



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #01-21

January 2021

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Vice-President: Pat Meffert
Secretary: Mike Brown
Asst. Secretary: Buddy Gee
Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Asst. Treasurer: Joel Dawson
Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
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Visit us at our Home Page:

www.sfa-xv.org



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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



January 8 — Board Meeting 1000

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

January 9 — Membership Meeting

1200— Noon meal served

1300—Business meeting

January 18—Martin Luther King Day

January 20 — Presidential Inauguration



DON'T FORGET



Annual Membership Dues are now due. Pay by January 31 to avoid late charge. Pay \$40 dues online at Chapter website, in person at Chapter meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 33782, SA Tx 7825-3782.

Swordbearer's Chapel service with Fr. Steve Rindahl has resumed at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs.

every Sunday in the Rodela Room. All are welcome.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted. Apply by April 30. Details Page 5.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Well, Chapter XV, We made it through another year, and we are now in January 2021. I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy new year. Please continue doing what you have been in the past to stay healthy and sound.

Holidays and dates of interest this month are: Martin Luther King Jr Day is Monday the 18th. Inauguration Day is Wednesday the 20th.

We had a successful 2020 Christmas Banquet, and I would like to take this time to thank everyone that was able to attend. The overall attendance was just over 50 members, friends, family, and guests. The music and food were great, and it was really nice seeing everyone enjoying themselves after a very trying and challenging year.

I also want to thank Raul De La Garza, Merrill Hall, and Kim Phillips for all their help getting everything loaded, unloaded, and decorated. Your hard work was very much appreciated. Also, thank you Rhonda Marshall for taking a picture of everyone who attended the banquet in front of the Christmas tree.

Our next board meeting is at our usual location, on Friday the 8th at 10am, and our next membership

meeting is Saturday, the 9th at 1pm. Lunch will start at Noon and will be fried tilapia, French fries, coleslaw, and hush puppies.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Stay safe!



John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV

president@sfa-XV.org

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's report, December 2021

I hope everybody enjoyed your holiday time.

We had approximately 52 people show up for the Christmas banquet. It seems that a good time was had by all.

I am currently out of town and do not have my computer or treasurer's paperwork with me. So I will have a lot more to report in February.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer

treasurer@sfa-XV.org

**IN 2019, WE INVESTED \$2,136,586
INTO THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
OF 5,017 SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES.**



FAMILY SUPPORT: \$925,469

A GREEN BERET'S FAMILY IS HIS FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORT, AND SO IT'S CRITICAL THAT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION PROVIDES ADVOCACY AND SERVICES TO MEET THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS. THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES AS THEY NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING, DEPLOYMENTS, AND LIFE AFTER THE MILITARY.

EXTENDED SUPPORT: \$755,156

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GREEN BERETS AS THEY MANAGE WOUNDS, INJURIES, AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ACUTE AND POST-ACUTE CARE. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE TREATMENTS AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO THRIVE IN LIFE BEYOND THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

NEXT RIDGELINE[®] TRANSITION SUPPORT: \$179,886

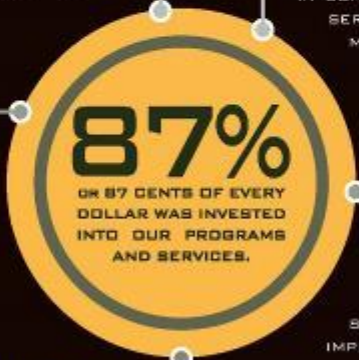
WE KNOW THAT A GREEN BERET'S TRANSITION OUT OF THE MILITARY IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL TIME PERIODS IN HIS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONNECT GREEN BERETS WITH THE MENTORS, PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES NEEDED TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE A SUCCESS. THIS PROGRAM ENSURES THAT GREEN BERETS ARE PREPARED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE A FULL AND IMPACTFUL LIFE AFTER TAKING OFF THE MILITARY UNIFORM.

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.



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US TODAY AT WWW.GREENBERETFOUNDATION.ORG



**GREEN BERET
FOUNDATION**

Minutes of December Meeting

NO MINUTES DUE TO THE CHAPTER BANQUET



Guest Speaker Brent Cooper



Buddy, Sharon Gee and Chap Pres. John Lopez



Sherri Greene and John Lopez



Karen Hermann and John Lopez



Dan Pedrotti and John Lopez

Daniel Bell

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Chapter News

Reminder: Annual membership dues

We are now in the grace period for annual dues payers to renew their SFA membership. Annual dues are \$40 if paid now. After January 31, dues become delinquent and there is a \$5 reinstatement fee.

Make checks payable to SFA and mail to SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265. Also, you may pay by cash at the membership meeting Saturday, January 9.

Dues may also be paid online at the Chapter website: www.sfa-xv.org. Select the Donate tab. On the drop-down menu, select donate to the general fund and pay by PayPal, Debit or Credit Card. The treasurer will know by the amount paid that it is for membership renewal.

VA News: Launching all-purpose 800 number

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 (**1-800-698-2411**), a single access point to all VA contact centers.
- The number is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. According to VA, **1-800-MyVA411** provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent.
- Responding to Veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411, serves all members of the Veteran community seeking information or help.
- Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by Chat or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at 1-855-948-2311 for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns.
- When dialing **1-800-MyVA411**, callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm-handoff to the appropriate VA expert.



- During the pilot phase from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sep. 31, 2020, 1-800-MyVA411 connected more than 1.3 million callers with VA contact centers and experts.
 - 1-800-MyVA411 provides information on:
 - COVID-19 updates.
 - Health care eligibility and enrollment.
 - VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers among others.
 - The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to Veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates and connection to VA Medical Center operators.
 - Directory assistance and technical support for www.VA.gov.
 - Debt and payment options.
- For more information contact the Veterans Experience Office at Vets-Experience@VA.gov

*From TREA "The Enlisted Association"
Washington Update 12/26/2020*

Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces that applications are being accepted from now until 30 April, 2021. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM PAST YEARS. Here are the current scholarship guidelines:



Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant provides scholarship grants to SFA Chapter XV members, their dependents, children and grandchildren. The number and amount of grants are determined by the budget and the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee, with approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the June Membership Meeting.

Eligibility:

Applicant must be a Chapter member in good standing or the dependent spouse, child or grandchild of a member in good standing, or child or grandchild of a deceased member who was in good standing at the time of death. Applicant must have been accepted by, or already attending an accredited college, university or vocational institution.

Application Process:

Applications must be submitted and postmarked not later than 30 April to be considered. Eligible applicants must submit the following:

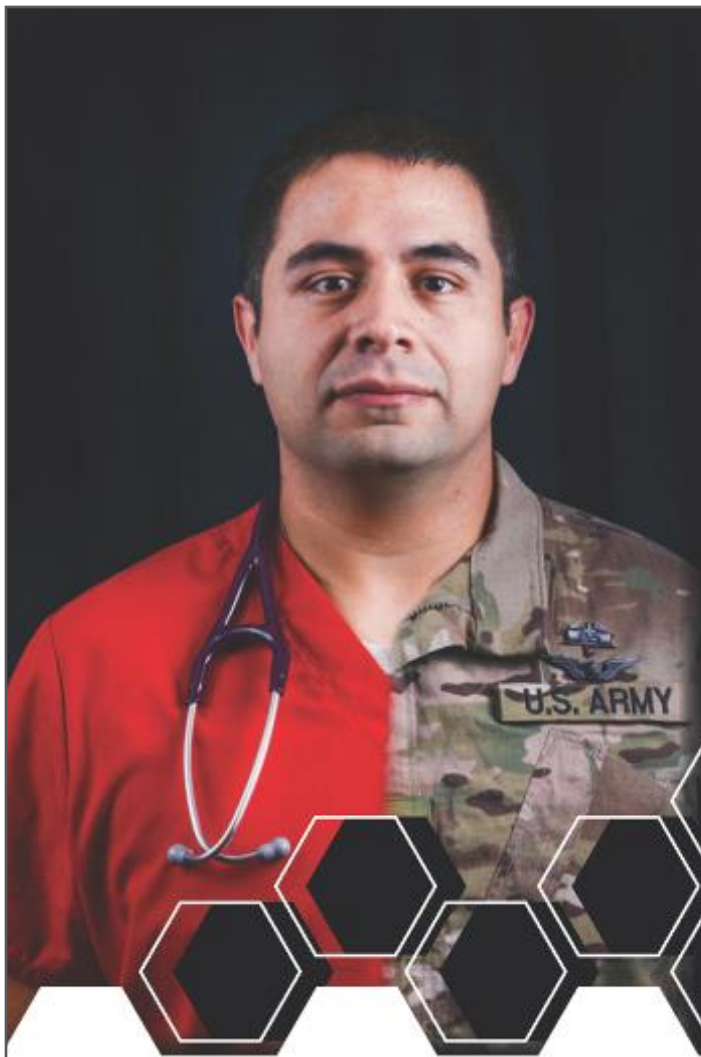
- a. A sponsor letter from Chapter XV member that states full name, member number and relationship to applicant, and the applicant's full contact information.
- b. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend and planned use of the grant.
- c. Copies of most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
- d. Reference letter from teacher(s), school counselor or principal. (minimum of one required)
- e. Summary of extra-curricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
- f. A copy of the application to the school, or acceptance letter from the registrar that the student has already been enrolled.

All items listed above are required. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit applications to:

President, SFA Chapter XV

Attn: Scholarship Committee

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



**TAKE PRIDE
IN WHAT YOU DO**

**NO MATTER THE
*uniform***

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SCHOOL OF NURSING OFFERS AN ACCELERATED VETERAN TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (VBSN) TRACK FOR VETERANS WITH PRIOR MILITARY MEDICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

The VBSN track is open to veterans from all branches of the service and is designed to build on the education and experience of the veteran with a system of assessment that will allow for advanced placement in the curriculum based upon demonstration of knowledge and skill. This accelerated 12-month track has online classes in addition to clinical instruction guided by assigned clinical coaches and nursing clinical faculty. The track has clinical sites in Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Lubbock, Odessa and San Antonio.

Call or click at:

vbsn@ttuhsc.edu | 806.743.9294 | 1.800.493.3954

www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.**
School of Nursing



Other News

Green Beret Foundation joins with Marcus Institute for Brain Health

The Green Beret Foundation (GBF) is pleased to announce its program partnership with the Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH). The Foundation is continuously evaluating and forging program partnerships with organizations and initiatives whose services promote the health and wellness of Green Berets and their families.

The mission of MIBH is to provide exceptional care for people with mild to moderate brain injuries, including concussions, and changes in psychological health through its four-week intensive outpatient care.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a significant health issue which affects Green Berets and it is the Green Beret Foundation's tireless commitment to providing access to

conventional and unconventional therapies and treatments with the goal of improving the Green Beret's quality of life.



If you are a Green Beret interested in learning more and requesting assistance for access to this intensive outpatient treatment, please submit a request for support via our website at greenberetfoundation.org



Armandina (Mandy) Terrazas
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MandyTerrazas@gmail.com

**We have
EXPerience!**

**We are
EXPerts!**

**We are
EXPloring!**



Bring your best into the world

Happy New Year 2021.

2020 certainly was not what anybody expected when we entered the new year last year. After two months of typical looking forward to what a new year might bring, we learned that it would bring us a virus that turned the entire world on its head. Businesses have closed, some permanently, people have spent long stretches of time in isolation, and whenever it seemed like things might be making a turn for the better and some sort of "normal" is on the horizon – another uptick in COVID cases creates a reimposing of restrictions.

Now we are in the New Year season again. A new president has been elected and will soon take office; the coronavirus is still creating disruptions to our lives; multiple vaccines have been developed and are being fielded (for those who can and desire to receive them), and feelings about what 2021 will hold for us are cautious (at best).

All of these factors reflect how much we, as a people, depend on the world around us. That means equally as

much – people rely upon each of us. This past year have you been one who could be relied upon? Will you be in 2021?

No matter what new presidents, new vaccines, or anything else may bring, each of us bringing our own best into the world will make the world a better place.



If you do not have a regular place of worship but are looking for one (or just a visit) please join us. Each Sunday at 1100, we have a chapel service in the Rodela room of VFW 8541, which is open to everybody with a special emphasis on serving those who have served and their families.

Buen Camino,
Fr Steve

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



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
on the Way to Healing.

Friends of Chapter XV

Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

Chief Engineer-CEO



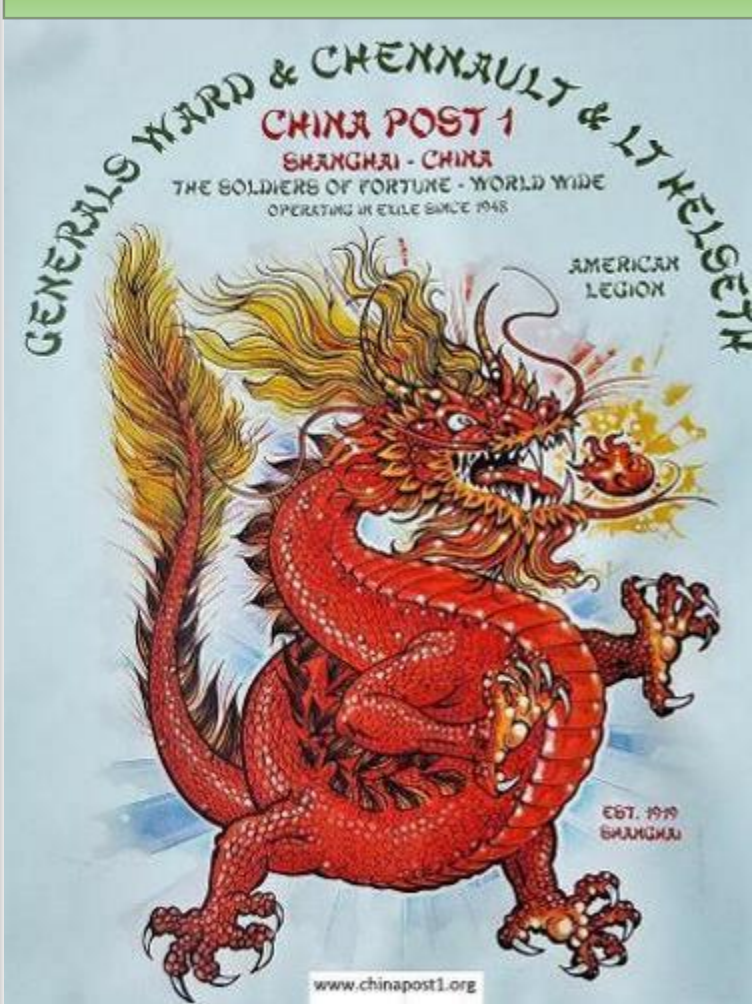
32310 Flat Rock View
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493




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><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 1000 9 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1000 13 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1000 13 Membership Meeting 1300 12-14 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p>
<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>09 Board Meeting 1000 10 Chpt. Memorial Service 1000 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>15 Drop Input Due TBD: Canyon Lake</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>11 Board Meeting 1000 12 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday</p>
<p><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Independence Day 9 Board Meeting 1000 10 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1000 14 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300 17 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 1000 9 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>11 Veterans Day 12 Board meeting 1000 13 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>10 Board Meeting 1000 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Pearl Harbor Day TBD Christmas Banquet</p>

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

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 Buddy Gee,
editor@sfa-xv.org



Other ad sizes available:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

8" x 5"

\$60



This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$40

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: Juan E. "John" Lopez

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

Thanks to Buddy and Sharon Gee and Dave and Rhonda Marshall 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, or mail them to Chapter President John Lopez at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

The Editors



“Carry on!”