



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## *The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue # 11-17

November 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:** Buddy Gee  
**VGSA Rep:** Raul de la Garza  
**Chaplains:** R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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**[www.sfa-xv.org](http://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

**November 2 — Board Meeting**

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**November 4 — Membership Meeting and Election of Officers**

0930 — Ranger/SF Breakfast

1100 — Business Meeting (**NOTE TIME CHANGE**)

**November 11 — Veterans Day**

**November 15 — Scholarship Application Deadline**



## DON'T FORGET

- This month's meeting and election of officers will be at 11 a.m. following Ranger/SF Breakfast at the VFW ... No lunch.
- Send in your ballot (Page 4) or bring it to the November meeting.
- Click this link to reserve a hotel room for the Dec. 9 Christmas Banquet. (Deadline for \$99 room rate is Nov. 8.)

**[Special Forces XV](#)** ←



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

Our Membership meeting is set for Saturday, 4 November, at the VFW. As voted on at the last meeting, we will have breakfast from 0930 – 1100. We will then go into the meeting at 1100.

The breakfast is to allow for the Ranger/SF Breakfast to flow right in to our meeting. Remember, it is a trial and not permanent.

The board meeting will be at 1400 on Thursday, 2 November. I hope everyone is having a good month.

Election ballots are attached to the newsletter. Make sure you vote and either mail them in or bring them with you at the meeting.

Our Christmas Banquet is set for 9 December and I still have tickets remaining. If you would like to buy your tickets now, please see me at the meeting. If you are planning on sitting together as a group let me know in advance. I will set aside the table for your group. (Reserve hotel rooms by Nov. 8 to get the special \$99 rate.) If anyone is having any issues with hotel rooms, please let me know.

I have detached a little over the last week and a half dealing with a family fire. Things are settling down and I am fully engaged again.

Until the Membership 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, October 2017

The Dollars and Cents column is published monthly for Chapter members who cannot or choose not to attend membership meetings. The idea is to portray the Chapter's general financial health. A detailed financial report is provided for approval at the membership meetings.

Chapter XV did great in the revenue column for October. We received very generous donations from Vito Cellini and an anonymous member. Several members renewed their annual memberships; Vito and new members Chris Marshall and John Dominguez paid for life memberships. Johnny Terrazas took care of the pizza lunch. Thanks to all these generous folks!

At the October meeting, Raul and Gordon took in \$155 for the door prize drawing and sold merchandise for \$205.

Chapter expenses for the month were light. We printed a brochure for the annual motorcycle challenge, paid fees and shipping to mail the AR-15 to the winner of the drawing, and purchased a plaque for deceased member Louis T. Dechert.

Buddy Gee

Chapter XV Treasurer

*sgmgee@aol.com*

# Minutes of October Meeting

**Chapter Meeting Date: 07 October 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain **Steven Rindahl** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

**William Smith** welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter: **Setsuko & Miki Twining, Vito Cellini, Tommy Shook.**

**Members Sick or In Distress: Jim Stanford** (surgery), **Karen Hermann** (family member fighting breast cancer), **Marti Scott** (family member passed away)

## OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Meeting Minutes:** September meeting minutes were accepted as read.
- b. **Treasurer's Report: Buddy Gee** presented the monthly and annual budget reports and they were accepted as read.
- c. **Membership report** given by **Marti Scott:** We currently have 188 members; **Vito Cellini & Chris Marshall** are now lifetime members.
- d. **Veterans Affairs: JR Garza** was not present.
- e. **Election: Bobby Walker** read off final nominations. President: **Bill Smith** (accepted), Vice President: **Barry Archer** (accepted), Treasurer: **Buddy Gee** (accepted), Asst. Treasurer: **Toby Todd** (accepted), Secretary: **Juan Lopez** (accepted), Asst. Secretary: **Dave Marshall** (accepted), **Henry Jimenez** (not present), Sgt at Arms: **Raul De La Garza** (accepted), Asst. Sgt at Arms: **Gordon Lee** (accepted).
- f. **Christmas Banquet:** Set for Saturday, December 9, 2017 at El Tropicano Hotel, \$55 per person, tickets on sale.
- g. **Motorcycle Combat Skills Ride: Gordon Lee:** Set for Saturday, October 28, 2017. Events include pistol and rifle live-fire range, extended jungle walk, and grenade toss. On-site registration at VFW Post 8541, \$45 per



**Vito Cellini, Chapter XV's oldest member at 94, holds rifle he donated to the Chapter. It is fitted with the "Cellini Suppressor," his patented invention.**

rider, \$15 for non-riders. Kickstands up at 8:30 am, last bike in at 2:00 pm.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Scholarships: Pat Connolly**, we are giving out (4) \$500 scholarships, however no applications have been turned in as of now.
- b. **Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul De La Garza**, set for May 18 -20, 2018.
- c. **Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-Off: Mike Brown & Steve Hermann**, set for Friday - Sunday, March 9 -11, 2018.
- d. **Open Discussion: Veteran's Day** November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 4pm -11pm, food & band at VFW Post 8541.  
**Motion** was made to have SF/Ranger Breakfast and CH XV membership meeting next month at VFW Post 8541 as follows: 9:30am-11:30am SF/Ranger Breakfast, 11:30am-1:30pm CH XV membership meeting. There will be no lunch, only breakfast; this is a trial run only.
- e. CH XV door prize drawing was conducted by **Raul De La Garza.**

## **Meeting Adjourned**

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



**Toby Todd with guest Miki Twining.**



**Barry Archer greets Joe Cavallero.**

# From the Election Committee

## SFA, CHPT. XV FINAL BALLOT FOR OFFICERS 2018/2019

PRESIDENT: William (Bill) Smith \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

VICE-PRESIDENT: Barry Archer \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY: Juan Lopez \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: David Marshall \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

TREASURER: Buddy Gee \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Toby Todd \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

SGT. at Arms : Raul De La Garza \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

ASSISTANT SGT. at ARMS: Gordon Lee \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

\*SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ \*PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ \*No. \_\_\_\_\_

\*REQUIRED TO VALIDATE YOUR VOTE

IF MAILING BACK, MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN **NOVEMBER 4, 2017**, OR BRING TO THE MEETING ON THAT DATE.

MAILING ADDRESS:

**SFA, Chapter XV**

**ATTN: Teller Committee**

**P.O. Box 33782**

**San Antonio, Texas 78265**





# 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.

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# Chapter XV Cruise Update

## Plans progressing for April 2018 cruise

All but one of the 16 cabins set aside for our Spring Caribbean cruise have been reserved by Chapter XV members. That's a "smashing" result, says cruise planner Karen Hermann, wife of Chapter member Steve Hermann and an experienced cruise and travel manager.

With 31 SFA guests having paid deposits for the April 15-22 cruise on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas, Karen says Chapter XV should receive more than \$3,000 in donations from the cruise line to support our charitable and scholarship projects.

The ship sets sail from Galveston on April 15, 2018, for a seven-day cruise to the Western Caribbean ports of Cozumel, Mexico; George Town, Grand Cayman Island;

and Falmouth, Jamaica.

As a traveling group on the voyage, Chapter XV members will be treated to an on-board cocktail party the second night of the cruise. In addition, Karen is planning an optional excursion in Jamaica exclusively for Chapter members who care to sign on. It may be "a beach break away from the crowded port area," or an "off-the-beaten path excursion" to favorite places from her many visits to the island.

Additional cabins can still be added to our group after the deadline -- and will still benefit the Chapter fundraiser -- but the discount rates are not guaranteed, she said.



Karen

**Contact: Karen Hermann**

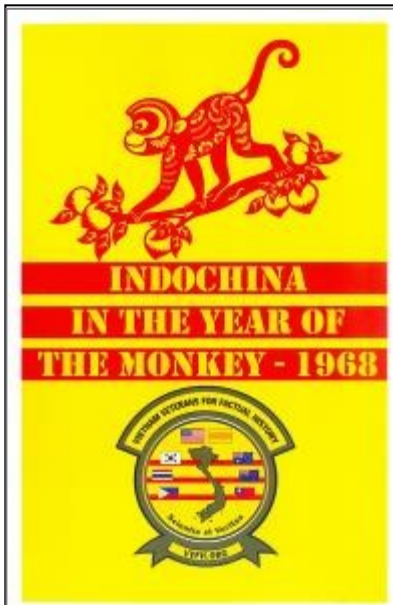
(210) 372-5122

[khermann@wth.com](mailto:khermann@wth.com)

**Travel Agency: Sheri Green & Associates**

Registration Website:

<http://sgreen.dreamvacationsgroups.com/#/groups/8877821>



## INDOCHINA IN THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY— 1968

Edited by Steve Sherman of SFA Chapter 39 in Houston and published in January 2017.

Steve has documented the Vietnam War for 1968, the Year of the Monkey, and pulled together eyewitnesses who recount the war experiences of the 1968 Tet Offensive from Hue to the Central Highlands, Saigon and the Delta. Among those accounts is one by Chapter XV member Buddy Gee.

The book is now available through Amazon, in paperback only, for \$11.95 plus \$2.99 shipping.



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1/18

# Remembering Louis

## LOUIS DECHERT



Louis Tarleton Dechert Sr., 86, a member of SFA Chapter XV, died October 21, 2017. He was born January 18, 1931, in Junction, Texas. He is survived by Marietta, his wife of 68 years, daughter Deborah Jackson of San Antonio, son Louis T. Dechert Jr. (Paula Sue) of Perkins, Oklahoma, 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1952 and retired in 1973 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his Army career, he served in the Korean War and spent four tours of duty in Vietnam. He also served in South America and Germany. He was proudest of becoming a Green Beret. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star of Valor, the Bronze Star for Merit, the Purple Heart and awards from the Korean, Vietnamese and Bolivian governments.

After retirement, he consulted with international refugee organizations following the Vietnam conflict. He served as International Director of the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) and National Evangelical Associations relief project, OPERATION HEARTBEAT. He recruited, trained and directed staffs at five refugee sponsoring offices in the United States, Canada and Guam. HEARTBEAT located sponsors for over 25,000 refugees. LTC

Dechert was ordained as a CMA pastor in 1988.

In 2004, he was elected president of the Korean War Veterans Association. A descendant of John Berry, hero/survivor of the Battle of San Jacinto, he was a proud member of the Sons of the Texas Republic.

**FUNERAL SERVICE was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31 in St. Joseph's Chapel at the Village at Incarnate Word, with interment to follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.**



## 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 corctor encounters. RLTW !! I look forward to the next one.
  - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

2/18





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2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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# China Post 1 Reunion set for SA in 2018

**R**on Burkett, Chapter XV member and commander of the American Legion's China Post 1, has invited the post's worldwide membership to San Antonio next year for their 2018 annual convention. He provides the following details:

**HOTEL:** We will be staying at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. <http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/> Rooms will cost \$134.26 per night including all taxes and fees, free breakfast buffet is included. There will be no resort fee and WiFi is free. Rooms will be available at this rate for at least three days before and after the reunion. If you need more, let me know.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Once you are at the hotel, everything downtown is easily accessible via the trolley. There is a trolley stop a block and a half from the hotel.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** to be determined.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

### Thursday, 20 September

Check into hotel and register. Hospitality Suite is in the Trinidad Room and will be open from Thursday Morning, through Sunday, noonish.

### Friday, 21 September

Alamo at 09:00. It can be warm, we'll try to do this while it's cool.



El Mercado , late morning with lunch around noon at Mi Tierra Café.

Riverwalk, late afternoon and into the evening, explore and dine.

Saturday, 22 September, locations to be announced.

09:00, Executive Committee meeting.

10:30, General membership meeting, all members of the American Legion family are invited, China Post members, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the Legion.

13:30, The ALA and the 40&8 meet simultaneously, room assignments will be posted later.

18:00, Cocktails.

19:00, Banquet. Plated, double entrée (beef and chicken) with sides and dessert, \$42.00 a head including tax and gratuity.

21:00ish, Retire to the Hospitality Suite.

Please remember that this is a work in progress. I'm merely trying to provide a heads up for planning purposes. There are a million other things to do in San Antonio if you'd like to extend your stay.

騎龍魁

Ron Burkett  
Commander, CP1

## From the VA

### **New Veterans ID cards coming soon**

**A**ll honorably discharged veterans of every era will be able to get a photo identification card from the Department of Veterans Affairs starting in November due to a law passed in 2015.

The law, known as the Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, orders the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card must contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number.

A VA official confirmed the cards are on track to be available nationwide starting in November. Veterans may apply for the card online, but a timeline for how long it

will take to receive a card after application has not been finalized, the official said.

Although the law states that the VA may charge a fee for the card, the official said no fee is planned.

The change comes as the military exchange stores prepare to open online shopping to all honorably discharged veterans starting Nov. 11. Veterans who wish to use that new benefit must be verified through VetVerify.org.

Congress passed the ID law as a way to help veterans prove their service without showing a copy of their DD-214.




## Friends of Chapter XV

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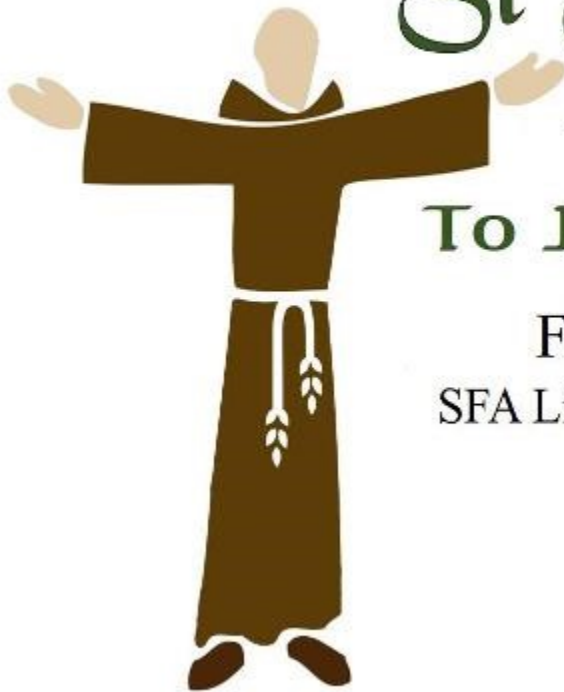


7/7/18



New Riverwalk location at 223 Losoya St .

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8/4/18

# Scholarship Applications Due

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, reminds that applications are being accepted from now until 15 November. Here are the scholarship guidelines:



## Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant is designed to provide a one-time education grant of a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) The number and amount of grants are determined by the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee with the approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the annual Installation of Officers/ Christmas Banquet.

### Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a SFA member or legal dependent or grandchild of a Chapter member in good standing.
2. A high school student anticipating graduation during the school year of application.
3. Grant must be used to attend an accredited college, university or vocational institution.
4. Eligible applicants must submit the following:
  - a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend, and planned use for the grant.
  - b. Copies of the most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
  - c. Two letters of reference from a teacher, school counselor or principal.
  - d. A summary of extracurricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
  - e. A copy of the application to the school or the acceptance letter.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than 15 November. Send to

**President William Smith, SFA Chapter XV**

**Attn: Scholarship Committee**

**P. O. Box 33782 - San Antonio TX 78265-3782**

# 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  15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1300 4 Membership Meeting 1300 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 15 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
<b><u>JULY</u></b>	<b><u>AUGUST</u></b>	<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>
4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 6 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300	3 Board Meeting 1100 5 Membership Meeting 1300  15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)  21 Dick's Fund Raiser
<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER</u></b>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300  28 Motorcycle Ride	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1100 (Election) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due  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 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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**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

- 12-16 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018  
Hotel Paseo del Norte, El Paso, TX  
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>
- 20-22 SEPT 2018 5th Special Forces Group Reunion  
Fort Campbell, KY  
POC: SFA Chapter 38

### Thanks to Ben Scott 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](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



**“Carry on!”**