



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue #07-21

July 2021

**President:** John Lopez  
**Vice-President:** Pat Meffert  
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Committee Chairs

**By-Laws:** Bill Smith  
**Nominations:** Chuck Rose  
**JROTC Awards:** John Lopez  
**Scholarships:** Pat Connolly  
**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  
**Chapter Annual Cruise:** Karen Hermann

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



**July 10 — XV Board Meeting 1130**

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**Membership Meeting**

**1200— Noon Meal Served**

**1300— Business Meeting**



## DON'T FORGET



**Swordbearer's Chapel** service with Fr. Steve Rindahl has resumed at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs. every Sunday in the Rodela Room. All are welcome.

**Sick call** at 1300 hrs. every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

**H**appy 4th of July! I hope everyone had a happy and safe Independence Day weekend. We are now beginning the second half of the year and summer is officially here.

I would like to thank Dana Lee, Merrill Hall, Ted Heckerman, and Kim Phillips for helping with the selling of our Fiesta 2021 medals last month. It was hot, but we got out there and represented. I would also like to thank the folks who helped with attaching the 2021 medal banners on our last year 2020 medals. Gordon and Dana Lee did a great job ordering and getting the medals here right before Fiesta.

Just another reminder that effective Sept 1, 2021 TX DV license plates recipients will have to hang the ADA placard to be able to park on ADA parking spaces. Effective Dec 1, 2021 the DMV will require every recipient to get the ADA placard application signed by their doctors, DMV will no longer issue it automatically.

We are a little over just three months away from the Special Operations Association Reunion and the Special Forces Association International Convention in Las Vegas, NV this coming October. Again, those dates are October 18th – 22nd for the SOAR event, and October

22nd – 25th for the SFAIC event. Both events will be held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. Because of the two events, a large showing is predicted, so make your reservations if you plan on attending.



Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 10th. Our board meeting will start at 11:30am. Lunch will begin at noon. 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*

## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, July 2021:

I am currently out of town, so I will be report most of this months actions in August Dollars & Cents.

I also want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer  
*treasurer@sfa-XV.org*



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# Minutes from June

## SFA Chapter XV

### 12JUN21 1300 Member Meeting Notes

#### VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

President- John Lopez

Vice President-Pat Meffert

Secretary-Mike Brown

Treasurer: Merrill Hall

#### Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **Merrill Hall, Treasurer** provided the current 2021 Budget Report. Membership voted unanimously to accept the budget reports as written.
  - a. The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to be the Assistant Treasurer. Contact Merrill Hall or John Lopez for details.
2. The April 2021 member meeting minutes were posted in the May newsletter. Membership voted unanimously to accept the April minutes as written.
3. **Membership Secretary Sergio Vanegas** announced that the Chapter membership stood at 230 members.
  - a. Please ensure that the Chapter has your current phone number, e-mail, and/or address so that the Membership Secretary can update the new National SFA database.
4. **President John Lopez** announced that the Chapter would attend a Fiesta Medal event at the Beethoven Mannerchor in downtown San Antonio that afternoon to sell Chapter XV Fiesta medals.
5. **Dana Lee** announced that the Chapter would attend a Fiesta Pin Pandemonium event on June 17. Volunteers were requested to support the event.
6. **President John Lopez** announced that Echo Hill Ranch was looking for volunteers for their Gold Star Family Children's camp 21-30 June. Details of Chapter XV volunteer support will be provided in the July meeting.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Minutes from June (continued)

(Continued from Page 4)

7. **Pat Connally** presented scholarship checks to **Seth London** (stepson of member David Marshall), **Alyssa Meffert** (daughter of member Pat Meffert), **Harlan Cook** (stepson of member John Dominguez), **Jaqueline Halldorsson** (accepted by stepdad and member Bill Smith), and **Jordyn Hopgood** (granddaughter of member Dan Hopgood). **Madison Blue** (granddaughter of member Don Blue), **Helen Beck** (daughter of member Chris Marshall), and **Jessica Rose** (granddaughter of member Chuck Rose) also were awarded scholarships but were not able to attend. Chapter XV presented a total of eight scholarship grants this year.

8. **President John Lopez** announced he had received less than 14 requests for JROTC this year. The low number is attributed to COVID. Member Pat Meffert presented an award in person at Smithson Valley HS to an award recipient.

9. **Annual Chapter XV Vacation Trip coordinator Karen Hermann** briefed that the 2021 Chapter trip will be at the Majestic Elegance Costa Mujeres Resort in Cancun, Mexico Saturday 31JUL to Saturday 07AUG21. Contact Karen for details.

a. Karen additionally briefed two options for 2022: One option in Mexico and another option possibly on a new cruise ship. She is requesting feedback on Chapter members preferences to facilitate planning.

10. **The 5<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) reunion** will be held September 18-22 in Clarksville, TN.

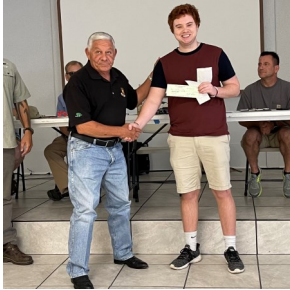
11. **President John Lopez announced the 2021 Chapter XV Christmas Banquet will be held Saturday 11DEC21.** Currently the event will be held at the Texas Republic Golf Club at the same venue as the 2020 event. However, a contingency plan is being developed in the event construction at the Texas Republic is an issue.

12. **Discussion: Member and VFW Post 8541 Commander Bill Smith** announced that the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association will be establishing an Alamo Chapter later this summer. Details to follow.

13. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

# In Photos

## Scholarships



Seth London (stepson of member David Marshall)

Scholarship presentations by Chapter President John Lopez, MG (Ret.) Valenzuela, and VFW Commander Bill Smith.



Alyssa Meffert (daughter of member Pat Meffert)



Jaqueline Halldorsson (accepted by stepdad and member Bill Smith)



Harlan Cook (stepson of member John Dominguez)



Madison Blue (granddaughter of member Don Blue)



Dana Lee

## FIESTA!

Chptr. Pres. John Lopez and Merrill Hall



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# Freedom

**F**REEDOM! shouted Mel Gibson, playing William Wallace, in the final moments of his life in the highly stylized film "Braveheart." In the film, William Wallace suffering excruciating (*ex crux* – from the cross) pain gives his life on a cross-shaped torture device for the freedom of the Scottish people. Closer to home and in more recent history, our nation's freedom began with the formation of the Continental Army in 1775 and the ensuing battles between Colonials and the British Army. Our freedom was further ratified by the Declaration of Independence, signed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 1776. In the ensuing War for Independence, many gave their lives for the freedom of the soon-to-be United States and its people. Six years later, the American War for Independence was won, and those remaining British forces in the United States evacuated – Freedom was secured.

Over the course of our nation's history, that freedom has been challenged many times. Usually from external threats, and occasionally from internal threats, we have learned that Freedom is a treasure that must be defended daily. Through these 243 years many men, and a growing number of women, have set their personal safety aside to defend that freedom and even extend freedom to others. The American fighting in a foreign land can echo the words of Jesus saying that they have been "sent to proclaim freedom to the captives and... to set at

liberty those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18). With that thought, our opening image of William Wallace dying on a cross for the freedom of his people comes full circle. Wallace did die a brutal death at the hands of British executioners, but it was not on a cross-shaped torture device as depicted in the film. What Gibson wanted to convey in the film's portrayal of Wallace's death is the message that those who are willing to die for the freedom of others are Christ-like. That nearly 2,000 years ago, one man declared that God the Father "sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and... to set at liberty those who are oppressed," and then gave His life for the freedom of His people. AND, His people are each and every one of us who will answer His call to freedom from what holds us captive and liberty from those things which oppress us. You have already answered the call to defend freedom – answer freedom's call again.



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)  
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**GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT: \$150,316**

OUR MOST SACRED DUTY AT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION IS TO SERVE THE FAMILIES OF OUR GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. NO MATTER IF THE GREEN BERET WAS KILLED IN COMBAT OR IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE-RELATED INJURY, SUICIDE OR DISEASE, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE FAMILY NAVIGATE THEIR DIFFICULT JOURNEY, EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE.

**CASUALTY SUPPORT: \$125,759**

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO GREEN BERETS UPON SUSTAINING A WOUND OR INJURY, INCLUDING RECEIVING A CHECK FOR \$2500 AND A GORUCK GR1 RUCKSACK OF ESSENTIAL GEAR. BY PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT, WE HELP SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT: BEING TOGETHER AND HEALING.

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**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

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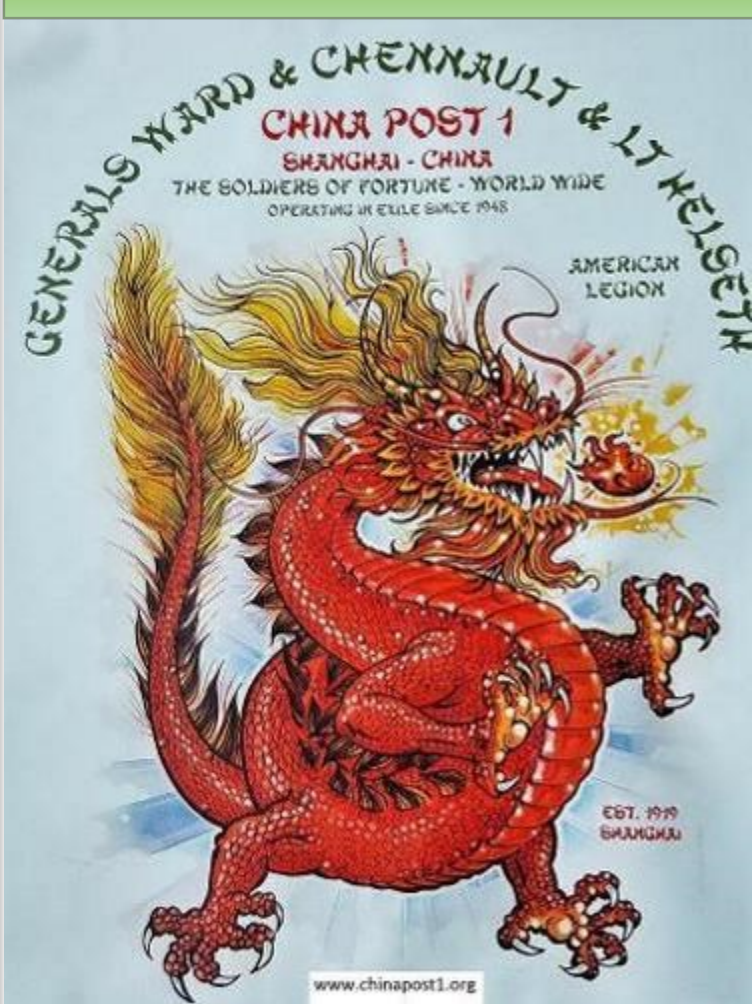
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**Terrazas and Associates, Inc.**



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com



**Longtab Brewing:** We are very proud to announce our fourth Longtab beer dedication, brewed in honor of GREEN BERET and Medal of Honor Recipient MSG Roy P. Benavidez. This beer is an American Pils and will be named TANGO MIKE MIKE which was his radio callsign. It was released Nov. 28.

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2021 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p><b>08</b> Board Meeting 1000hrs <b>09</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p><b>13</b> Board Meeting 1000hrs <b>13</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>15</b> Drop Input Due <b>26</b> CH XV 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p><b>06</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>06</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>14</b> Daylight Savings <b>17</b> Saint Patrick's Day <b>21</b> GBF Blues, Brews, &amp; Bugs <b>25</b> CMOH Day <b>28</b> Palm Sunday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p><b>03</b> Crawfish Boil - Longtab 1400hrs <b>10</b> Board Meeting 1130hrs <b>10</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p><b>08</b> Joe Dawson Farwell @Longtab <b>09</b> Mother's Day <b>NO BOARD MEETING</b> <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> <b>15</b> Chapter Picnic @the Meffert's <b>15</b> Drop Input Due <b>31</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p><b>12</b> Board Meeting 1130hrs <b>12</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>14</b> U.S. Army Birthday <b>14</b> Flag Day <b>20</b> Father's Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p><b>04</b> Independence Day <b>10</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>10</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p><b>14</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>14</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>15</b> Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>06</b> Labor Day <b>11</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>11</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>17</b> POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p><b>09</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>09</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>11</b> Columbus Day <b>14 or 21</b> DLR's Fundraiser <b>16</b> JBSA Octoberfest <b>18-22</b> SOAR Reunion <b>22-25</b> SFAIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>11</b> Veterans Day <b>13</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>13</b> Membership Meeting 1300hrs <b>15</b> Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p><b>07</b> Pearl Harbor Day <b>11</b> Board Meeting 1100hrs <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> <b>11</b> Christmas Banquet</p>

**Annual Membership Dues** are now past due. Pay \$40 plus a \$5 reinstatement fee 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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The Original "Little Yellow Book"	The Dragon 1964	The Snake 1965	The Horse 1966	The Goat 1967	The Monkey 1968	The Cock 1969
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## **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*

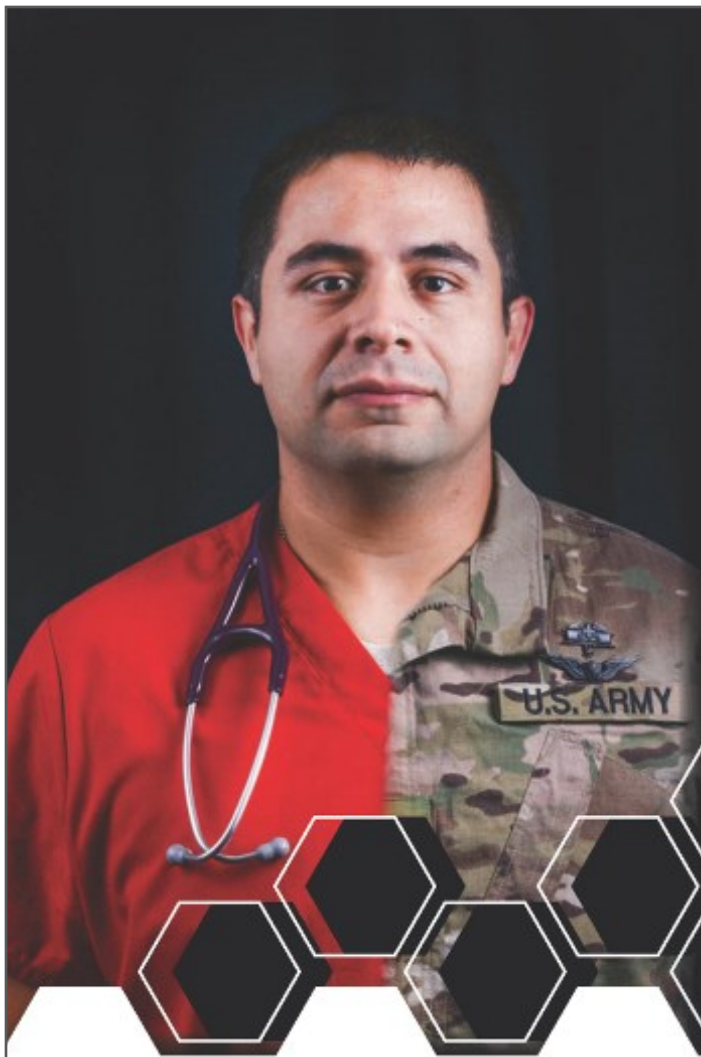
*I am an American Special Forces Soldier. A professional!  
I will do all that my nation requires of me.  
I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.  
I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:  
Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers,  
the 1st Special Service 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*





**TAKE PRIDE  
IN WHAT YOU DO**

**NO MATTER THE  
*uniform***

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These are business-card ads

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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

18-22 SEPT 2021 5th Group Reunion  
Clarksville, TN

18-22 OCT 2021 Special Operations Association Reunion  
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

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

**Thank you to John Lopez 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](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!”**