



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #11-21

November 2021

President: John Lopez
Vice-President: Pat Meffert
Secretary: Mike Brown
Asst. Secretary: Buddy Gee
Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Asst. Treasurer: Joel Dawson
Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Membership Secy: Sergio Venegas
Past President: Bill Smith
Editor: Daniel Bell
Webmaster: Stefanie Young
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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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

November 11 — Veterans Day Ceremony 0900

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

November 13 — Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300—Business Meeting



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:

Hello CH XV, we are now in November. I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. I want to thank the chapter members that attended the Special Forces Association International Convention in Las Vegas last month. It was nice seeing a number of you there representing our chapter. You all looked great!

We are now in standard time, so our clocks have fallen back an hour. While gaining an hour of sleep, we also lose an hour of daylight in the evening. In the U.S., standard time is in use from the first Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March.

Veterans Day falls on Thursday the 11th. The Veterans Day ceremony will be at the assembly area at the FT Sam National Cemetery. The ceremony may start as early as 9am. Please call the cemetery at 210-820-3991 to make sure. Also, The University of Incarnate Word and The San Antonio National Cemetery will also be having ceremonies in honor of Veterans Day, please call them for more information.

Christmas banquet tickets are in and are available for purchase for \$55. We will have a table or two reserved for the 19th Group guys here in Texas. Our annual banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th at the Republic Golf Club, 4226 SE Military Drive. Cocktails will start at 5pm, followed by a catered dinner at 6:30pm, then there will be music and dancing from 8-11pm. The Holiday Inn Express & Suites on 8222 City



Base Landing is approximately 1.25 miles away and has given us a group rate for our event. Call (210) 337-3723 to make your reservations.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 13th. 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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October Member Meeting Minutes

SFA Chapter XV

09OCT21 1300 Member Meeting Notes

VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

President- John Lopez

Secretary-Mike Brown

Treasurer: Merrill Hall

Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **President John Lopez** provided the Chapter with an update on members who are sick and in distress.
2. **Merrill Hall, Treasurer** provided the 2021 monthly and annual Budget Report. Membership voted unanimously to accept the budget reports as written. The Chapter is seeking a volunteer to act as the Chapter's Assistant Treasurer.
3. The August 2021 member meeting minutes were posted in the September newsletter. Membership voted unanimously to accept the June minutes as written. No minutes were posted in the October newsletter because there was no meeting on 11 September 2021 due to the 9-11 Anniversary.
4. **Membership Secretary Sergio Vanegas** announced Chapter membership stood at 234 members. He requested members notify him of any address or e-mail changes so he can update the database or members can now go to the new SFA Website and update the information themselves.
5. **President John Lopez** announced that the new State of Texas Special Forces license plate was made available on 30AUG21. All eligible SF personnel can go to their local tax office with their military documentation and apply for these plates. Members can go to <<https://www.txdmv.gov/forms>> to get the form needed to take to your local country tax office.
6. **President John Lopez** announced that all people with DV license plates will have to have a blue ADA placard to park in a disabled spot. After 01DEC21 you will have to have a Doctor's signature to obtain disabled/handicapped license tags. The annual Dicks Last Resort fundraiser is CANCELLED due to renovations and ongoing staffing issues.

(Continued on page 5)

October Member Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 4)

7. The SFA Chapter XV Nomination Committee are members **Chuck Rose** and **Bobby Walker**. Nominations process for Chapter XV Board of Directors, for the 2022-2023 period were discussed during the September and October meetings. Chuck Rose will accept nominations over the phone for those who cannot attend at 210-854-4131. Absentee ballots are accepted from 15OCT until the election during the November Membership meeting. The results will be announced at the November Membership meeting and the new Board will be sworn in during the December Christmas Banquet on 11DEC. A Teller Committee comprised of 1-2 members to count ballots was solicited.
8. **President John Lopez** announced last minute instructions and information for the October SOA and SFA conventions in Las Vegas, Nevada.
9. The NOV 11, 2021 Veterans Day ceremony at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery was TBD at the time of the October membership meeting. No color guard was required.
10. **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.
11. The Chapter is looking for members to volunteer to be part of a merchandise committee. The Chapter will be buying merchandise to sell to raise funds for the Chapter's activities. Interested members should contact Vice President Pat Meffert or President John Lopez.
12. President John Lopez presented checks to the Green Beret Foundation for \$500 and the Memorial Service Detachment for \$500. He will additionally provide checks to the Blue Knights for \$300, the Women's Shelter for \$500, and the Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio for \$500.
13. **Discussion:** none

Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	initial payment \$45.00 11 payments of \$38.64
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

Name: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____ Branch of Service: (circle all applicable) Phone: _____
 _____ 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 # _____
 ANNUAL MEMBER: Please enclose \$45 dues or Post dues of \$____
 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

Dates and location of service in an overseas conflict:

Please list any campaign medals received below:

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I affirm that I am a citizen or national of the United States that my Campaign Service was honorably 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 Imminent Danger or Hostile Fire 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 **November 2021** 210-655-2944

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
The web page for the post is www.vfwpost8541.org It has all the latest info on activities and the latest calendar.		V Post 8541 V F Commander - Bill Smith F W Sr. Vice Commander - Chris Marshall W Quartermaster - Tom Parisano		# One Post in TEXAS	Saturday Bands Play From 6:30 to 10:30 Meals are 5:30 to 7:00	SPECIAL FORCES Meeting 12-1400 13 November
Alamo Model A Club Meeting 3rd Sunday at 1 PM	1 P Kitchen Open 4 - 7	2 TEXAS HOLD'EM KITCHEN OPEN 4-7	3 P Kitchen Open 4 - 7	4 1900 General Membership & Auxiliary Meetings Kitchen Open 4 - 7	5 TEXAS HOLD'EM	6 Fajita Night (Beef on Chicken) Spanish Rice Charro Beans \$10 Karaoke-Dallas
Pool League	7 O 7 PM Kitchen Open 4 - 7	8 7 PM Texas Hold'em	9 101st AB Meeting 1900 Kitchen Open 4-7	10 Veteran's Day Food ? - ? PM VPR at ? PM	11 TEXAS Hold'em	12 Chili Night Served with Cornbread! \$10
Pool League	13 K Kitchen Open 4 - 7	14 7 PM TEXAS HOLD'EM	15 KITCHEN OPEN 4-7	16 House Committee Meeting 1:300	17 VFW & Auxiliary Veteran Teacher Appreciation Banquet 6 to 10 PM TEXAS HOLD'EM	18 Thanksgiving Meal Turkey-Ham Mashed Potatoes Stuffing Cranberries Sauces Greenbeans \$10 Karaoke-Dallas
Pool League	19 E Kitchen Open 4 - 7	20 TEXAS Hold'em	21 KITCHEN OPEN 4-7	22 Dinner from 1 - 4 Post open 10am-11pm	23 Texas Hold'em POKER	24 Kitchen Closed Something Blue
Pool League	25 R KITCHEN OPEN 4-7	26 TEXAS Hold'em	27 KITCHEN OPEN 4-7	Happy Thanksgiving	28 Sickleall Every Sunday 1300 - 1500	Calendar is subject to change. This is version 1 effective 27 October 21

SFA International Convention



(L-R) John Lopez, LTC Michele Buratti, and Merrill Hall , and Ben and Marti Scott



Chapter XV President John Lopez and Former Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller



(L-R) John Lopez, LTC Michele Buratti, and Merrill Hall



Ben and Marti Scott , Bamboo and Tommy Lynch, LTC Michele Buratti, and John Lopez



(L-R) John Lopez, LTC Michele Buratti, and Merrill Hall



(L-R) Merrill Hall, Tommy Shook, Tony Aquiningoc, John Lopez, and Gary Anderson



(L-R) Merrill Hall, Ron Lynch, and John Lopez



(L-R) Merrill Hall, Tommy and Bamboo Lynch, and John Lopez



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Peter P. Martinez
Retired Green Beret
Financial Advisor

Peter.martinez@nm.com
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SFC Stephen Cribben died November 4th 2017 in Logar Province, Afghanistan, as a result of wounds sustained while engaged in combat operations in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Stephen was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Working very closely with Stephen's family on the title, label, and style of beer, this beer will be called "Too Easy Stevie" and will be a German Rauchbier - which was Stephen's favorite style of beer.

Portions of the proceeds of Too Easy Stevie will be donated to the Special Forces Foundation, which serves the needs of Green Berets and their families.



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Celebrate the Coming Holidays

It is November, and for most people in the United States that means it is time to celebrate Thanksgiving. Having recently returned from another successful [Warriors on the Way](#) pilgrimage in Spain, during which our combat veteran pilgrims experienced some amazing reductions in their PTSD and Moral Injury symptoms, I am thankful. I am also reminded of a line from a routine explaining the importance of the United States Constitution with the Bill of Rights and the ideals they represent from the comedy duo Penn and Teller. After explaining that he and Raymond Teller had been on an international tour, Penn Jillette comments that "Nothing can make you love the USA more than overseas travel."

Traveling is the opportunity to go and experience other places, other people, other cultures, and simply the other. When we travel with good attitudes, we can find many things we appreciate in the other. When we travel with less than good attitudes, we can find many things that do not live up to our expectations, find reasons to criticize, and we have traveled in vain.

Whichever attitude one has when traveling, returning to the United States gives each traveler the opportunity to be

thankful for our amazingly blessed lives. Thankful for the blessings of an extremely high standard of living, an abundance of food in quality and variety, financial and material wealth, and that Bill of Rights ensuring that everybody within the United States has fundamental, inviolable, personal freedoms. All of these will be, or at least should be, celebrated on the 25th of this month. All across the United States, banquet tables are set with Thanksgiving feasts as we express thanks for our many blessings in memory of the first pilgrims who came to the land we now know as the United States. Likewise, our time here on Earth is travel, or pilgrimage, to where we are invited to the banquet table set for us by God and experience a level of blessing that outshines all we have ever experienced, and Thanksgiving is without end.



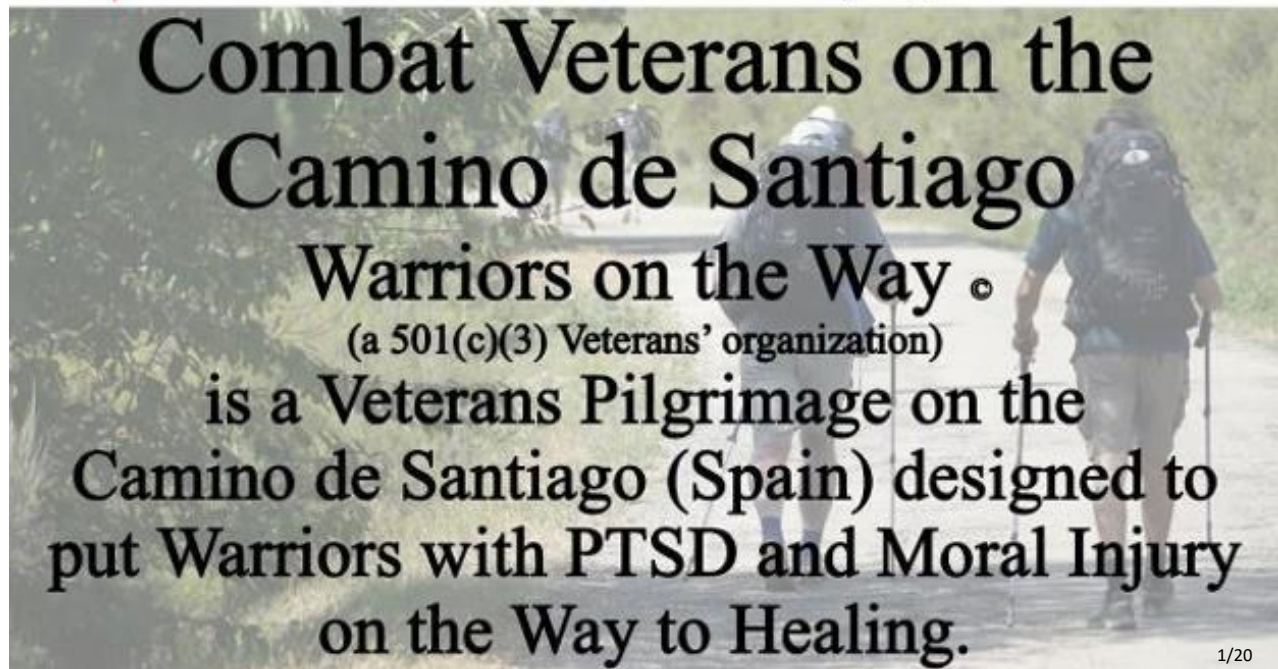
Buen Camino,
Fr Steve

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



Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org



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

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Tickets are \$20 each and only 1000 will be SOLD!!!

A portion of the proceeds will go to support Special Ops Excursions an all volunteer (501) (C) (3) non-profit organization.

<https://www.specialopsxcursions.org/>

DRAWING IS 4 DECEMBER



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

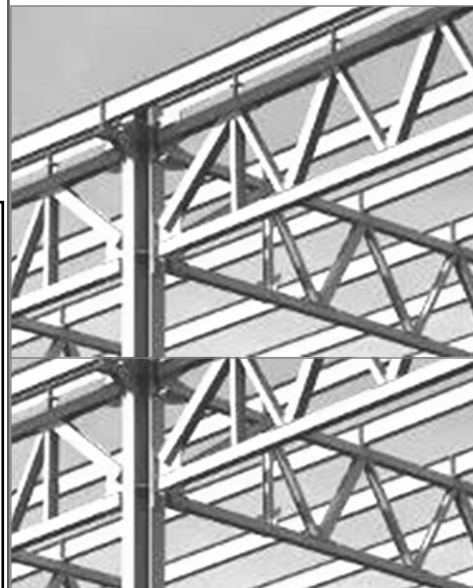
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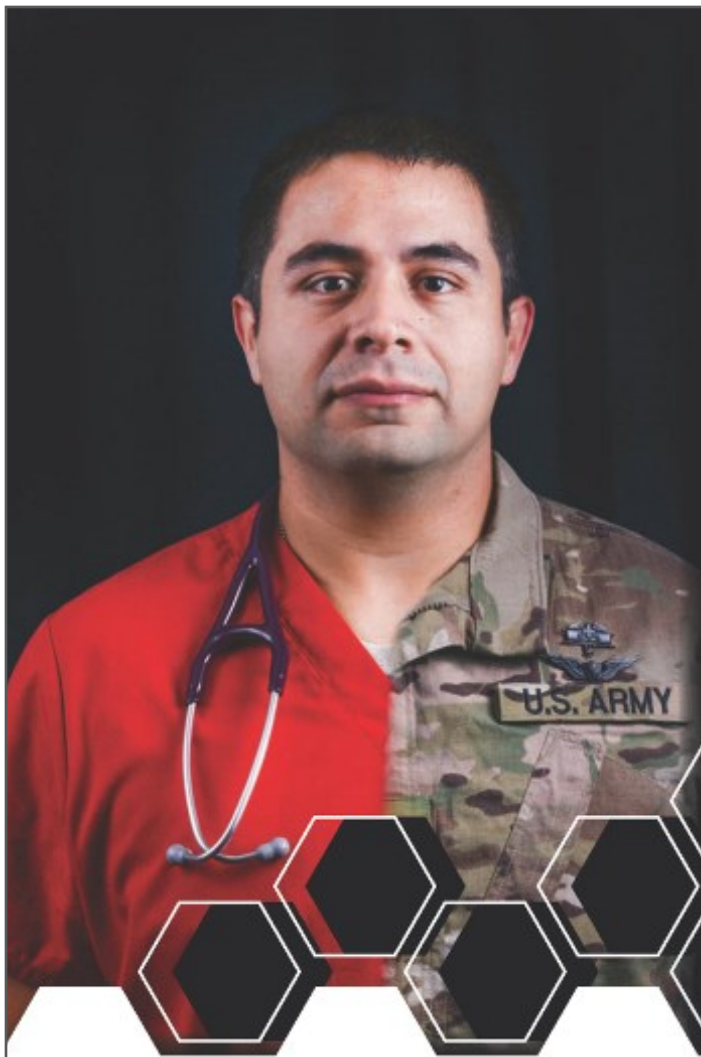
3/2022

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 CANCELED 11 Membership Meeting CANCELED 17 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11 Columbus Day 14 or 21 DLR's Fundraiser CANCELED 18-22 SOAR Reunion 22-25 SFAIC 23 Oktober Fest at Fort Sam</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 25 Thanksgiving Day</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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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:

A FULL-PAGE AD in this Newsletter is only \$100 for 12 issues.

To start your ad or keep it running, contact Daniel Bell,
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3 3/4" x 5"

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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



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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.

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.

87%

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.GREENBERETFOUNDATION.ORG



**GREEN BERET
FOUNDATION**

Thank you to Juan Lopez and Mike Brown 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!"

SFA, CHPT. XV BALLOT FOR OFFICERS 2022-2023

(NOMINATIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2021)

PRESIDENT:

Juan Lopez _____

David Marshall _____

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Pat Meffert _____

David Marshall _____

SECRETARY:

Mike Brown _____

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Sergio Venegas _____

TREASURER:

Pete Martinez _____

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SGT- at-Arms:

Gordon Lee _____

ASSISTANT SGT-at -ARMS:

Raul De La Garza _____

*SIGNATURE _____ - *PRINT NAME _____

*SFA # _____

*REQUIRED TO VALIDATE YOUR VOTE