



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #08-21

August 2021

President: John Lopez
Vice-President: Pat Meffert
Secretary: Mike Brown
Asst. Secretary: Buddy Gee
Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Asst. Treasurer: Joel Dawson
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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

August 14— XV Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting

August



DON'T FORGET



Swordbearer's Chapel service with Fr. Steve Rindahl has resumed at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs. every Sunday in the Rodela Room. All are welcome.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings CH XV! I hope everyone is enjoying the summer so far.

Surprisingly, we have had somewhat of a mild summer this year. We are usually in the triple digits by now, and I do not think we have hit 100 degrees thus far. I am sure none of us are complaining. However, we have had some rain though, which in turn brought in the mosquitoes.

I would like to thank our chapter members that made it out to the funeral services for David Benavidez. The family greatly appreciated it. David was a wonderful person, and he will be missed. May he rest in peace.

In mid-July all active SFA members should have received an email from Club Express with a welcome letter to the new Special Forces Association members website. In the email was your personal Username/ Password to access the site. Once you log in, you can change your issued password. If you did not receive the email, then it either went to your Spam folder or SFA national does not have your current/correct email address on file. Please make sure you update your information at

www.specialforcesassociation.org/update-member-information/.

If you have not visited the new website, it really is nice and user-friendly. You can take a look at it at teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org.

A few of us headed out to Cancun, Mexico, earlier this month, for our 4th annual CH XV vacation. I would like to thank Karen Hermann and Sheri Green for all they do for us in coordinating our chapter getaways.



Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 14th. Our board meeting will start at 11:30am. Lunch will begin at noon. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. Hope to see you there and stay safe!

John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV

president@sfa-XV.org



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July Member Meeting Minutes

SFA Chapter XV

10JUL21 1300 Member Meeting Notes

VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

President- John Lopez

Vice President-Pat Meffert

Secretary-Mike Brown

Treasurer: Merrill Hall

Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **President John Lopez** provided the Chapter with an update on members who normally attend meetings but have been absent in recent months. He is calling those members to check on them and their families and to see if they need any Chapter assistance.

2. **New Chapter Member Pete Martinez** stated that a USSF member of the USASOC Command Parachute Team (Black Daggers) was anticipating hospitalization at SAMMC due to a parachuting accident. He will update everyone during the August meeting.

3. **Merrill Hall, Treasurer** provided the current 2021 Budget Report. Membership voted unanimously to accept the budget reports as written.

4. The April 2021 member meeting minutes were posted in the June newsletter. Membership voted unanimously to accept the June minutes as written.

5. **Membership Secretary Sergio Vanegas** announced Chapter membership stood at 230 members. He requested members notify him of any address or e-mail changes so he can update the database.
 - a. Welcomed newly retired USSF soldier Pete Martinez to the Chapter

6. **President John Lopez** announced that the Chapter would attend a Fiesta Medal event at the Beethoven Mannerchor in downtown San Antonio that afternoon to sell Chapter XV Fiesta medals. Dana Lee led this event at the Beethoven Maenerchor downtown

7. **President John Lopez** announced that Echo Hill Ranch was still looking for volunteers for their Gold Star Family Children's camp. Contact him for details. **Member Buddy Lee** provided a brief update of his attendance at a recent camp session.

(Continued on page 5)

July Member Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

8. Pat Connolly presented scholarship checks to **Madison Blue** (granddaughter of member Don Blue) and member **Chuck Rose** accepted a scholarship on behalf of his granddaughter **Jessica Rose**.

9. President John Lopez announced that National SFA HQ was conducting “Club Express” software management training in mid-July to facilitate the SFA transitioning to this new member database. Each SFA member will be able to get a username and login to be able to see public information such as Chapter calendars, member search, chat rooms, etc. and to be able to tailor their member profile.

10. President John Lopez briefed that just 3 parties were attending the Annual Chapter XV Vacation Trip to Cancun. As a result, the Chapter lost its group booking but individual members were coordinating linkups and engagements. Update to be provided during the August meeting.

11. DV plate announcement: effective 01SEP21 all members with DV plates will also need a handicap placard to hang to be able to park in a handicap parking spot in Texas. Effective 01DEC21 anyone applying for a handicap placard will need their application signed by a physician.

12. Dicks Last Resort Fundraiser update: Event will happen either Thursday 04OCT or Thursday 11OCT. **Member Fred Solis** is coordinating.

13. President John Lopez announced the 2021 Chapter XV Christmas Banquet will be held Saturday 11DEC21. Currently the event will be held at the Texas Republic Golf Club at the same venue as the 2020 event.

14. Discussion:

a. Member Steve Twining briefed that SFA 50-year membership pins are available on the SFA web site for purchase.

b. SFA Chapter XV coins are again available for sale. See member Raul De La Garza to purchase.

15. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

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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
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Community Information

Remembering David Benavides:

The obituary for David Benavides can be found at www.hillcrestfuneral.net

New Special Forces Association members website:

Make sure to update your information at www.specialforcesassociation.org/update-member-information/

Visit the new website at teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org

June Member Meeting Minutes:

The July Newsletter with June Member Meeting Minutes can be found at sfa-xv.org/july-2021/

Assistance for the Jimmy Garza Family:

Information about helping the Garza Family can be found on their page at www.gofundme.com

5th SFG Reunion and 60th Anniversary:

For details and registration information on the September 20-25 reunion, please visit the SFA Chapter 38 page at sfa38.org

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, August 2021:

During the June meeting Long Tab Brewing, John Archer, and Kellie Trombitas all made meal donations. That takes care of the rest of the Year for monthly meals.

Brent Davis paid for a half page advertisement in the News letter and Peter Martinez our newest member paid for a full page advertisement in the newsletter.

Pat Connolly donated the door prize money back to the Scholarship fund.

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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Johnnie and Mandy Terrazas

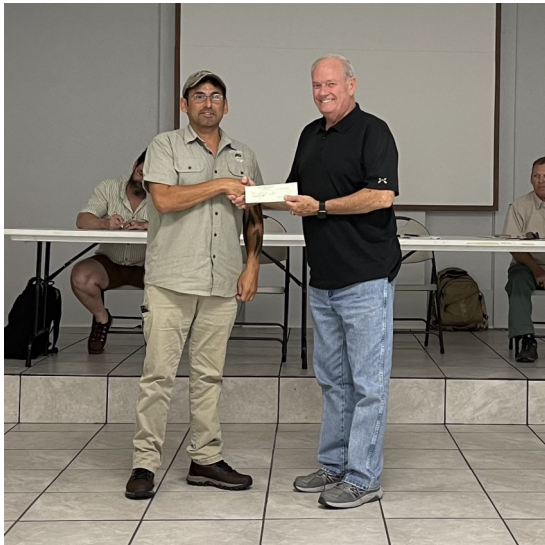


Chptr. Pres. John Lopez and Kim Philips

Cancun Vacation



Scholarships



Chptr. Pres. John Lopez presents member Chuck Rose with a scholarship check on behalf of his granddaughter Jessica Rose.



Chptr. Pres. John Lopez presents Madison Blue (granddaughter of member Don Blue) a scholarship check.



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

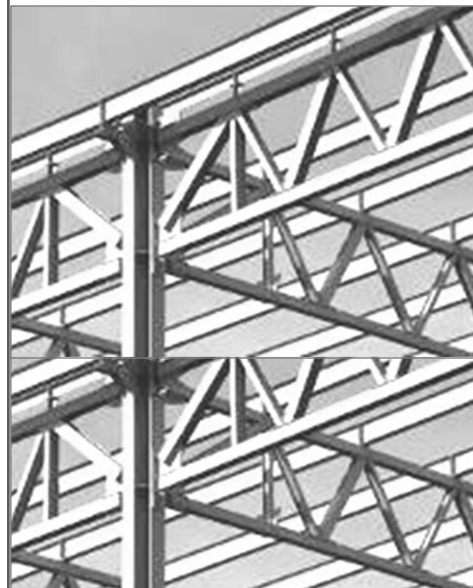
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What Matters?

Welcome to August – the month named after Emperor Caesar Augustus, as July is named after Julius Caesar. Stop for a moment and notice the difference in the naming. Caesar was Julius’ name. When the transfer of authority was made to Augustus (17 years after Julius’ death by assassination), Caesar became Augustus’ title as the emperor. Prior to Augustus, Rome had been a republic governed by a senate. Julius rose to power and ultimately became a dictator, until his assassination. During the seventeen years that followed, the senate reformed Rome into an empire and made Augustus, Julius’ adoptive son, its first emperor.

The Roman empire, already strong, quickly grew stronger and larger, under the leadership of Augustus. Maintaining control of Rome was a challenge on many fronts – too many to list here. The point is that Augustus was determined to build the empire and maintain his rule of it. The result was that there was nobody above suspicion – not even family members – he was always aware of the potential for assassination. Ultimately his professional goals were met. Caesar Augustus created the foundation for an empire that lasted for almost 1500 years.

His family – held at arm’s length, distrusted, and even facing internal assassinations of suspected rivals itself, however, was an absolute train wreck. Each successive Caesar that ascended the throne, Tiberius, Caligula, Nero, and Diocletian, to name a

few, ruled through murderous wielding of power. Those killed were both members of their families and those around them that demonstrated leadership abilities and therefore were potential threats to their thrones. And, many died at the hands of assassins.

Each, however, lived incredibly opulent lives, while they were still alive. The question then is at what price is glory –

Family, friends, life itself? Jesus asked (Mark 8:36-37), “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?” The summer is nearing its end. The many holidays of fall and winter are rapidly approaching. How will you strengthen the empire that matters – your family?



Chapel Every Sunday. If you do not have a regular place of worship but are looking for one (or just a visit), please join us. Each Sunday at 1100, we have a chapel service in the Rodela room of VFW 8541. Chapel is open to everybody (VFW members and non-members).

Buen Camino,

Fr Steve

CH (MAJ, Ret.) Steven G Rindahl, DMin



Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org

Combat Veterans on the Camino de Santiago
Warriors on the Way
 (a 501(c)(3) Veterans’ organization)
 is a Veterans Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Spain) designed to put Warriors with PTSD and Moral Injury on the Way to Healing.

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2021 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>08 Board Meeting 1000hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1000hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due 26 CH XV 44th Anniversary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>06 Board Meeting 1100hrs 06 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Daylight Savings 17 Saint Patrick's Day 21 GBF Blues, Brews, & Bugs 25 CMOH Day 28 Palm Sunday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>03 Crawfish Boil - Longtab 1400hrs 10 Board Meeting 1130hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>08 Joe Dawson Farwell @Longtab 09 Mother's Day NO BOARD MEETING NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Chapter Picnic @the Meffert's 15 Drop Input Due 31 Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 U.S. Army Birthday 14 Flag Day 20 Father's Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>04 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1100hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1130hrs 14 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>06 Labor Day 11 Board Meeting 1100hrs 11 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 17 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>09 Board Meeting 1100hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11 Columbus Day 14 or 21 DLR's Fundraiser 16 JBSA Octoberfest 18-22 SOAR Reunion 22-25 SFAIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>11 Veterans Day 13 Board Meeting 1100hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>07 Pearl Harbor Day 11 Board Meeting 1100hrs NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11 Christmas Banquet</p>

Annual Membership Dues are now past due. Pay \$40 plus a \$5 reinstatement fee 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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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.

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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



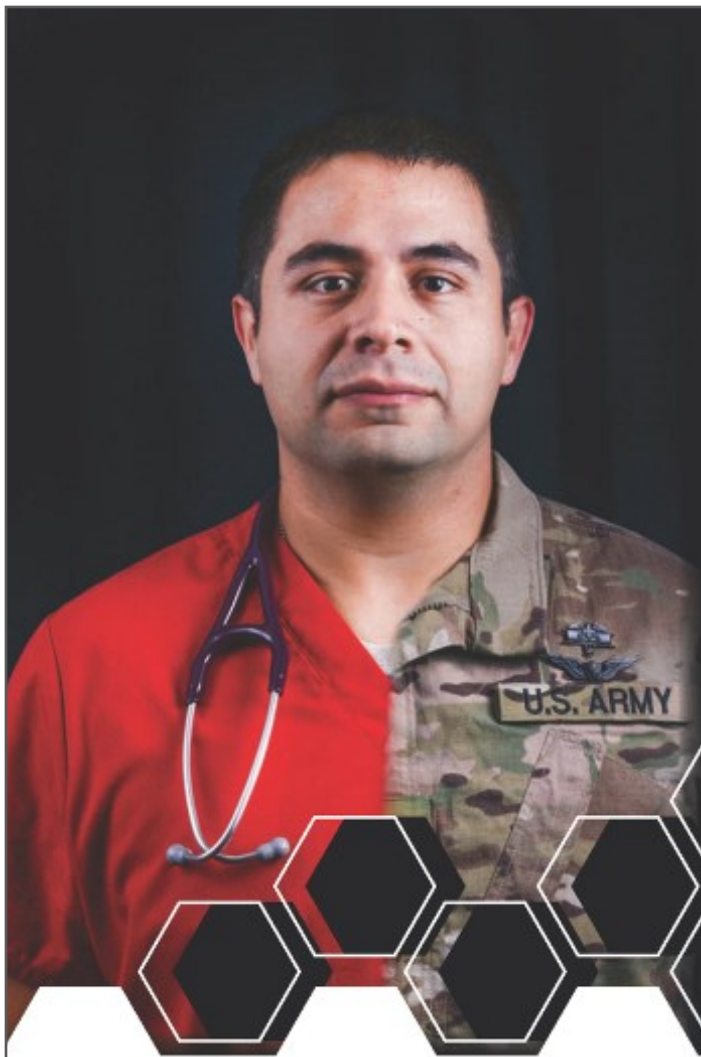
Special Forces Creed

*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.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*



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**NO MATTER THE
*uniform***

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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

20-25 SEPT 2021 5th Group Reunion
Clarksville, TN

18-22 OCT 2021 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2021 Special Forces Association Convention
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Thank you to John Lopez and Pat and Mary Meffert for the photos in this month's newsletter.

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, or mail them to Chapter President John Lopez at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

The Editors



"Carry on!"