



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #8

August, 2011

President: Armando Canales
Vice-President: Bill Beall
Treasurer: Mario Guerra
Secretary: Rick Matheney
Sgt at Arms: Pat Connolly
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Bob Hand
Membership Secretary: Marti Scott



Chief Editor: Mike Maloy
Web Master: Scott Sutherland
Asst. Secy: Henry Jiminez
Chaplain: Adan Flores
Chaplain: Rudy Johnson
Home Page: www.sfa-xv.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

06 Board Meeting 1300
11 Membership Meeting 1900
meal: 1800
Scholarship Grant Applications Accepted
DROP input due
Happy Birthday Editor

SEPTEMBER

03 Board Meeting 1300
10-Cajunfest Celebration VFW, 1200-?,
Educational Grant Applications,
Nominations for chapter officers accepted
NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Happy Patriot's Day

OCTOBER

01 Board Meeting 1300
06 Membership Meeting 1900,
meal: 1800
** fund raiser at Dick's ?? TBA
Scholarship Applications Accepted
Nominations for Chapter Officers
Happy Halloween

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've always been very proud and humbled to have represented our chapter as president for the last nine years (this is my tenth year) at all chapter events and especially at those functions away from home because chapter xv has a great reputation in the Special Forces Association as being a viable, strong and active organization. As I often say, my forte is having the uncanny ability to surround myself with hard working and dedicated chapter officers and members.

This dedication was quite evident at our last board meeting where many attendees volunteered to assist in planning the 2013 National Convention in our beautiful city. Our chairman for the convention, Fred Solis, has assembled a fine crew for this endeavor but it's going to take many more of our membership to put the package together. This is a great opportunity for our "lost souls" to step up to the plate and help us. Hitch your wagons to ours and come on board and let's put on the best convention ever!

The last time that our chapter hosted the National Convention was back in 1986 and as many of us who worked it know it takes a tremendous number of people, planning and work to host such an event. Our next planning meeting is on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 10:00 at VFW Post 8541, two hours before our regular board meeting. I urge all of you that are able to attend, to come and volunteer your services. This might be a great opportunity for our "lost souls" to hitch your wagons to the caravan and rejoin your chapter.

John Edmiston is still looking for chapter members to be interviewed for our ongoing book project. Also, please send in your photos for our "Once upon a time" special edition to be published in December.

Until we meet again, Happy Trails to all of you. "Green Berets" Ordinary people, doing extraordinary deeds. Stay Thirsty my friends! **Red Bird sends**



Red Bird sends.

Notice to All Chapter XV Members

In order to maintain our lines of communication, please notify Bob Hand (830-609-1918) or Marti Scott (210-491-2783) anytime you have a change to your address, phone number or e-mail address. If you have recently obtained an internet connection and now have an e-mail address please let us know as it saves our chapter \$\$\$\$\$\$ if we can e-mail you the newsletter and other notices.



MINUTES OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING July 14, 2011

1. Meeting called to order by Chapter President at 1900 hrs.
2. Pledge of Allegiance / moment of silence for our POW's, MIA's, and fallen brothers and spouses. Mando would like to dedicate this meeting to MSG Gabriel Alamo who was killed in Vietnam in 1964.
3. Invocation by Adan Flores.
4. Meal: sponsored by Barry and Iris Archer and prepared by Adan and Yolanda Flores. The food was wonderful... thanks Yolanda and team.
5. Recognition of new members and special guests: Major General Alfred Valenzuela (Honorary Member of our chapter.)

Special Presentation

- (a.) Presentation of the Green Beret to SFA Associate Member of the Year in 2010, Marsha Scott. Marti is our Chapter Membership Secretary and has been serving the SFA since 1973. Way to go Marti !!!
- (b.) The Philip Neri Posthumous Gold Medal and Citation (SF Patron Saint) was awarded to SGM Edward K. Miller last week at the National Convention in Orlando, and I (Mando) was very proud to accept it. Tonight we present it to his wife, Sue Miller.
6. Sick Call / John Graw
7. National Convention in Orlando last week: Main Topics discussed... (a) Need to rewrite the Constitution (is vague and ambiguous.) (b) Voting to be made easier and with accordance with North Carolina law. SFA has 9,000 members and would need about 900 members to constitute a forum. Discussed Proxy Vote too. (c) DROP magazine going electronic in the future; will save money. Will be a "grandfather" clause. Life members may have to pay \$10 per year to get hard copy. (d) Emphasis to include GREEN BERET to chapter names... need to promote it. We have been "Silent Professional" too long and we're losing our identity. All services now have "special forces!" Navy Seals have assets of over 9 million dollars and we have less than one third of that. (e) Gabriel Demo area at Fort Bragg to be ramped up again. (f) Wounded Warrior "A" Team to do jumps, make a movie, etc. to promote SF. (g) All info discussed at convention will be published in the next DROP. ***** Our Chapter bid to host the national convention in 2013 was presented by Fred Solis and Mando ... and we got it ! Thanks Fred & Mando for your remarkable work.**
8. No Treasurer's Report tonight: Mario is in Hawaii for a vacation.
9. Hyatt Regency Riverwalk will be location for our convention. Fred has secured rate of \$106 per night.
10. Fred Solis is our Chairman for the event and his #2 is Jen Paquette. He has asked for volunteers and many chapter members have already agreed to help with different committees. To volunteer see Fred.

BREAK 15 minutes

1. Unfinished business: tabled
2. New business: Chapter Coin bidding going very well... should be profitable for chapter. Motion made for any profit from coins to be seed-money for 2013 convention. Motion passed. No bids will be accepted after July 30 at midnight. Highest bid: Lyle Sloan \$1,000 for coin #3.
3. Dick's Last Resort fundraiser update: Bobby Walker / Bill Beall working on details.
4. Book: tribute to Chapter XV Warriors is going well. John Edmiston conducting interviews... hope to have book published by 2013
5. SFA National Elections next year (July.) Any member in good standing can run for office; you don't need to reside in Fayetteville, NC

OPEN FORUM

- Sue Miller - display at Ft. Sam includes Ed Miller
- Mike Maloy - old photos going well... keep 'em coming
- Lennie - his coin was not returned at Board Meeting on July 9. Please check to see if you picked it up accidentally.
- Fred - black pants now available (official color) with green blazer
- Skip - new necktie selling well
- Marti - thanks go out to Linda. She's moving to California
- Pat - we need more merchandise for raffle
- Bobby - will be gone for a couple of weeks to be with daughter who is undergoing surgery
- Beall - silent auction for Dick's Last Resort fundraiser. We need good items donated.
- Mando - September 10 will be our Cajun Fest

Motion to adjourn @ 2000 hrs.

Raffle

By Secretary - *Rick Matheney*

Pictures from our July Membership meeting.



Sue Miller (widow of Ed Miller) and daughter Yvonne, receive the Saint Philip Neri Gold Medal awarded posthumously to SGM Ed Miller.



Lyle Sloan autographs the membership sign in book for Chapter Secretary Rick Matheny, at the July 14th meeting.



"Mike Force" Miguel 'Mike' De La Pena attended our July meeting and is still going strong at a very young 92 years of age.



Associate member Marti Scott is awarded her Green Beret and plaque for more than 20 yrs. Service to the SFA by President Armando Canales.



Once Upon A Time....

(These pictures are printed in the order in which they were submitted to the newsletter. We are finally receiving a great response to our request for old photos so there may be a delay in printing your photo in the newsletter. Please keep them coming. Thank you for your understanding. The Editor



Sergeant First Class John Tippy in 1977 with the Golden Knights Parachute Team.



John Tippy (right) and wife, Margaret, over Raeford Drop Zone, Raeford, North Carolina in May 1997. This was John's 5000th jump.

Please submit your "Once Upon A Time" photos to Editor, Mike Maloy at Chinook501@aol.com. If you mail me your photos, **DO NOT** submit original photos (copies only because I automatically lose all originals). **CAUTION!!!!** The next time I receive an original photo I intend to run it through my shredder instead of my scanner.



Answers for July Contest



A

John Tippy at basic airborne school, Ft. Benning, GA. 1966.



B

Smitty Morris, PFC, Basic Training at FT. Knox, KY.



One of the last pictures taken of Wally Swank before his death. This picture was taken at our Chapter XV Memorial Service, held annually at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Ft. Sam Houston, TX.

**S.F.A. Alamo Chapter XV
History**

STATEMENT

Approximately 35 years ago I participated in two meetings with the stated purpose of forming a Special Forces Association Chapter in San Antonio, Texas. At least three other Special Forces retirees were present at the meeting but I do not remember their names. A decision was made to move forward with establishing a chapter in San Antonio. As an indicator of good faith each of us donated \$100.00 to get things moving. I think National was contacted at this time. A name for the new Chapter was discussed. The name "Alamo Chapter" was suggested and agreed upon, because of the Alamo being located in San Antonio and symbolizing many of the traits of the Green Berets. I suggested that the name also represent MSG Gabriel Alamo, who was KIA in Vietnam. This was also agreed upon. The chapter planners contacted the Alamo family for permission, and as I recall they approved. Additionally the Chapter was to recognize our lost brothers, in the name of MSG Alamo, at each meeting. I knew MSG Alamo in the 7th Special Forces Group, at Fort Bragg in the early 1960s. MSG Alamo always treated me with respect and dignity, even though he was a Senior NCO and I a SP4. I considered him my friend. He was truly a professional soldier who died alongside fellow SF while serving his country. My duties prevented me from continuing planning with the group. It is truly fitting and proper that he continue to be recognized as envisioned by the original planners of what ultimately became Chapter XV Special Forces Association.

Colonel Donlon should be able to provide details of MSG Alamo's demise.

Art Kownslar, D1207L
139 Lucy lane
Bastrop, Texas

Correspondence with MSG Alamo's Daughter, Deborah Ann Alamo

On Sun, Aug 7, 2011 at 3:44 PM, <Chinook501@aol.com> wrote:

Deborah Alamo,

Hello. My name is Mike Maloy and I was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. I am now an associate member of the Special Forces Association, Alamo Chapter XV here in San Antonio, Texas. One of my responsibilities in our Chapter is Editor of our monthly newsletter.

We recently received an email from Art Kownslar who was one of the founders of our SFA Chapter XV. He provided us with some interesting history regarding your father and I would like to publish it in our August, 2011 newsletter along with some pictures I copied off the internet that you posted.

May I have your permission to use these pictures in our newsletter? I am attaching a draft of our August newsletter. Please note that this attachment is a DRAFT and is not the finalized version. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Mike Maloy

In a message dated 8/9/2011 12:29:20 P.M. Central Daylight Time, masayea@gmail.com writes:

Mr. Maloy,

I am very honored that you wish to include my father in your publication. Of course you have my permission to use the photos and anything else you need.

Do you think Mr. Kownslar would like to correspond with me? I would love to speak with anyone who knew my dad. Maybe you could ask him, and give him my email address. Again, thank you for remembering my dad and all the others who gave their lives for our freedom.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

Deborah Alamo

IN MEMORY

Alamo, Gabriel Ralph (DSC), MSG



Last Rank

Master Sergeant

Last Service Branch

Infantry

Last Primary MOS

11B-Infantryman

Last MOS Group

Infantry (Enlisted)

Previously Held MOS

745-Rifleman

1812-Light Weapons NCO

1745-Light Weapons

Platoon Sergeant

11Z-Infantry Senior

Sergeant

Service Years

1940 - 1964



Distinguished Service Cross

Year Awarded

1964

Details behind Award:

Master Sergeant Gabriel R. Alamo distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving an opposing armed force in the Republic of Viet Nam on 6 July 1964. As a team Sergeant, serving with the United States Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong, Sergeant Alamo displayed bravery, fortitude, and perseverance when a reinforced Viet Cong battalion suddenly launched a full scale, pre-dawn attack on the Camp. During the violent battle that ensued, lasting five hours and resulting in heavy casualties on both sides, he participated with outstanding effectiveness in defending the installation. Upon the initial onslaught, he promptly directed a radio operator to transmit a message requesting support, and then rushed into a blazing building to assist in the removal of weapons and ammunition. Ignoring the burns he received while in the burning structure, he then ran through a hail of enemy gunfire to a 60mm mortar position and set the weapon for firing. As he noticed the enemy attempting to breach the main gate, he again dashed through a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire to abort the hostile action. Although he sustained a serious wound in this courageous action, he demonstrated superhuman effort, reached the gate, and prevented entry of enemy troops. Despite his wound, and intense grenade attack, he reached the 60mm mortar pit, refused evacuation for medical treatment, and directed the fire of the 60mm mortar while simultaneously manning a 57mm recoilless rifle. Undaunted by the vicious enemy assault, he remained at his battle position and defended the camp until mortally wounded by the enemy. Sergeant Alamo's valiant efforts and extraordinary heroic actions are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

MSG GABRIEL R. ALAMO

KIA JULY 6 1964 DSC RECIPIENT



**Mama and Daddy,
Daddy and me.**

**From his daughter,
Deborah Ann Alamo
masayea@gmail.com**

Editors note: Special thanks to Ms. Deborah Ann Alamo for permission to use the above photographs.



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



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"Helping Others Today for Their Tomorrows"



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331 Peacedale Court

Houston, Texas 77015



Attention: Juan Moya

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Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide us with numerous photographs of Chapter XV events: David Benavides, Henry Jiminez, Marti and Ben Scott, Mando Canales, and Chapter XV chronicler John Edmiston. This month we received over 400 pictures to use in our newsletter and 'The Drop'. Selecting which ones to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone.

The Editor

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 Editor Mike Maloy at Chinook501@aol.com, or mail them to Chapter President Mando Canales at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.



"Carry on!"

