



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue #01-22

January 2022

**President:** John Lopez  
**Vice-President:** Pat Meffert  
**Secretary:** Mike Brown  
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**Asst. Treasurer:** Merrill Hall  
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**Past President:** Bill Smith  
**Editor:** Daniel Bell  
**Webmaster:** Stefanie Young  
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**Chaplains:** R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

**Visit us at our Home Page:**

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



Committee Chairs

**By-Laws:** Bill Smith  
**Nominations:** Chuck Rose  
**JROTC Awards:** John Lopez  
**Scholarships:** Pat Connolly  
**Wounded Warriors:** J.W. Martin  
**FSH Cemetery Events:** Raul de la Garza  
**Canyon Lake Picnic:** Raul de la Garza  
**Dick's Fund Raiser:** Fred Solis  
**Christmas Banquet:** John Lopez  
**Budget Committee:** Merrill Hall  
**Chapter Memorial Svc:** Pat Meffert  
**Chapter Annual Cruise:** Karen Hermann

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 15 — Board Meeting 1100**

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**Membership Meeting**

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting



**January 17 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



## DON'T FORGET



**Swordbearer's Chapel** service with Fr. Steve Rindahl is no longer meeting at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs. on Sunday in the Rodela Room.

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

**A**s the re-elected Special Forces Association Chapter XV President for 2022-2023, I am both proud and excited once again to have the privilege to serve the Alamo Chapter for another two years. I would now at this time like to thank everyone who supported me and made it possible again for me to serve you. It is truly an honor. Thank you.

Our board officers have done an outstanding job serving the chapter in the past, and our chapter members are truly an incredible bunch of people to be a part of. I would like to welcome our new Treasurer, Pete Martinez and new Assistant Secretary, Sergio Venegas as our two new board members.

The holiday this month is Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday the 17th.

We had a successful 2021 Christmas Banquet, and I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend. The overall attendance was just below 70, which included members, friends, family, and guests. The music and food were great, and it was really nice seeing everyone enjoying themselves. I would also like to thank Raul De La Garza, Merrill Hall, and Ted Heckerman for their help getting everything loaded and unloaded. Your hard work was very much appreciated.

Together, we are an outstanding chapter and I see us only getting better, and our chapter continuing to grow at this steady rate. Please feel free to talk to me about any ideas or

suggestions you may have for the chapter. My door is always open. Thanks again for your support!

On a sad note, I regret to inform you that

Angie Canales passed away on December 29th, 2021 from pancreatic cancer. She was the widow of former SFA CH XV Member CSM(RET) Armando "Mando" Canales. Mando was the chapter president for 10 years. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Canales family. May Angie rest in peace.

Our next board meeting is Saturday, January 15th, our board meeting will start at 11am. Lunch will begin at noon. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. See you there!



John A. Lopez  
President, SFA Chapter XV

*president@sfa-XV.org*



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## Community News

The next Member Meeting will be on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 1300.

Member Meeting Minutes from the November meeting are posted on the Chapter XV website and can be found at <https://sfa-xv.org/december-2021/>.

Our condolences to the Canales family: Angie Canales passed away on December 29th, 2021 from pancreatic cancer. She was the widow of former SFA CH XV Member CSM (RET) Armando "Mando" Canales. Mando was the chapter president for 10 years.

Daniel Bell, Editor  
editor@sfa-XV.org

## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### **Treasurer's Report, January 2022:**

The Christmas Banquet was a big success, we sold a total of 69 tickets.

I will be briefing the treasurer report at January meeting for the last time as I step down to the assistant treasurer as Pete Martinez takes over. It as been an honor to serve this position for the last two years.

I also want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer  
treasurer@sfa-XV.org



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3/2022



## Ch. XV's very merry Christmas

Our Christmas banquet was a great success, thanks to coordination by President John Lopez and hard work by his many helpers. Again, Dan Pedrotti hosted the banquet at his Republic Golf Club and DeeJay Jimmy Salas provided lots of musical entertainment. During the banquet, the new Chapter board officers were installed by Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Simeon Trombitas.



Guest speaker was Capt. Trevor Graves from 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell. He served nine years as an enlisted soldier and was commissioned after graduation from the US Army Military Academy at West Point. His multiple deployments include assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.



# Christmas merriment (cont.)



# Christmas merriment (cont.)







**THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION ASSISTS ALL GENERATIONS OF PRE AND POST-9/11 U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

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		<b>NEXT RIDGELINE® TRANSITION SUPPORT</b>

This coming year, as the Special Forces community commemorates the 70th anniversary of its establishment, the Green Beret Foundation will mark an additional significant milestone: the launching of the Pineland Initiative.

Beginning in 2022, the Pineland Initiative will reflect a 3-year phased approach to growth and expansion of the Foundation's existing programs and services, in order to accommodate the needs of the pre-9/11 Green Beret population.

This is a groundbreaking moment not just for our organization, but for the Green Beret community as a whole. The bond between all Special Forces soldiers past, present, and future, is strong, and by way of the Pineland Initiative, we are building upon this tradition of Green Berets helping our own. In doing so, the Foundation will expand its reach nationwide--with additional Veteran Service Officers joining our team to provide a Foundation presence geographically located at each of the five Active Duty Special Forces groups and the two National Guard Special Forces Groups, across the country.

Our time spent in Pineland is a key rite of passage uniting all Green Berets. By supporting Green Berets of all generations, the Green Beret Foundation seeks to build upon and reinforce that legacy. We are asking that those who wish to back the Pineland Initiative campaign please consider making a commitment of support in the amount of just a \$12 monthly recurring contribution to the Green Beret Foundation. Honoring our 12-man ODA teams and emphasizing that the Pineland Initiative will be a team effort; your \$12 a month can make a life-changing difference for Green Berets and their families--past, present, and future.

For more information on how you can help to support the Pineland Initiative, please visit [www.GreenBeretFoundation.org](http://www.GreenBeretFoundation.org).

DOL,

LTG(R) Ken Tovo  
Chairman of the Board

Brent Cooper  
Executive Director



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31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00 \$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00 \$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00 \$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00 \$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00 \$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00 \$15.45

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 \_\_\_\_\_ ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE SSN (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ MARINES COAST GUARD Gender (M) (F)

### Qualifying Foreign Service (circle all applicable)

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WORLD WAR II               | BOSNIA/KOSOVO                         |
| OCCUPATION SERVICE         | GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY |
| KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954) | AFGHANISTAN (2001-present)            |
| KOREA DUTY (1955-present)  | IRAQ (2003-2011)                      |
| VIETNAM SERVICE            | INHERENT RESOLVE (2014 - present)     |
| EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS   | SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA        |
| DESERT SHIELD/STORM        | HOSTILE FIRE / IMMINENT DANGER PAY    |

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE (circle one)

- Member-At-Large OR Post # \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Check if you wish to be automatically billed for annual dues  
 LIFE MEMBER: Please enclose amount shown on table.  
 LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN: Please enclose \$45 dues.  
 Check if you wish to be automatically billed for installments

### BILLING INFORMATION

- MASTERCARD  VISA  DISCOVER  AMEX  CHECK

### Dates and location of service in an overseas conflict:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Please list any campaign medals received below:

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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I affirm that I am a citizen or national of the United States that my Campaign Service was Honorable, and that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. government based on my overseas service or (2) I have served overseas in Korea or (3) I have received Inherent Danger or Imminent Danger Pay. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's Name and Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quartermaster's Signature and Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_



2222 Austin Hwy **JANUARY 2022** 210-655-2944

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The web page for the post is <a href="http://www.vfwpost8541.org">www.vfwpost8541.org</a> It has all the latest info on activities and latest calendar.		<b>V Post 8541 V #1</b> <b>F Commander - Bill Smith F</b> <b>W Sr. Vice Commander - Chris Marshall W</b> <b>Quartermaster - Chris Marshall W</b>		<b>1900 General Membership &amp; Auxiliary Meetings</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>Saturday Music</b> <b>6:30 to 10:30</b> <b>Meals</b> <b>5:30 to 7:00</b>	<b>KITCHEN CLOSED</b>
	<b>P</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>Texas Hold 'Em</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>P</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>1300 House Committee Meeting</b>	<b>P</b>	Chicken Alfredo Side Salad <b>\$10</b> <b>Dalila DJ</b>
	<b>Q</b> <b>7 PM Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>Texas Hold 'Em</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>O</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>SUPPORT YOUR POST. BUY YOUR BUDDY A DRINK.</b>	<b>POKER</b> <b>7 PM</b>	BBQ Brisket Mac/Cheese Potato Salad Birthday Party Wayne, Colin, Sharon <b>Jet Band</b>
	<b>K</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>Poker</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>O</b> <b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-7</b>	<b>House Committee Meeting 1:300</b>	<b>K</b>	Spaghetti & Meat-Sauce <b>\$10</b> <b>Julio Reyes Band</b>
	<b>R</b> <b>Kitchen Open 4 - 7</b>	<b>Texas Hold'em</b> <b>7 PM</b>	<b>L</b> <b>KITCHEN OPEN 4-7</b>		<b>R</b>	Chicken Marsala Mixed Vegetables <b>\$10</b> <b>Dalila DJ</b>
	<b>Alamo Model A Club Meeting 3rd Sunday at 1 PM</b>		<b>Sickcall Every Sunday 1300 - 1500</b>	<b>SPECIAL FORCES Meeting 12-1400 8 January</b>	<b>VPR's at 6 PM</b>	<b>Calendar is subject to change. This is Version 1 effective 30 Dec 21</b>

WebPage: [vfwpost8541.org](http://vfwpost8541.org) LGB Email: [Post8541@satx.rr.com](mailto:Post8541@satx.rr.com)



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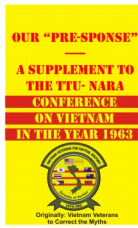
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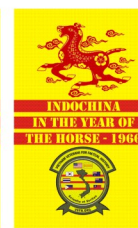
The Original  
“Little Yellow Book”



The Dragon  
1964



The Snake  
1965



The Horse  
1966



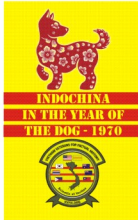
The Goat  
1967



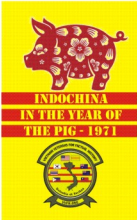
The Monkey  
1968



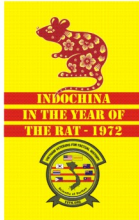
The Cock  
1969



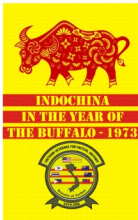
The Dog  
1970



The Pig  
1971



The Rat  
1972



The Buffalo  
1973



The Tiger  
1974



The Cat  
1975



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# Happy New Year 2022

**W**hat will 2022 bring? Based on 2020 and 2021, we may all be tempted to take a discouraged look at 2022. For many people, “a new year – a new me” has been replaced with “can I survive another year of this?,” coupled with a dark look at what is yet to come. We will, however, all be poised for a better year if we ask ourselves, “What can I make of 2022?” Everybody reading this newsletter already knows that suffering spurs growth and challenges are what change a person. Beginning with Basic Combat Training and continuing throughout every level of military experience we have during our times in uniform, it is the most uncomfortable of times that bring about the greatest positive results. That is not always fully grasped while in the midst of the challenge, but it is the challenge one tells stories about for the many years to come. As a colleague said as he started SERE – “I look forward to looking back at this.” Likewise, we have the opportunity to look back at 2020/21 and see that no matter what happens with infection rates, virus variants, political machinations, mixed efficacy vaccines, and economic turbulence (among a host of other concerns), we can survive – and even thrive. Unlike the saccharine line from a popular hymn that goes, “every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before,”

Christians understand that faith brings suffering. Jesus says to “pick up your cross daily” in order to follow Him. Further, the Apostle Paul says we are to suffer with Christ to be glorified with Christ. The suffering is not for harm, but, just like that we each have experienced before, is for growth. For this reason, we can “we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame” (Romans 5:3–5). Therefore, as you look at 2022, engage the endurance and character built during 2020/21 and show the world around the hope it brings.



Buen Camino,  
Fr Steve

CH (MAJ, Ret.) Steven G Rindahl, DMin  
A-663 (Life)



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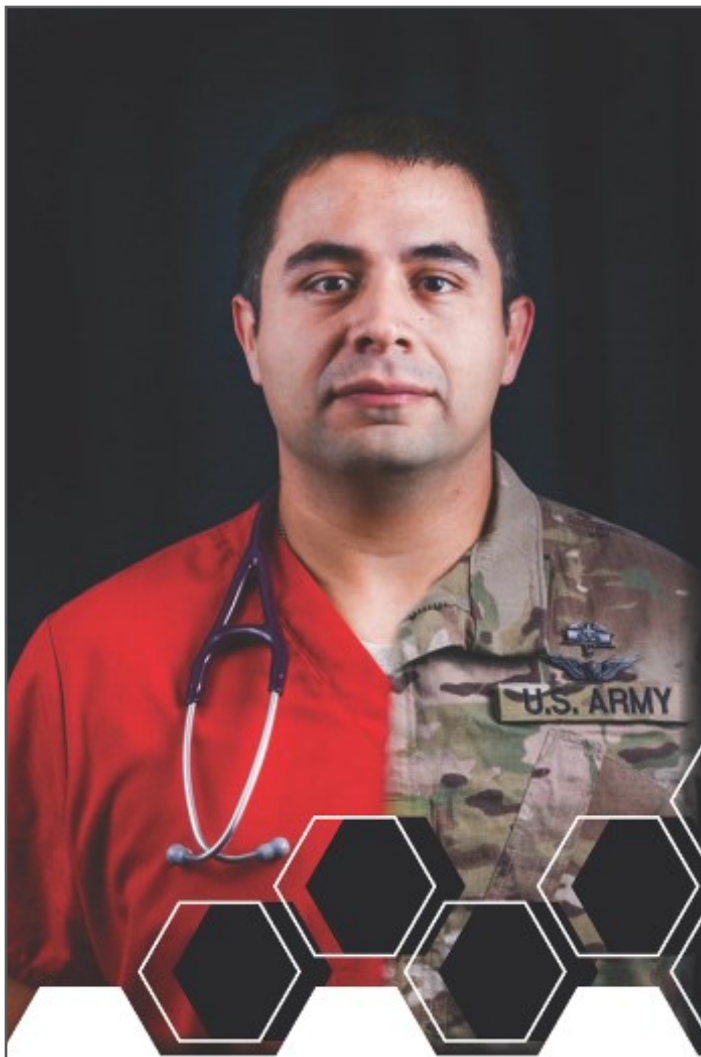
# GREEN BERET SFA CHAPTER XV

## 2022 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
01 New Year's Day 15 Board Meeting 1100hrs 15 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 17 Martin Luther King Day	12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Valentine's Day 15 Drop Input Due 21 President's Day 26 CH XV 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	02 Ash Wednesday 06 Board Meeting 1130hrs 06 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11-13 Cotulla Event 13 Daylight Savings Time Change 17 St. Patrick's Day 20 Spring Begins 25 CMOH Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
01 April Fool's Day 02 4th Annual GBF Crawfish Boil 09 CH XV Memorial 1000hrs 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Palm Sunday 15 Good Friday 17 Easter Sunday	08 Mother's Day <b>NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 13-15 Canyon Lake Picnic 15 Drop Input Due 30 Memorial Day	11 Board Meeting 1130hrs 11 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 19 Father's Day/Juneteenth
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
04 Independence Day 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs	13 Board Meeting 1130hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due	05 Labor Day 10 Board Meeting 1130hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 16 POW/MIA Day 20-24 SFAIC
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
08 Board Meeting 1130hrs 08 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Columbus Day 13 or 27 DLR's Fundraiser 15 JBSA Octoberfest 17-21 SOAR Reunion	06 Daylights Saving Time Change 11 Veterans Day 12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due 24 Thanksgiving Day	07 Pearl Harbor Day <b>NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 10 Christmas Banquet 25 Christmas Day

**Annual Membership Dues** are now due. Pay \$40 for dues online at Chapter website, in person at Chapter meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782.





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# Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

Chief Engineer-CEO

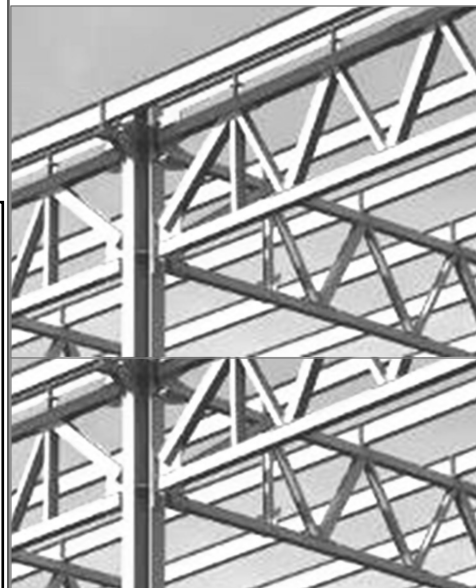


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Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin  
SFA A-663 (Life)

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

## **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.A. 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*

Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter:

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**Thanks to John Lopez and Buddy Gee for the photos in this month's newsletter.**

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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 (copies only) for the newsletter to Daniel Bell at [editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org), or mail them to Chapter President John Lopez at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

**The Editors**



**"Carry on!"**