



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 01-18

January 2018

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President:
Secretary: Juan Lopez
Asst. Secretary: David Marshall
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Asst. Treasurer: Toby Todd
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Buddy Gee
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

Visit us at our Home Page:

www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Juan Lopez
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
Chapter Memorial Svc: JW Martin

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



- January 4 — Board Meeting**
 1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway
January 6 — Regular Meeting
 0930 — SFA/Ranger Breakfast
 1100 — SFA Membership Meeting



DON'T FORGET

- January meeting will be Jan. 6 with SFA/Ranger Breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. and business meeting at 11 a.m. No lunch.
- Next big Chapter event is the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff March 9-11 at the Cotulla Fairgrounds. POC Mike Brown.
- Sick Call at VFW 8541 every Sunday, 1300-1500 hours. POC Bill Beall.
- Due to a cancellation, there is one balcony cabin still available for our Chapter XV Fundraising Cruise April 15-22. Details on Page 9.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas. By the time you read this message it will be the New Year. I look forward to a great year ahead as well as great memories of the year past. I cannot thank everyone enough for their effort and the many volunteer hours while making our Chapter one of the best.

Our board meeting is on Thursday 4 January at 1400 hrs. Our membership meeting is Saturday 6 January. Breakfast will be served from 0930 – 1100 hrs with the meeting from 1100 hrs until completion.

In January we will be accepting nominations for Vice-President. I thank Barry for the job he has done for our Chapter and ask everyone to keep his wife, Iris, in your prayers. In February we will hold a special election to fill the position.

I believe our Chapter has done some great things over the past year and we are moving forward this coming year in good shape. Finances are holding strong and we are able to do many more things.

I want to thank everyone for a very good Christmas Banquet. I believe it was a good time had by all. The scholarship plaques and checks will go out this week. Let me know if you have any ideas for future banquets. I believe the DJ, Joel, did a very good job and he said he would be honored to do it again next year. Our Chapter singers may be on tour next year, but we will keep our fingers crossed they can attend. I will be locking in the second Saturday of next December for our 2018 banquet.

Our next major function is set for March with the Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-off. Our team has been competing for the last couple of years and are getting closer and closer to a ribbon. (Not a participation ribbon) Steve and Mike have done a great job and it is a great weekend to eat, drink, and reminisce. We will put out more details at the next meeting.

Again, Happy New Year to everyone. Enjoy your families and friends as well as being safe. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and I am really excited for the start of a New Year.

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com

William Smith

Chapter XV President



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, December 2017

Financially, 2017 was a good year for SFA Chapter XV. The Chapter officers tip our berets to those who contributed time and money, enabling us to support our community and promote harmony within our ranks. All projects and events were within the approved budget.

During the year, Chapter XV donated \$7,600 to charity and community support projects. The Alamo Chapter made cash donations to VFW Post 8541, Veterans of Greater San Antonio, DAV of San Antonio, Women and Children's Shelter, Boys & Girls Club, Blue Knights Motorcycle Club's Back to School Program, Save the Montagnard Project (STMP,) O.A.S.I.S., Lake Texhoma fishing and golf outing for Gulf War Veterans, and SFA Chapter IX Golf Tournament hole. Also, six \$500 scholarship grants were awarded to children and grandchildren of Chapter members, and we presented JROTC High School Awards (medals and framed certificates) to more than 30 area students.

Our prime sources of revenue for 2017 were the annual Dick's Last Resort fundraiser and a drawing for an AR-15 and Glock donated by Buddy Gee and Bill Smith. Revenue sources also included membership renewals; generous member donations; door prize drawings at each meeting, newsletter advertising and merchandise sales.

Events supported with Chapter funds were all within the approved annual budget: the Christmas Banquet, the Canyon Lake Picnic, the Chapter XV Memorial Service and the Cotulla Hog Cookoff. The Chapter bank accounts are in good shape and the checking account roll-over balance will enable us to continue our support of good causes.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com



Serving those who served America.

America's veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country, and we believe it is never too late to acknowledge their heroic service. That's why our hospice is taking part in the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are prepared to help veterans and their families meet the challenges they may face at the end of life. Our staff and volunteers understand the unique issues veterans face and can assist in making sure they get the support and resources they need.

We have embraced our mission to serve America's veterans. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.



For more information,
call **210.733.1212**
www.kindredhospice.com



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Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) – CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-546-4831.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2017

December 9, 2017



Above: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Sim Trombitas, left, prepares to administer the oath of office to Chapter XV officers William Smith, Buddy Gee, Gordon Lee, Toby Todd, Raul de la Garza, and Juan Lopez. Below, President Bill recognizes Sergeant-at-Arms Raul for his unfailing support of the Chapter and Membership Chair Marsha Scott for her dedication to the members. Marsha also prepared the POW/MIA table with its poignant symbolism for the banquet.



CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2017

HAPPY FACES: Sharing Christmas cheer, clockwise from top left: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Fred and Ester Valenzuela; Birthday boy Buddy Gee, John Gonzalez with ladies, Chuck and Jai Rose, Miguel Vasquez with ladies; Pat and Arlene Connolly.



CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2017

Everyone had a great time, with DJ Joel playing karaoke and fulfilling requests for everything from country classics to rock 'n roll. We stuffed ourselves with shrimp and other yummy appetizers, courtesy of Mike Brown's Integrated Support Services and Solutions (IS3) — and that was *before* dinner! We sang, we danced, we had a ball as we shared the Christmas spirit and the camaraderie of fellow Green Berets. *Photos by Ben Scott and Trinh Van.*



THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Kudos to the following for their hard work and contributions to the 2017 Chapter Christmas Banquet/Installation Dinner:

- **Bill Smith:** The workhorse who planned and orchestrated the event. He also sold the event tickets and emceed the evening's affairs.
- **Raul de la Garza:** The Mule Team who purchased the beverages, arranged the transport and humped all the equipment to and from the hotel.
- **Juan Lopez and Kim Phillips:** for helping Raul
- **Mike Brown:** for providing the hospitality room food (party trays, snack foods and fresh shrimp)
- **Marsha Scott:** for providing the POW table and narrating the purpose of the POW setting
- **Tranh Van and Ben Scott:** the photographers:
- **Crystal:** the bartender

AND A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE CHAPTER XV LUNCH PROGRAM LAST YEAR:

Mike Pagel
Steve and Karen Hermann
Lyle Jackson
Mike Maloy (deceased)
William "Bill" Smith
Jeff Dahlby
Barry Archer
Chuck Rose
Bob Walker
Rudy Johnson
Johnnie Terrazas

The meeting time has changed and we now have breakfast before the meeting. Unfortunately, it still costs money and the Chapter is accepting donations to pay for the food and volunteers to assist with the preparation.

The estimated cost for a breakfast is \$125, and your treasurer will gladly accept all donations.

—Buddy Gee



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 26th century...is the 26th 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 corrector encounters. RLTW !! I look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

2/18



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1/18

Chapter Cruise Update ...

From Karen Hermann

We've had a cancellation, so we have one balcony cabin left at the original discount rate. I'm holding the empty cabin until the next Chapter meeting to try to sell it. Here's the scoop:

- Only one cabin left! Balcony Cabin, \$1,099 per person including chapter donation.
- Must pay in full at time of booking
- First come first served, last cabin left
- Rate will expire on Jan. 14!
- Help the chapter get to 3K in fundraising for the cruise and have fun with you SFA friends.

For all the details, see group Web page at sgreen.dreamvacationsgroups.com/#/groups/8877821

Contact Karen Hermann,
kherrmann@wth.com
Or Sheri Green & Associates, Austin, TX
Phone (512) 796-8428



Special Forces Association Chapter XV

Fellowship and FUN-d raising Cruise



7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN

Aboard Royal Caribbean's Incredible Liberty of the Seas

Departing Sunday, April 15-22, 2018

Sailing round-trip from Galveston, Texas to: Cozumel, Mexico, George Town, Grand Cayman and Falmouth, Jamaica.

- **Chapter donation of \$200* per cabin**
- **Private Cocktail Party**

* donation amount average based on outside cabin, double occupancy

A LIMITED NUMBER OF CABINS AVAILABLE AT THESE PRICES

Interior from	Oceanview from	Balcony from	Suite from
\$699	\$799	\$1099	On Request

Rates are per person and do not include: gratuities, transportation or personal expenses.

FYI ...

New VA ID Applications System Still Down

The system for new veteran ID cards was still down as of December 19, 2017. The system went down less than a week after Veterans Affairs' official rollout of new identification cards, and there are few details on when the system will be working again.

Here is the website in question: <https://www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card/>

VA spokesman Curt Cashour said in a statement that department officials are aware that "some veterans have experienced issues with the application process, but leaders of VA's Office of Information and Technology are actively engaged in fixing them."

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards, and will not carry any force of law behind them. Once the system is operational again, veterans will need to register for an online account with VA to apply for the card.


TREA: The Enlisted Association will keep you updated on the issue.

Friends of Chapter XV

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2/2/18



New Riverwalk location at 223 Losoya St .

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8/4/18

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2018 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9-11 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1100 15-22 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD Chapter Memorial Service TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1400 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 18-20 Canyon Lake Picnic 28 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 31 June Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 1100 12-16 National SFA Conference TBD JROTC Presentations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Membership Meeting 1100 TBD Budget Committee meeting Scholarship Applications</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100 TBD Motorcycle Ride</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9 Budget Approval 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 9 Buddy's Birthday 10 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING TBD Christmas Banquet 2018</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1100 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A breakfast meal will be served from 0930 to 1100 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.

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:

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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



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 12-16 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018
Hotel Paseo del Norte, El Paso, TX
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>
- 19-22 SEPT 2018 57th annual Fifth Group Reunion
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN
(931) 645-1400 or cx_clrk@countryinns.com

Thanks to Ben Scott and Tranh Van 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 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



“Carry on!”