



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 3-17

March 2017

**President:** Bill Smith  
**Vice-President:** Barry Archer  
**Secretary:** Juan Lopez  
**Treasurer:** Buddy Gee  
**Sgt at Arms:** Raul de la Garza  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Toby Todd  
**Asst. Sgt at Arms:** Gordon Lee  
**Membership Secy:** Marti Scott  
**Past President:** Chuck Rose  
**Editors:** Buddy & Sharon Gee  
**Webmaster:** Scotty Codename  
**VGSA Rep:** Raul de la Garza  
**DAV/VA:** JR Garza  
**Chaplains:** R. Johnson & A. Flores

**Visit us at our Home Page:**  
**[www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org)**



March

### Committee Chairs

**By-Laws:** Bill Smith  
**Nominations:** TBD  
**Motorcycle Challenge:** Gordon Lee  
**JROTC Awards:** Jose Campos  
**Scholarships:** Pat Connolly  
**Wounded Warriors:** JW Martin  
**FSH Cemetery Events:** Raul de la Garza  
**Canyon Lake Picnic:** Raul de la Garza  
**Dick's Fund Raiser:** Fred Solis  
**Christmas Banquet:** Bill Smith  
**Budget Committee:** Buddy Gee

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 7 — Board Meeting (Postponed from March 2)**  
 1300—Moved to American Legion hall, 2828 NE Loop 410.

~~March 4 — Membership Meeting - CANCELED~~

**March 10-12—Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff**

**March 30—April Board meeting**



## DON'T FORGET

- The March meeting has been canceled due to temporary unavailability of VFW Post 8541.
- Please take a few tickets for the AR-15 and Glock drawing and sell them to your friends. Only \$10 each, and only 500 tickets will be sold.
- Sick Call and "Choir Practice" every Sunday, noon at VFW Post 8541.
- **Pigs beware:** Chapter XV has rented two spaces at the LaSalle County Fair and Wild Hog Cookoff, March 10-12. Mike and helpers are laying plans for a good time at the fairgrounds in Cotulla. Details on Page 3.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## President Sends:

Our Membership meeting is canceled for March 4. There are some issues going on at the VFW and they are trying to work through them. We will have a Board Meeting on Tuesday March 7 to finalize planning for the Cotulla Hog Cookoff. I will let everyone know when things at the VFW get back to normal.

I want to thank everyone again for a very successful 2016. I believe we had a good year and we accomplished a lot. I believe the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in February went well. I must give special thanks to Buddy for setting it up, as well as Steve and his wife for cooking an amazing meal, and Jerrie for baking the cake. The remarks and drinks with Joe during the meeting and after was fun.

I still will have tickets for our AR-15 and Glock. We are close to the 500 mark and will most likely draw a winner at our April Memorial. Thanks to the members who have sold tickets.

Our next chapter event will be the Cotulla Hog Cookoff March 10-12. I hope everyone will be able to come for an afternoon or so during the event. Mike and Steve are organizing this event and they will be competing in the cookoff. It was a great event and will be even better this year.

Until the Board meeting, I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

*presidentchapterxv@gmail.com*

William Smith  
Chapter XV President



## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, February 2017

The first quarter of this year's budget is tracking as planned.

Raul and Gordon did a great job on ticket sales for the door prize drawings at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, which netted \$190. A contributing factor was Glenn Barnes' donation of an autographed book, which Karen Hermann won.

Donations for February totaled \$20 from John Rodden. Our expenses were \$555 for JROTC medals and frames for school year 2017, and \$510 to El Tropicano Hotel to reserve space for the Chapter Christmas banquet.

Since our March meeting has been canceled, we will defer voting on the Treasurer's Report to the April meeting.

Buddy Gee  
Chapter XV Treasurer  
*sgmgee@aol.com*

# COTULLA WILD HOG COOKOFF

## From Mike Brown, Cookoff captain



Here's the plan for Cotulla March 10-12. Everybody come on down!...

**WHO:** All members of Chapter XV, friends, and family. This is the La Salle County Fair and Wild Hog Cookoff and open to the public. On Saturday 11MAR expect approximately 10,000 people to attend in total. We will only have a few limited entry tickets, so expect to pay about \$10 for entrance at the gate.

**WHAT:** Chapter XV will participate as a BBQ team cooking and entering one or two plate entries into the competition. Guests are highly encouraged but this event is mainly BYOB/BYOL. We will bring some booze but not enough for everyone, so self-deploy your own Class VI supply. Any chow you want to throw on the BBQ or bring as a side dish is very welcome. The fairgrounds have a lot of food available as well as beer via local gut trucks and vendors, with live music Friday night through Saturday night. The fairgrounds are full up with rides, music, and a carnival atmosphere. This is a kid-friendly event.

**WHEN:** We will set up the site Friday afternoon 10MAR and conduct an in-house BBQ for team members and anyone who would like to attend. This is critical preparatory time involving beer, liquor, cigars, and a lot of BS. The actual competition is Saturday 11MAR. Breakfast will be cooked on site Saturday morning and BBQ operations will commence. Plate turn-in is normally at 1130 on Saturday and award presentation is normally at 1700. Times can vary a little (+/- 30 minutes) depending on number of entries, etc. We will break down the site and redeploy on Sunday AM.

**WHERE:** La Salle County Fairgrounds, Cotulla, Texas, located 1 1/2 hours south of San Antonio on I-35.

**NOTES:** Bring lawn chairs and sun screen at a minimum. ATMs, vendors, and latrines are plentiful and located on site. See webpage at <<http://wildhogcookoff.org/>> for a list of musical acts and other details.



Last Year's Pig

**S**teve Hermann is the chief pig-cooker.

Steve and wife Karen will be making breakfast tacos for Saturday AM. They will also bring something for the grill on Saturday afternoon, and Karen has agreed to do her delicious beans.

Buddy and Sharon Gee will provide dessert, and Buddy will be making his Bloody Marys to go with the breakfast tacos.

Mike Brown says we'll have a canopy and tables to make things more comfortable this year. Don't forget your lawn chairs.



## Hotels in Cotulla area

Cotulla is an easy day trip from San Antonio, and the main events are on Saturday. But there are plenty of accommodations for an overnight stay at great prices. All of these rates come from Trivago with no booking fees.

- Comfort Suites Cotulla - \$47
- Eagles Den Suites Cotulla – \$55 (\$53 Military rate on the site directly <http://eaglesdensuites.com/Cotulla/index.html>)
- Quality Inn & Suites Cotulla - \$59
- Microtel Inn & Suites By Wyndam - \$51
- InstaLodge Hotel And Suite - \$40
- Mainstay Suites Cotulla - \$41 with free breakfast





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[www.ttuhsc.edu/son/undergraduate/vbsn](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/son/undergraduate/vbsn)



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# CHAPTER XV MEETING MINUTES

## Chapter Meeting Date: 04 February 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1200 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. **Rudy Johnson** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

### Members Sick or In Distress:

**Raul De La Garza** recovering from shoulder surgery.

**Edgar Morales** being released from rehab for back surgery.

**Linda Todd** is ill.

**Steve Twining's** daughter (**Miki**) going through reconstruction surgery from breast cancer.

**Fred Solis's** mother recovering from heart attack.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly & annual budget reports to Ch XV members and it was voted and accepted as read.

**Membership Report:** presented by **Marti Scott**, 199 current members.

**Veterans Affairs:** **JR Garza** was absent, no updates.

**Cotulla Wild Hog Cook Off:** 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Canyon Lake Picnic:** 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, \$110.00 per night for trailers/cabins.

**Christmas Banquet:** **Bill Smith**, scheduled for Saturday, 09 Dec 2017.

**Mini Convention:** TBD, still looking at time frame.

**JROTC Scholarships:** **Dan Hopgood & Jose Campos** are running it and doing well.

### NEW BUSINESS:

a. **SFA National Convention:** 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Fayetteville, N.C.

b. **10<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) Ball:** 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May, Fort Carson, CO.

d. **Motorcycle Ride:** **Gordon Lee**, still TBD.

### e. Open Discussions:

In honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **Joe Cavallero** gave a speech about what he remembered as one of the original SFA Ch XV members and a brief history of how the chapter started out.

### Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Juan A. Lopez, D-8306  
SFA Chapter XV Secretary



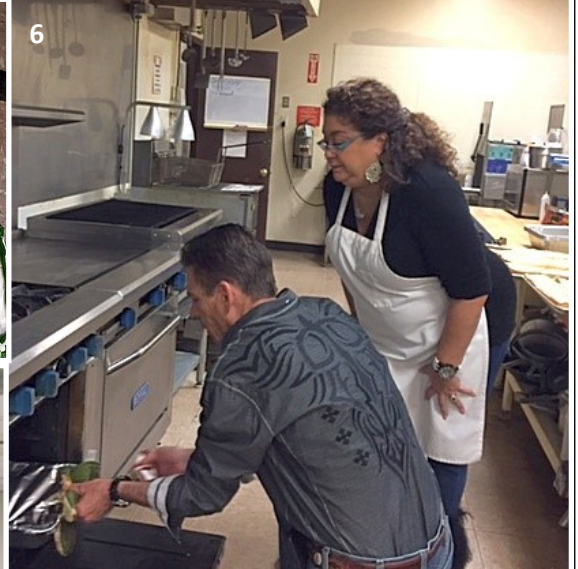
## Celebrating 40 Years for Chapter XV

President **Bill Smith** and Charter member **Joe Cavallero** (center) prepare to cut the birthday cake, with help from past Chapter presidents (from left) **Ron Burkett**, **Bill Martin**, **Chuck Rose** and **Buddy Gee**. The delicious cake was designed, baked and decorated by **Jerrie LeBleu**. Thanks to **Fred Solis** for party photos. (More pix next page.)



# FEBRUARY 2017- 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Chapter XV observed its 40th anniversary after regular meeting Feb. 8. 1) Charter Member Joe Cavallero cuts the birthday cake; 2) Bob Howes and Bill Strasburg confer, with 'Godfather' Alex Flores and Bill Martin in background; 3) Arlene Connolly and Alice Martin celebrate; 4) Marsha Scott with Puppy Sloan; 5) the cake; 6) Volunteer cooks Steve and Karen Hermann hit the kitchen to create an Italian feast; 7) Pat Connally making pronouncement 8) Raul de la Garza recovering 9) Bill Martin holding forth.







## VA Changes Gulf War Veterans Need to Know

by **Cassandra Crosby, Claims Advocate/**Feb. 2, 2017

There have been some changes to the eligibility and claims period for Gulf War Veterans concerning presumptive illnesses (**see: <https://www.hillandponton.com/gulf-war-veterans-and-presumptive-service-connection/>**). Because of the mystery of the illnesses Gulf War Veterans have experienced, the rules seem to be ever changing, and we expect that to possibly continue into the future. Studies on the illnesses many Gulf War Veterans experienced continue to be conducted to find causes and treatment, but for now, here are the changes that Veterans should know about when it comes to filing for a Gulf War related presumptive illness.

**Change in Eligibility:** Eligibility rules have changed recently as to who qualifies as a Gulf War Veteran. The definition of Southwest Asia theater of Military Operations no longer includes Afghanistan. The areas included in the definition are:

Iraq;• Kuwait;• Saudi Arabia;• The neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia;• Bahrain;• Qatar;• The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.);• Oman;• Gulf of Aden;• Gulf of Oman;• Waters of the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea; and The airspace above these locations.

While Veterans of service in Afghanistan are still eligible for certain infectious diseases associated with the SW Asia theater, a recent Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims decision has affirmed that Afghanistan is not considered part of the SW Asia theater when considering presumptive illnesses. (It is noted on the VA website that service in Afghanistan on or after Sept. 19, 2001, is considered qualifying service for disability benefits associated with "certain" presumptive diseases: • Brucellosis;• Campylobacter jejuni;• Malaria;• Mycobacterium tuberculosis;• Nontyphoid Salmonella;• Shigella;• Visceral leishmaniasis; and• West Nile virus. Coxiella Burnetii (Q Fever);

Check with your local VA representative to review your specific issues and ensure that you qualify before you file your claim to ensure you do not experience undue delays in the claim process.

Other eligibility requirements to file for Gulf War associated presumptive illnesses are:

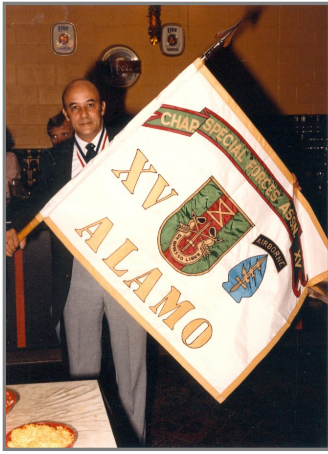
- Are an eligible Veteran (**see <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp>**);
- Served in the SW Asia theater of operations between Aug. 2, 1990, to present;
- There is no other cause of your disability or illness other than service in the SW Asia theater;
- Your disability has existed for 6 months or more;
- Your disability appeared either during service in SW Asia or before Dec. 31, 2021, to a degree that is at least 10% disabling; and
- The illness is classified as either an undiagnosed illness; diagnosable functional gastrointestinal disorder; diagnosable chronic fatigue syndrome; or diagnosable fibromyalgia.
- You may also need either medical evidence or nonmedical indications such as verification of lost time from work; changes in appearance and/or behaviors; changes in physical abilities; and/or changes in mental or emotional attitudes or capacities. A C&P Exam may be required to verify medical conditions.

### **And the GOOD NEWS is: The Time Period to File Claims has been Extended**

In December 2016; it was announced that the time to file for presumptive illness claims was extended by 5 years until Dec. 31, 2021; extending the original time period from Dec. 31, 2016.

**What Does this Mean for Veterans?** If a Veteran has any conditions that fall under the category of a qualifying chronic illness, including those undiagnosed illnesses such as fatigue, unexplained rashes, headaches, cognitive issues, muscle and/or joint pain or other multi-symptom illnesses; and certain infectious diseases, your time to file a claim has been extended by another 5 years. This extension means many Veterans who may not have realized they are eligible for benefits can now apply before the new deadline is reached, or those who have not started to experience symptoms but may after the original deadline, will now be eligible to apply for benefits.

## Memory Lane



Chapter member Bill Enney and his wife Uki (both now deceased) designed and made the Chapter XV flag. The flag is being displayed by the late Ed Miller in these photos. It was presented to former Chapter president Buddy Gee at a dinner at La Cactus Restaurant in 1985.



## Friends of Chapter XV

**Louis Dracoulis**

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1414 Vista del Monte  
San Antonio, TX 78216

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4/4/17

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8/4/17



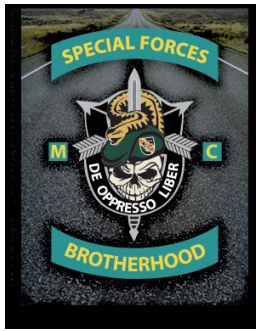


# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2017 CALENDAR

<b><u>JANUARY</u></b>	<b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH</u></b>
5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1200 40th Anniv celebration 1300 10 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1300 4 <del>Membership Meeting 1300</del> 10-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 30 Apr Board Meeting 1400
<b><u>APRIL</u></b>	<b><u>MAY</u></b>	<b><u>JUNE</u></b>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 1 Chpt Memorial Service 1000 JROTC Presentations TBD	4 Board Meeting 1400 10 Drop Input Due 19-20 Jack Hogue Picnic 29 Memorial Day Serv 0930 JROTC Presentations TBD <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1300 12-17 National Convention JROTC Presentations TBD 29 July Board Meeting 1400
<b><u>JULY</u></b>	<b><u>AUGUST</u></b>	<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 4 Fourth of July Parade TBD  <b>Poss Mini Convention TBD</b>	3 Board Meeting 1300 5 Membership Meeting 1300  <b>Poss Mini Convention TBD</b>	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)
<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER</u></b>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Motorcycle Ride TBD Dick's Fund Raiser	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 (Election and Scholarship) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 28 Scholarship Results	7 Dec Board Meeting 1400 9 Christmas Banquet 1730 & Installation of Officers  <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>

**All Chapter Meetings unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings are held at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar). A meal will be served at 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held during the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.**



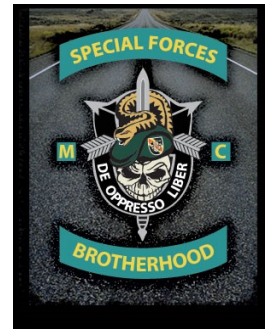
# Special Forces Brotherhood MC Poker Run

March 25<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), 2017 @ 11:00 AM

Start: Gruene HD

End: Gruene HD

1288 Loop 337 New Braunfels, TX 78130



- Intermediate check in stops
- Food and music will be available at Gruene Harley Davidson
- Cost of ride is \$25 per person, Additional hands may be purchased for \$10
- Register at Gruene Harley-Davidson on the day of the event beginning at 9 am. First bike out at 11 am. In the event of a tie hand, winner will be determined by time out and in.



1st Prize - \$300

2nd Prize - \$200

3rd Prize - \$100



Supporting the Special Forces Charitable Trust



# Forgotten Warrior:

A Moment in Time

A Military Science Fiction novel by SFA member Glenn A. Barnes (M9559)



- US Army Ranger Mark Chandler tries to cheat death and end up 500 years in the future. Is he ready for the 26<sup>th</sup> century...is the 26<sup>th</sup> century ready for a Ranger?

• 5 stars Amazon.com

• Reviews:

- Fast paced tale of a man out of his element slowly finding familiar links to grow back into his element. Enough medical realism to allow for that thread of possibility. Fun read.
- OUTSTANDING BOOK GLENN !! I cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail of each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your correactor encounters. RLTW !! I look forward to the next one.
- <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>



### *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*

## **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**





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.

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*sgmgee@aol.com*



Other ad sizes available:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

8" x 5"

\$60



This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$40

These are business-card ads

3 3/4" x 2"

\$25



**Chapter XV, Special Forces Association**

**P.O. Box 33782**

**San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782**

**President: William E. Smith**

**[presidentchapterxv@gmail.com](mailto:presidentchapterxv@gmail.com)**



## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

05-10 JUN 2017      1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion  
El Paso, TX  
POC: [jsthong@hotmail.com](mailto:jsthong@hotmail.com)

12-17 JUN 2017      Special Forces Association International Conference 2017  
Fayetteville, NC  
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>

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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 Buddy Gee at [sgmgee@aol.com](mailto:sgmgee@aol.com), or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

### The Editors

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**"Carry on!"**