their sacrifice to this Nation at the 3rd GRP HQ Memorial Walk with the Memorial Week Ceremony. Memorial plaques were placed on the Memorial Wall inside the 3rd GRP HQ.

On 26 May, 3rd GRP conducted the SSG Robert J. Miller Memorial Run at the 3rd Battalion HQ.

On 27 May, 3rd GRP conducted their monthly Remembrance PT event at the Group HQ Memorial Walk, where they conducted a workout and specifically remembered 3rd Group members who made the ultimate sacrifice since 2001 during the month of May while deployed.

**We have not, nor will we ever forget the sacrifices of our Fallen or their Families.**





Chapter 100 President Ron Bryant with 2021 Scholarship recipients



1st SFC (A) Soldiers check their zero prior to the Best Warrior Competition

**The Stan the Man Golf Classic.** The 19th Annual Stan the Man Charity Golf Classic was held on 19 JUN 2021 at the Gates Four Golf & Country Club. Another great turnout and fun had by all. I think some are still looking for balls!

This golf classic honors CW2 Stanley L. Harriman who "Gave all" on 2 Mar 2002 in the Shah-i-Kot Valley of eastern Afghanistan. Stan "the Man" Harriman epitomized what a Green Beret is, A "Quiet Professional." Fifty percent of the funds from this golf classic cover scholarship grants. The remaining fifty percent goes to support the soldiers and families of the Special Forces.

Thanks again to the golfers, volunteers, sponsors, and to the wonderful folks at Gates Four Golf & Country Club!

**1st SFC (A) Best Warrior Competition.** On 22-25 JUN 2021, 1st SFC (A), hosted two (1x NCO; 1x Enlisted) reps from each CSU under 1st Special Forces Command (up to 22 competitors total) to compete in the 1st SFC (A) Best Warrior Competition.

This competition consisted of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), Land Navigation, Road March, M4/M9 Qualification, Written Essay, and Board. The Chapter presented awards to the NCO Winner (3rd GRP) and Enlisted Winner (10th GRP). Congratulations to the Winners, and a job well done by all competitors!

**The 4th Annual Chad Paul Suicide Prevention Golf Classic** will take place at Gates Four Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville on 18 SEP 2021. Come to the North Carolina Sandhills (Home of American Golf) and experience an outstanding course designed by William Byrd. Proceeds will support a new Chapter partnership with Warriors Breaking Bread, providing our Warriors a secure environment to share their experiences with other Warriors.

**Status of the Tribe.** On 14 JUL 2021, 3rd SFG (A) held their New Personnel Luncheon welcoming newly assigned personnel to the unit. On 15 JUL 2021, the Regimental First Formation was held at the Iron Mike Conference & Catering Center on Fort Bragg welcoming recent SFQC Graduates to the Regiment. SFA Chapter 100 received two new Life Members. Both individuals are Leadership Awardees at the SFQC Graduation.



Mike "Grill-Master" Martin flips burgers for 3rd GRP personnel. It's all in the wrist Mike

**PRES :** Ashton Naylor  
**VICE :** Rusty Gaeta  
**SEC :** Drue Loiselle  
**TRES :** Steve Owens



**CHAPTER CXI**  
 Blue Ridge Mountains Region

**111**

**North Carolina**

Chapter 111 celebrated its first anniversary in July.

We have continued to grow, adding members from NC, TN, and VA, who travel to be part of us here in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

## Chapter CXI (111) Continued...



MSG Jefferson Davis Grave Site, Elizabethton, TN



MSG Jefferson Davis Grave Site, Elizabethton, TN and Chapter 111 President Ashton Naylor and Davis Family

May 29, 2021, we memorialized our Chapter as the Master Sergeant Jefferson Davis Chapter. (See below BIO.) We began our event with a motorcycle ride that started in Boone, NC, on a very wet Saturday morning. Chapter Treasurer Steve Owens and Secretary Drue Loiselle organized the event poker run that routed through the mountains.

Members from the Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club, (SFBMC) Campbell Charter came in to support the memorial ride, which was fitting since MSG Davis was in 5th Special Forces Group when he was killed. Steve Owens of SFBMC Bragg and the Campbell Charter led the ride to the cemetery in Elizabethton, where SFA 111 Chapter members met with MSG Davis' family. (See grave site photos.) MSG Davis' father, grandmother, and sister were present for the memorial and were grateful for our Chapter's Memorial naming of their family member.



MSG Jefferson Davis Grave Site, Elizabethton, TN



MSG Jefferson Davis Grave Site, Elizabethton, TN, SFBMC, Campbell Charter

**BIO: 0/22/1962 – 12/05/2001 ODA-574, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Watauga, TN**

MSG Jefferson D. Davis, 39, was the Team Sergeant of ODA-574, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He was killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom.

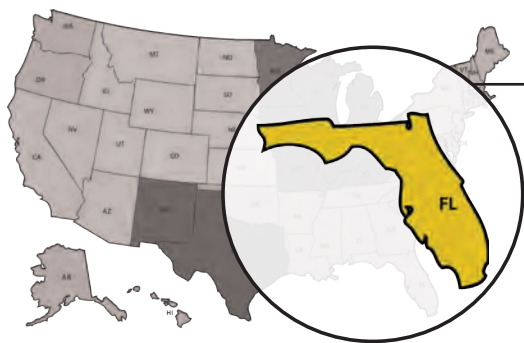
JD, as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Tennessee on October 22, 1962. He graduated from Elizabeth High School in Tennessee in 1981. Dan enlisted as a Medical Specialist in August of 1984 and served in Korea for three years. After graduating from the Special Forces Qualification Course, JD was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served as a Medical Sergeant on both ODA 562 and ODA 564. After completing a tour as a Senior Instructor at the Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he returned to 5th Group where was selected to be a Team Sergeant in the 3rd Battalion. During his tenure in military service, JD participated in Operation Desert Storm and numerous contingency operations throughout Southwest Asia.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the Defense of Saudi Arabia Medal, the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait Medal, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantrymen's Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge. JD is survived by his wife Mi Kyong, his daughter Christina, his son Jessie, and his parents William and Linda Davis.

After meeting with MSG Davis' family, the Chapter moved on to the Johnson City VFW 2518 where we had a celebration of life luncheon and an auction and raffle.

Future Events: October 2 we will be conducting our first Annual Master Sergeant Jefferson Davis Fall Tactical Skirmish at Range LI, Tactical Training Facility near Mountain City, TN. POC for this event is Sean Krupsky at mrkrup@gmail.com.





# REGION V

## Florida Region

(8 CHAPTERS; FL)



**CHAPTERS:** VII (7), XXI (21), **XLIV (44)**, LX (60), LXXIV (74), **LXXVI (76)**, LXXXV (85), LXXXVIII (88)

*\* Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

**PRES :** Daniel Hendrix  
**VICE :** Dennis Guy  
**SEC :** VACANT  
**TRES :** Scott Kramer



## CHAPTER VII

The South of the Border Chapter

7

[www.sfa7.com](http://www.sfa7.com)

Eglin AFB, FL



Spouse Appreciation



Child Appreciation

**7th Special Force Group Scholarships:** Last year Special Forces Association Chapter VII raised \$10,000 with a matching donation from our National Headquarters and our Chapter gave out \$20,000 in college scholarships to well deserving children of 7th Special Forces Group families.

Our goal for Fall 2021 is to smash last year's record in order to give more college scholarships to more well deserving families in the 7th Special Forces Group.

**SFA Chapter VII Scholarship Presentation:** This event was held on May 21, 2021 at the 7th SFG Auditorium. Scholarship presentations were made to recognize the achievements of 7th SFG student awardees.

**Military Spouse Appreciation:** This event was held May 14, 2021 at Create!, located in JoJo's Coffee and Goodness in Niceville. Seats were limited to 15 couples with SFA Chapter VII picking up the \$25 cost per couple. Couples created unique glass art under the direction of Angela Stevenson, local artist and owner of Create! The family operated business provided an amazing dinner and wine as part of a total experience. This was a great opportunity to build family bonds between couples outside of companies and battalions.

**Military Child Appreciation:** This popular event held May 16, 2021 at the Surge Trampoline Park in Mary Esther was sold out.

**PRES :** Richard Whitman  
**VICE :** Bob Schlafke  
**SEC :** Suzanne Gaspard  
**TRES :** Tom Tomlin



## CHAPTER XXI

The John Wayne/Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter

21

[specialforceschapter21florida.weebly.com](http://specialforceschapter21florida.weebly.com)

Orlando, FL

After a delay of 19 months, Chapter XXI finally had a meeting. We had a couple of starts and stops along the way thanks to Mr. COVID-19. Our meeting was held at the International Palms & Resort on Cocoa Beach, FL. Our hosts for this meeting were Bob Schlafke and his wife Kathy O'Such. This was the third time they have sponsored a meeting at this facility and once again they pulled it off, big time. A big thanks to Bob and Kathy for a fabulous week-end.

Another big thanks to Bob. He stepped up and volunteered to reassume the Vice President's chair. Thank you Bob. Now I need one more volunteer for the assistant secretary position. Anyone interested?

## Chapter XXI (21) Continued...

*"The Girls"**Chuck Wright, Mike Stover and DB Brown*

We had a very good turnout for the meeting. I had 59 signed up but due to circumstances 5 didn't show up and we missed them. We also had 3 new faces in attendance as well as an old member who decided to come out of the woodwork and come to a meeting, Mike McBride and his wife Ruth, from Davenport, FL. We hope to see them again soon.

The new faces are Stephen Balestrieri and his wife Robin, Martin Phillips and wife Cindy. Cindy (their daughter was also with them but I failed to get her name), and Bryan Yancey and wife Kimberly. I met Bryan at the monthly gathering of what we call GBTS or Green Beret Troop Support and invited him to attend. So glad he took me up on my offer. It was nice seeing all you beautiful people and we hope to see you again at the next meeting.

Now for the rest of those in attendance: Ed Chandler, Richard & Sheila Whitman, Bob & Kathy Schlafke, Don & Diane Augustin, Phil & Joette Devon, Joe Mc Laughlin, Ginny Billingsley, Michael Conlon, Jim & Brenda Summerville, Charley Wright, John & Anna Fryer, DB Brown, Suzie Gaspard, JD & Shirley Bath, Jimmy & Cretia Braddock, Bill & Mary Haskell, Rod & Karen Burnes, RL & CJ Johnson, Ken & Angie Kilmer, Bruce Koch, Nancy Furbish, Mike Stover, Sue Micelli, John & Peggy Bohl, Ray & Judy Drewry and special guest Bonnie & Dick Cooper. Bonnie is a chapter 85 member and Dick belongs to chapter 39. It was great having them and hope to see them again.

Those that signed up but couldn't attend are: Tom & Ann Tomlin, Jo & Janet Johansen and John & Sharon Haralson. We missed you and hope if it was medically related that you are making a fast recovery.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, which will be held September 10 – 12 in Bradenton, Florida. If you plan on being in the area during that time, please stop in and pay us a visit.

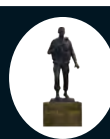
*Dick Cooper and Dick Whitman**Nancy Furbish and Bruce Koch*

60

**CHAPTER LX**

The Richard J. Meadows Memorial Chapter

Tampa, FL

[www.specialforces.org](http://www.specialforces.org)

**PRES :** Rich Corson  
**VP of Operations :** Don Cox  
**VP of Support :** Jay Lovelace  
**SEC :** Patrick Eberhart  
**TRES :** Wayne Rich

Florida is open for business and Chapter LX is back up and running full speed. Our monthly meetings are continuing in person and attendance is back to normal. We are continuing with our active schedule, planning all our annual events and hope to see you at one or all of them. Chapter members participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at the USS Tampa, Post 5 American Legion cemetery and at the Bushnell National Cemetery – a tip of the beret to all and a toast to our fallen brothers.





The crew at the Poker Run – (up front) Margie, Dalane Corson, Jim Fagan, Kristy Cavin; (in rear) Amy Sitze, Sharon O'Connor, Scott Elliott, Rob Cavin



QR Codes above are for our knife and shotgun raffle – you can participate from anywhere

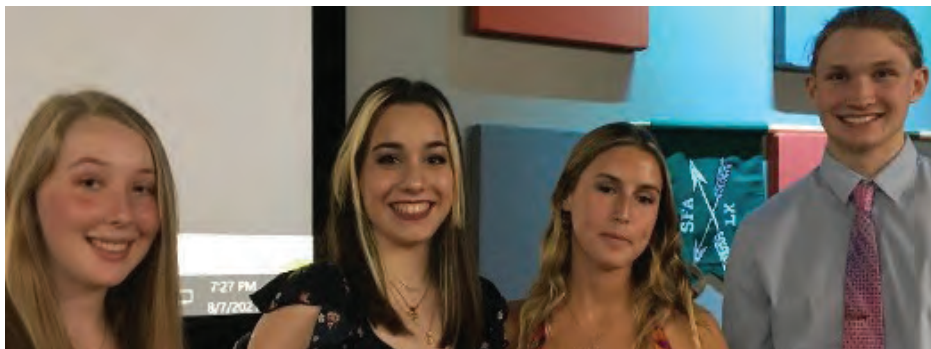
On 5 Jun we had a great motorcycle poker run with 55 riders and lots of Chapter support – both riders and behind the scenes folks. We raffled off an Aero Precision M5 which was won by Dave “Flip” Elliott – who was present for his big win. Great thanks go to Kristy and Rob Cavin for all their hard work and dedication to this event, which goes to support our Team House effort.

We held our Veteran Benefit Social (VBS) at 81 Bay Brewing on 15 JUL and had our biggest event ever – 15 Veteran Support Groups and over 55 participants – Thanks to Rich Corson and all the Chapter members that made this happen. All that participated had a good time and more great connections were made – our next VBS will be on 15 Oct, so mark your calendars.

On 7 Aug we had our 26th annual Scholarship Banquet which was held once again at the SOFWERX facility in Ybor City. We had four Chapter family members win four \$4K scholarships for their college education. Rachel Rizzi, Kyra Reed, Lauren Hanley and Connor Eberhart were this year’s winners – great job! A tip of the beret to Jon and Susan Mueller, Dave Froberg and Arlene Marie Oliva for all their great and continuing work on the scholarship committee.

In the upcoming quarter, we have a golf tournament scheduled for 9 Oct; we have members participating in the National Convention in Oct; our sporting clays shoot on 6 Nov; and our annual Christmas Party in Dec – it will be a busy quarter. We will be having a shotgun (<https://go.rallyup.com/cz-shotgun-raffle/Campaign/Details>) and custom knife raffle (<https://go.rallyup.com/custom-knife/Campaign/Details>) held in conjunction with the Nov sporting clays shoot.

Thanks to all those that accompanied Jim “Spike” Spiecher and his wife Kaki out to drop zone to observe military free fall operations at Sky-Dive City with the USSOCOM Command Parachute Team. Kudos to Mike St. James for continuing his life of service by bringing a van full of water to the first responders at the devastating Surf Side Condo collapse back in July – well done! Congratulations to Josh “JB” Burnes for earning a Tillman Scholarship while studying psychology at the University of South Florida (USF).



Our 2021 Scholarship winners - Rachel Rizzi, Kyra Reed, Lauren Hanley and Connor Eberhart



Don Cox, Rich Corson, Dave Zilka, Rob Cavin and OC with Romy and Gaby Camargo at the VBS

**PRES :** Kevin McKeown  
**VICE :** Don Breckenridge  
**SEC :** John Nettles  
**TRES :** Ed Parker



**CHAPTER LXXIV**  
 The CPT Bob May Memorial Chapter

**74**

[www.ch74sfa.com](http://www.ch74sfa.com)

**Central Florida**

Chapter 74 is in the final planning phase for our annual oldtimers BBQ and Rendezvous to be held at the Ocala Conservation Camp, Silver Springs, FL on the 5th, 6th and 7th of November 2021. We are planning on a canoe trip on Friday afternoon followed by a bonfire get together that evening.

## Chapter LXXIV (74) Continued...



Chapter 74 Members at Memorial Service for Captain/Chaplain Don Heald



Chapter 74 Member MSG Tom Seigler

The General Membership meeting and election of Officers will be conducted Saturday morning 06 Nov 21 followed by a short Memorial Service and then a catered BBQ lunch. The afternoon will be range operations with rifle and pistol shooting as well as skeet shooting for those interested. There will be another bonfire get together Saturday evening. Sunday will be cleanup and departure. There are cabins for those who decide to RON on site, you just have to bring your own poncho liner, sleeping bag and bed linen.

Chapter 74 lost two original and current members of Chapter 74 in the last quarter. Captain Don Heald, Chapter Chaplain for over 15 years and MSG Tom Seigler. Tom passed on 16 Aug 2021 and his wife Jan passed away on 22 Aug 2021. All will be deeply missed. In addition, another original Chapter member Brian Gilmore also passed in August.

We welcome all SFA Members and SF comrades who are interested in possibly becoming members of SFA and Chapter 74 to come join us at our BBQ and Rendezvous.

85

## CHAPTER LXXXV

The Treasure Coast Chapter

Jensen Beach, FL

[www.sfahq.com/chap/85/](http://www.sfahq.com/chap/85/)


**PRES :** Jim Hawkins  
**VICE :** Richard Deininger  
**SEC :** Bill Sander  
**TRES :** Steven Costa



Chapter 85 Group photo



Presentation to MG Wayne P Jackson

Greetings from the Florida Treasure Coast Chapter LXXXV.

A couple of Chapter 85 members attended the All-Airborne days in Ft. Lauderdale. It was a good group with about twenty Veterans and family members present. Lots of SF personnel in the organization.

On July 4th, Chapter 85 member Todd Rocco and his wife Keri hosted another fantastic picnic / meeting at their home in Ft. Pierce, Florida. We had about thirty Chapter members and wives present. No one went home hungry and the evening ended with a great fireworks display in honor of the 245th birthday of the United States of America and celebrating the 87th birthday of Chapter member Bernie Bright(R). During the picnic, Chapter President Jim Hawkins (R) presented an Honorary Chapter Membership to Major General Wayne P Jackson (R) for his service to the Special Forces mission.



Chapter member Nelson Parrish gave us an update on our JRROTC support and we voted to continue our efforts and attendance at JRROTC graduations.

JUNE 11, 1952 is just months away. How will you be celebrating 70 years since the activation of the 10th Special Forces Group under Col Aaron Bank?

If you are a Special Forces veteran and in our area on vacation or have moved here permanently, we would like to meet with you for coffee or lunch. Please give me a call at 954-336-8445.



Chapter member Bill Sander setting a USAPL American Record for ages 80-84 in the Raw Bench Press



Chapter President Jim Hawkins earning his 1st degree black Belt in Tae Kwan Do

**PRES :** William P. Rothrock  
**VICE :** John Page  
**SEC :** Bruce Pastorini  
**TRES :** Wade Carroll  
**SGT at ARMS :** Ernest Moreland



## CHAPTER LXXXVIII

The Green Berets Northeast Florida Chapter

# 88

[www.sfchapter88.org](http://www.sfchapter88.org)

Jacksonville, FL



MSG Kyle Harth



Golf Ball Launcher



Chapter Members Supporting Golf Tournament

Chapter 88 Meetings are normally held the 1st Saturday of each month at Co A, 3/20th SFG(A) Florida National Guard Armory, (Cecil Field), 13630 Crossover Street, Building 858, Jacksonville, Florida 32221. (See our website for exact dates.)

We welcome all SFA members visiting in the area, prospective members and guests to attend.

This month we would like to introduce Member MSG Kyle Harth, Operations Sergeant for A Company 3rd Battalion 20 SFG(A). MSG Harth recently graduated from the Joint Services Sergeant Majors Course and received the leadership award for the class. MSG Harth has deployed to the Middle East and Africa multiple times with A Company. Thank you MSG Harth and A Co. 3/20th SFG(A) for your support to Chapter 88.

Chapter 88 held its annual Golf Tournament 14 May 2021. The golf ball launcher was a big hit with over 80% of the players using it instead of the driver. A good time was had by all.

All Golfers in the North Florida/South Georgia Area are invited to come and play in next year's tournament. Register as either a single or a 4-person team. Follow our web page for more information.



National Anthem prior to start



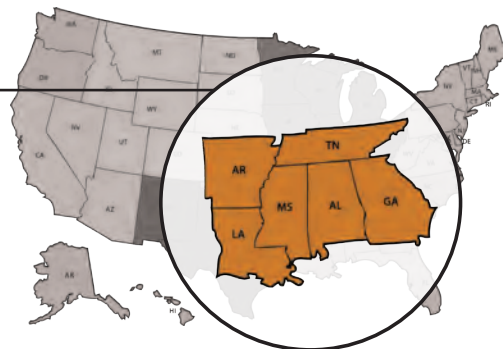
## REGION VI

### Southeast Region

(GEORGIA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, TENNESSEE, 20TH SFG)

**CHAPTERS:** XXX (30), **XXXIII (33)**, XLIX (49), LIX (59), LXXIX (79), **LXXXI (81)**, XCII (92)

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



# 30

## CHAPTER XXX

The A.J. "Bo" Baker Memorial Chapter

Kenner, LA

[www.sfa30.org](http://www.sfa30.org)



**PRES :** Bruce Little  
**VICE :** Tony Riddle  
**SEC :** Manny Acosta  
**TRES :** Bob Moreau

The quarterly meeting of Chapter 30 was held Saturday, 31 July 2021 at the restaurant Jaegers in Metairie, LA. We had a nice turnout, considering the COVID-19 factor, with 18 attendees. After much bonding, we adjourned to our table, and, after placing our F&B orders, we called the meeting to order.

John Persson was the first order of business and he presented both the possibility and the probability of a November Mardi Gras. He also gave an update of one key donor and the financial status. After a member discussion, Tony Riddle gave the chapter financial report. Additional points of business and interest were discussed and the meeting was concluded with a prayer, adjournment, and more post bonding. The next meeting will be determined at a later date.



Another view of the members

Chapter 30 held a fundraiser to raise money for their Mardi Gras float. Most of the raffle tickets were purchased by the employees of FRED'S in TIGERLAND, and their patrons. Darren King won the bottle of Horse Soldier Bourbon, and Chapter 30 Secretary (Manny Acosta) presented the bottle to him. To show Chapter 30's appreciation for their support, Chapter Secretary also presented FRED'S in TIGERLAND a framed Certificate and a "Nous Defions" flag, which the employees said they will find a place to hang. FRED'S in TIGERLAND is a big supporter of our military and has several military items and awards proudly presented. Presentation was on 26 May 2021.

Check the link: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/1FtcfVf8ayDZWYc5gLa8wvKHySkXtLgi4/edit?filetype=msword>



Presentation of HORSE SOLDIERS Award by Manny



Display at FRED'S in TIGERLAND





Member in rehab with his nurses and therapist

We experienced an unplanned Community Service Project by one of our members while in the hospital for leg surgery then two weeks rehab. Both of these places exhibited many aspects of operation very similar to SF Operations. The doctors and the nurses conducted their duties efficiently with the nurses operating in 3 small "units" of 3 to care for about 30 patients within the hospital ward. They performed their various duties and many were cross-trained.

The nurses as well as the physical therapist went about always with a friendly attitude and a smile.

**MEMBERS & SPOUSES PRESENT:** Manny Acosta, Godfrey & Kathleen Boudreau, Russ Copping, Bill & Karen Fowler, Ed Gleason, Jack & Gloria Harrison, Mike Hatchett, Geary Mason, John Persson, Bob Romero, Tony & Sandy Riddle, Dave & Becky Thibodeaux

**PRES :** John Martin  
**VICE :** Ray Beuscher  
**SEC :** Lonnie Williamson  
**TRES :** Kenneth Smith



## CHAPTER XLIX

The Richard J. Webber Memorial Chapter

49

Little Rock, AR



Monthly get together in Rogers, Arkansas

Greetings to all from Chapter 49. We hope all is well in the community and that everyone has been able to stay safe from the dreaded virus. It appears many of us will be under some sort of lock down once again if certain entities get their way. If that's the case where you reside just know that we at Chapter 49 wish you luck.

The summer here has been extremely hot and for the most part we have been laying low to conserve energy and await cooler weather. The Chapter has been pretty much quiet since our April get together at Lake Catherine but we are eagerly awaiting our December get together the first week of December.

If anyone is in the area of Hot Springs, Arkansas 3 - 5 December, please let us know. You are more than welcome to stop by and partake in the festivities.

On another note, anyone residing in NW Arkansas, NE Oklahoma, Southern Kansas, or Southern Missouri, Chapter 49 member Todd Girdner hosts a monthly get together currently in Rogers, Arkansas for former Special Forces and Rangers. The meet up is currently conducted at Grub's Bar and Grill around 1200 hours on the 2nd Thursday of the month. If you are in the area or interested in a road trip and need more info contact Todd at [girdnert@hotmail.com](mailto:girdnert@hotmail.com).

**PRES :** Biff Hadden  
**VICE :** George Sommerfield  
**SEC :** John 'Graham' Martin  
**TRES :** Ken Griffin



## CHAPTER LIX

The Joe C. Alderman Memorial Chapter

59

[www.SFALIX.org](http://www.SFALIX.org)

Georgia, USA

We are over halfway through 2021, and think we've all been working on getting daily life to return to "normal" again. After almost a year and half of zoom virtual meetings, we finally had a real meeting hosted by the Army Heritage Aviation Museum and Flying Team. They have several restored Vietnam Huey's and Cobra's...some of us jumped onboard and took to the sky, hearing that distinctive whop-whop sound the Huey makes, and it caused many to reminisce on their times in the 1960s, deep in triple canopy jungle...and the sound of those Hueys...coming to the rescue! You never forget those sounds or the guys that flew those big noisy birds!

The business portion of the meeting included the announcement of the three scholarship recipients for 2020. All are grandchildren of SF, Jackson Longgear, Lindsay Grey, and Max Oehlert. We also present awards at (three) University ROTC programs for Outstanding Cadets. Great to recognize some of the future generation's best and their love of country. Additionally, our Treasurer of three years, Tim Boyer, wanted a break and we understand time constraints, but thankfully Ken Griffin volunteered and was elected as Treasurer! Thanks to Tim and all he did and welcome Ken Griffin to the Board of SF Chapter 59! We had some 26 members and family at this meeting and enjoyed it all under the rotors of a Huey! Great experience for all attending and for those brave enough to climb on board...quite a ride!

## Chapter LIX (59) Continued...



June meeting next to VN Huey



Sammy Hernandez talking missions



Kay Moon and Biff there to support Jo Ponzillo



Jo Ponzillo receives Mark's HOF Medallion

Several from our Chapter attended the Army Ranger Hall of Fame activities and ceremonies at Ft Benning in support and in honor of one of our own, Mark Ponzillo, as he was inducted posthumously into the Ranger Hall of Fame. The SF members were there to support surviving spouse, Jo Ponzillo, as she was presented the RANGER Hall of Fame Medallion by the Commander of the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade. Those participating included the Ponzillo's Jo, two daughters and granddaughters. SF represented by Biff & Trish Hadden, Jim & Sarah Grimshaw, Kay Moon, Harmon Snipes, Dick Goddard, and Doc George James. Amazing ceremony, recognizing a great SF guy, Mark Ponzillo. Missed and never forgotten!

Many of our Chapter members have made reservations and bought flight tickers, and are planning on meeting in Las Vegas this October. We plan on building some great new memories during this convention! You may as well book the week of Oct 6-9th for a Ga MOAA Conference hosted by Ft Benning Chapter and guys from AL, Tenn., S Carolina and Florida are invited as well! See all that is the latest for training soldiers. Till we meet again, keep healthy, prosper, and God Bless our country!

COL "Biff" Hadden III  
President, SFA Georgia Chapter LIX "59"  
"De Oppresso Liber"

79

## CHAPTER LXXIX

The SGM Bryan F. McKnight Memorial Chapter



Jackson, MS

**PRES :** Scott Carlton  
**VICE :** Rick Stone  
**SEC :** Joe Wise  
**TRES :** Ronnie Crowson

Chapter LXXIX held its first meeting following the onset of COVID-19 on April 24, 2021 at Boondocks Firearms Training Academy in Raymond, MS.

We had a turnout of over 25 members and most participated in range firing. This included SGM William D. Waltz, (Ret.) SGM Waltz turned 92 the next day and proved to the "kids" that the OSS instinctive shooting technique still works! Thanks to our chapter President, Scott Carlton for organizing this great event which we hope to make an annual feature.





SGM Robert L. Harris

Chapter LXXIX also helped 2/20th SFG(A) to mourn several old stalwart battalion members. They included SSG Joe Dorsey and Dave Barton (an original E Co. 2/20 plank owner) along with SGM Robert L. Harris, 83, of Columbus, MS who passed away on Friday, April 16, 2021. Chapter LXXIX members participated in a memorial service for SGM Harris near his home on Tibbee Creek during which his ashes were scattered by airdrop.

SGM Robert L. "Bobby" Harris served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for 39 years, 35 in Special Forces. SGM Harris began his career in 1958 with Headquarters Battery, 31st Division Artillery, Columbus, MS. He joined E Company, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Jackson, Mississippi shortly after the unit was formed. After SF training, SGM Harris joined his "A Team" as a Demolition Sergeant.

When C Company, 2/20th SFG(A) was formed in Columbus, MS, Bobby transferred to his hometown unit. Serving on various A Teams, SGM Harris rose to become his team's Senior Sergeant with overseas duty in Iran, Italy, and Haiti.

His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Expert Rifle Badge, Imperial Iranian Parachutist Badge and the Italian Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia "Pat" Evans Harris of Columbus, MS; daughter, Heather Formisano; and sons, Rob (SF) and Shane (101st).

Chapter LXXIX is preparing to distribute 2021 annual scholarship applications and setting up its firearm raffle to fund next year's awards. The chapter looks forward to its next meeting in September, 2021 to be held at the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby, MS.



Chapter LXXIX members at SGM Robert L. Harris's memorial service



SGM Waltz knocking down steel targets on day before his 92nd birthday



Chapter LXXIX on the range at Boondocks FTA

92

**CHAPTER XCII**

The Ola Lee Mize/Gary Michael Rose MOH Chapter

Madison, AL

[www.chapter92sfa.com](http://www.chapter92sfa.com)

**PRES :** Lloyd Carpenter  
**VICE :** Paul Thorn  
**SEC :** Clifford Gissell  
**TRES :** Clifford Gissell

Two chapter members passed away during this reporting period. Harold Roger Zills, a 20th Special Forces Group retiree, passed on June 10. Jean Miller, an associate member, and widow of chapter co-founder Joe Miller, passed on June 18. Joe Miller passed on March 29, this year.

The chapter held our first ever BBQ at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville on May 22nd. We had 17 people in attendance. We are looking to have better attendance at our next one. We were lucky as can be, as the weather was perfect for the event. Sunny, but not too hot. Everyone had a good time, with no complaints about the BBQ Grill Master (President Lloyd Carpenter) spoken aloud. Lloyd appreciated that, called us a "class" act. He also thanked all who attended, and everyone who brought a dish, and especially for the Courtney family for bringing that great grill. Bill Courtney was feeling pretty rough from his ongoing cancer treatment but came anyway.



The main pavilion at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, Alabama. Bill and Mary Courtney are seated on the right in front of the fireplace



Another view of the main pavilion showing the chapter members having a good time

The chapter has adopted a Medal of Honor recipient's grave. An easy call for us, our original namesake, Colonel Ola Lee Mize was awarded the MOH in the Korean War. When he was still with us, we would meet annually in Rainbow City, near his home. We chose that location for the June 12 meeting. The action that resulted in his award of the MOH happened on June 10-11, 1953. After the meeting, the chapter members went to visit COL Mize's gravesite. His widow, Betty Mize was present, she addressed the members and thanked us for honoring her late husband. The president opened the ceremony by reading the orders (battlefield events), John Scales read the MOH Citation. The members each placed a penny on the gravestone to signify that we visited COL Mize this day. National requires that we visit the grave at least once annually and maintain the gravesite. COL Mize's grave is in a well maintained cemetery, little to no maintenance will be required on our part. We are searching for another MOH gravesite in North Alabama.

Although we were somewhat optimistic about the ROTC/JROTC awards ceremonies being held later in the spring, it did not improve. When the school year ended, there were six high schools and the University of Alabama that held closed ceremonies. We sent the medal sets and certificates to them. There were two high schools, Arab and Fort Payne, and two colleges, the University of North Alabama and Jacksonville State University, where we participated in their ceremonies. The overall total was half of what we did pre-COVID-19.

Our next meeting on September 11 will be a return to Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville but with the 20th Special Forces Group Society. A joint meeting and social gathering with the two Special Forces organizations in Alabama plus BBQ and all the fixin's. Throw in a few brews, some good weather, good-natured comradery; now that sounds like we'll have a great time.

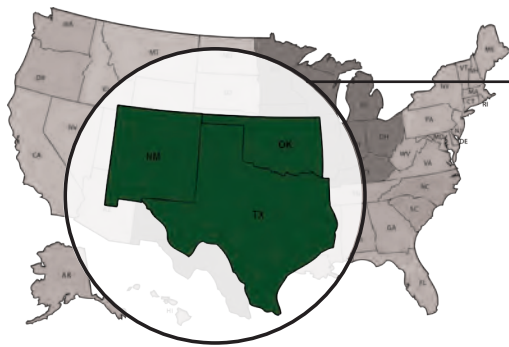


Chapter members at COL Mize's gravesite listening to President Lloyd Carpenter reading the orders. L to R: Lloyd Carpenter, John Scales, Ed Cancel, John Gissell, Colin Keel, Jack Wesson, Woody Coheley, and Leonard Kiser



Betty Mize, widow of COL Lee Mize, addressing the chapter members gathering at COL Mize's gravesite. Chapter President Lloyd Carpenter is standing next to her





# REGION VII

## Tex-Mex Region

(TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA)



**CHAPTERS: IX (9), XV (15), XXXI (31), XXXII-L (32-50), XXXIX (39), XLI (41), LVI (56), LXXVII (77), LXXX (80), XCIII (93), XCV (95)**

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*

**PRES :** Pete Peral  
**VICE :** Steve Franzoni  
**SEC :** Jose Lebron-Camacho  
**TRES :** Larry "MoJo" Carson



## CHAPTER IX

The Isaac Camacho Chapter

9

[www.sfchapterix.blogspot.com](http://www.sfchapterix.blogspot.com)

El Paso, TX

Our COVID-19 cases here in El Paso are rising again with the Delta variant but luckily our region is over 70% fully vaccinated. With this said, El Paso business and public places remain open. If the trend continues, we don't see a reason to postpone or cancel any upcoming chapter events. We are pushing forward with our normal operating procedures while adhering to the new CDC guidelines.

We want to continue to wish and hope all our brothers and families in and around the region and throughout all the chapters are favoring just as well as we are at this moment.

Our chapter continues to work on the interior and life support infrastructure of the team house. We expect the team house to be complete within the next 90 days with the assistance of volunteers from the chapter which will allow the chapter to hold all future meetings and minor events in our new location.

Our chapter awarded our yearly scholarships in honor of Jerry Rainey to three highly qualified candidates, Jacqueline Martinez, Evan Peral, and Alejandra Herrera on 21 August 2021. The scholarship committee headed by Greg Brown did an outstanding job of requesting and processing the applications. The ceremony was attended by the Rainey Family and the families of the scholarship recipients, and catered lunch was served.

Our chapter members are still planning for and looking forward to our 17th Annual CSM (Ret.) John McLaughlin Memorial Golf Tournament on 18 September 2021 on FT Bliss' Underwood Golf Course. We are receiving and seeking sponsors for this event which we normally exceed every year, and we anticipate the same this year as everyone wants to get out of the COVID-19 isolation status.

We are in the planning stages of yearly food drive to deliver food boxes to needy families for Christmas. A long-standing tradition for our chapter.

Stay safe and De Oppresso Liber!



VP Steve Franzoni is presented retirement plaque from US Border Patrol (SOG) Chief Tim Sullivan



Ch 9 members received plaques from VFW post 812's 100th Anniversary to all their past presidents (Ramon "Moose" and Pete Peral)



Chapter IX Team House coming along



Chapter IX Team House coming along

15

## CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

www.sfa-xv.org



**PRES :** Juan A. Lopez  
**VICE :** Pat Meffert  
**SEC :** Michael E. Brown  
**TRES :** Merrill G. Hall

Hello from San Antonio, TX! We had a record-breaking summer this year, and fortunately, not as last year's record. Up to mid-August, we did not see triple-digit number temperatures! It remained in the 90s!

We had frequent to moderate rain in June and July, which in turn brought lovely mosquitoes and Texas toads. But it was relatively a nice summer. It was not a "scorcher" as usual, which was a very welcoming surprise for most, if not all of our chapter members.

A handful of us chose to attend our 4th annual CH XV 2021 vacation/get-a-way in late July through early August, to Cancun, Mexico. We have seen more join in the past, but with the pandemic still lingering, it is understandable. All in all, we had a great time.

SFA CH XV had eight Educational Scholarship recipients this year. Madison Blue, granddaughter of Donald Blue. Seth London, stepson of David Marshall. Alyssa Meffert, daughter of Pat Meffert. Helen Beck, daughter of Chris Marshall. Harlan Cook, stepson of John Dominguez. Jaqueline Halldorsson, stepdaughter of Bill Smith. Jessica Rose, granddaughter of Chuck Rose. Jordyn Hopgood, granddaughter of Dan Hopgood. Congratulations to you all.



CH XV members at FT Sam Houston National Cemetery



Vito "Tutuc" Cellini



Lou Colantoni, age 19 in Korea, October 1961



David A. Benavides, 1946-2021

Unlike last year's postponements and cancellations, San Antonio's biggest party, which is known as Fiesta, was a "GO" this summer. Usually held in April, the event was postponed this year to June due to COVID-19. Fortunately, we were able to sell our 2021 CH XV Fiesta medals, and enjoy the 10-day party that was canceled in 2020.

I would like to recognize one of our chapter members who turned 98 years old this past August. Mr. Vito "Tutuc" Cellini! Mr. Cellini went from street gangster to soldier to resistance fighter to secret agent – all before he was 21 years of age.

In World War Two he deserted the Italian Army and fought Nazis with the Partisans in Yugoslavia, before returning to Italy to join the Allies amid one of the biggest cover-ups of the war. He ended the war as an agent with the American OSS (forerunner of the CIA) hunting down criminals and undesirables.

Chapter member Lou Colantoni is recovering well from a stroke he had this past May. Over the summer, Lou made great progress with the help of physical therapy and prayers. He is now back at home. Our hearts go out to Lou and his wife Mary.

On a sad note, we lost one of our associate chapter members over the summer. David Arnold Benavides went to be with the Lord on July 13th, 2021 at the age of 74. His presence in our lives will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him. May his soul rest in peace.



We hold our meetings the second Saturday of each month, at 1300hrs, (if you would like to join us for lunch, it is served from noon to 1300hrs) at VFW Post 8541, located at 2222 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX., 78218. Visitors are invited to join us. For more information, contact [president@sfa-xv.org](mailto:president@sfa-xv.org).

Thank you,  
John A. Lopez

**PRES :** Edward Elder  
**VICE :** Bob Mitchell  
**SEC :** Georgene Moon  
**TRES :** Linda Weston



## CHAPTER XXXI

The Billy M. Smith/George Petrie Memorial Chapter

[www.sfa31.org](http://www.sfa31.org)

Dallas, TX

# 31



Gene Pugh and his SOG brothers



Doug Gagliano, Larry Sarratt, Linda Weston, Ray Pushie, Kip Rolland, Ed Elder

Thanks to Ben Lyons for hosting the 2021 Memorial Day event at his secret hilltop hideout. Ben was on KP duty again, closer to the beer cooler. Welcome to John and Jan Jones, thanks for taking the pictures. Luke Frazier read the Green Beret prayer and a Memorial Day reading. Linda Weston facilitated the remembrance ceremony of the 62 members of our Chapter that have passed on, lighting a candle for each person and concluding with the playing of Taps.

Gene and Phyllis Pugh traveled to Virginia to attend a celebration of life for SSG Talmadge Alphin (PIC 1). SSG Alphin was KIA on August 23, 1968. A new grave maker was refurbished by his high school classmates and the event took place in Williamsburg. Representatives from his SOG days were in attendance. SSG Talmadge Alphin is still missed.

This quarter people were asking to have GBs at a funeral service for a fellow GB brother. The first funeral was for LT Larry Mack Snell. Larry volunteered for SF and Vietnam in 66 (PIC 2). On his second tour he was severely wounded, left the service and lived a full life.

The funeral for SFC ret William Bill Mercer, formerly with 1/7th SFGA (PIC 3). He was living in Woodville TX when he suffered a head injury and died suddenly. We were contacted by his GB brother CSM ret Phil Hanson. There were over 15 SOF brothers at Bills funeral. A Tip Of-The-Beret to the GB Foundation for helping Bill Mercers family in their hour of need.

This quarter we had three funerals for our female Chapter members, two widows and an associate. Nancy Cox, the wife of Harvey, past president of this chapter. They were instrumental in organizing this SFA Chapter in its early days. The Cox family hosted numerous SF parties at their house and from the stories I heard I'm sure their neighbors were very happy when they moved. The second widow was Heidrun Berry wife of Ronald, he tragically died too young. Heidrun was an active supporter of this Chapter for many years. Her homemade banana pudding, patients were trying to get back in the VA the day we brought her pudding. Heidrun was a lovely and beautiful soul. Last lady was Mary Nguyen, a State Department civilian nurse in central Vietnam 68-71. Mary was at every Chapter activity always helping, she will be missed.

Bob Mitchell's SOF breakfast gathering at the Dixie House Café (PIC 4). Bob writes, this event was infiltrated by eight troopers, using textbook Ranger techniques. Immediately detected by staff members who had obviously been alerted by their own intel operatives, an immediate switch to Det B mode secured entry in an advantageous location, from which other infiltrators could be readily identified and appropriately directed. Fortified by strong drink and a double ration of A-rats, bona fides were obtained over the course of about 1-1/2 hours, and agreement was reached to regroup in the same location on August 7.

## Chapter XXXI (31) Continued...



SFC ret William Mercer funeral



Shannon, Bob Wagner, Rob Skipper, Ed Lacey, Scott Manning, John Rotundo, Bob Mitchell, Ron Fory and Luke Frazier

**32-50****CHAPTER XXXII-L**  
The Indian Nations Chapter

Oklahoma City, OK

[www.sfa32.org](http://www.sfa32.org)

**PRES :** Jack Farr  
**VICE :** Ray Williams  
**SEC :** Charles Watts  
**TRES :** Dick Goodman

"Sometimes, being good and lucky is still is not enough."

Our new chapter officers were sworn in.

President - Jack Farr, Vice-President - Ray Williams, Secretary - Charles Watts, Treasurer - Dick Goodman.

Our June meeting was held at the Marlow Event Center and was sponsored by Bonnie and Butch Graham. We were treated to a fish lunch with all the trimmings thanks to Bonnie and Butch.

President Jack Farr gave Kay Newberry a certificate of Chapter 32-50 appreciation for her support of SFA. Making her facilities (Marlow Event Center) our meeting place for Summer Fish Fry and June Meeting.

During our August meeting we decided to make the meeting more interesting by doing a little more than official business. We were able to talk to chapter member Doug Warden author of the book "BOY SERGEANT" a young soldier's story of Vietnam.

His talk was both interesting and amusing. Doug was given a round of applause for his talk that prompted several members to purchase his book after the meeting.

Rick Cacini presented SGM Ray Williams with a certificate from the Oklahoma Hall of Fame recognizing him as "Who's Who Among Oklahoma Veterans".



Doug Warden and Quartermaster David (Sarge) Cronic



Rick Cacini and SGM Ray Williams





President Jack Farr presents Kay Newberry a certificate of appreciation



Rafael Elias shows off his Army Eagle Plaque

**PRES :** Wally Burns  
**VICE :** Chuck Masterson  
**SEC :** Kurt Fordice  
**TRES :** Bert Hernandez



**CHAPTER XCIII**  
 The Raymond J. Verba Jr. Memorial Chapter

**93**

**Waco, TX**

Everyone here is ready for things to open up again here in the Waco area. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 scare caused the cancellation of the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the V.A. Doris Miller Medical Center, Avenue of Flags. Those of us who still intended to honor our fallen heroes held a Sunset Memorial Service at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park on the Friday before Memorial Day. This fitting and proper remembrance was co-sponsored by Chapter 93, SFA and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1012. The names of the 83 local servicemen who died in Vietnam are honorably recited. Some of the fallen had family members in attendance to receive due recognition for the sacrifice made for freedom. Bert Hernandez called our Chapter's namesake, Raymond J. Verba, one of the earlier Green Berets killed in action in Vietnam. Raymond's last name is mentioned in SSG Barry Sadler's song, "I'm A Lucky One". Other Chapter members reciting names of the fallen were Jim Savell naming his high school classmate Hugh Best; Jon Ker naming COL Robert Howard, Medal Of Honor recipient; and John Householder naming Ronda Englander on behalf of her father, Rocky Amstead, who died of acute leukemia at age 54.

We have a somewhat close connection with Chapter 77 in Killeen since some of our charter members were members of Chapter 77. It was decided that a joint chapter get together would be appropriate to renew those old friendships and provide a new audience for our old lies and war stories! Chapter 77 member Al Smith and his wife Jan graciously hosted the event at their home on June 27th. We had a joint chapter meeting, enjoyed a great lunch and swapped a lot of stories and reminiscences of days gone by. Chapter 93 members and wives who were able to attend were President Wally Burns and his wife Rusty (Yes that is her name!), Bert Hernandez and his wife Janice, Jim Savell and his wife Connie, John Householder and his wife Nora and via FaceTime, Chuck Masterson, Larry Hendry and west Texas members Gary Cook, Wayne Counts and Travis Sanders. Participating from Chapter 77 were Al and Jan Smith, Don Fender and John Mitten.

#### STRENGTH AND HONOR



L-R: John Householder, Wally Burns, Jim Savell, Don Fender, John Mitten, Al Smith



Chapter Participants at the Sunset Memorial Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. Pictured left to right are Kurt Fordice, Jon Ker, Jim Savell, Bert Hernandez And John Householder



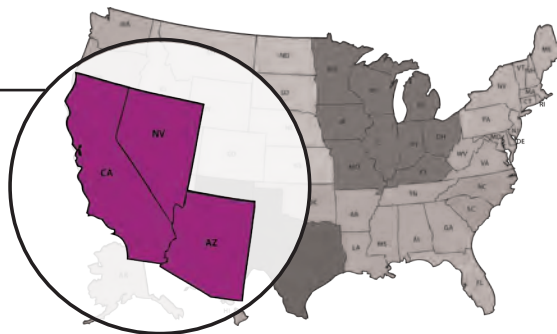
# REGION VIII

## Southwest Region

(CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, ARIZONA)

**CHAPTERS:** XII (12), XIV (14), XXII (22), XXIII (23), LI (51), LXXV (75), LXXVIII (78), LXXXIX (89), CIII (103)

\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



# 22

## CHAPTER XXII

The Sgt. Walter B. Foote Memorial Chapter

Greater Arizona

[www.sfa22arizona.org](http://www.sfa22arizona.org)



**PRES :** Dan DuRocher  
**VICE :** Lee Stewart  
**SEC :** Michael Babb  
**TRES :** Lesa Howard  
**QUARTERMASTER :** Charlie Sands

On Memorial Day weekend, the Chapter made the trip to Safford AZ to conduct our annual ceremony at the gravesite of our Chapter namesake, SGT Walter Bruce Foote, an Arizona native, who was KIA at the age of 21 in Vietnam.

American Legion Post 32 provided the Honor Guard, Firing Party and Bugler, Chapter President Dan DuRocher read the narrative explaining the significance of Memorial Day, and other Chapter members read various prayers.

Also in attendance was Bruce Foote's sister Diane. After the ceremony, a luncheon was hosted by Legion Post 32 Ladies Auxiliary.

On 26 June, Chapter 22 sponsored a pizza and soda luncheon for the residents of the Prescott VA Community Living Center. Initially, we were told that members could not participate due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, 3 or 4 days prior to the event date, Chapter President Dan DuRocher was notified that they would allow us in if we took one of their 15 minute COVID-19 tests.

So Dan and his wife Becky did take the test and helped dole out the chow. The VA CLC residents still aren't having lunch in the dining room, so Dan and Becky visited all the patients in their rooms. As usual, they were extremely thankful and enjoyed the company.

Members assembled at Fort Tuthill (south of Flagstaff) July 23-25 for the Summer Getaway, always a popular event for members (especially for those trying to survive the triple-digit heat in the valley).

A month prior, wildfires forced the closures of National Forests and Shooting Ranges in Arizona, but fortunately the wildfires were contained and extinguished, and everything was opened up in time for the Summer Getaway.

And in spite of the nationwide ammo "shortage" members were able to get out to a local range and put some rounds downrange with various weapons.

Our next events will be our annual business meeting September 11th in Scottsdale, where we will make nominations for next term Chapter officers, and of course in October we are all looking forward to the National Convention in Las Vegas.

Anyone looking for more information on our Chapter, activities, and schedule, is welcome to visit our website at [www.sfa22arizona.org](http://www.sfa22arizona.org).



Ted Rhodes reading "Bury Me with Soldiers"



Paying respects at gravesite of SGT Bruce Foote





Familiarization firing



Putting rounds downrange

**PRES :** Dan McQueeney  
**VICE :** James Shields  
**SEC :** John Limneos  
**TRES :** Jean Lavaud  
**SGT at ARMS :** Ernie Jensen



## CHAPTER XXIII

The Golden Gate Chapter; In memory of SGM Jon Cavaiani MOH

[www.sfachapter23.org](http://www.sfachapter23.org)

San Francisco, CA

# 23

Chapter 23 was notified of the passing of Jon Cavaiani's widow Barbara who had battled illnesses since Jon's passing in 2014. After Jon's passing, Barbara kept Jon's legacy alive by assisting homebound veterans in Sonora and Columbia California by providing daily meals and assisting them in caring for their homes.

At the same time, she took caring action for her own 94-year-old mother. We will miss Barbara. By her example, she has gently reminded us that Special Forces wives are central to the Special Forces mission.

Recently, SOA founder and MACV SOG veteran James Butler passed away in Monterey, California. Chapter 23 was asked to assist in his celebration of life in Carmel, California. Chapter members who were veterans of the Studies and Observation Group (SOG) organized an active-duty Special Forces presence from the Naval Postgraduate School to honor Jim. Hotel arrangements were made for SOG veterans at nearby military lodging.

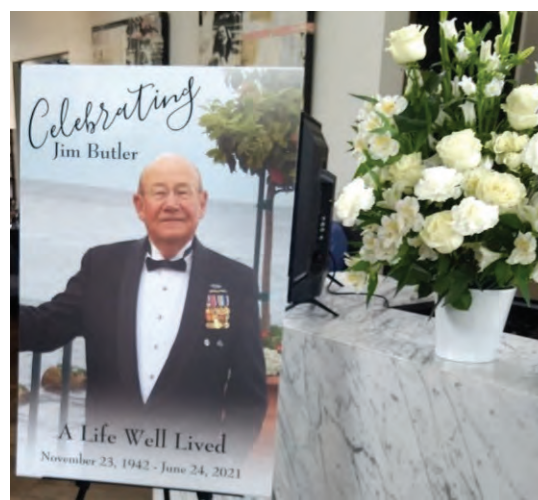
Chapter 23 provided a special bottling of vintage wine and presented several bottles to his friends at the reception following. Jim's family called afterward to thank Chapter 23 for putting future leaders of the Regiment (those from the Naval Postgraduate School) together with a group of highly accomplished Special Forces veterans. The active-duty SF soldiers also called to thank us for making it possible to meet and learn from the best of the Regiment.

SGT Charley Ross, who served in the 82nd Airborne, 17th SFG(A) and retired from the 12th SFG(A) is being honored by Chapter 23 for his tireless assistance to Conrad Ben Baker over a period of several years. He was part of the team that organized the presentation ceremony when Ben was named Honorary Member of the Special Forces Regiment (HMOR).

Later, he tasked himself to assist in providing food, house maintenance, delivery and transportation to and from hospital visits, as well as bringing cheer to Ben and Chiyo. When Ben passed, Charley was key in assisting the Estate Trustee in ensuring that Chiyo's move back to her family in Okinawa went smoothly by supervising the loading and transport of all her household items to Okinawa and ensuring a safe move during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Charley, shown here along with his 17th SFG(A) brothers George and Paul, continue to show all of us in the Chapter the "correct" way to accomplish the mission.

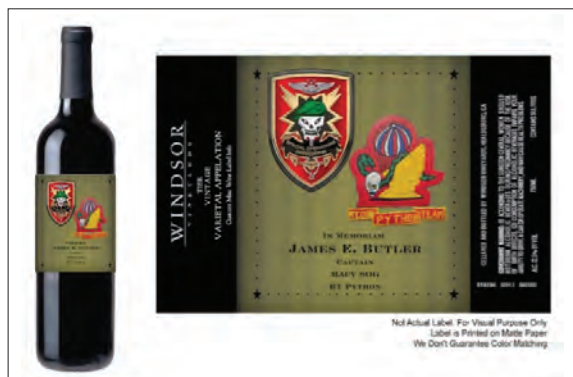


Barbara and Jon Cavaiani



James E. Butler Memorial

## Chapter XXIII (23) Continued...



James E. Butler Memorial Wine



Chapter 23 17th SFG(A) Veterans Charley Ross, George Eleopoulos and Paul Braga

Chapter 23 continues to monitor and support members in their struggles with COVID-19 and its impacts by seeking succinct direction and advice from our highly professional internal sources as well as external expertise. We wish all well.

We wish you all a safe and happy fall season.

75

## CHAPTER LXXV

The COL Roger H.C. Donlon MOH Chapter

San Diego, CA

[www.sfa75sandiego.org](http://www.sfa75sandiego.org)

**PRES :** Pat Trussell  
**VICE :** Lee Jacobs  
**SEC :** Charlie Inot  
**TRES :** Mike Cates

Chapter 75 in San Diego held their first full gathering since the COVID-19 restrictions went into effect over a year ago at our Summer Potluck Picnic, on July 10th. We had 35 members, family and guests in attendance. It was good to see fellow members that we have not seen in quite some time and to start reintegrating Chapter activities into our social lives. We are also starting to see Chapter membership interest in some of the younger SF soldiers in the area who are approaching retirement to augment our distinguished Vietnam veterans who have been the mainstay of our Chapter.

On August 15th, the Chapter turnout to honor and support Tom Rice, who is served with the 101st Airborne Division throughout WWII. For his 100th birthday he tandem parachuted onto a beach in Coronado, CA. Airborne Tom!

The Chapter has been the recipient of proceeds from Colonel Roger Donlon's silent auction. Roger is in the process of divesting of some of his SF items he has collected or been gifted over his many years. Now is a good time to pick up rare pieces of SF history.



Donna Heiser and Lisa Jacobs



Bryan and Teri Wilson



Jim and Natalie Rymut



Sadly, we must report the loss of Adrian Silva to lung cancer – See TAPS.

Also, Colonel Roger Krauel, who was a SF officer and friend to many in Chapter 75. Roger died of brain cancer. Both served their Regiment and country well.

De Oppresso Liber,  
Charlie Inot  
Chapter Secretary  
SFA Chapter LXXV (75)



Dave DeSoucy swears in new Chapter Officers

**PRES :** Bruce Long  
**VICE :** Don Gonnerville  
**VICE :** Susan Weeks  
**SEC :** Gary Macnamara  
**TRES :** Richard Simonian



**CHAPTER LXXVIII**  
The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

**78**

[www.specialforces78.com](http://www.specialforces78.com)

**Southern California**

A very busy quarter. Lately we have returned to enjoying top quality speakers, while pursuing a heavy agenda of serving the whole age range of the SF community.

Besides our local support of our SF National Guard unit C/1/19, we have been reaching out to new SF Q course grads and ROTC cadets.

Our chapter has been supporting (ch51) John Joyce's generous and relentless efforts to upgrade the national SFA IT system, you can see some of the results in the new Teamhouse website that many members have already logged in on, and it brings new capabilities. And to top it off, Chapters 51 and 78 are cohosting the SFACON, 22-25 OCT in Las Vegas. We are all looking forward to that.

One of the features of chapter meetings that helps boost attendance is the top-notch and interesting guest speakers we are fortunate to have visit and make presentations.



Speakers (L-R): Alec Bierbauer, Annie Jacobsen, Frank Snepp III, and Alex Quade



John Stryker Meyer with 7 of the SFQC graduating class, now SFA Life Members

**Chapter LXXVII (78) Continued...**

In May, Alec Bierbauer talked about the inception of the drone program as an offensive weapon, along with improvement in its intel capabilities.

A fascinating look at how the SF Way of thinking and acting outside the box, and even stepping on a few toes, can sometimes lead to fantastic results. In his book "Never Mind, We'll Do It Ourselves" he describes how efforts of a small group of people, himself included, grew to an interagency endeavor, producing right-now actionable capabilities.

In June, Annie Jacobsen, talking about her latest book, "First Platoon", highlighted how biometrics has evolved as a tool of accomplishing missions. She brings to light how our world has changed in that respect, focusing on the experiences of an infantry platoon of the 82nd Airborne division. Besides her amazing books, Annie has a hand in producing some shows such as the Jack Ryan series.



John Stryker Meyer visits Ch78 member, Chief SOG. Jack Singlaub for his 100th birthday



Attendance was good to hear Alec Bierbauer speak

In July, Frank Snepp III, who was a chief analyst for the CIA in Saigon right up until the bitter end, revealed once secret details of the high up machinations of the fall of Saigon, from a first person perspective. He talked about an NVA double agent Vo Van Ba, Henry Kissinger, Ambassador Graham Martin and others who were involved in the withdrawal of troops, much of which is in his book "Decent Interval".

Alex Quade, frequently SF imbedded journalist and producer, continues to distribute the Sentinel to top brass during her regular visits, and is becoming a more frequent presence and contributor to Chapter 78, among her ever-present efforts in support of all things SF.

John Stryker Meyer continued his ambassadorial role, visiting chapter 78 member, Chief SOG (and much more), Jack Singlaub, for his 100th birthday.

Our monthly Sentinel magazine keeps churning out interesting stories from both national authors and chapter members' first person accounts of real SF experiences.

The Sentinel and all previous issues are now available on the chapter 78 website:  
<https://www.specialforces78.com/>

**103**

**CHAPTER CIII**  
The Battle Born Chapter

*Reno, NV*

**PRES** : Slawomir (Rick) Grabianowski  
**VICE** : Ken Snyder  
**SEC** : Mike Black  
**TRES** : Steve Estep

Greetings from Northern Nevada, and the Biggest Little City in the world.

During this Quarter the Battle Born chapter 103 held its second official meeting of the year on July 25th at Mimi's cafe, in Reno, NV.



During this meeting, we decided to have another picnic at Mrs. Gloria Calderon's home. Everyone enjoyed the picnic held at the American Legion Hall in Fallon, NV, with many thanks going to Mike Wolford for doing the cooking! Everyone agreed to do it again.

Additionally, we continued to discuss the status of Mrs. Gaston and Mrs. Calderon's Associate membership applications to National, noting that they have not received their membership cards at this time. Several members [5] agreed to help Mrs. Gaston move items from her garage so the realtor can show the property to prospective buyers as she is downsizing as a result of Jim's passing.

At our BBQ/picnic/raffle event in Fallon, there was a very successful raffle which helped increase our bank account funds. Many items were donated to the chapter as raffle items such as fishing gear, ammo of various calibers, ticket for dining out for two at various venues in Reno or Lake Tahoe, artwork, SF regalia, hats and so on. Mike the cook did a bang-up job on the burgers and hot dogs, (he's a professional chef at Topaz Lake Lodge). Hopefully he'll be able to show up at Gloria's place for the next cook-out. The food was plentiful with all condiments available along with salads and dessert, and "the best chili on the planet", provided by Russ Mann.



Mike Black and Mike Wolford hamburgers, the best



Steve Estep, Gary Utterback and Don Meridith at Memorial Day in Fernley, NV

During the raffle the granddaughter of Jim Gaston, Brinley Mac Donald, had a great time drawing tickets out of the bucket for each winning number, job well done. There were about 35 people or so that showed with family and friends and chapter members. What more could we ask for, but to have another BBQ!

Backing up a bit, several chapter members attended the Memorial Day Dedication at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernly, NV on May 31st to honor our fallen Brothers and Sisters who served in uniform for our great country and our freedom. Freedom isn't free, it comes at a great cost. Among the speakers was Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei, who thanked all present for their sacrifices.

We are starting to dip our oars into the river of opportunity and feathering our way upstream to our goal as an Armed Services Support Organization with the initial objectives of helping out long-term veteran patients at the Reno VA hospital, which is rated by veterans as the number two hospital in the VA system. We are looking to the future and see light ahead, and hope and pray that your futures are bright and rewarding, and safe as well.

Win thru brothers



L to R: Don Meridith, Ken Snyder, Slawomir Grabianowski, Gary Utterback, Ray Gonzales, Steve Estep, Rich Iori, Brad, Brady and Brawn Hines



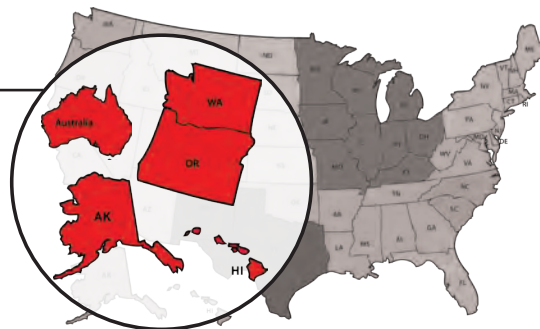
# REGION IX

## Northwest Region

(WASHINGTON, OREGON, HAWAII, AUSTRALIA, AFGHANISTAN, THAILAND, 1ST SFG)

**CHAPTERS:** II (2), III (3), VIII (8), XIII (13), XVI (16), XXV (25), XLIII (43), XLVI (46), XLVII (47), LXXXVI (86), XCI-CI (91-101)

\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter



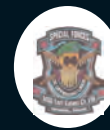
# 8

## CHAPTER VIII

The MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter

Honolulu, Hawaii

[www.sfa8.org](http://www.sfa8.org)



**PRES :** Jacinto (Jay) Ledee (Pro Tem)  
**VICE :** Jim Bolan (ProTem)  
**SEC :** John Gallop Jr.  
**TRES :** Gary Chamberlin

As we submit this quarter's input, emotions run high as we experience "deja-vu." At the same time that we are dealing with, yet another round of COVID-19 insanity, our "desert" veterans must endure anguish and disbelief at the loss of political will and broken promises by America's government and military leadership after 20 years of sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Our "jungle" veterans watched helplessly as a similar scenario played out in April of 1975 in Vietnam. What must our allies think of us...again?

Chapter VIII continues as the oldest Special Forces Association (SFA) chapter with continuous meetings and chapter newsletter. Confusion from changing virus procedures forced the Chapter Officers to continue conducting Zoom meetings from the Oahu Veterans Center (OVC) with limited "in person" participation.

Despite virus hurdles to normalcy and Chapter traditions, Bob Silva worked all the angles to ensure deserving Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets were presented with their Chapter VIII "honor sets" either through their respective school administrations or, when possible, in person. He also managed to supervise the process to approve and forward our 2021 Chapter VIII Scholarship. Congratulations to William A.K. Anderson, son of member William V.E. Anderson, on his achievement.

Meanwhile, Jim Bolan continues his pursuit of the "New" Chapter VIII coin through a vender that, if successful, will have it delivered soon. A big Mahalo to Pete Tingstrom for taking the lead in an effort to get Chapter members up to speed on the new SFA Teamhouse website procedures.

The Chapter faced the unpleasant news of the recent loss of some of our longest serving members. In rapid succession, we learned of the passing of Bernard (Bernie) Jacang, Vietnam Vet and longtime Chapter Treasurer; David Kaohelaulii, an early member from the 24th SF Reserves at Ft DeRussy; and Jack Hirai, Korean Vet and past Chapter President.



Silva with Cadet Min J Cha of Roosevelt HS



Silva and Mariano pay final respects to Bernie Jacang



Final Goodbye to Jack Hirai



During the loosening of virus restrictions (before the attack of the Delta variant), services could be attended by other than family members for the first time in over a year. The Kaohelauii family made a special request that the Chapter escort David from the Church Service to the Cemetery. It was only appropriate that the Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club (SFBMC) of Ft DeRussy perform this task. They completed it with class...as always.

Chapter VIII is gearing up again to support the SFBMC in their 9-11 Memorial Ride and Ceremony (20th Anniversary). The virus again presents a cancellation risk, but world events place added emphasis on its importance. The restrictions on Hawaii's tourists are loosening at the same time they are tightening on businesses. Be prepared to face difficulties in getting reservations for everything from airline tickets to rental cars to rooms to dining. You can expect everything that was expensive before will be more so now.

Aloha from the islands!



Oahu SF Honors David Kaohelauii

**PRES :** Steve Durfee  
**VICE :** Eric Heid  
**SEC :** Mike Barkstrom  
**TRES :** Jim Beisley



**CHAPTER XVI**  
 The William R. Card Memorial Chapter

**16**

[www.sfa-chapter-16.org](http://www.sfa-chapter-16.org)

**Ft. Lewis, WA**

Hello from Chapter XVI in the Great Northwest. Durfee sends: "I was honored to give my well-respected teammate, MAJ (Ret) Richard Dobson, a ride to our Special Forces Association Chapter XVI Brunch on 24 July 2021. Rich was one of the first three officers assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group during their activation. His service was long and distinguished; monumental in comparison to many. It is because of men like these that we continue to be De Oppresso Liber!"

The brunch is soon to be a tradition, Chapter XVI will get together for brunch at the 1st GP Regimental Mess on the 3rd Saturday of each month. July was the first trial. All had a great time.

The Moving Wall came to Enumclaw, WA on August 5 through August 8 to honor nine local soldiers and marines that paid the supreme price in the Southeast Asia conflict.

As many of you may recall, the Moving Wall is a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a U.S. national memorial in Washington, D.C., honoring 58,318 service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought and died in the Vietnam. The dates of those listed on the wall that were killed in action range from 1957 to 1975. The wall was dedicated in Washington DC on Veterans Day, 1982. Eleven members from Chapter XVI visited the wall over the weekend and looked for names of past family members, friends and running mates that died in the Southeast Asian conflict.



Brunch at 1st GP Regimental Mess



Ch. XVI at the moving wall

**Chapter XVI (16) Continued...***Pastor Butch giving the Sunday sermon**Gates speaking to the families*

Paster Butch Hall and Bill Gates of Chapter XVI were privileged to speak at the ceremonies. Gates spoke to the families of local boys that were killed in action during the conflict.

Paster Butch provided the Sunday sermon. As he approached the pulpit, he rendered a sharp but respectful salute to the fallen. The topic of his sermon was stand for what you believe and fight for it. He ended the sermon with the traditional Special Forces prayer.

Have a safe time out there.

Cheers Bill

**25****CHAPTER XXV**

The MSG William B. Hunt Memorial Chapter

**Spokane, WA**[www.sfa25.org](http://www.sfa25.org)

**PRES :** Michael Charter  
**VICE :** Keith Davis  
**SEC :** Michael Zambryski  
**TRES :** Michael Zambryski

Greetings from the Inland Northwest (Eastern Washington State).

This year the recipient of our MG Robert Frederick Award was Eastern Washington University ROTC Cadet Joshua S. Browning. The award was delivered to the University to present to Cadet Browning. Because of the COVID-19 Virus, they did not have a formal ceremony.

Our Chapter Award for Excellence was given to Cadet Sebastian Campos, Gonzaga University ROTC Program. Because of the COVID-19 Virus, our award was given to the university to present to Cadet Campos during their field exercise.

*Chapter Members*





Retired LTC Ken Hunt

On April 1st, our Chapter held our annual Meeting/Dine-In. Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 Virus, we did not have our usual number of attendees. However, those that did attend had a good time catching up.

The auction during the dinner was very successful and will help us to sponsor our Veteran's Day cruise on Coeur d'Alene Lake on Saturday November 13th.

During the Dine-In, LTC (retired) Ken Hunt gave a presentation on Operation Attleboro, RVN November 1966. Following this operation Ken's father, SSG William B. Hunt, 5th Special Forces Group, was listed as MIA.

**PRES :** Stephen Walker  
**VICE :** Danny Dietz  
**SEC :** Bill Gritzbaugh  
**TRES :** Weldon Burton  
**SGT at ARMS :** Geno Williams



**CHAPTER XLVII**  
 The Lewis and Clark/Norman A. Doney Chapter

**47**

[www.sfa47.org](http://www.sfa47.org)

Portland, OR



Group picture of Chapter 47 Picnic, July 19, 2021

Greetings from the Great (Smokey) Northwest. Chapter 47 is once again thriving and active!

Our Summer picnic was a huge success with great attendance. Average age and weight of the membership has only increased by a single digit percentage (don't ask)! Thanks much to Tony and Jean Tycker for hosting such a motley crew in their vast back 40.



L-R: Steve Cornacchia, Mike Rhode, Ivan Davis, Riley Lott, Joe Lenhart (seated)

A momentous "change of command" event was celebrated at this year's picnic. Long time Chapter President Jerry Powell asked to step down after a ten year run, and Stephen Walker, by unanimous membership approval, stepped in as our new leader.

Jerry accepted the Chapter's gift of "The Green Beret" statuette to the sound of raucous cheers. He will be a hard act to follow (accolades include Chapter 47 hosting of the 2015 SFA convention) but Stephen Walker (make that retired CSM Walker) is no stranger to tough challenges (rumors of weekly PT formations turned out to be spurious)!

Members who've seen the Spring issue of The Drop read the history of Chapter 47 distinguished member Riley Lott. Pictured along with Riley (fourth from the left) are members Steve Cornacchia, Mike Rhode, Ivan Davis and Joe Lenhart (seated with the plaque).

**Chapter XLVII (47) Continued...**

Joe's wounds were treated by Medic Lott in Vietnam, making the term "Blood Brothers" particularly sincere for these two old warriors.

Our ROTC scholarship program continues to attract stellar Cadet applicants. Featured is 2021 Scholarship winner Derek Chen of Oregon State University. Left to right at the award ceremony are members Dennis Klein, award winner Chen, Jerry Powell and incoming President Stephen Walker.



Picture of Change of Command ceremony for incoming President Stephen Walker (right). Chapter Secretary Bill Gritzbaugh reads the Attention to Orders. Sergeant at Arms Geno Williams holds the Regimental colors. Out-going President Jerry Powell is second from left



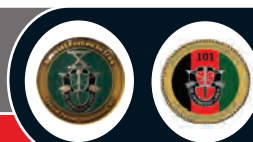
ROTC scholarship presentation. L-R: Dennis Klein, winner Derek Chen, Jerry Powell, Stephen Walker

Brother SFA members are always welcome at our monthly (third Saturday) lunches, and events.

**AIRBORNE!**  
**DE OPPRESSO LIBER**

**91-101****CHAPTER XCI-CI**

The Combat Chapters

**Iraq & Afghanistan**

**PRES :** Chris North  
**VICE :** Phil "Trigger" Crowley  
**VICE :** Les Kenney

Overt 91-101 meetings "in-country" are cancelled until further notice...

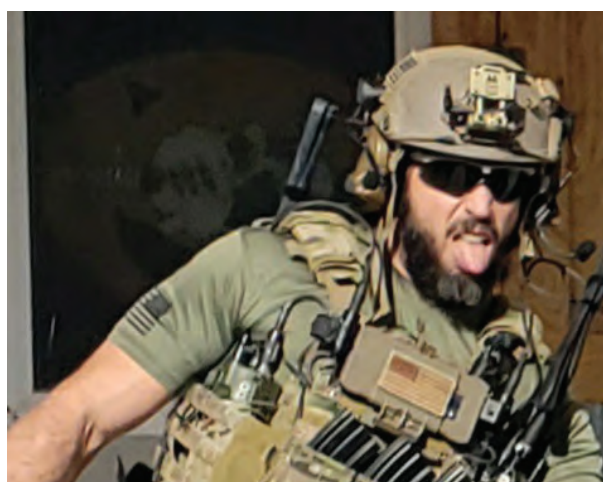
All are encouraged to remain in contact with 250+ on distro list who were downrange with us on our very long St Crispin's Day in the region.

John enlisted in 2003, served as 18C on ODAs 2225 & 2221. After 2020/2021 OFS rotation as the ODA 2223 ADC/180A, CW2 Harper returned to DTRA, resides in Raleigh.

VICE Phil Crowley took 14x on a Veteran Excursions river trip in June, floating the Yampa river, Colorado.

Check <http://www.vetexcursions.org>!

Rick Douglas returned from Kabul--now in Alaska, Discovery Channel Gold Rush Season 12. Chuck Rawlings @ Kabul Embassy 22 JUL--now Qatar. John Peterson recommends expanding chapter to include SF vets deployed in GWOT, specifically those that received hostile fire pay.



CW2 John Harper, new life member





Cal Wimbish, Memorial Day speaker, Gotha, FL



COL Cregg Puckett, SOJTF-A Chaplain, now at Army War College

That would include Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTFOIR), CJTFHOA (Somalia, Sudan, Yemen), Trans-Sahara, Libya, Philippines, Central Asian states, and other AORs. Great idea, John--if you think yourself worthy, please send an application!

HON Henry Wooster (91 fame) remains in Foreign Service and is U.S. Ambassador to The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jim Walker (101 plankholder) "lives quietly in the woods" near Ft Drum. CSM Sean Rooney (91) @ Stuttgart, Germany--USSOCOM WW advocate for SOF.

Johnny Reid (91) moved to Kempner, TX. Check out: <http://www.specwarstore.com!>

Chap 91-101 was added to "Together We Served" website.

Check it out: **Army.TogetherWeServed.com**

CSM Mike Weimer left SOCCENT for USASOC. MAJ Tim Alvarado is the Vice Chief of Staff at USASOC. LTC Josh Ladd commands 2/3 SFG. CSM (Ret) Moose Moore @ Jacksonville--distinguished career includes 7 SFG, 16 years Delta, first CSM to move back to SF: CSM 1/3, 2/SWCS, 1/1, SOSBde--and contractor time downrange, Iraq and Afghanistan! COL Larry Redmon retired after very distinguished career culminating in Thailand--@ Springfield, VA.

George Grimstad moved to Shepherdsville, KY. Larry Cox @ Industrial Health and Safety in Texas. Bill Aquino retired, @ Tampa cyber security world. CW4 Cliff Baumbach remains @ NSHQ, Belgium. Pete Connolly @ SO/LIC in the Pentagon. Matt Clawson (5 SFG/91) retired, @ BlackBird in Philippines.

Kristine Gould (91) remains in Thailand--on the hunt for 1.5 million vaccine doses for the Burma border. Dale Harris, also Thailand, reports 70% of businesses remain closed. Contact Tim Heinemann for anything about Burma or Vietnam underground movements. COL Chris O'Gwin left JTF-B in Honduras--@ SOCCENT.

Alan Shumate heads BPC Consulting. Bob Kinard @ VA/NC working SFNG/JIDO. Mike Lackman returned from Afghanistan to Billings, MT. "COL Bogey" Bogart @ VMI. Chris North moved from CENTCOM to SOCPAC, in security cooperation contractor lane.

Chap 91 history: The 'Plankholders' met 0700 hrs, Friday, 5 OCT 2005 at the 'Arch of Sabers' with 100% membership in attendance. Established a policy of SFA LIFE membership only. Chapter President Emeritus BG (ret) Frank J. Toney, DMOR, presided.

Through 2010, Chap-91 gifted \$57,000 scholarships, \$20,000 to families of Little Bird crash, helped launch the Green Beret Foundation.

Les Kenney will represent Chap 91-101 at the SFA convention in Las Vegas.



Chapter 91 VUMs, Baghdad, 2006: Corky Shelton, Tony Nicholson, Ed Bugarin, Dirt Smith, Mitch Pearce, Moose Moore, MG Eldon Bargewell, Clark Hjelseth, the Fonz Fontana, John Ginniff, Robin McCauley



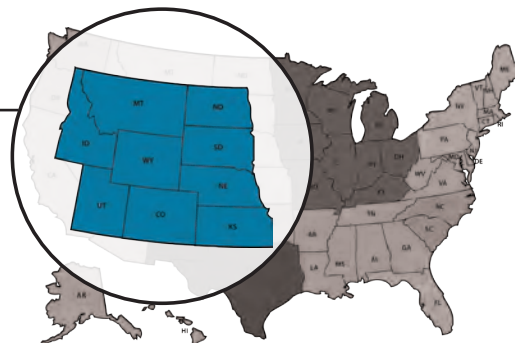
# REGION X

## Mountain Region

(MONTANA, IDAHO, WYOMING, UTAH, KANSAS, COLORADO, GERMANY, IRAQ, 10TH & 19TH SFG)

**CHAPTERS: IV-XXIV (4-24), V (5), XXVIII (28), XXIX (29), LII (52), LXV (65), LXIX (69), LXX (70), LXXI (71)**

*\*Chapters in red did not submit input for this quarter*



# 4-24

## CHAPTER IV-XXIV

Charles Hosking/Al Fontes Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado Springs, CO

<http://sfa4-24.org/joomla/>



**PRES :** Howard Massingill  
**VICE :** Don Bennett  
**SEC :** John Rikard  
**TRES :** Paul Herd

Greetings from Chapter 4-24. This quarter has been as busy as usual. We held our May meeting in the Historic Ute Inn in Woodland Park, hosted by Chapter Member Elijah Murphy. The meeting was attended by about 40 members and their families. We also held our annual Memorial Day Wreath laying ceremony in Memorial Park in Colorado Springs, and after the ceremony, held a BBQ at American Legion Post 38 in Fountain, Colorado.

We had a great June meeting held at Cactus Flats Shooting Range in Penrose, Colorado. The Chapter would like to give a huge shout out to the Cactus Flats owner, Donald Day, for allowing us to make use of his range facilities. We had a great group of members show up around 0900, where we validated our range safety skills, and put a little lead downrange. It was a really good time, and Steve and Sabrina from "Sweet and Sassy Dawgs" provided breakfast burritos for the early arrivals, along with some great chow for lunch. After the meeting, some of the chapter members went to the Special Forces Motorcycle Club Florence Chapter Clubhouse. That too was a great time, and we appreciate the MC welcoming us into their house for a few hours.

During the 4th of July weekend at the Soldier Stone Memorial, somewhere west of Saguache, Colorado high up on the Continental Divide, Mark Smith, Rob Pasaol, Rob Jones, Brian Weaver, Chris Sorensen, and Steve Damon were present for the Soldier Stone 26th Anniversary, and the placing of the 25th Anniversary marker.

We held our annual summer picnic in beautiful Lake George at the M Lazy C ranch on the 16th and 17th of July, and it was an astounding success. The weekend started off with a pot luck dinner at the ranch pavilion on Friday evening, then the main event on Saturday. Everyone had a great time, and while called an annual picnic, it is more in line with being a big family reunion, and this year was no different. As we do every year, we had members and non-members show up from all over the United States. The owners of the Ranch, Mike and Kelly Gottus, along with the staff of the M Lazy C once again did a great job in hosting our event, and we locked down the ranch to host our 2022 picnic. The staff did a great job in serving up hamburgers, hot dogs and brats to the hungry crowd, as well as allowing chapter members and their guests to Cowboy Up with horseback rides, hay rides, archery and range. We owe the Special Forces Charitable Trust a big thank you for once again providing funding for the picnic and for the Frank Socha Memorial scholarships. This year we were honored to have Brenda Socha, the widow of Frank, on hand to hand out the certificates and congratulate the recipients of the scholarship money.

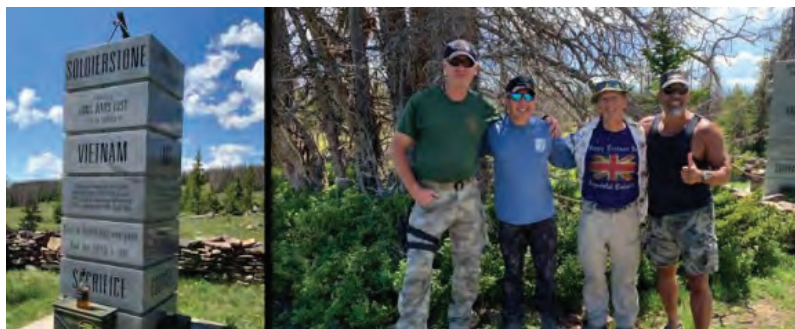
DOL ! We look towards seeing everyone at the 2022 SFACON in Colorado Springs.



*Chapter members that gathered for the wreath laying at the SF Memorial, Memorial Park, Colorado Springs, CO*



*Brenda Socha, widow of CSM Frank Socha, presenting the Socha Scholarship recipients with their certificates.*



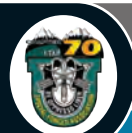
*Members at the Soldier's Stone Memorial, 4th of July 2022. A 25th Anniversary plaque commemorating the memorial was also laid.*





Our annual chapter picnic at the M Lazy C Ranch in Lake George, CO

**PRES :** John Wester  
**VICE :** Arlo Johnson  
**SEC :** Mike Seamon  
**TRES :** Brent Tomlin



**CHAPTER LXX**  
 The CSM Don DeVere Memorial Chapter

**70**

[www.sfalxx.org](http://www.sfalxx.org)

**Salt Lake City, UT**

Greetings from Chapter LXX in Utah.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused numerous issues for our Chapter, but as they say, 'we shall endeavor to persevere.'

Since our last report to the Association, we have lost eight life members. Their obituaries have been submitted to the Drop. We mourn their passing, and they shall be missed. Chapter LXX has a tradition of presenting a memorial plaque to the families of our lost members.

Just after one member's (Dick Veenendaal) passing, the chapter was advised that his widow and daughter were in distress. Their furnace had died, and they were in danger of having their electricity turned off. We advised our chapter members of this issue, and in true form as brothers in arms, members donated well over two thousand dollars, which was enough to purchase a replacement furnace and bring the Veenendaals' electricity bill up to date.

I cannot express how proud, yet humbled I am over the generosity and caring that was displayed by all chapter members who came forth to aid the widow and daughter of one of our departed members. I would like to add that Chapter LXX has taken the monies that were above the cost of the furnace and power bill, and we have set up a contingency fund to provide aid and assistance for any of our members.

Recently, the State of Utah had authorized a 'Cold War Victory Medal' for those Utah veterans who served during the period 1945-1990. We had recently received the first batch of the medals and we are awarding them to those chapter members who qualify. The first presentations were made at last month's meet.

We plan on proving a medal for each eligible chapter member as they become available from the state.



Memorial Plaque



Asst Secretary Mike Seamon and Wayne Wikizer



Asst Secretary Mike Seamon and Mike Kipp



Asst Secretary Mike Seamon and Jim Martin





# **70th Anniversary**

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# 75<sup>th</sup> Innovation Command: Marching Into the Future

Composed by:

CW2 John Waldie, MAJ Aaron McKenney, MAJ A.W. Simmons and MAJ Brandon Trama



**"The 75th Innovation Command drives operational innovation, concepts, and capabilities to enhance the readiness and lethality of the Future Force by leveraging the unique skills, agility, and private sector connectivity of America's Army Reserve."**

## **– 75th Innovation Command Mission<sup>1</sup> –**

---

The 75th Innovation Command, U.S. Army Reserve is a singular unit designed to serve as a 'screening force' to accelerate innovation within the Army and provide access to private sector innovators and technology leaders<sup>2</sup> Bottom line up front: this is a new and unique Reserve unit that is aggressively seeking drilling reservists (to include those who may not currently be serving) with tech-focused experience to lead the Army into the 21st Century. As the Army shifts its main strategic focus from Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism to Multi-Domain Operations against peer and near peer-adversaries, Army leadership has increasingly focused on leveraging a wider variety of skill sets both inside and outside of the Active and Reserve Components as they are currently constituted. As per General John M. Murray, Commanding General of Army Futures Command: "There's a lot of smart people in the Army, but there's a lot more smart people that are outside the Army helping us solve problems and thinking about how to solve problems in different ways."<sup>3</sup>

Given the number of Green Berets who have amassed impressive technical, commercial, and entrepreneurial experience outside of the Army, the Quiet Professionals are a natural fit to help the Army reach the best technology, resources, and ideas our Nation has to offer.

As implied by its name, the 75th Innovation Command is focused on accelerating Army innovation and supporting implementation of the Army Modernization Strategy. To accomplish this, the unit straddles the active force and the private sector, providing direct support to Army Futures Command while leveraging the civilian skill base and expertise of a solid cohort of military Reservists. Specific assignments include analysis and assessment of military capabilities including shortfalls and opportunities, technology scouting within the private sector to meet the Army's current and future needs on areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, quantum computing, communications, and network technology, and support to active



duty development initiatives. Organized in city teams across the country and with an applications group at Army Futures Command, the unit is decentralized by design both in terms of geography and management style. With small teams of improvement-oriented Soldiers, the unit is able to mass resources on pressing problems and allow for bottom-up solutions driven by dynamic teams.

The wide variety of work done by Soldiers in the command is a testament to both the ingenuity of its members and the purposeful organizational design. In short, the unit provides a strategic value hard to replicate across the military and one that relies on new ways of thinking and a desire to drive positive change. Although a subordinate division-level command under the Army Reserve, the unit has many of the intellectual and cultural motifs of the Special Operations Forces community and is a great place for Green Berets seeking to continue their military service in a part-time capacity. The unit is a professional network of self-starters who are comfortable engaging with people, developing cutting-edge plans to solve old and new problems, and working in ambiguous environments.

The flexible drill schedules and administrative requirements allow unit members to pursue competitive civilian careers while lending critical expertise to Army modernization efforts. "Innovator" billets within the units are not allocated by grade. This structure allows NCOs and officers to pitch game-changing ideas to senior leaders on the basis of creativity and quality, not rank. In short, the subject matter and approach to assignments is ideally suited to members who occupy demanding civilian roles but want to contribute the niche expertise and the unconventional thinking that is the hallmark of Green Berets. ✂

**"There's a lot of smart people in the Army, but there's a lot more smart people that are outside the Army helping us solve problems and thinking about how to solve problems in different ways."**

**- General John M. Murray -  
Commanding General of  
Army Futures Command**

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For those interested, whether Army Reservists, National Guardsmen, or Veterans, please email the 75<sup>th</sup> Innovation Command Talent Management Team at **[usarmy.usarc.75-tsd.mbx.talentmgmt@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.usarc.75-tsd.mbx.talentmgmt@mail.mil)** or call **719-317-2023** or **719-317-2159** for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usar.army.mil/Commands/Functional/75th-Innovation-CMD/About-Us/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usar.army.mil/75thIC/JoinOurTeam/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.army.mil/article/241427/afc\\_showcases\\_project\\_convergence\\_to\\_industry\\_academia](https://www.army.mil/article/241427/afc_showcases_project_convergence_to_industry_academia)

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MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-10040	PAUL	JOHN GALE	01-18
D-10041	DILLON	ALAN	07
D-10045	MUSTOE	ROBERT C.	51
D-10046	REGAR	JOHN A.	01-18
D-10048	UPSON	ADAM	07
D-10049	HUNT	GEOFFREY F	22
D-10050	DEWEY	GEORGE T.	70
D-10055	SULLIVAN	EDWARD T.	54
D-10052	MACKAY	JASON D.	
D-10053	RYNN JR	JOHN	01-18
D-10058	SAWEY	JASON	100
D-10061	NEWMAN	JOHN R.	39
D-10068	BRUCH	MICHAEL	38
D-10069	PITTS	DAVID J.	
D-10070	DENMAN	TRAVIS C.	
D-10074	BLUMER	BRIAN L.	100
D-10076	DEANGELO	SEBASTIAN	01-18

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MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
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M-15125	FLYNN	JAMES F.	54
M-15126	RODICIO JR.	RICHARD CHARLES	70
M-15127	CARPENTER	DARRYL T.	34
M-15128	METAYER	FRANKLIN J.	69
M-15130	HOLLEY	CHRISTOPHER	07
M-15131	WRIGHT	JESSE W.	16
M-15132	SLIZEWSKI	BENJAMIN	
M-15133	PESTA	CHARLES J.	01-18
M-15134	MASSENGILL	MATTHIEU A.	06
M-15135	KRAMER	BRIAN E.	13
M-15136	HEISER	GEORGE W.	11
M-15137	CAMPBELL	NATHAN J.	01-18
M-15138	HARPER IV	JOHN A.	101

## GENERAL MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-15139	CAVAN	MATTHEW D.	16
M-15140	KAMENZIND	ROBERT E.	1-18
M-15141	TORRES	JERRY W.	92
M-15200	SPROLES	KYLE	1-18
M-14882	COOPER	BRENT M.	15
M-15203	GEIGER	WILLIAM L.	88
M-15144	REDMOND	KEVIN A.	74
M-15163	MCQUIDDY	JOSEPH	38
M-15179	EVANS	ANTHONY W	5
M-15195	JACKSON	JOHN M.	81
M-15205	SHADDUCK	DANE N.	
M-15219	WALKER	MICHAEL	39
M-15221	ANDERSON	STEPHEN	
M-15223	BORJON	ERNEST C	01-18
M-15225	SHARQAWI	JOHN R	01-18
M-15229	MCLAMORE, JR	WILLIAM H.	

## LIFE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-9978	MUSTON	KIEL C.	
D-10042	YOUNG	CHRISTOPHER TERRY	52
M-13207	ORTIZ	PATRICK	26
M-15125	FLYNN	JAMES F.	54
D-9556	FERNANDEZ	SAMSON L.	02
D-8866	MCPEEK	RAYMOND P.	04-24
D-10043	ATKINSON	PETER M.	60
M-15130	HOLLEY	CHRISTOPHER	07
M-7485	YOST SR.	DANIEL J.	67
D-10047	MOORE	MICHAEL T.	28
M-4116	NORTON	CURTIS	01-18
A-966	TYCER	ANTHONY L.	47
D-10045	MUSTOE	ROBERT C.	51
D-8901	DUPLANTIS	BARRY J.	
M-14548	PAXSON	CHRISTIAN M.	41
M-14343	ELLINGER	SCOTT J.	03
A-1733	MCBRIDE	EDWARD T	56
D-10044	CRENSHAW	RONALD A.	

## LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
D-4968	WEAVER	MICHAEL T.	21
M-15132	SLIZEWSKI	BENJAMIN	
A-4728	SCHLUTER	BRIDGET A.	38
M-9170	TOOLAN	PAUL T.	
M-15131	WRIGHT	JESSE W.	16
M-15133	PESTA	CHARLES J.	01-18
M-9491	WENINGER	JORGE	
D-10039	KOCH	KEVIN L.	28
M-10747	DIAZ-PONS	RODOLFO R.	55
D-7259	BORSZ	ANDREW K.	01-18
M-15137	CAMPBELL	NATHAN J.	01-18
D-8396	GRIESHABER	ALFRED W.	62
D-9717	HOEFER	MICHAEL E.	42
D-10051	NEELY	DAVID	62
M-4625	ANDERSON	DAVID A.	22
M-15138	HARPER IV	JOHN A.	101
D-10054	HAUCK	STEVE	16
D-10056	HAYES	MICHAEL R.	1-18
D-3411	LAYTON	LAWRENCE H.	
M-9985	TURNELL	JEFF T.	
D-10057	LACHICOTTE	GEORGE P.	20
M-15141	TORRES	JERRY W.	92
M-15199	ROBINSON	STEVEN E.	7
D-8511	CONNOR	SHAWN H.	22
D-10075	CONRAD	JORDAN	
M-15201	BEASLEY	JIMMY	
D-8016	WILES	ELLIS W.	
A-1108	MERSON	JOSEPH C.	01-18
M-7123	ROBINSON	JON	28
M-15218	MUSSON	GRANATH E.	01-18
D-10082	MILLER	FRANK L.	4-24
M-15224	BASHER	VICTOR L.	11
M-15142	WILHELMUS	DAVID	45
D-4908	MIZE	CHRISTOPHER J.	55
M-15197	GULLABA	ALBERTO D.	16

## LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-15226	SMITH	MATTHEW C.	
M-15227	WILLIAMS	VERNON	
M-15228	GOUMOND	PATRICK	01-18
M-15143	FISHER	CARL	
M-15145	NAILLING	RICHARD	7
M-15146	VALENTINE	AUSTIN X.	38
M-15147	PATZ	STEPHEN C.	4-24
M-15148	SIMS	JOSEPH C.	68
M-15149	GAPINSKI	CHRISTOPHER T.	38
M-15164	GEFFEN	ARTHUR B.	
M-15165	ANDERSON	MATTHEW S.	45
M-15166	BALLINGER	MARK A.	45
M-15167	BELL	NATHAN C.	45
M-15168	BUHLMANN	JEREMIAH J.	45
M-15169	BROWN	BRIAN J.	45
M-15170	DIEHL	JOHN C.	
M-15171	DEMARCHI	ROBERT E.	45
M-15172	CARTICA	DANIEL T.	45
M-15173	BERRY	JORDAN C.	45
M-15174	BIBLE	MICHAEL B.	45
M-15175	BESGROVE	JUSTIN J.	45
M-15176	YAMADA	MICHAEL H.	45
M-15177	WRIGHT	ANDREW M.	45
M-15178	WILDE	MICHAEL D.	45
M-15180	WATTS	AARON P.	45
M-15181	TIGHE	CAREY J.	45
M-15182	TOBIN	KELVIN C.	45
M-15183	SUHY	JASON T.	45
M-15184	SHERMAN	JACK O.	45
M-15185	RICHTER	CAYDEN A.	45
M-15186	PRYOR	KEENAN M.	45
M-15187	MALONEY	ERIK R.	45
M-15188	LAAGE	JOHN A.	45
M-15189	HORTON II	MARK A.	45
M-15190	HANNA	JOSHUA K.	45
M-15191	BACHINI	KENNETH J.	14
M-15192	GUY	NICHOLAS R.	45
M-15193	GERARDI	DAVID M.	45



## LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
M-15194	FINFROCK	JACOB L.	45
M-15220	TISCHLER	BRYAN A.	1-18
M-15222	HENDERSON II	DANIEL W.	16
D-10060	NORWOOD	THOMAS E.	21
D-10059	SACOLICK	BENNET S.	
D-10062	MCALLISTER	ROBERT D.	
D-10063	OSBORNE	JOSEPH E.	01-18
D-10064	HJELSETH	CLARK M.	
D-10065	HANSON	WILLIAM R.	01-18
D-10066	CLARK	WILLIAM D.	44
D-10067	HUNT	ROBERT G.	54
D-10071	MORALEX	MICHAEL L.	15
D-10072	WHITE	PAUL J.	45
D-10073	NEILL	JOE T.	45
D-10082	MILLER	FRANK L.	4-24
A-4731	KELLY	JIMMY L.	15

## LIFE MEMBERS (continued)

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
A-4732	MURPHY	MARK C.	38
A-4739	PIATEK	DAVID S.	45
A-4740	TANGEN	DREW C.	45
M-14808	POIRIER	KRISTOPHER	28

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

MEMBER #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER
A-4727	MARKHAM	WILLIAM L.	88
A-4728	SCHLUTER	BRIDGET A.	38
A-4729	ZAMUDIO	KATHLEEN H.	12
A-4730	VANNESS	NORMA	60
A-4733	CALDERON	GLORIA	
A-4734	GASTON	SHARON L.	103

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# Creating Elder Warriors Instead of Victims

A Program for Healing the Psychic Wounds of War  
and the Initiation of the Elder Warrior

---

by: Paul Henderson, LTC (ret.) US ARMY

I am not a therapist, counselor, physician, or psychologist. I am a retired Special Forces officer who served in both active and reserve components. I served in Vietnam during 1969 – 1970. During the mid 1990s, I experienced a complete personal meltdown, much of which was based upon my experiences in combat and my attempts to self-medicate with alcohol. My life nearly ended. In coming back from that abyss, I worked through programs and some counseling with the VA. Much of it was helpful. But, I was never totally comfortable with the victimhood that seemed to be an integral component of the VA treatment model. Being told that my combat experiences left me with a permanent “disorder” that would never go away and the best I could do is learn to manage the symptoms neither sat well nor

rang true for me. But, my symptoms of nightmares, flashbacks, flat emotions, alcohol dependence, and quick anger were real. In 2009, I attended a four-day workshop in Colorado put on by Dr. Ed Tick and the Soldiers Heart organization. Ed Tick’s message was clear: The psychic trauma and wounding we call PTSD is as old as warfare itself, and is more accurately and appropriately addressed as an initiation into a new and important identity as opposed to a permanently disabling “disorder.”

That experience changed everything for me. Since then I have served on the board of directors for Soldier’s Heart and trained and served as a workshop facilitator. I have helped conduct workshops for veterans as well as active duty Army

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## BACKGROUND

Over the past 4,500 years of recorded human history, there have been approximately 14,000 documented wars. Presumably, this doesn't include countless raids and excursions between villages and tribes in remote areas of the earth. This statistic tells us two things:

1. Wars and armed conflicts aren't going away anytime soon. It's what we, as humans, do. No matter how much we as a species claim to abhor war and violence, we keep doing it over and over and it doesn't show any signs of letting up. Quite the contrary, actually.

2. Modern America is not the first society forced to face the harsh realities of dealing with the psychic war trauma experienced by its citizen combatants when they return from the conflict. The term "post traumatic stress disorder" has been with us only since 1980. We aren't doing a good job healing the psychic wounds of war. Maybe we can learn something from other cultures about how to do it better.

Armed conflict – war – between nations, peoples, tribes, religions, and persons with different interests has been with us for as long as people have walked the earth. It isn't likely to end soon. While this may be disappointing, it is simply an inescapable fact of life. Also inescapable is the psychic and spiritual effect of the experience of war on those who actually fight it. The shock and trauma of battle, as well as the euphoric adrenaline rush of the experience, leave indelible imprints on the combatant who survives and returns to the society that nurtured and developed him or her.

## PTSD ISN'T NEW

This is not a new phenomenon. Homer wrote of the "rage of Achilles" who plotted to kill his own commander and committed atrocities on the battlefield after his best friend was killed.

**"Also inescapable  
is the psychic and  
spiritual effect of the  
experience of war on  
those who actually  
fight it."**

David, a warrior king of Israel, prayed:

*"Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak." Psalms 31:9, 10.*

St. Francis of Assisi was a war veteran and a POW. He left his wealthy family home in Italy at age 19 to seek adventure in the Crusades. He was wounded and became a POW. After being ransomed, he returned to his life of privilege but found he no longer felt at home. He re-enlisted and went back to the Crusades. Only later was he able to translate his experience and spiritual woundedness into spiritual transformation that lives on even today through his work.

**“The soldier becomes the warrior. The job of the soldier is to kill. The job of the warrior may include killing when necessary, but it is primarily to guide and protect.”**

George Washington had nightmares from the French and Indian War and was prone to fits of rage.

War and military service have been primary rites of passage for thousands of years. Initiation into adulthood with its privileges and responsibilities was integrally connected with warrior training and tradition. With this came certain expected consequences which had to be effectively and successfully dealt with: some deaths, an even greater number of physical wounds, and a certain number of psychic wounds. The society deals with death with tradition and ceremony and with physical wounds by treating them with physical medicine. Traditional societies have addressed the psychic and spiritual wounds of war – what we call “PTSD” - with healing processes which allow the warrior to cleanse the toxins of combat and assume a new identity as an elder warrior who is now responsible to share the wisdom, insight and skills learned as a combatant for the benefit of the entire society. The soldier becomes the warrior. The job of the soldier is to kill. The job of the warrior may include killing when necessary, but it is primarily to guide and protect.

Dr. Ed Tick in his book *War and The Soul* (Quest Books, 2005) explains:

“Warriorhood is not an outer role but an inner spiritual achievement. Said differently, attaining warrior status is a matter of character. The development of a mature warrior entails the restoration of moral fiber that \*\*\*\* is undone in combat. With such restoration, the healed veteran embodies high qualities of decency, honesty, kindness, compassion, and cooperation along with strength, courage, clear mindedness, and vision. Ironical as it may seem, these qualities can be born or re-born out of the conflagration of war and developed in direct relation to the wisdom of the survivor has garnered through his sojourn to the Underworld.”

The modern term for the psychic wound of war is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In the past, it has been labeled nostalgia, shell shock, and battle fatigue. During the American Civil War it was called “soldier’s heart,” as we then associated deep soul wounds with the heart rather than the brain.

## **PTSD DOESN'T JUST AFFECT THE VETERAN**

When we give lectures or training workshops, it is common to start the presentation by asking all of the veterans in the audience to please stand. They do so and there is typically some applause from



the rest of the audience. I then ask the veterans to remain standing and invite the spouses – current or former – of veterans to stand and remain standing. Usually there is another smattering of applause. Then I ask the children of vets to do the same. Then parents and siblings. Then cousins and close friends. Then counselors, therapists or ministers who work with veterans. By this time, usually the entire room is standing. I then ask people to look around and remember what they see.

The point is that psychic war trauma doesn't just affect the combatant. When the warrior brings the war home with him or herself, everyone is affected by the experience.

Many spouses and children particularly suffer tremendous effects from being close to a veteran whose psychic trauma leads them to violence, emotional distance, anger, and substance abuse. When the veteran is able to transform that trauma into a positive experience, the entire society participates and benefits from that healing.

## PTSD IN MODERN WESTERN CULTURE

Particularly since the Vietnam War, Americans have been forced to deal with the condition labeled Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in many of its combat veterans. With the loss of the tradition of initiation and the wisdom of many cultures, Americans did

what seemed to make the most sense: they turned the problem over to the medical/psychiatric establishment, which accepted it. The medical establishment then approached the condition as it would a disease. It was given a clinical name: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and classified as an "anxiety disorder." The message was clear – if you had PTSD, there was something "wrong" with you. You were not "normal." Those afflicted were diagnosed according to strict, objective criteria (DSM III, IV etc). They were then rated based upon the percentage of a complete and "normal" human being they happened to be (50%, 100% etc. disabled). The various treatment plans were then formulated with the goal of restoring the veterans to "normative behavior;" meaning that they could function as if the experience of combat never happened. As the problem grew and multiplied since 9/11 and the ensuing wars, the treatment of choice (or necessity, based on the numbers) has become drug therapy. It is not unusual for Iraq/Afghanistan veterans to be on several medications simultaneously for sleep, stress, anxiety, and so on. Vietnam veterans came late to this drug emphasized approach but the medical establishment has included them in this regimen as well.

This approach has largely failed. This is quite obvious when we examine the number of American combat veterans who are living a medicated life and are now fully invested into the culture of disability. This doesn't include those incarcerated, living on the streets, and victims of suicide. Every

**"The point is that psychic war trauma doesn't just affect the combatant...everyone is affected by the experience"**

person who experiences combat is forever changed by the experience. Some recover without serious long term problems. Others are severely disabled.

Perhaps the biggest tragedy, both for the veteran and for society, is that we have undermined and largely erased the tradition of the mature warrior who becomes a seasoned, calm, and wise elder for the society. We have ignored and bypassed the complete process of initiation through military service that has for millennia provided a meaningful and fulfilling life for the veteran who becomes fully integrated into the Warrior Archetype. That – not victimhood and permanent disability – is the true destiny of the veteran.

## THE MILITARY EXPERIENCE PERMANENTLY TRANSFORMS THE INDIVIDUAL – YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME PERSON

So, what is wrong with trying to get the veteran to a psychological place where they can function as though the experience never happened? It denies one of the most basic truths of military service: Being in the military transforms the person permanently. The veteran is never the same as before entering the service. The transformation is even more pronounced and profound for the combat veteran. It is a mistake to believe that the transformation has to be a negative thing. The transformation, if properly handled, becomes an initiation for the veteran into a new and positive identity that benefits the veteran and the society as a whole. Traditional societies<sup>1</sup> have recognized that phenomenon and sought to reintegrate the veteran while channeling the transformative experiences into something that is beneficial both to the veteran and to the society. Our current

societal view of the path in and out of the military and out approach to treatment of PTSD is based upon this model:

First you are a **CIVILIAN**

Then you are a **SERVICE MEMBER**

When you leave the service you are a **VETERAN**

And then you reassume the role as a **CIVILIAN**

This is how it is supposed to work according to current doctrine. The military experience is compartmentalized as something that just “happened” between the dominant experience and identity as a civilian. Anything that interferes with the return to civilian status is viewed as counterproductive. The vet should be able to function and relate within the society as if the military and combat experience never happened. Psychic trauma from the experience is pathologized and treated in the same manner as a disease process or, more specifically, as a psychological disorder. Of course, this approach hasn’t worked. But, since 1980 when the term “PTSD” was first coined, the medical and pharmaceutical industries have become heavily invested in the current model.

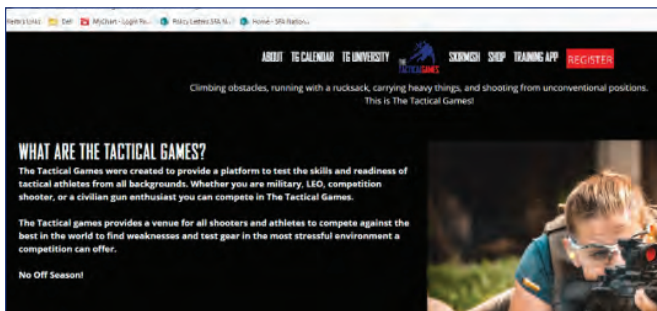
In the traditional and Soldier’s Heart approach to PTSD, it is emphasized that the experience of military service provides a basis for a new life paradigm for the veteran. Instead of the CIVILIAN – SERVICE MEMBER – VETERAN – CIVILIAN model, we adopt the “transformation” model and describe the progression as: CIVILIAN – SERVICE MEMBER – VETERAN – ELDER WARRIOR.

You cannot be the same civilian who first entered military service ever again. PTSD, which is very real, is de-pathologized and made part of a rite of passage – a phase of initiation into a life of service patterned upon the warrior archetype. Psychic stress from war and moral wounding from combat are normal reactions to abnormal situations. But, instead of using the experiences as a basis for a branding of permanent wounding and consignment to living within a culture of disability,





# Special Forces Association Tactical Games Skirmishes 2021



**SKIRMISH – The Tactical Games**  
<https://thetacticalgames.com/skirmishes/>

## Tactical Games Skirmish

A one-day tactical shooting competition that combines:

- Extreme physical fitness requirements
- Tactical shooting skills
- Physical and mental stressors

The Tactical Games are conducted as a series of “battles”. Each battle includes an athletic component designed to tire and stress the competitor. Each battle has multiple skill and shooting tasks that must be performed under physical and mental stress.

## Special Forces Association Tactical Games Skirmish Schedule (Subject to change/revision)

Month	Chapter	Location
March 20, 2021	Chapter 100	Oak Grove Training Complex, Hoffman, NC 28347
May 8, 2021	Chapter 6	Chigger Ranch Range, 3726 Coleman Road, Fayetteville, NC 28312
July 2021	Chapter 111	Vic. Johnson City, TN
September 11, 2021	Chapter 35	Apex Training Facility, Ashtabula, OH
September 2021	Chapter 70	19 <sup>th</sup> SFGA, Utah
September 2021	Chapter 500	Panther Ridge Gun Range & Training Institute, Solsberry, IN
October 2021	Chapter 51	Event in conjunction with SFA Convention, Las Vegas, NV
December 2021	SFA National Invitational	Vic. or on Ft Bragg, NC

Sponsorship Opportunities Available - POC: Keith Rutledge (vicepresident@specialforcesassociation.org)

we direct the veteran to the status and role of the Elder Warrior. The skills, attributes, values, character, judgment, and ability to perform under pressure gained from military service are unique gifts that serve not only the veteran, but the community and society as a whole. This is the model that has allowed societies to grow and develop in stability for thousands of years. Some important traits of the warrior:

*Willingness to endure hardship*  
*Devotion to a higher purpose*  
*Tactical and technical proficiency*  
*Loyalty*  
*Selflessness*  
*Tradition of service*  
*Physical and moral courage*

These are the qualities needed for a healthy society. It's what we expect and depend upon from our leaders. Without those qualities, society devolves into contentious culture where selfish, self seeking becomes the rule rather than the exception. Take a look at that list and compare it to what we see in the character and performance of many of our current leaders in government, business, education and clergy. The tradition of military service has declined significantly during recent history. And with that decline we have seen the rise of the uninitiated and untested into positions

Kent White's riveting novels chronicling the daring exploits of the Special Forces led SOG teams that routinely infiltrated behind enemy lines into Laos, Cambodia and the DMZ are now available in hardback through [booklocker.com](https://booklocker.com).

**"The skills, attributes, values, character, judgment, and ability to perform under pressure gained from military service are unique gifts that serve not only the veteran, but the community and society as a whole."**





## THE DROP

of influence and power. They bring with them an orientation that is completely self directed. "What is important is that I get what I want when I want it." And, we are left with a society that is at war with itself.

When we as a society marginalize our military veterans as we have, we not only deny them the opportunity to reach their full potential, we deny the society the benefit of their experience, judgment, and wisdom. Instead of treating veterans as victims, we should look to them for judgment, courage, and wisdom. Instead of offering a veteran a free fishing trip, why not ask him to conduct an outdoor workshop for young people on survival and land navigation? Instead of offering a veteran a seat in first class on a commercial flight, why not ask her to sit in the exit row because she has proven that she can function under pressure and we can rely on her in a tight spot? During my talks and workshops I often use the example of the baboon troop and a photograph of an adolescent baboon male facing off with a leopard.

When the baboon troop stops to feed, preen, mate, socialize – all the things they do, they set up a security perimeter of young males who spread out and position themselves anywhere from twenty to fifty meters away from the troop. I personally witnessed this while in Africa. When a predator – lion, leopard, wild dog – threatens the troop the young sentry has two jobs: sound the alarm and hold off the predator while the troop makes its escape. Those who survive become elders and leaders in the troop. They have proven their courage, their commitment to the well-being and survival of the group, and their ability to overcome great odds and survive. They have something to offer and the troop knows that and relies upon it.

Suppose instead that the troop took these young warriors and told them: "Well, what you had to go through was just awful and we assume you are permanently disabled from the experience. We want you to now go sit in a safe place with the others who were on the perimeter and we'll take care of you and give you medicines so that you don't have to even think about it."

The young baboons would wither and the troop would not survive. It needs its true warriors and it cannot deny itself that asset. As a society and culture, that is exactly what we are doing to our veterans and to ourselves.

War does create psychic and moral wounds – no question.<sup>2</sup> Sometimes drug therapy is appropriate on a temporary basis when



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symptoms are acute. I am not a clinician, but I have observed case after case where veterans are simply relegated to a life of drug consumption and dependence. They are told that their PTSD is a permanent condition and the best they can do is learn how to manage symptoms. There is usually a monetary benefit to the veteran in embracing this approach, and, eventually, many become deeply entrenched in a culture of disability. PTSD becomes a self-fulfilling diagnosis.

In the Soldier's Heart model, the psychic wounding is addressed and dealt with. The veteran has to heal the trauma – physical, spiritual, and emotional – from the experience before the mantle of Elder Warrior can be assumed. In the workshops we apply a systematic approach to healing and initiation. One of the most important messages we convey, and the one that is universally received by veterans as a positive and worthwhile concept is: Just because you took off the uniform doesn't mean that you don't still have a mission. Your mission now is to use your skills, experience, and the judgment gained to lead, guide, and set the example for the rest of your people. The mantle of the Elder Warrior has passed to you and it is vital that you assume that role.

## WARRIOR RETURN WORKSHOPS

This program is designed to address the lost tradition and give the veteran and those who care for him or her a context and framework for living that emphasizes the necessity for true healing, the resolution of the combat experience, and the responsibility of the veteran/warrior to the society. Sessions can be as short as a day, although that would generally require no more than five participants and would not be able to fully implement the process. Ideally, workshops consist of 15 to 20 persons, including veterans, spouses, and/or practitioners and will last 3 - 4 days.

The workshops are based largely on traditions

and techniques from ancient and traditional cultures, including Native American warrior cultures. Much of the format – as well as a good deal of the information in this article -- is from the work by Dr. Ed Tick who, with his wife Kate Dahlstedt, founded "Soldier's Heart" and continues to conduct healing workshops in America, Greece, and Vietnam. They are the pioneers of this work. As a former board member of Soldier's Heart, I participated in the development of the organization and continue to conduct workshops, both within and without the Soldier's Heart organization. My own workshops borrow heavily from their

**"The veteran has to  
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can be assumed."**

work, but I also offer my own techniques and insights including the emphasis on the tradition of initiation and archetypes and the incorporation of breathwork into the experience.

I also emphasize the importance of the initiation process to the former service member who is not a combat veteran. The status of warriorhood and the tradition of initiation into the vital role of "elder" is



important and available to those who served and were willing to put themselves into the crucible of combat, even if that situation never developed for them. They had trials and fears as well and often have to overcome a sense of guilt because they were not tested in combat as others were.

Lastly, it is important to emphasize that the tradition and status of “warrior” is unique and vital. But, it is not superior to the other archetypes. Others serve and contribute in their own unique ways and follow the traditions of other archetypes – priest, mother, artist, inventor, healer, builder, scholar, father, and so on. The warrior has a unique set of skills and traditions including the willingness to endure hardship, devotion to a transpersonal purpose, physical and moral courage, duty, loyalty, and willingness to sacrifice self to protect others, that serve the society and act as a model for others when needed.

The emphasis throughout the workshop is on healing, growth, and positive transformation. The military experience and the experience of war are viewed as difficult but important portals that provide strength and wisdom to the individual as well as the society. War creates psychic wounds in nearly all its participants. Victimhood and permanent psychological wounding are rejected in the approach to these workshops. While recognizing that some individuals may need certain medications and conventional medical/psychological treatment, we believe that persons in this group are a small minority. We seek to develop wise and mature Elder Warriors who can provide valuable knowledge and insight to the society. I believe that most veterans are fully capable of assuming this role.

In workshop, I often tell the story of the rush to go to war in Iraq by America in 2003, based upon what later proved to be flawed and inaccurate intelligence. The only member of the President’s war cabinet to advise caution and refrain from immediate attack was the only combat veteran

present – General Colin Powell. It turned out that his assessment – the assessment of the elder warrior – was correct. That is the kind of wisdom and counsel the society needs from its veterans. Other examples abound and need to be studied and emulated by today’s veteran.

That approach is not emphasized or encouraged by today’s treatment practitioners or the society as a whole and the role of the veteran as a leader in America has diminished. Our last true warrior President was John Kennedy who died over 50 years ago. We like to talk about “The Greatest Generation” – the service members who won WWII and then came home to rebuild America – but we don’t have a modern counterpart nor do we try to foster one. The only difference between the veterans who returned from WWII and those who came home from later wars is the perception of them by the public and, as a result, by themselves.

So, how do we reclaim this tradition that creates elder warriors instead of victims? The veterans have to do it themselves – individually and collectively. The rest of society is never going to completely understand the experience of military service or combat. The best they can do is project out their commonly inaccurate perceptions onto the veteran.<sup>3</sup> We, as veterans, have to identify ourselves with Colin Powell or Joshua Chamberlain, a college professor who accepted a commission in the Union Army in 1862. In July, 1863, he broke the momentum of the Confederate advance at Gettysburg by leading a bayonet charge down Little Round Top directly into the advancing enemy forces. The bayonet charge was a matter of necessity as his troops had run out of ammunition. For this action he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He rose to the rank of Major General. After the war, he served four terms as the governor of Maine as well as serving as a faculty member and president of Bowdoin College.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. is another example. Holms enlisted in the Army in 1861 during his

senior year of college. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant and participated as a combatant in numerous battles from The Peninsula Campaign to the Wilderness. He was wounded three times and nearly died from dysentery. When he left the Army at the end of the war, he was wounded and ill. He went on to a career in the law and eventually became a US Supreme Court Justice and probably the most quoted jurist in the world. His war time experiences greatly influenced the rest of his life, including his legal philosophy that embraced “legal realism” as shaped by the horrors of war he witnessed.

Other examples are plentiful including the actor Jimmy Stewart, who joined the Army Air Force in WWII and became a B-24 pilot (as did Senator George McGovern). This was after he had already been awarded an Academy Award. He flew twenty combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He resumed acting after the war but stayed with the USAF Reserve, eventually retiring as a Brigadier General. His last combat mission was in a B-52 over Vietnam during the 1960s.<sup>4</sup>

The point of all these examples is that these veterans were all truly transformed by their military service and war time experiences and were able to

build on the transformation to become leaders, guides, and examples to all.

We, as veterans, can embrace these models and throw off the stigma of irreversible damage that dominates the modern approach to PTSD. If we fail to do that, we will suffer individually – trapped in a paradigm of disability. Our country and our society will suffer from the loss of our participation as Elder Warriors.

## CONCLUSION

Psychic trauma from war is real and common. It has been with us as long as humans have walked the earth and practiced organized violence against one another. It is not going away. But, as with many painful life experiences, it can be a doorway to a new and more meaningful and productive life. The tradition of initiation into the archetype of the elder warrior has long transformed the crucible of combat experience into a new identity and mission as a leader and guide in the society, as well as a role model for the finest and most noble human traits.

We can regain this tradition with the right approach. We owe this to ourselves as veterans, to our families, and to the society we serve. ✂

### Resources

1. By “traditional societies” I am referring to many varied cultures throughout history including the ancient Greeks, many Asian cultures, ancient and more modern European and African societies, and the warrior tradition of American Indian tribes.

2. Often it is difficult for Special Forces soldiers to accept this. PTSD has a very negative stigma that is particularly strong among elite forces. It is seen as “unmanly” and contrary to our perception of ourselves as able to handle anything. It is important to emphasize the truth – PTSD is a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. Humans experience fear, horror, and guilt in predictable ways and PTSD is one of them. Lack of those reactions is usually found only among sociopaths.

3. The Vietnam war was tremendously unpopular and so the young soldiers who fought in it became “bad” people and “baby killers” to the civilians. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, at least in the early stages, were very popular and viewed as an appropriate and necessary response to the attacks on 9/11. Hence, the service members who served during that time were universally “heroes” and treated with great deference and honor. Neither depiction was completely accurate except for a very few cases but that didn’t stop the civilians from clinging to them.

4. Stewart refused to act in any war movies after his return from WWII, saying that they were all phony and he wasn’t going to personally involve himself in a fraud. He made one movie about the Air Force called “Strategic Air Command” that was about the development of the B-47.



# **SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2021 CONVENTION**

PRESENTED BY:

**SFA CHAPTERS 51 & 78**

**OCTOBER 22ND-25TH**

**LAS VEGAS**



**THE ORLEANS HOTEL**

A large, illuminated neon sign that reads "WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA". The sign is angled upwards and features a classic Vegas aesthetic with red and blue neon letters and a border of small red lights. The background is a blurred night view of the Las Vegas city skyline.

# WELCOME TO *Fabulous* LAS VEGAS NEVADA

## **SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2021 CONVENTION**

The 2021 Special Forces Convention "SFACON" promises to be one of the biggest, SFA Conventions of all time. Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world and we promise to throw a lot at you over the course of 4+ days. Our host hotel, The Orleans, has a huge hospitality room which will feature an "open" bar for the entire convention. Don't miss this one!



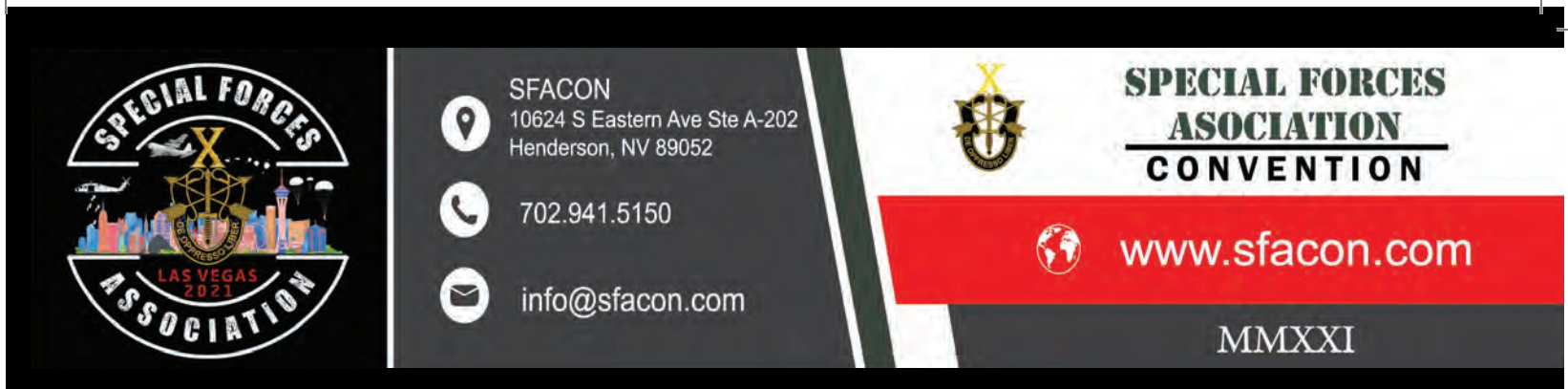
# **SFACON**

**[www.sfacon.com](http://www.sfacon.com)**

### **FEATURING**

- Open Bar all days
- SF Speaker Symposium
- Butler Purple Heart Run
- M Hotel Day Club  
After Race Party
- Death Valley  
Motorcycle Ride
- Golf Tournament





### Special Forces Association

**2021 Special Forces Association Convention 10624 S Eastern Ave. Ste A  
Henderson, NV 89052**

### Mail-In Registration

Visit the website at <https://sfacon.com/register-now/> if you would like to complete the registration Online.  
If you prefer to complete the form by mailing it in, please use the attached form.

1. Please answer all questions and sign the form for each guest in your party that will attend the convention.
2. Please enclose a check with the form. The check must be completely legible and made to the order of Special Forces Association -Memo: 2021 SFA Convention.
3. Please type or write your answers in the boxes / lines to answer questions.
4. 2021 SFA Convention Cancellation Policy: Cancellation on or before September 1, 2021: Full refund  
Cancellation between September 1, 2021 and October 1, 2021: 50% Refund. Cancellation on or after October 1st, 2021: NO REFUND except for extraordinary circumstances. Cancellation policy for room reservations at the Orleans Hotel is solely in accordance with their resort policy.
5. Email your complete registration to [info@sfacon.com](mailto:info@sfacon.com), or  
USPS Mail To:  
**Special Forces Association Chapter  
2021 Special Forces Association Convention  
10624 S Eastern Ave Ste A-202  
Henderson, NV 89052**
7. When we receive your registration form, we will enter your information into the system and email your receipt and ticket for the convention.
8. This Convention Registration form does not reserve your hotel stay. Please contact:  
The Orleans Hotel @ **800-675-3267: PLEASE USE BOOKING CODE: ASF1C10**

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 2021**  
**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**  
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1. First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Email: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Phone (Other): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which registration options are you selecting for the 2021 SFAC. You must choose between:

☐ **All Access Registration: \$189.00.** This registration includes all regular events (except golf tournament). 4 Day Hospitality Suite with Open Bar, All Guest Speakers & Presentations, Death Valley Motorcycle Ride, Butler Purple Heart Race / Picnic / Day Party at the M Hotel, Valley of Fire Tour, Shopping Excursion, and Closing Night Banquet. Includes, special edition SFA Convention Coin and T Shirt.

Or - **A La Carte Registration**

☐ **\$30.00 Butler Purple Heart Run / Picnic / Day Party:** Allows you administration to the Picnic / Day Party at the M Hotel pool deck with DJ Live entertainment and vendors. The Butler Race will run around the M Hotel from 8am - 11am and culminate with a post race awards ceremony and after party. Takes place on Saturday October 23rd from 8am - 5pm at the M Hotel Las Vegas.

☐ **\$70.00 SFAC Banquet:** Allows you to participate in the 2021 SFAC culmination event with dinner, guest speakers and live band. Takes place on Monday night October 25th, 2021 from 5pm-10pm at the Orleans Hotel.

☐ **\$99.00 Hospitality Room Only:** Allows admission to the hospitality room for all 4 days. The Hospitality Room features open bars and a vendor showcase.

☐ **\$50.00 Golf Tournament:** The Golf Tournament is limited to 72 Players on 4-Man Teams. You may add the Golf Tournament in additional to your Convention Registration. You may contact other registered players to form your 4-man team. If you have not secured your 4-man team by October 12, 2021 we will assist you with assignment to a team. The Tournament takes place on October 25, 2021 from 8am-1pm held at Nellis Air Force Base.  
FOR GOLFERS: Nellis AFB has 25 sets of rental clubs that are free to use available on a first come first serve basis.

**\*\* Shopping Tour & Valley of Fire Tours are free and available to all SFA attendees. Signups for these will be at the Registration Desk.**

7. Please circle your shirt size: SMALL MED LARGE XLARGE XXLARGE XXXLARGE

8. Do you have a diagnosis, limitation, disability, condition, concern, or requirement that requires special attention during your stay (i.e. wheel-chair access)?

☐ YES ☐ NO

9. If any, please describe your special condition and the requirements you have in order for the SFAC staff to facilitate your attendance.

10. Will you be traveling to the convention in or towing a recreational vehicle? Please be advised of the specific requirements involved with bringing an RV or Motorcycle listed on the Orleans Website: [https://orleanscasino.reztrip.com/classic/en/searches/5f1110dd1d48c44a31254750/hotels/OR/rooms?action=show&controller=landings&rate\\_code=ASF1C10#?category=](https://orleanscasino.reztrip.com/classic/en/searches/5f1110dd1d48c44a31254750/hotels/OR/rooms?action=show&controller=landings&rate_code=ASF1C10#?category=)

☐ YES ☐ NO



11. Please be advised that each guest is responsible for ensuring that they are at the Orleans Hotel to begin each programed event, no matter where they decide to stay for their lodging.

☐ **I UNDERSTAND THIS REQUIREMENT**

12. For the sake of accountability, please select the basic events of which you will participate (if none, select None).

☐ **NONE**    ☐ **BUTLER RACE / PICNIC / DAY PARTY**    ☐ **VALLEY OF FIRE TOUR**

☐ **MOTORCYCLE RIDE:** Please Circle your shirt size: SMALL MED LARGE XLARGE XXLARGE XXXLARGE

☐ **GOLF TOURNAMENT:** Please Circle your shirt size: SMALL MED LARGE XLARGE XXLARGE XXXLARGE

☐ **SHOPPING TOUR**

☐ **NIGHTCLUB EXCURSION (TBD)**

☐ **LAS VEGAS (TBD)**

Note: Some events may be added at a later date. These may include a Vegas Show and/or Nightclub Excursion, strip tours etc. Please stay tuned for details.

13. If any, please list the First/Last Name of any/all other members of your 4-Man Golf Team for the Tournament. If not acquired yet, leave blank.

14. If any, please list the First/Last Name of any/all Gold-Star Family Members traveling with you, other than yourself or otherwise-registered for this convention.

15. Please select all the options that pertain to you.

☐ **I AM AN SFA MEMBER:** SFA member number \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **I AM NOT A MEMBER**

☐ **I AM A GOLD-STAR MEMBER OR GOLD-STAR FAMILY**

16. Please select all the boxes that pertain to you attending the 2021 SFAC.

☐ **I WAS INVITED AS A GUEST**    ☐ **I WAS INVITED AS A SPEAKER**    ☐ **I WAS INVITED AS A SPONSOR**

☐ **I AM A SPOUSE OR GUEST OF A SFA MEMBER:** SFA member number \_\_\_\_\_

17. I am submitting a check that is enclosed with this form for my registration. The check includes the total sum for all the services I have selected. The check is written in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Please enter your INITIALS HERE: \_\_\_\_\_ I have read, understand, and agree to the terms, conditions, and cancellation policy for attendance to the 2021 SFAC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME, LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



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