



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #08-20

August 2020

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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

July 31 — Board meeting 1000

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

August 1 — Membership Meeting

1200 — Noon meal served

1300 — Business meeting

August 12-15 — SFA International Convention

Destin, Florida

August 18-23 — Escape to Secrets Akumal, Mexico



DON'T FORGET



- Our August Board and Member meetings will be held as scheduled, with proper social distancing. Bar is closed.
- The Special Forces International Convention had to be canceled, but a 'virtual convention website' is in the works. Details on Page 6.

Fiesta San Antonio has been canceled for 2020, but Gordon and Dana Lee have our "historic" 2020 Fiesta medals. Contact them to get your medals, only \$15 each.

- Welcome new advertiser Green Beret Foundation. Page 3.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Hello CH XV members!

I hope everyone is surviving this hot summer by staying inside and staying cool. If you do go outside make sure you are drinking plenty of water and using your favorite sunblock. We are now in August, which will be just as hot if not hotter than June and July were.

As you may already know, the SFA International/National Convention that was set for this month in Destin, Florida, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are keeping up with the news, you know that Florida is being hit pretty hard by the coronavirus.

Our Chapter 2020 Escape to Secrets Akumal, Mexico vacation (August 18th-23rd) is still a go for those that have made your reservations and purchased tickets. I look forward to seeing those of you that are making the trip to the resort and plan on having some fun in the sun while keeping safe as well.

We will be having our Chapter board and membership meetings this month. They will be at the same place and times as our meetings have been. The board meeting will be Friday, July 31, and our membership meeting will be Saturday, August 1.



Tables and chairs have been arranged to adhere to the guidelines of social distancing. However, the bar at the VFW will be closed due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV
president@sfa-XV.org

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurers Report, July 2020

I have been without power for 48 hours here in the Valley thanks to Hurricane Hanna. We had 8 inches of rain flooding the streets and severe wind blowing down trees.

So far this year we have had newsletter ad renewals from Daniel Bell Realtor, China Post 1, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-

School of Nursing and a new ad from the Green Beret Foundation. Thank you!

I will be sending out the scholarship checks (\$3,000) this week.

I again want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations to the Chapter.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org

**IN 2019, WE INVESTED \$2,136,586
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EXTENDED SUPPORT: \$755,156

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GREEN BERETS AS THEY MANAGE WOUNDS, INJURIES, AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ACUTE AND POST-ACUTE CARE. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE TREATMENTS AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO THRIVE IN LIFE BEYOND THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

NEXT RIDGELINE[®] TRANSITION SUPPORT: \$179,886

WE KNOW THAT A GREEN BERET'S TRANSITION OUT OF THE MILITARY IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL TIME PERIODS IN HIS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONNECT GREEN BERETS WITH THE MENTORS, PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES NEEDED TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE A SUCCESS. THIS PROGRAM ENSURES THAT GREEN BERETS ARE PREPARED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE A FULL AND IMPACTFUL LIFE AFTER TAKING OFF THE MILITARY UNIFORM.

GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT: \$150,316

OUR MOST SACRED DUTY AT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION IS TO SERVE THE FAMILIES OF OUR GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. NO MATTER IF THE GREEN BERET WAS KILLED IN COMBAT OR IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE-RELATED INJURY, SUICIDE OR DISEASE, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE FAMILY NAVIGATE THEIR DIFFICULT JOURNEY, EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE.

CASUALTY SUPPORT: \$125,759

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO GREEN BERETS UPON SUSTAINING A WOUND OR INJURY, INCLUDING RECEIVING A CHECK FOR \$2500 AND A GORUCK GR1 RUCKSACK OF ESSENTIAL GEAR. BY PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT, WE HELP SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT: BEING TOGETHER AND HEALING.

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OR 87 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR WAS INVESTED INTO OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US TODAY AT WWW.GREENBERETFUNDATION.ORG



**GREEN BERET
FOUNDATION**

Chapter News

Chapter members 'play soldier' for GBF video



Above: the “soldiers” in action at filming locale — Pat Meffert’s ranch in Bulverde. At right, Mike and John take a break from the filming.



Members of Chapter XV stepped up last month to help produce a new promotional video for the Green Beret Foundation.

Dave Marshall and wife Rhonda, John Lopez, Lee Teschendorf, Mike Pagel, Kevin Edgerton and Rod Reschel, along with a National Guard team from

Camp Bullis, supplied the “talent” for the film.

Preparations required a couple of days work before the professional film crew arrived, according to Dave, but all went smoothly.

Now, when do we get a preview?

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SFA Life Member A-4670

National Convention will go on — virtually

We all know the SFA International Convention scheduled for Aug. 12-15 in Destin, FL, has been canceled. As an alternative, Steve Sherman, Chapter 39, Houston, has coordinated with Chapter VII and SFA National to set up a “virtual convention site” which will feature some of the features that a physical convention would have provided.



There are no registration fees for the virtual convention, which will include an online membership meeting, a hospitality room, vendor links, video tours and other features.

Here is the link to the virtual convention website: <https://www.specialforcesbooks.com/SFA2020/foldersBase.php>.

To participate in meetings, you will need to download and install the Zoom program on your computer. (Check to make sure your camera and sound are turned on.) You will also need the Join Meeting ID number, 870 9956 1293.

There are helpful instructions throughout the site, but if you are having trouble with Zoom or the site, Call Steve Sherman at (281) 879-5688.

On Aug. 12, the meetings and hospitality rooms will be operating as per the schedules on the website. To attend

the General Membership meeting (10 am Central time, Aug. 13,) you must pre-register because space is limited. The signup sheet will be posted by Aug. 1 and only registered members can participate in this meeting.

Take time to explore the many other tours and virtual events on the site. Set up early to avoid any glitches at the last minute.

We hope to see everyone at the Virtual Convention. Steve says, “Come and enjoy the camaraderie of the SFA in Sunny Florida from the comfort of your favorite computer chair.”

POC for the virtual convention is:

Steve Sherman

sherman1@flash.net

Snail Mail: 11715 Bandon Drive, Houston, TX 77072

Phone: 281-879-5688

SFA President seeking committee volunteers

Kevin Harry, new President of the Special Forces Association, is organizing several committees and soliciting members who would like to serve.

Here is the list of committees:

- **Social Media Committee** - Committee Chairman and 10 -12 SFA members. We are looking for members who enjoy getting on social media, have some creative ability and will help monitor/admin a couple of sites.
- **SFA Legacy Lifetime Member Program** - Committee Chairman (Bill Smith) and 6 - 8 SFA members

to research a SFA Legacy Lifetime Member Program that would allow SFA members a higher level of SFA Membership. Contact Bill Smith, SFA Chapter XV, if interested.

- **Phased Long Term Development Plan** for SFA Memorial Grounds - Committee Chairman and 10 -12 SFA members with backgrounds in engineering, architecture, construction and real estate to develop a long term (5-10 year) phased development plan.
- **Grant Writing for High Speed Internet/Telecommunications Grant**

- Committee Chairman and 4 - 5 SFA members to research and write grants that would benefit the Special Forces Association 501 (c) 19 and possibly creating a 501 (c) 3 in the future.

If you or anyone that you know is interested in any of these opportunities, please contact SFA HQ at executivedirector@specialforcesassociation.org or (910) 485-5433.

Chapter News

Pandemic or no, Chapter XV still growing



**From Marti Scott,
Membership Secretary**

Greetings Chapter XV Members! Hoping that everyone is well and healthy.

We are presently at 221 members of our Chapter and hoping to increase this number, even though we aren't able to gather in person

with each other. Our newest incoming member is Tim Ochsner who has affiliated with us. He also has purchased a Life Membership. So we welcome him to our Chapter community!

With the situation as it exists now, our physical gatherings are so limited and I for one, miss seeing

everyone and being able to share news and fellowship with all! One word I can describe for myself and husband is that we are BORED out of our minds. Yes, we can do what we are able to do helping neighbors when needed, but it will be GREAT to once again be part of our Chapter activities.

We all have a lot of making up to do for all the scheduled activities we have had to postpone this year. My wish for all is to remain safe, aware and healthy. Hope to see everyone soon!!

If you have any questions regarding your membership or any questions about becoming part of our Chapter XV family, please email me:

oneangeLFL@hotmail.com

Ready for beach time? Akumal, here we come!

From Karen Hermann:

Our hardy band of travelers, now numbering 15, will be taking off for the Secrets Akumal resort on the beautiful Riviera Maya August 18.



We're gonna have lots of fun, raise a toast to y'all and video it.

We'll kick the tires for you and plan to go with everyone again either in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021. Viva Mexico!

Back-to-back conventions planned for next year

Chapters 51 (Las Vegas) and 78 (Southern California) have announced that, for the first time, the 2021 Special Forces National Convention and the SOAR Reunion will be held in the same Las Vegas hotel, overlapping by one day.

The SOAR event will run Oct. 18-22, and the SFA Convention will be Oct. 22-25. Room rates at the host Orleans Hotel are \$47 weekdays or \$97 weekends (plus a \$15.99 per night resort fee) and are good for both events. The groups are planning a shared hospitality room on Friday, Oct. 22.

[Reservations](#) are already being accepted for the \$189 SFA registration fee, which includes a giant hospitality and vendor



room with open bar for all four days. The host chapters are working on a Vegas show, game tournaments, local tours and other special events. Convention

theme is "A Salute to the Purple Heart."

Both annual meetings have been scrapped for 2020, but it looks like our brothers in Las Vegas and Southern California will be making up for it next year. Can 2021 come too soon?



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New DoD order restricts display of flags

[Military.com](https://www.military.com)

Jul 21, 2020

By Richard Sisk

Military fans of sports teams should be careful about showing their colors on base from now on, according to a memo from Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

His list of flags authorized for display, issued July 17, effectively bans by omission the Confederate flag. It also apparently applies to the rainbow Pride flag; the "Jolly Roger;" the flags of most organizations; and even the flags and pennants of sports teams.

When asked whether it is still OK to fly a sports team's flag on base, a Pentagon spokeswoman would say only that the Esper memorandum "does not authorize public display of unlisted flags in the Department of Defense."

The authorized list includes the U.S. flag, the flags of states and territories, the POW-MIA flag, those of allied countries, unit flags, senior leader flags and flags flown for protocol purposes.

"With this change in policy, we will further improve the morale, cohesion, and readiness of the force in defense of our great nation," Esper said in a tweet announcing the list.

"The flags we fly must accord with the military imperatives of good order and discipline, treating all our people with dignity and respect, and rejecting divisive symbols," he wrote in an official memo.



A ban on public display of the Confederate flag has become one goal of nationwide protests for racial justice. The protests have drawn criticism from the White House. On Sunday, in an interview on Fox News Sunday, President Donald Trump said he views the display of the Confederate flag as a form of free speech.

In a statement last Friday after Esper published the list, Will Goodwin, director of Government Relations for the VoteVets organization and an openly gay [Army](#) veteran, objected to having the Pride flag left off the authorized list.

"The Pride flag celebrates the hard-fought rights of LGBTQ Americans, including many troops," he said, calling it "patently offensive" to have the Pride flag lumped in with the Confederate flag.

Panel looking into future of JFK Museum; Store to reopen

Here's an update on the JFK Special Warfare Museum from Frank Wisniewski of Chapter 38 in Fort Campbell:

"As of late last month, the command is now in support of developing a world class brick and mortar museum to replace the JFK Special Warfare Museum which was closed in January. LTG Beaudette has formed a panel to take a holistic look at the museum, come up with courses of action, and make recommendations on the way ahead.



"The panel is made up of both former officers and NCOs, represents the Vietnam era to the present, has a tremendous base of experience, and has met twice. It is currently researching and developing multiple courses of action for discussion and consideration on the future of our

museum. This is not a fast process and I will try and keep you updated as things progress. I would ask everybody to be patient as we work through this. It is not an easy nut to crack.

"In addition to the good news about the JFK Museum, please note that the JFK Museum Store will be up and running soon at the SFA Memorial Ground. They will have their own dedicated phone, showroom and mail order capability as before. We will advise when they are ready to open."



Take opportunity to sacrifice for family

We are entering August and what we can or cannot do, and where or where not, remains as frustrating as ever. August typically is when we see the end of summer and children returning to school or going back to college. Either way – being out of the house for most or all of the time.

This year, however, most schools are not re-opening in the traditional sense, and figuring out how to support a non-traditional learning method while earning a living and keeping a positive attitude about it will require sacrifice. That reality brings two things to mind.

The first is a sacrifice that those who are in the military or are veterans recognize right away: August 7th is Purple Heart Day. A day set aside to recognize those who have been wounded in combat defending our country and bringing freedom to others. From rather simple (in comparison) wounds to those that are absolutely life-changing, the Purple Heart recognizes those who have sacrificed themselves in more than only their service.

August 11th is Son and Daughter Day. While we easily understand the value of sacrificing in defense of our country – and the country is ready to recognize that sacrifice with a medal (or medals) – for many the sacrifice within the family is harder to grasp and embrace. But our children are indeed our future, and their success rests upon us.

It is unlikely you will ever gain recognition for it, but sacrifice for your family -- especially your children -- more than for anything or anyone else. We are being given plenty of time to do so as a side-effect of the pandemic. Make the most of the opportunity given to you.

Buen Camino,

Fr Steve

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



Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org

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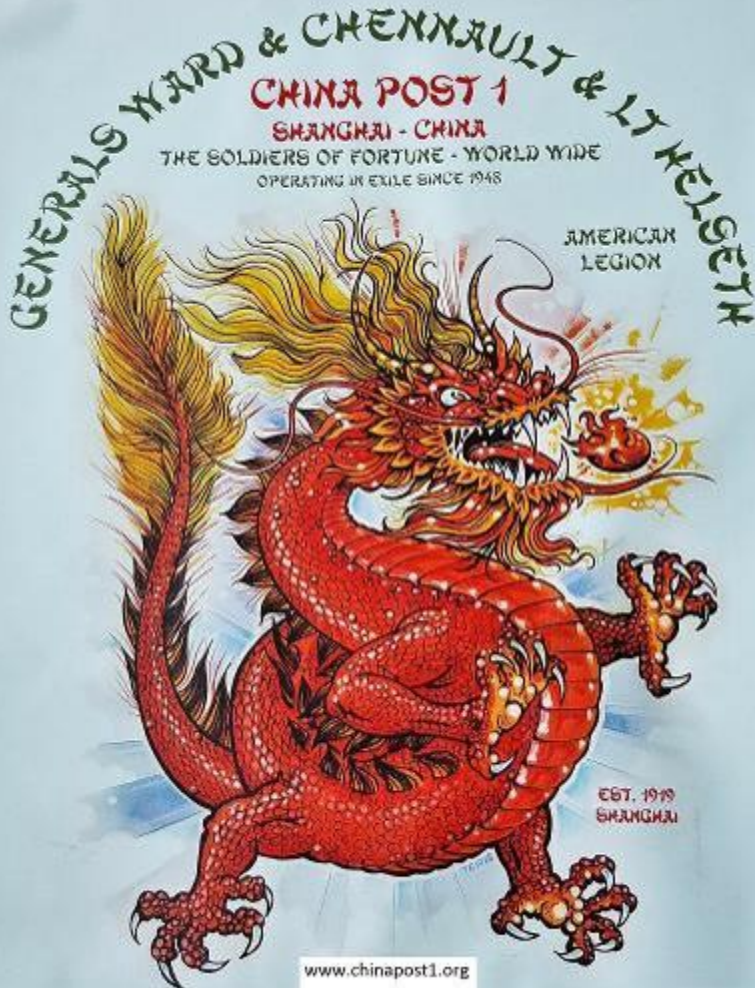


Bob Jenkins, U.S. Army (Retired)



06/20

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GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2020 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 31 February Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 43rd anniversary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 13-15 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1000 4 Chapter Memorial Service 1000 4 Membership Meeting 1300 30 Scholarship applications due TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1000 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 15-17 Canyon Lake Picnic 25 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1000 6 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300 31 August Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due 18-23 Escape to 'Secrets Akumal'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1000 5 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1000 3 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 5 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Pearl Harbor Day 12 Christmas Banquet</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Friday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1000 hours unless announced otherwise.

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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Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

12-15 AUG 2020 Special Forces Association Convention
Sandestin Beach and Spa Resort, Destin, FL

22-25 OCT 2020 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Thanks to John Lopez for 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 (copies only) for the newsletter to Buddy Gee at 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!"