



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #10-22

October 2022

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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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



October 8 — Member Meeting

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting

October 10 — Columbus Day

October 31 — Halloween



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 members! It is now October, and I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween this month for those that celebrate the day. I would also like to thank everyone that made it out to Colorado Springs for the SFAIC last month. CH XV was well represented.

Columbus Day is Monday, October 10th, and Halloween is Monday, October 31st.

This month we have the Special Operations Association Reunion in Las Vegas, NV. Those dates are October 17th – 24th, and will be held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. Registration info is in the current Summer 2022 edition of The Drop.

Our Christmas Banquet is set for Saturday, Dec 10th, at the Crown Royal Plaza, San Antonio Airport Hotel, located at 1111 NE Loop 410, SATX, 78209. Christmas banquet tickets will be on sale at our October 8th meeting for \$55 per person, or you can purchase them on our website under the “Donate” tab.

UPDATE The hotel is now under new management and we will not be able to bring in our own alcohol as previously planned. So, there will be a bar with bartender that we can purchase our drinks from. The menu will be London broil, grilled pork chops, salmon, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables, cheesecake, iced tea and/or coffee.

The Wall That Heals is coming to San Antonio at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Thursday, November 3rd – 6th, 2022. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the

58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

As you all should know by now, chapter member Margaret Tippy passed away

September 15, 2022. She is survived by her husband John Tippy, her son DJ Tippy, 5 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 3 brothers, and 5 sisters. Our hearts and prayers are with the Tippy family, may Margaret rest in peace.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 8th. Lunch will begin at noon; remember we are now buying our lunch from the kitchen. Plates are \$10-\$12 dollars depending on the entrée being served. There is no board meeting. 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 2022:

I hope this email finds everyone in
"Good Spirits and Health". Finally a
break in the heat! I sure do not regret
choosing San Antonio as my final
resting ground. During last month's
meeting, I collect a donation check for
\$50 and \$175 in cash, the cash will get
deposited before this month's meeting.

As of 03 Oct 2022, the following ac-
counts are as follows:

- Primary Bussiness Account: \$1,049.95
- Investment Account: \$13,222.34
- 12 Month CD: \$15,073.89

All the best,

Pete Martinez, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org

Photos



SFBMC Camp Bullis Charter in Colorado Springs



SFBMC Camp Bullis Charter at Bell Bros Brewing Company



SFBMC Camp Bullis Charter table set-up at SFAIC'22



2022 SFAIC



L-R:
 Vincent, Merrill, Bruce, & Dion
 Dion, Vincent, Merrill, & Bruce
 10th SFG (A) Trojan Horse, Dennis & Merrill



August Meeting Minutes

SFA Chapter XV

10SEP22 1300 Member Meeting Notes

VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

The meeting was called to order by CH XV president John Lopez at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. John Lopez gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

Members Sick or In Distress:

- Robert Simpson was reported as currently being in hospice at a facility in Universal City, TX.
- Eugene "Gene" Gutierrez passed away late last month, WWII vet, First Special Forces Service, oldest chapter member, and possibly oldest in SFA. Services were Wednesday & Thursday in McAllen, TX.
- LTC(R) Charles McGarry, former 3rd SFG (A), services were Friday, Sept 9th at FT Sam.
- Jim McLory, Vietnam veteran, SFA CH XXXIX out of Houston, services are on Wednesday, Sept 14th, at 2:30pm, Shelter 4, FT Sam. Friends with SFBMC, Camp Bullis, TX.

September - December 2022 Business:

- Treasurer's Report was given by Pete Martinez. Budget report was accepted by membership.
- Minutes approval for August meeting: Minutes were accepted as posted in the September newsletter by membership.
- Membership report given by Sergio Venegas: 243 members currently in Ch XV.
- 1st SFG(A) Reunion is Sept 11th-15th (Sun-Thur) in Mobile, AL., at the Holiday Inn downtown.
Registration Questions: 740-409-6720.
- 5th SFG(A) Reunion, Sept 19th – 25th (Mon-Sat) Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Details will be posted by SFA Ch 38 when known.

(continued on page 6)

August Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 5)

- f.** The Special Forces Association International Convention (SFAIC) is in Colorado Springs, CO this year., through the 20-24th of September (Tues-Sat). Antler Hall Hotel is fully booked. Suggestions are: the Hilton & the Hyatt. It is approximately a 5 min walk to convention from both, they will also be providing a shuttle service. Info is on the National homepage and the Drop.
- g.** There is a fundraiser proposal that Bill Smith and Fred Solis are working on for a multi-day, multi-chapter event later this year which would include SF owned businesses and participation.
- h.** October CH XV meeting will be on Saturday the 8 th .
- i.** Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) will be on the 17-21st (Mon-Fri) of October at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Online registration for SOAR , celebrating the 46th anniversary of the SOA, is now open. .
- j.** November 11th is Veterans Day, and the 24th is Thanksgiving. CH XV meeting is November 12th
- k.** Saturday, December 10th is our 2022 SFA CH XV Christmas banquet at the Crowne Plaza San Antonio Airport Hotel. Located on 1111 NE Loop 410, SATX 78209. No meeting in December because of banquet.
- l.** Reminder: Bill Beall conducts Sick Call here at 1pm on Sunday's. Next meeting, Saturday, October 8th., 2022.
- m.** Door prizes: Raul de la Garza read off winning tickets.
- n.** President John Lopez made a motion to adjourn meeting, motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Juan A. Lopez, D-8306

President, SFA Chapter XV

TAPS: Eugene “Gene” Gutierrez
9/14/1921 – 8/25/2022

Chapter XV was well represented at the funeral in McAllen of Eugene Gutierrez, a longtime Chapter member who died Aug. 25, just weeks before his 101st birthday. He had fought in Europe with the First Special Service Force (Devil’s Brigade) during WWII.

Burial was Sept. 8 at the Rio Grande Valley State Veteran’s Cemetery in Mission, TX, with full military honors conducted

by the 10th Special Forces Group. Attending from Chapter XV were President John Lopez, Buddy Gee, Merrill Hall and Juan Montoya. Also in attendance were Former 5th Group commander COL (Ret.) Jay Powers, MAJ Chris Smith and SGM Tomas Hernandez, 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group representing the Legion.

Following the rosary on Sept. 7, the SF contingent met for a toast to the life and legacy of a highly respected warrior with a bottle of Devil’s Brigade premium whiskey. May Gene rest in peace.



John Lopez pays respects



whiskey



Among those attending the funeral were (left to right) Merrill Hall, Jay Powers, Buddy Gee, unknown name, MAJ Chris Smith, SGM Tomas Hernandez, Juan Montoya and John Lopez.



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- ➔ Veteran Affairs advocacy to review current military/personnel service medical records or post-service VA.
- ➔ Access to our regional Accredited Veterans Services Officers (VSO) to file an original or updated VA disability claim.
- ➔ Pre-transition briefings for Special Forces soldiers and their family.
- ➔ Locating any treatment records or archived documents as evidence to submit when filing VA disability claims.
- ➔ Assess previous service documentation or records for a condition or an injury that could have potentially led to a service-connection: the in-service injury or diagnosis.

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Report from 5th Group Reunion at Fort Campbell

The 5th Special Forces Group's 61st annual reunion at Fort Campbell was action-packed and heavily attended, even though the dates (Sept. 19-24) conflicted with the National SFA Conference in Colorado.

Buddy Gee represented San Antonio at the reunion and was happy to meet up and renew friendship with Chapter XV member Barry Archer, who has relocated to Mississippi.

Barry and Buddy teamed up to join the Nashville day trip, which included a visit to a recording studio and a gourmet lunch hosted by David Corlew of the Charlie Daniels Band and Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project. That project supports servicemen who are returning to civilian life.

Back at Fort Campbell, 3rd Battalion, 5th Group, hosted an amazing open house and equipment display. Some of the latest war-fighting technology on display included electric

tactical vehicles and various sizes and configurations of drones. One drone had a wingspan of approximately five feet, while the smallest drone was no bigger than a ball point pen. Sniper rifles, referred to as cheaters, have heat seeking rounds that can lock onto the target.

At the reunion dinner, recently retired MSG Jason Roberts presented a \$30,000 check to Chapter 38 on behalf of 2nd Battalion to provide family support for the troops. The president of the St Louis Chapter donated \$10,000 to the same cause.

It was a great reunion complete with competitions, events and entertainments for active soldiers, their families and veterans of all ages.



Buddy Gee, left, with Barry Archer



The electric motorbike is dead quiet at 80 mph



The newest desert ATV is a replacement for the HUMMV

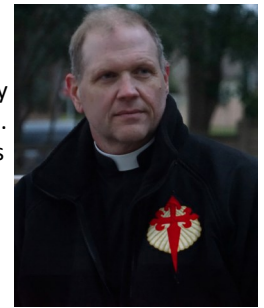


Reaching Out and Lifting Up

I am writing this on the 5th of October – more than a few days after it was asked for, so contributing to our editor Daniel's challenge of getting the newsletter out in a timely manner. It has been just a bit over a week since returning from Spain having led the 2022 iteration of the Warriors on the Way pilgrimage for combat veterans with the goal of reducing their experience of PTSD and Moral Injury symptoms. It was the Feast of St Francis of Assisi yesterday and that has made me think of the first pilgrimage I ever went on. That pilgrimage was to Assisi, Italy – home of St Francis of Assisi. Most people are at least superficially familiar with St Francis of Assisi. That is, most people know him as the world's most famous garden statue, typically depicted with either birds or a wolf nearby.

What very few people know is that St Francis was a combat veteran. He went to war seeking glory in battle and to be awarded a knighthood. He was captured soon after he arrived to the battlefield and spent a year as a POW. Upon his release, Francis returned to Assisi. He was known for drinking too much, partying too much, chasing every skirt he saw, and in general being a terrible "garrison soldier." He began to think that he could fix himself if he could only go back to war. He mounted his war horse and rode off with the intent to join the current war – the Crusades. This is when he sensed God's call on his life. After a roadside

argument with the God he heard calling him, Francis turned his horse and rode to the nearest church. Francis says he audibly heard God to tell him to rebuild His church. The local church was dilapidated so Francis put his back into the work and started literally rebuilding this small neglected parish.



Over time, Francis started gaining followers. Others who wanted to do something bigger than themselves found Francis to be inspirational. Ultimately the number of Franciscans, as they came to be called, grew to the point of being innumerable. The Franciscan revival rebuilt the church in ways Francis could have never imagined. Through his commitment to a greater mission, without a VA, psychologists, psychiatrists, or meds, God turned Francis' brokenness into greatness. To what greater mission will you commit yourself? There are an innumerable number of needs out there. Which one calls you? What greatness awaits you?

Buen Camino,
Fr Steve



Warriors on the Way

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
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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)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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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 authorize you 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: _____



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OCTOBER 2022
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post Calendar	Post Web Page	V Post 8541 V #1 Commander - Bill Smith Sr. Vice Commander - Robert DeArmon Quartermaster - Chris Espinoza		SPECIAL FORCES 1200-1400 2nd Sat. of the Month	1 Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Corn Corn Bread \$10 Karaoke with Dalila	
Pool League	P Kitchen Open 5 - 7		5 POKER Kitchen Open 5 - 7	6 1900 General Membership & Auxiliary Meetings Kitchen Open 5 - 7	P Open Kitchen Karaoke with Dalila	8 Open Kitchen Karaoke with Dalila
Pool League	O Kitchen Open 5 - 7		12 POKER 101st AB Meeting 1900 Kitchen Open 5 - 7	13 SUPPORT YOUR POST. BUY YOUR BUDDY A DRINK.	14 POKER 7 PM	15 Chicken Alfredo \$10 Broccoli Garlic Bread Karaoke with Dalila
Pool League	K 7 PM Kitchen Open 5 - 7		19 POKER KITCHEN open 5-7	20 House Committee Meeting 1800	21 POKER	22 Open Kitchen Cross Hill Junction
Pool League	E Kitchen Open 5 - 7	Recognition Of Women In Military Service	26 POKER KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	27 Navy Day FREE Navy Bean Soup	28 POKER	29 Tacos Spanish Rice Charro Beans \$10 Something Blue
Pool League	Alamo Model A Club Meeting 3rd Sunday at 1 PM	ASWAA Meeting 1230 on 15Jan 21	Sickcall Every Sunday 1300 - 1500	Saturday Music 6:30 to 10:30 Meals 5:30 to 7:00	VPR's at 6 PM	Calendar is subject to change. This is Version 1 effective 27 Sep 22

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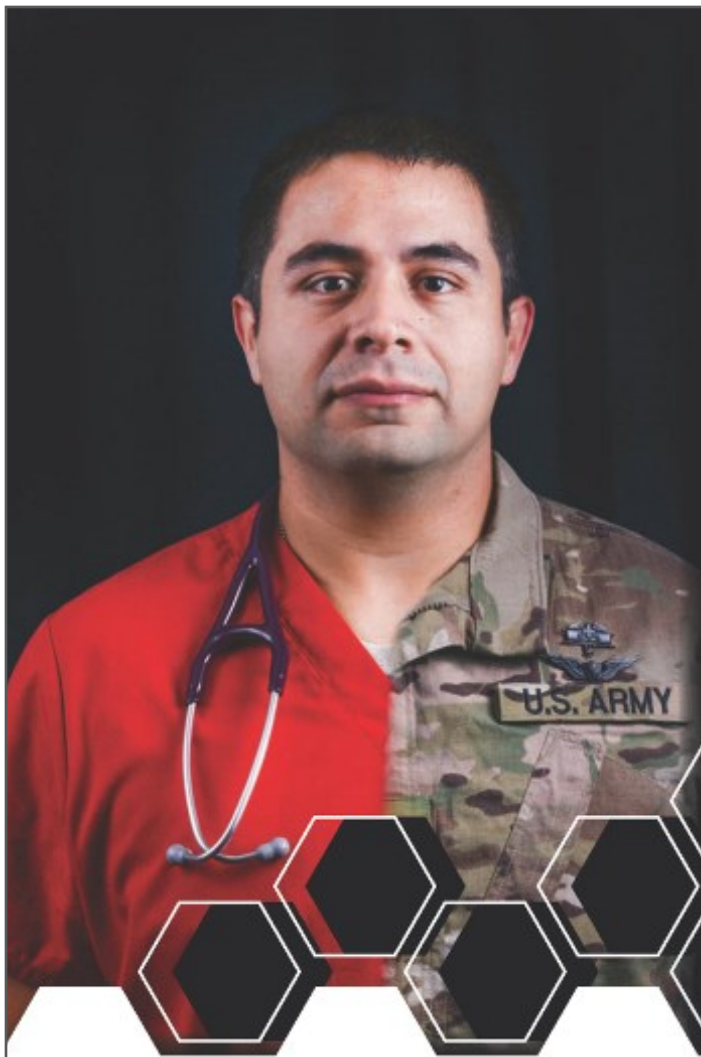
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GREEN BERET SFA CHAPTER XV

2022 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
01 New Year's Day 15 Board Meeting 1100hrs 15 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 17 Martin Luther King Day	12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Valentine's Day 15 Drop Input Due 21 President's Day 26 CH XV 45 th Anniversary	02 Ash Wednesday 05 Board Meeting 1130hrs 05 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11-13 Cotulla Event 13 Daylight Savings Time Change 17 St. Patrick's Day 20 Spring Begins 25 CMOH Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
01 April Fool's Day 02 4th Annual GBF Crawfish Boil 09 CH XV Memorial 1000hrs 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Palm Sunday 15 Good Friday 17 Easter Sunday	08 Mother's Day NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING 13-15 Canyon Lake Picnic 15 Drop Input Due 30 Memorial Day	11 Board Meeting 1130hrs 11 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 19 Father's Day/Juneteenth
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
04 Independence Day 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs	13 Board Meeting 1130hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due	05 Labor Day 10 Board Meeting 1130hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 16 POW/MIA Day 20-24 SFAIC
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
08 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Columbus Day 17-21 SOAR Reunion 31 Halloween	06 Daylights Saving Time Change 11 Veterans Day 12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due 24 Thanksgiving Day	07 Pearl Harbor Day NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10 Christmas Banquet 25 Christmas Day

Annual Membership Dues are now due. Pay \$40 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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Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

Chief Engineer-CEO

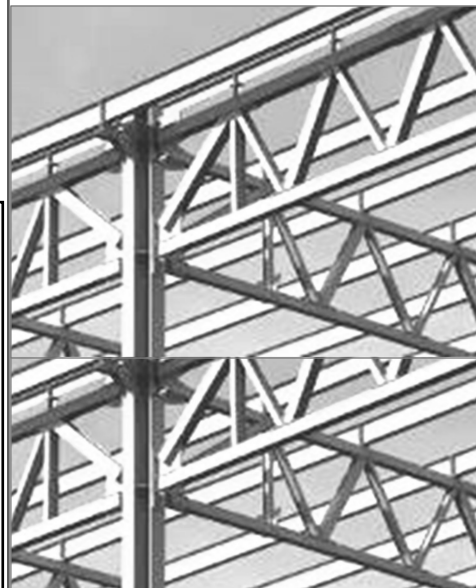


32310 Flat Rock View
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493

Terrazas and Associates, Inc.



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

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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Other ad sizes available:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

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This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$40

These are business-card ads

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\$25



Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Thanks to John Lopez, Merrill Hall, and Buddy Gee 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!"