



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## *The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue #06-20

June 2020

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**Chapter Annual Cruise:** Karen Hermann

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 5 — Board Meeting 1000**

FWV Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**June 6 — Membership Meeting**

1200 — Noon meal served

1300 — Business meeting

**June 14 — Flag Day & Army Birthday**

**June 21 — Fathers Day**



## DON'T FORGET



- VFW Post 8541 is now open at 25% capacity. Social distancing required.
- Father Steve is resuming Sunday morning 'Swordbearer Chapel' in the Rodela Room at the VFW. Time is 11 a.m.

and seating will be appropriately spaced out. All welcome.

- Gordon and Dana Lee have the new 2020 Fiesta medals. Contact them to get your medals, or see them at the meeting. \$15 each. (Plenty of selling time before Fiesta San Antonio in November.)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

**H**ello CH XV! I am happy to say that it looks like we will be having our membership meeting Saturday, June 6th. Remember, lunch starts at noon, and then followed by our chapter meeting at 1pm.

I stopped by the VFW recently and have seen the layout. We will still be in the same location as our last meeting. Tables and chairs have been arranged to adhere to the guidelines of social distancing. (See photos on Page 5.) I look forward to seeing you there.

We will be having our board meeting Friday, June 5th at 10am at our usual location as well.

We have a few special days this month. It will be the 245th birthday of the United States Army on Sunday, June 14th. The first day of summer is Saturday, June 20th. Then, Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day. I would like to wish all the fathers in the Chapter a safe and happy Father's Day.

Fiesta 2020 medals are in and they look great! The medals are very nice and are selling for \$15 each. Please get with Dana and Gordon Lee if you are interested in purchasing and/or selling our Fiesta 2020 medals.

As of right now, 19 high school JROTC programs have been supported by CH XV. I delivered the Special Forces Association Award of Excellence to their JROTC instructors. The instructors will present the awards on our behalf on a later date.



So, stay safe CH XV. I look forward to seeing and hearing how everyone has been doing during this COVID-19 pandemic.

John A. Lopez  
President, SFA Chapter XV  
[president@sfa-XV.org](mailto:president@sfa-XV.org)

## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurers Report, May 2020

**I** hope that everybody fared well from the COVID 19 scare.

I am looking forward to the June meetings. Hopefully I will see everybody there.

Speaking of the COVID 19, things have been slow on the treasurer side. The only income this month was from the usual donors, John Rodden and George Garcia. Thank you for the donations, guys!

Merrill Hall, Treasurer  
[treasurer@sfa-XV.org](mailto:treasurer@sfa-XV.org)

**Editor's Note:** Several ads in this edition of the newsletter have expired. If your ad has expired, we hope you will continue your support by renewing for another year. The rates have not changed. (See Page 19 for pricing.) To renew or change your ad, email to [editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org). You can pay on line at the Chapter website or in person at the next membership meeting.

Thank you and DOL.

Buddy Gee  
[editor@sfa-XV.org](mailto:editor@sfa-XV.org)



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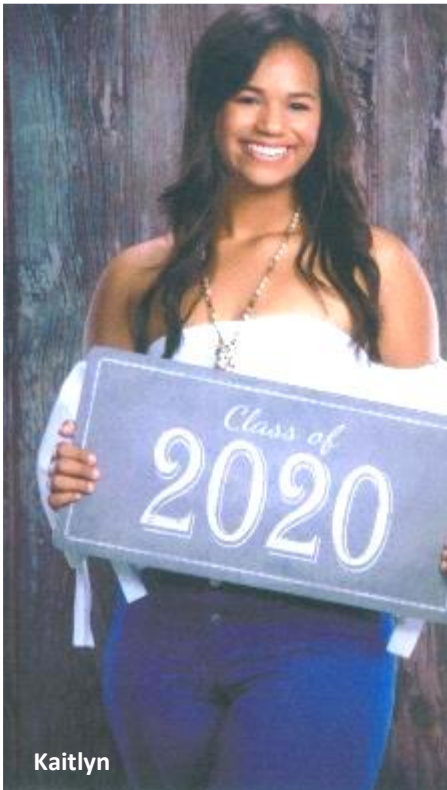
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# Chapter News

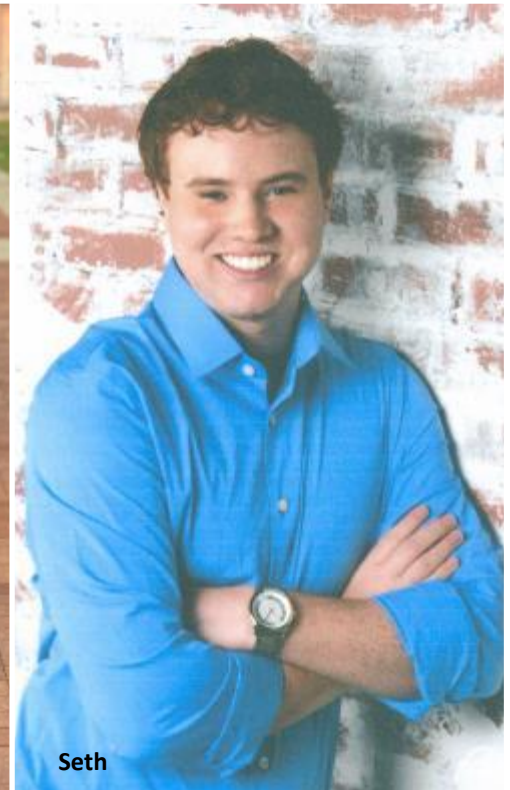
## Chapter awards scholarships to 5 kids & grandkids



Kaitlyn



Natalie



Seth

**P**at Connolly, Scholarship Committee chairman, announced the Chapter is awarding \$600 scholarship grants to five deserving students:

### **Kaitlyn Marie Adams**

Granddaughter of Toby Todd

Kaitlynn Marie Adams, 18, of Cibolo TX just graduated *cum laude* from Douglas MacArthur High School, where she was a member of the award-winning cheerleading team. She will attend Texas State University in the fall and aspires to be a Special Education teacher. She volunteers with the Down Syndrome Association of Texas and with a PTSD outreach program.

### **Natalie Rae James**

Granddaughter of José Campos Jr.

Natalie Rae James, 22, is a senior majoring in Early Childhood Education at the University of Texas at San Antonio. A graduate of MacArthur High School, she has been on the President's List at UTSA for the past four semesters with a 4.0 grade point average. After completing her student teaching at Thousand Oaks Elementary School this summer, she will receive her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate in the fall.

### **Rachel R. Jimenez** (not pictured)

Granddaughter of Enrique (Henry) Jimenez

Rachel Jimenez, 21, of Clovis, NM, is in her second year at Eastern New Mexico University. She is a graduate of Clovis High School, where she was a member of the marching band and the National Honor Society. She is studying to be a teacher in elementary and Special Education. She is consistently on the Dean's List and is an officer of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity.

### **Lillian M. Kremer** (not pictured)

Granddaughter of J. Barry Archer

Lillian Kremer of Gladstone, MO, is a freshman at Kansas City Community College pursuing a degree in computer science. She is a member of the women's soccer team, the Catholic students club, an intern in the college's Information Services Department and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. In addition, she works as an intern at the University of Kansas School of Medicine's Saturday Academy program.

### **Seth London**

Stepson of David Marshall

Seth London, 19, is an honor graduate of Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio. He has been admitted to Texas A&M University in the College of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and hopes to become a doctor. Seth was a member of the Reagan Student Council and has volunteered with Haven for Hope and the Green Beret Foundation.

## Chapter News



**FIRST SALUTE:** Chapter XV members Simeon Trombitas, Jose Campos and Bill Smith (also representing VFW Post 8541) and a representative from IWC Student Veterans of America were on hand and collectively rendered the first salute to newly commissioned Ensign Ariella Bode.

Ens. Bode graduated from Texas A&M in a virtual ceremony May 9 and was commissioned a U.S. Navy surface warfare officer. Traditionally, the first person to salute a new officer receives one dollar from that officer. Bode's father was scheduled to render the honors, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, her parents could not travel from Hawaii. Chapter XV and others were happy to stand-in and fulfill the honorable duty.

## JFK Special Warfare Museum and store closed at Fort Bragg

**T**he JFK Special Warfare Museum at Fort Bragg has closed, along with the museum's non-profit gift store. The U.S. Army Special Operations Command has decided to "leverage technology," in collaboration with the Airborne and Special



Operations Museum (ASOM) in downtown Fayetteville, by providing "virtual historical exhibits

and graphic displays" to Special Operations units and to the public. This information is from an April 24 SOCOM press release.

A note on the web page of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum Association says that while the store is permanently closed, the online web store has been reopened. <http://www.jfkwebstore.com/index.php>

"As key decisions are made to support our customer base and the ARSOF community, updates will be posted," it reads.



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# Chapter News

## This is the 'new look' at VFW Post 8541

Space in the canteen is now arranged for proper social distancing. Tables are placed 6 feet apart, with maximum six chairs per table. Many bar stools were removed from the bar. Occupancy is limited to 34 people for now, so we should be able to meet safely on June 6.

*Photos by Chris Marshall*







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# News from Other Chapters

## SF License Plate considered

**G**. M. "Zak" Kozak, president of Chapter 41 in Austin, has provided an update on the campaign to establish a Special Forces license plate in Texas.



He has requested his state senator and state representative to sponsor a bill in the next legislative session, which convenes Jan. 12, 2021. While Sen. Charles Schwertner did not definitely commit to carry the bill, his staff said they "just need a little more time to find out if the senator is expected to carry any large pieces of legislation and how much of a time commitment that would be."

Asked whether SFA members could reasonably expect the proposal to enable us to obtain Army Special Forces plates in 2021, the reply was: "These bills typically don't receive any real opposition, so yes, we believe so."

These would not be "vanity plates" and would involve no additional fees. Drivers who are SF qualified would simply present proof of their qualification to the county tax office when applying. Kozak has asked other chapters to contact their representatives to encourage their support.

If you're in a shopping mood, we have located a possible source for green blazers, thanks to El Paso Chapter 9. Here's the link: <http://www.blazerboutique.com/product/hunter-green-mens-blazer/>



Also, for a big catalog of shirts, hats, jewelry and other SF swag, see web site of Chapter 4-24 "the Rocky Mountain chapter" in Colorado. <https://squareup.com/store/sfa4-24>.

Hawaii Chapter 8, possibly the oldest chapter in SFA, has a brand new web site. Check it out! <http://specialforceshawaii.com/>

Here's a site with interesting facts about the U.S. Army Birthday on June 14. Did you know 24 U.S. presidents have served in the Army? [Army Birthday in 2020/2021 - When, Where, Why, How is Celebrated?](http://Army Birthday in 2020/2021 - When, Where, Why, How is Celebrated?)

And here is the link to all the details on the SFA International Convention, scheduled for Aug. 11-16 at Destin, FL. <https://www.sfainternationalconvention.org/>

Photo shows JROTC cadets at East Central High School who, for the first time in the school's 45-year history, qualified for national drill team competition. Chapter XV voted in February to donate \$500 toward travel expenses for their trip to Richmond, VA, March 21.

Unfortunately, The Army JROTC National Drill Championships were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the school was closed as well. The disappointed students were determined to keep the funds they had raised and attempt to qualify again next year.

Cadet commander Kevin Rodriguez (center, in light shirt) has graduated and will not be able to join them. The good news is he plans to attend Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL — and he'll be joining its ROTC program.

## ECHS Drill Team and Color Guard



# Chapter News

## Special Forces Association Chapter XV 2020 Escape to Secrets Akumal!

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**\$1190.00 per person**

**Preferred Club Junior Suite – Swim Out**

**\$1418.00 per person**

\$200 p/p deposit due at booking. \*Additional suite categories and pre/post 1, 2 and 3 night combinations available on request with special pricing. Space subject to availability at time of booking. Complimentary transfers on 5 day package arrival and departure days only. Contact for more details.

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\*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy, land only, space is limited. Rates include a \$45 per person markup donation to SFA Chapter XV. Mark-up will not be waived. Other restrictions may apply. © 2020 Dream Vacations.



# Bob Jenkins

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**Bob Jenkins, U.S. Army (Retired)**



06/20



## Make this 'a season of firsts'

**J**une is here! Warm weather and sunshine invite us all outside to enjoy time with friends and family.

June is filled with holidays and anniversaries for the patriot. There is Flag Day, the US Army Birthday and the Infantry Birthday. There are also the anniversary of the D-Day invasion, with its incredible Airborne operation marking the beginning of the end for the Axis war effort in Europe, and the anniversary of the formation of the first Special Forces unit with activation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg in 1952.

There are a lot of important firsts in June, including the bittersweet recognition (bittersweet due to the long delay between freedom being declared and freedom being actualized) of Juneteenth when, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the last of the slaves in America were freed from their slavery. Firsts are important for many reasons – typically because they reflect a change for the better.

What firsts will you have this June? What will you do for the first time (or the first time in a long time) with those friends and family members? What memories will you make? What

traditions will you start? Maybe instead of making such decisions in January when we are less inclined to go out and make changes, we should be saying: New June – New Me – New You.

Now, especially as we are feeling the recent virus-inspired restrictions loosen, it is time to have a season of firsts to put us all back on the path to living our fullest lives. In that spirit, remember that Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundant." Take Him up on the offer and, whether a first or a first time in a long time, make it to the faith community of your choice and explore a life made better by faith. If you do not already have a faith community, I invite you to Swordbearer Chapel, which will soon restore Sunday morning chapel services meeting at VFW 8541 at 11am.

Buen Camino,

Fr Steve

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



## Warriors on the Way

[www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org](http://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.

1/20



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# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2020 CALENDAR

<p><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 31 February Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 43rd anniversary</p>	<p><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 13-15 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day</p>
<p><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p><del>3 Board Meeting 1000</del> <del>4 Chapter Memorial Service 1000</del> <del>4 Membership Meeting 1300</del> 30 Scholarship applications due TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p><del>1 Board Meeting 1000</del> <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 15 Drop Input Due <del>15-17 Canyon Lake Picnic</del> 25 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations</p>	<p><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1000 6 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day &amp; Army Birthday</p>
<p><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p>7 Board Meeting 1000 8 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due 18-23 Escape to 'Secrets Akumal'</p>	<p><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1000 5 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1000 3 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>6 Board meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 5 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 7 Pearl Harbor Day 12 Christmas Banquet</p>

**All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Friday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1000 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:

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

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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](mailto:president@sfa-xv.org)



## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

12-15 AUG 2020 Special Forces Association Convention  
Sandestin Beach and Spa Resort, Destin, FL

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

**Thanks to Chris Marshall, Kim Phillips, Pat Connolly and William Smith 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 [editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto: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!"**