



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

P.O. BOX 33782 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265-3782

SPECIAL EDITION

May 2024

President: Jeff Dahlby
Vice-President: Tom Tannahill
Secretary: Fred Solis
Asst. Secretary: Sergio Venegas
Treasurer: Deon Popoy
Asst. Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Chaplain: Steve Rindahl

Visit us at our Home Page:

www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

Nominations: Chuck Rose
Membership: Sergio Venegas
JROTC Awards: John Lopez
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Christmas Banquet: Jeff Dahlby
Budget Committee: Deon Popoy
Chapter Memorial Svc: Jeff Dahlby
Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee
Fundraising: Bobby Walker, Harold McBride, Mark Goode, Paul Coleman

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



May 3-5 - Jack Hogue Memorial Picnic

May 12 - Mother's Day

May 27 - Memorial Day

***NO MEETING IN MAY!!!**



DON'T FORGET



- Sick call at 1300 every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings SFA Chapter XV,

Our April 2024 meeting was preceded by our annual memorial service at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (FSHNC). Thanks to all who attended the ceremony which also included this year a message from Echo Hill Gold Star Camp owner Marcie Friedman who visited the grave site of a long serving Echo Hill camp employee and WWII veteran. A special thanks to FSHNC Director Gerald Lefler, Administrative Officer Brenda Hoster, Bill Neuiszer and the Memorial Service Detachment, and "Monte" the bugler who, besides Taps, played the National Anthem and the Ballad of the Green Beret, for accommodating us during their construction works and expansion.



The Chapter was happy to see members Jose Campos and wife Lucy, Gen Valenzuela and wife Ester, Lou Collantoni and wife Mary, John Tippy, Walter "Pete" Lee, Delbert Hayes, Rick Bedell (New/Transfer), Johnny Terrazas, and Gen Trombitas in attendance some of who have been absent for a while. Thanks to my wife Monica for coordinating pork and chicken Salvadoran tamales for meeting attendees who gobbled them up with lust. "Yes, Ron you can have seconds."

Some Chapter members met at The LongTab Brewery on 20 April to visit with Associate member LTC Michelle Buratti who was in the San Antonio area prior to her deployment to Iraq. Best wishes Michelle for safe travel and a speedy return. Great to see former President Bill Smith and wife Tonya along with Rich Harvey and wife Sally.

Gordon Lee debuted the 2024 chapter "Fiesta Medal" and we look forward to selling them during San Antonio's "Fiesta" celebration from 18-28 April 2024 and the next few months as part of our fundraising activities.

Chapter members Jeff Dahlby, Steve Damon and Mark Good put their 18C skills to refurbish a bunkhouse at Echo Hill Ranch for Gold Star kid's camps. This is an ongoing work in progress project and volunteers are still needed.

The Chapter scholarship window closed on 30 April 2024 with one applicant. Given the aging (like fine wine) of our membership, the chapter voted in the inclusion of great-grandchildren for scholarship eligibility.

The new Chapter XV website has come online and can be accessed through www.sfa-xv.org. A tip of the beret to Web designer LaJazzman Broome for an excellent job setting it up. We hope our members and visitors are happy with the new "Look" to stay informed of chapter activities and support for the San Antonio community. Thanks also to Fred Solis for his donation to see us through our first few months of IT assistance as we learn the new process.

With a heavy heart SFA Chapter XV is sad to announce the passing of Associate Member Vito Cellini on 28 April 2024. 100-year-old Vito had been ill and in and out of the hospital a few times over the weeks prior, and although he seemed to be doing better passed peacefully in his sleep at home. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. His body is scheduled to be cremated the week of 6 May and a service at the Trinity Baptist Church in Alamo Heights is being scheduled following the cremation. Further details will be passed along to the membership as they are received.

Since our last newsletter we are happy to report that Bob Walker and his wife have recovered from their recent illness and we are wishing a speedy recovery to Gen(R) Valenzuela and Buddy Gee. We are sad to announce the passing of SFA Chapter member Colonel (R) Daniel H. Edwards M-206 at their home in San Antonio on April 9, 2024, at the age of 82 in the company of his wife Carolyn.

The Chapter XV Jack Hogue memorial picnic was held from 3-5 May 2024 at the Jellystone Park Camp-Resort Hill Country near Canyon Lake. Members enjoyed great food, libations and fellowship during this annual event which was well attended. Besides the regulars, it was great seeing Al Simmich, Don Blue, Izzy Ortega, Ted Heckerman, Lee Otten, and Lee Teschendorf and his wife Dianne. Many thanks to all who pitched in to help make it a great event.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 8 June 2024 at 1300 hours at VFW 8541 located at 2222 Austin Highway, San Antonio. A business meeting will be held at 1100 hours for Chapter Board members and lunch will be available at 1200. There will be no meeting in May given the Jack Hogue Memorial picnic scheduled for 3-5 May 2024.

Jeffrey D. Dahlby
President SFA Chapter XV

April Meeting Minutes - 04/13/24

Special Forces Association Chapter XV

April 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

I. Board members present:

President Jeff Dahlby
Vice President Tom Tannahill
Secretary Fred Solis
Asst. Secretary Sergio Venegas
Asst. Treasurer Merrill Hall
Sgt at Arms Raul de la Garza
Asst Sgt at Arms Gordon Lee

II. The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Dahlby at 1300 hrs. followed by the pledge of allegiance and invocation by Tom Tannahill, and invocation by Chaplain Steve Rindahl.

- a. A moment of silence was held for fallen comrades by President Dahlby.
- b. President Dahlby welcomed and recognized new members, wives present, and guests: General Freddy Valenzuela & Esther, General Simeon Trombitas, Jose Campos & Lucy, Rick Biddell (new/transfer), Walter "Pete" Lee (new), John Macgony (1st group reunion meal donation), John Tippy, Marcy Friedman & friends with Echo Goldstar Camp, Joe Cavallero (turned 90 yrs old), guest David Ismael, , Lou Colantoni and Mary, Steve Damon, Johnny Terrazas, John Armazzani, and Delbert Hayes.
- c. Jeff and Monica Dahlby provided a wonderful meal of Salvadorian tamales.

III. Members Sick or In Distress: Bobby Walker

- a. Bobby Walker and his wife Vicky, both with COVID.
- b. Annette Jannine "Jai" Rose, wife of Chuck Rose, passed on 31 March, 2024. A celebration of life will be held at the VFW on June 2nd, from 1400 to 1700 hrs.
- c. Former Chapter XV President Charlie Hoffman has passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. The February 2024 meeting Minutes were approved as presented.
- II. Treasurer's Report: The February and March report were presented by Assistant Treasurer Merrell Hall as Leon Popoy was out of town. The reports were approved.
- III. Membership Update: Sergio provided an updated roster with 218 current members. He continues to work with National and conduct outreach to members who don't have valid email and/or telephone numbers.
- IV. Cotulla Cookoff: (Mike) Thanks to all who attended and especially to Tom Tannahill, John Lopez, Merrill Hall, Raul de la Garza, Jimmy Garza, Jeff Dahlby for loading, moving, unloading, setup, cooking, teardown. The event was well attended, we did not win, but all were very happy, and the sheriff said he has had no problems with our Chapter.
- V. Annual Picnic: The Special Forces Association Jack Hogue Picnic this year is going to be on 3-5 May at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™ Camp-Resort Hill Country, 12915 Farm to Market 306, Canyon Lake, TX 78133. We will load at 1200 hours on 3 May at the VFW. The picnic OPORD is to eat, drink, and socialize.

April Meeting Minutes - page 2

Special Forces Association Chapter XV

April 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS cont...

VI. Fundraising Committee: Committee members McBride, Coleman, Solis, Walker, Goode, Armazzani

- a. Golf Tournament. McBride (away on work) has made contact with different courses. He is looking at 10 Sep 2024 for the event date.
- b. The committee has discussed different proposals. A suggestion was made to advertise on social media and on military bases. John Armanzzani volunteered to assist.
- c. Questions included cost, prizes, number of golfers needed, etc.

VII. Donors and Donations:

- a. Donors will be on our new website in three levels: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each donor's logo will be linked to their business.
- b. Donations:
 - i. Fish City Grill donated \$695.67
 - ii. George Garcia donated \$50.00
 - iii. Fred Solis donated \$1,000.00 for the website
 - iv. John Armazzani donated \$175.00 for a Chapter meal.
 - v. Patrick Connally donated \$300.00 for the scholarship fund.
 - vi. Jimmy Garza, Harold, General Trombitas, and Tom Tannehill each donated \$500.00 for the new website.

VIII. SFA Cruise still has inside rooms available; John Lopez and Amy are currently on a cruise of their own.

IX. JROTC Awards:

John drove for five hours to deliver awards to all the local area high schools and two were mailed. This great program includes fifteen schools. Chapter volunteers are needed to present the awards each year on a rotating basis.

X. Scholarship Update:

Pat commented that the chapter had not received any applications as of yet with a reminder that nominations are would be open until 30 April. \$4,000.00 is available for the scholarships.

XI. Chapter Memorial:

Thanks to all that participated as it is important to honor our members and spouses who have passed. Echo Hill Gold Star Camp owner Marcie Friedman who also attended and spoke at the memorial, recited what she had said at the memorial and introduced her friends accompanying her.

XII. LongTab:

The beer dedication to SFC Victor Cervantes was well attended by Chapter members and other "SF'ers" from all over the U.S. A thanks to LongTab for hosting.

April Meeting Minutes - page 3

Special Forces Association Chapter XV

April 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Jeff and Fred are working with webmaster Jazzman Broome in building the new website.
- II. Pat Connally made a motion to allow great grandchildren of members as well as step children to apply for a scholarship. The motion was seconded and approved.
- III. Gordon Lee reported the arrival of 200 Fiesta Medals, member purchased some at the meeting and some were issued on consignment. Some are still available, contact Gordon.
- IV. Chuck Rose asked for volunteers to recon/help the Gold Star Camp and to make recommendations for project details. 100 Children are already registered for the summer.
- V. SFA Chapter XV plans to hail Associate Member LTC Michelle Buratti on Saturday, 20 April 2024 at 4pm at SF veteran owned and operated LongTab Brewery, 4700 Timco W, Unit 105, San Antonio, TX 78238. Michelle, from Pittsburgh, is still on active duty and will be swinging through San Antonio on her way to serve in Iraq. She was attached to the 7th SF group in Iraq, a life member of VFW 8541, and was chief of a medical ward at BAMC.
- VI. June 28 in Texas has been designated as Special Forces Day by the State Legislature. Jeff is attempting to meet with the 19th Group in order to explore a commemoration event, but this may have to wait until next year due to the time constraint.
- VII. Calendar Announcement:
 - i. 18-28 April Fiesta San Antonio
 - ii. 30 April Scholarship applications deadline
 - iii. 3-5 May Chapter Picnic
 - iv. 7 May Purple Heart fundraiser at Fish City Grill
 - v. 12 May Mother's Day
 - vi. 27 May Memorial Day
 - vii. 8 June Chapter XV Business Meeting/ Chapter meeting
 - viii. 14 June Flag Day and Army Birthday
 - ix. 16 June Father's Day

OPEN DISCUSSION: None

RAFFLE: Monica Dahlby won the 50/50 raffle and donated the money to the chapter scholarship fund.

Meeting Adjournment at 1404 hours via motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Solis SFA Chapter XV Secretary

SFA Annual Chapter Memorial Fort Sam Houston Cemetery



L-R Buddy Gee, Enrique Jimenez, Raul de la Garza, Chuck Rose, John Tippy, Merrill Hall, Fred Solis, Tom Tannahill, Pat Connolly



Tom Tannahill and Fred Solis



Tom Tannahill and Jeff Dahlby



Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment led by Chapter member Bill Newitzer

LTC Michelle Buratti send off at LongTab Brewing Co.



Chapter XV member LTC Michelle Buratti visited San Antonio April 18 to 23 as planned and a good time was had by all. Of special note was the Chapter gathering to meet and greet Schele on Saturday evening, April 20 at the LongTab. She is active duty and is deploying to Iraq in May 2024. We wish her a safe tour of duty.

ECHO HILL RANCH VOLUNTEER PROJECT



Pictured above - L-R Mike Davis, Rob McFarland, Marcie Friedman, Jeff Dahlby, Steve Damon



Pictured left - Steve Damon in action on bunkhouse makeover



Chapter XV Jack Hogue Memorial Picnic



May 3-5, 2024

Chapter XV Jack Hogue Memorial Picnic



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2024 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>2 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>10 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>10 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Valentines Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>1 Scholarship Apps Open</p> <p>8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p> <p>9 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>9 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>19 Presidents Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>13 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024</p> <p>30 Scholarship Apps Close</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>12 Mothers' Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>17-19 Annual SFA Chapter Event (Formerly Canyon Lake)</p> <p>27 Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>14 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Flag Day & Army Birthday</p> <p>16 Fathers' Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Independence Day</p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>13 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>2 Labor Day</p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>14 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>20 POW/MIA Day</p> <p>17-22 5th SFG 63rd Reunion Clarksville, TN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>12 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>14 Columbus Day</p> <p>19-24 SFA Nat'l Convention Cruise from Tampa, FL</p> <p>31 Halloween</p> <p>TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>9 Board Meeting 1100</p> <p>9 Membership Meeting 1300</p> <p>11 Veterans Day</p> <p>15 Drop Input Due</p> <p>28 Thanksgiving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</p> <p>7 Annual Christmas Banquet</p> <p>7 Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>25 Christmas</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hours prior to each Meeting.

Friends of Chapter XV



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more with free shipping.

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Friends of Chapter XV

Echo Hill Gold Star Camp Auction

A 1960's-era M-416 Trailer (project) for sale.

By Brian Kanof

The M-416 was the continuation of the M-100, which was towed behind the WWII and Korean War Jeeps (M-38 series). The rounded fenders were changed to squared ones to match the Vietnam series M-151's which were manufactured from 1960 to 1980. Larger trailers were then made to follow behind the Humvees from 1980 to present.

The M-416 survivors are very hard to find in any condition. Because they only weight 600 lbs., they can be towed on or off road by even the smallest 4-cylinder vehicles. There are Facebook sites devoted to them. Modified examples for camping use can drive the price up thousands.

Marcie Friedman is selling hers to support the Echo Hill Gold Star Camp. Bids start at \$500. Sale price will be 1040 deductible, as the camp is a 501c3 nonprofit. The trailer is in need of restoration but is complete. New tires and a bearing repack (and Pintel hitch) are all that are needed to pull it home. Contact Marcie Friedman at [Echo Hill Ranch](#) for more details.



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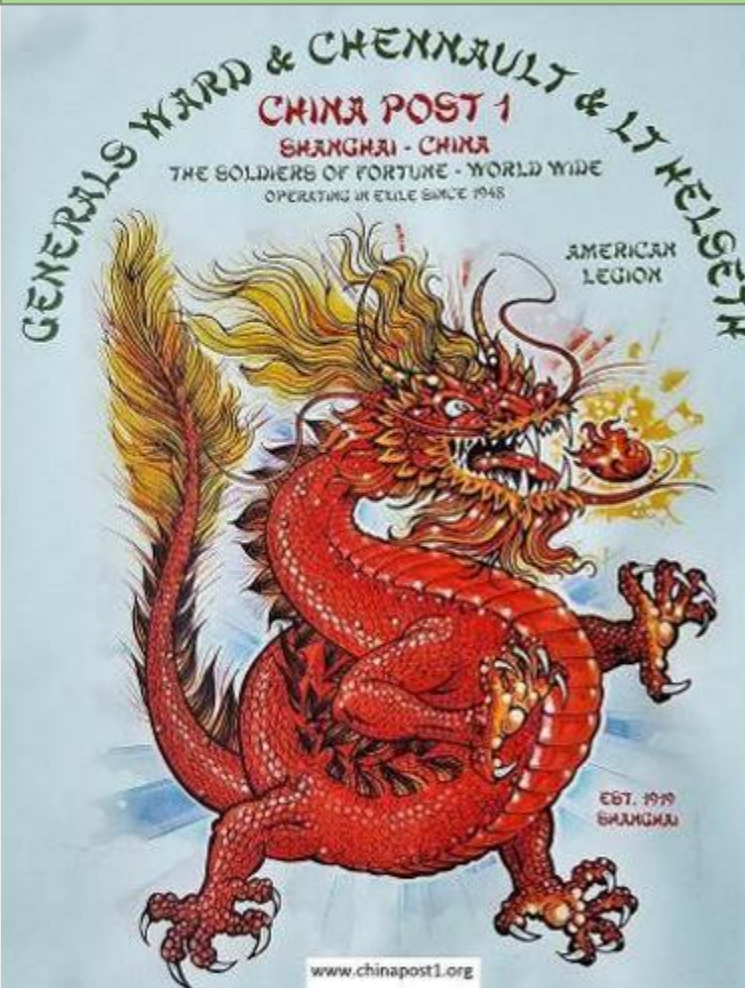
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Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA A-663 (Life)

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Jeffrey D. Dahlby

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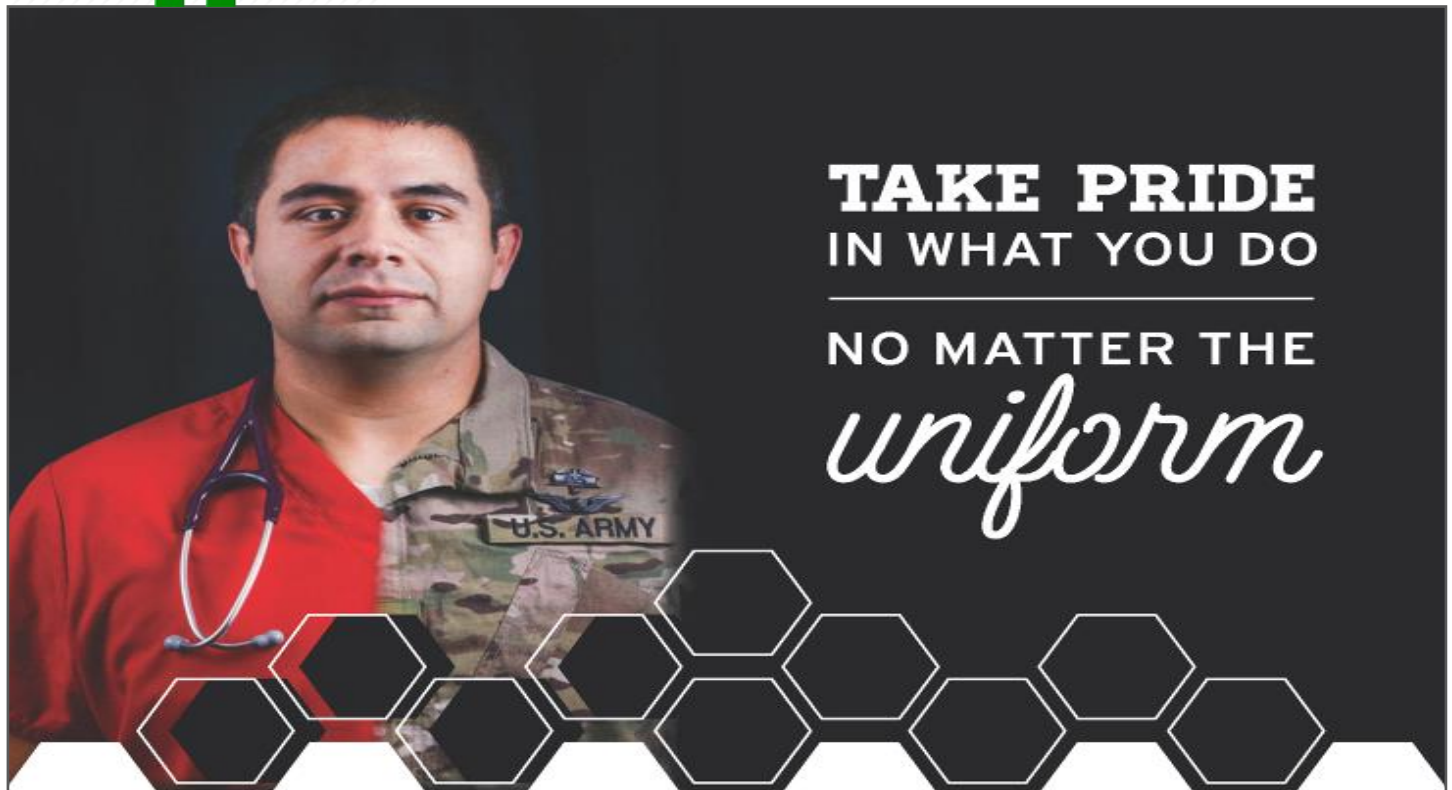


\$\$\$ Dollars and Cents



Treasurer's Input—Not Received

Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.



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RECUERDO (REMEMBRANCE)

**I sing of one who would remain unsung,
whose name would fade like tracks upon the
sand. For him no bells were ordered to be
rung; no banners lowered by a grieving
land. No bugles blew the moment that he
expired; no clock was stopped to fix the final
hour; no doors were draped in black, no
cannons fired. These are the rites of men of
rank and power.**

**But still I sing of him with mounting pride,
who seized the challenge with uncommon
heart then ran the course with firm
unfaltering stride to reach the mark
determined from the start.**

**The measure of a man who runs the race —
lies in his distance from the starting place.**

Anonymous



Special Forces Creed

*I am an American Special Forces Soldier. A professional!
I will do all that my nation requires of me.
I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.
I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:
Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers,
the 1st Special Service Force, the Jedburghs, Detachment 101,
and the Special Forces Soldiers of the Vietnam War,
Who were awarded 17 Medals of Honor and 90 Distinguished Service Crosses.
I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all these,
In all That I am, all I do.
I am a professional soldier.
I will teach and fight whatever my nation requires,
To liberate the oppressed.
I will strive always, to excel in every art and artifice of war.
I know that I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation
Far from familiar faces and voices.
With the help and guidance of my God,
I will conquer my fears and succeed.
I will keep my mind and body clean, alert and strong, for this is my debt
to those who depend upon me.
I will not fail those with whom I serve, I will not bring shame upon myself or the
Forces. I will maintain myself, my arms, and my equipment
In an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces Soldier.
My goal is to succeed in any mission—and live to succeed again.
I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail in this sacred trust*

Special Forces Poem

By P.M. White

*I've lifted my glass and drank my fill, Of the wine that's known as pride.
I've walked among some gallant men,
And watched them stride for stride. I've crammed my head with devious ways
To defeat the enemy's goal. And kept inside for loyalty's sake,
The tales that can't be told. The need is gone for my service now,
I'll hang up my green beret and sip no more the wine of pride,
Till called again someday.
The strength and character of an organization are measured by its members.
Bob and Vicki Walker*

Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

17-22 SEPT 2024 5th Group Reunion
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN

16-19 OCT 2024 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2024 Special Forces Association Convention
Cruise from Tampa, FL

Thanks to Jeff and Monica Dahlby and Merrill Hall for the photos in this issue.

When submitting articles or photos for the newsletter please enter "SFA newsletter input" in the subject line of your email. Please submit articles and pictures for the newsletter to editor@sfa-xv.org, or mail them to Chapter President at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

John and Amy Lopez



"Carry on!"