



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #08-22

August 2022

President: John Lopez
Vice-President: Pat Meffert
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Asst. Secretary: Sergio Venegas
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Asst. Treasurer: Merrill Hall
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Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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www.sfa-xv.org



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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



August 13 — Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting

August 15 — Drop Input Due



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! I hope everyone is surviving this hot summer by staying inside and staying cool. If you do go outside, make sure you are drinking plenty of water and using your favorite sunblock. We are now in August which will be just as hot if not hotter than June and July were.

We are a little over just one month away from the Special Forces Association International Convention (SFAIC). This year it is in Colorado Springs, CO. It will go 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.

A former SFA CH XV member, Allan M. Blakeborough of Sebastian, Florida, passed away this past April at the age 73. Mr. Blakeborough served in the Vietnam War from 1967-1970. He was a Green Beret, with 5th Special Forces Group, and he was the last remaining member of his team from Vietnam. He was a Communications Sergeant. He was remembered in the Summer 2022 edition of The Drop in the Taps section. SFA CH XV member Buddy Gee served with Mr. Blakeborough in Vietnam.

This year the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) will be on the 17-21st (Mon-Fri) of

October at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 13th.

Lunch will begin at noon; remember we

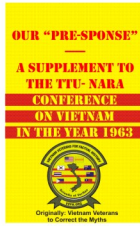
are now buying our lunch from the kitchen. Plates are \$10-\$12 dollars depending on the entrée being served. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. Hope to see you there and stay safe!



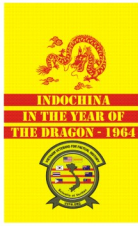
John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV

president@sfa-XV.org

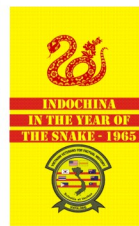
“Indochina in the Year of . . .” Series by VVFH



The Original
"Little Yellow Book"



The Dragon
1964



The Snake
1965



The Horse
1966



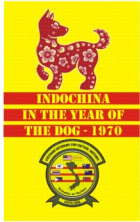
The Goat
1967



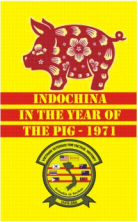
The Monkey
1968



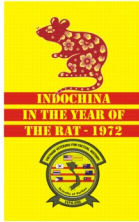
The Cock
1969



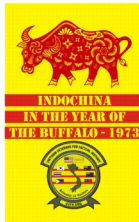
The Dog
1970



The Pig
1971



The Rat
1972



The Buffalo
1973



The Tiger
1974



The Cat
1975



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Remembering Allen M. Blakeborough

Former SFA CH XV member, Allan M. Blakeborough passed away this past April at the age 73. Mr. Blakeborough served in the Vietnam War from 1967-1970.



He was a Green Beret, with 5th Special Forces Group, and he was the last remaining member of his team from Vietnam. CH XV member Buddy Gee served with Mr. Blakeborough in Vietnam.

Scholarships



Chapter President John Lopez presents Member Don Blue a Chapter XV Education Grant/Scholarship check for his granddaughter, Madison Blue, who is attending Texas A&M .

July Meeting Minutes

SFA Chapter XV

09JUL11JUN22 1300 Member Meeting Notes

VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

President: John Lopez

Secretary: Mike Brown

Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **Sick and Distressed:** SFA Chapter XV member **Tony Aquiningoc** passed 12JUN22. Chapter XV was represented at the services. Member **Edgar Morales** continues to recover from various medical procedures. Chapter members can reach out to his wife Rita at 210-260-1308 to schedule a visit.
2. Chapter **Treasurer Pete Martinez** was not in attendance due to personal travel and could not provide the monthly and annual Budget. The budget will be provided during the schedule AUG Chapter meeting.
3. **Minutes:** The June minutes were posted in the July newsletter. Minutes were accepted as written.
4. **Chapter XV Membership** currently stands at 245 members. A reminder that anyone with a change of email or phone number should let the Membership Secretary know so that the Chapter and National rosters are updated.
5. **Member Tom Tannahil** briefed the Chapter on his presentation of an award to the Rudders Rangers ROTC group at Texas A&M University on 18APR. Tom provided an AAR to the Chapter and the Chapter will determine if it wants to support this effort in the future. The Chapter will be briefed on a way ahead at a future meeting in 2022.
6. SFA CH XV Education Grant: Committee Chair **Pat Connally** announced the winners of this year's grants during the meeting. Each student was provided with \$1,700.00.
 - a. **Seth Bradley London:** Texas A&M and stepson of member **David Marshall**
 - b. **Madison Blue:** Texas A&M and granddaughter of member **Don Blue**
 - c. **Harland Cook:** Rice University and stepson of member **John Dominguez**
7. **Member and newly elected SFA National Vice President Bill Smith** briefed the Chapter on the SFA 70th Anniversary picnic in Fayetteville, N.C. held on 24JUN. He indicated the picnic might be moved around to different cities in the future.

(continued on page 6)

July Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 5)

8. **Dicks Last Resort Charity fundraiser coordinator Fred Solis briefed that the event will no longer be at Dicks Last Resort-this is a permanent change.** Fred Solis and Bill Smith are looking at coordinating a multi-day, multi-chapter event later in the year which would include SF owned businesses and participation. Locals and details are still being coordinated and will be briefed at monthly meetings.

9. **Key dates were announced:**

- a. **13AUG** is the date for the August Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
- b. **10SEP** is the date for the September Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
- c. **11-15SEP** is the 1st SFG reunion in Mobile, Alabama.
- d. **19SEP-25** is the 5th SFG reunion at FT Campbell, Kentucky. Details will be posted by SFA Chapter 38 when confirmed.
- e. **20-24SEP** is the Special Forces Association International Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. The original Antler hotel is fully booked so recommend using the Hilton and Hyatt which are a five-minute walk from the convention site. Shuttle service will be provided. Detailed information in the Drop and on the SFA National Homepage.
- f. **17-21OCT** is the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.
- g. **12NOV** is the November Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
- h. **10DEC** is the annual Chapter XV Christmas Ball at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Airport Hotel. No meeting will be held that month per normal practice.

10. Membership Comments:

- a. **Member Jose Campos** thanked the Chapter for the scholarship for his granddaughter who attended and graduated from college.
- b. **Chapter Chaplain Steven Rindhal** announced he would be leading a group of 13 veterans sponsored by the "Warriors on the Way" foundation to walk the 180 miles of the Camino de Santiago in Spain 10-25SEP. If you would like to donate or support this veteran non-profit contact **Steve Rindhal**.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.



NEXT RIDGELINE® TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

We realize that a Green Beret's transition out of the military is one of the most critical and sometimes most difficult times in their life. We take this very seriously by focusing on our three pillars: Resiliency, Redirection, and Reintegration. Within each of those pillars, we provide trust, strength, and direction. We provide both in-house GBF support and external resources advocacy, consultancy, and community connection to support the Green Beret's transition. We focus on connecting Green Berets with the mentors, programs, and advocates needed to make their next mission a success.



VA BENEFITS & CLAIMS PROGRAM

The Green Beret Foundation's Next Ridgeline® Transition Support program is designed to provide the Special Operations community a comprehensive understanding of the VA Benefits & Disability Claims process, and internal systems to ensure a fair and thorough evaluation of VA claims. VA claims accuracy can result in a quantifiable increase in tax-free compensation to each Green Beret's entire household.

THIS PROGRAM ADDRESSES CHALLENGES BY PROVIDING:

- ➔ 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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Reaching Out and Lifting Up

There is a Crucifix in one of the churches along the Camino de Santiago unlike any other I have ever seen. Jesus is reaching down from the Cross to those below – an effort to lift you up from the trouble one might be in. It is the apex of the Gospel – Jesus dies so that we can benefit – emblemized in the Crucifix by depicting Jesus’ dying act being that of reaching out



to those in need in order to lift them up. In the words of the Army Values – an act of Personal Courage and Selfless Service that leaves no one behind.

*“You said a hundred times I should have died.
Then you reached down and touched me and lifted me up with you.”
~ Johnny Cash ~*

Soldiers live these same ethos.

Sometimes being in the position to lift others up, even at great cost to yourself, and sometimes in need of the lifting hand. Who have you reached out to help recently? Such a simple act of mercy makes you more like Jesus than you may have ever imagined. Who has helped you recently? Give thanks, and then help the next guy in need – it is how mercy works.



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.

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Annual Membership - \$45/year
 Lifetime Membership - see below

Mail in the completed application with the appropriate dues to the address on the back of the form, or bring it to your local VFW Post and you're on your way to becoming part of a group where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!**

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
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)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WORLD WAR II | BOSNIA/KOSOVO |
| OCCUPATION SERVICE | GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY |
| KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954) | AFGHANISTAN (2001-present) |
| KOREA DUTY (1955-present) | IRAQ (2003-2011) |
| VIETNAM SERVICE | INHERENT RESOLVE (2014 - present) |
| EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS | SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA |
| DESERT SHIELD/STORM | HOSTILE FIRE / IMMINENT DANGER PAY |

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (circle one)

- Member-At-Large OR Post # _____
 ANNUAL MEMBER: Please enclose \$45 dues or Post dues of \$____
 Check if you wish to be automatically billed for annual dues
 LIFE MEMBER: Please enclose amount shown on table.
 LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN: Please enclose \$45 dues.
 Check if you wish to be automatically billed for installments

Dates and location of service in an overseas conflict:

Please list any campaign medals received below:

BILLING INFORMATION

- MASTERCARD VISA DISCOVER AMEX CHECK

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: _____ Date: _____
 Member's Name and Membership Number: _____
 Quartermaster's Signature and Membership Number: _____



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AUGUST 2022
210-655-2944

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
 Post Calendar	 Post Web Page	 Scholarship	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> V Post 8541 V Commander - Bill Smith Sr. Vice Commander - Robert DeArmon Quartermaster - Chris Espinoza </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> #1 Post in TEXAS </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> SPECIAL FORCES 1200-1400 2nd Sat. of the Month </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Alamo Model A Club Meeting 3rd Sunday at 1 PM </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> P Kitchen Open 5 - 7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> P </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 1900 General Membership & Auxiliary Meetings Kitchen Open 4 - 7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> P </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pool League </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> O 7 PM Kitchen Open 5 - 7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Kitchen Open 5-7 101st AB Meeting 1900 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> O </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> O 7 PM </div>
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> R KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7 Operation Iraqi Freedom </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> L </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> ASWAA Meeting 1230 3rd Saturday </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> R </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> R KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> L </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Sickcall Every Sunday 1300 - 1500 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Calendar is subject to change. This is version 2 effective 29 July 22 </div>



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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 Board Meeting 1130hrs 08 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Columbus Day 13 or 27 DLR's Fundraiser 15 JBSA Octoberfest 17-21 SOAR Reunion	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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Treasurer's Report, August 2022:

Happy August 2022! My apologies for not being able to attend last month's meeting, we spent some time visiting with family back in NM. Last month John passed out three scholarship checks. However, these checks were for the wrong amount and were reissued. Because I didn't attend last month's meeting I'll make sure to collect and deposit July's incoming cash. Cash taken in for July 2022 is TBD. Outgoing monthly expenses for the month of July are as follows; Image by Jay (\$180), Check 3751-Caynon Lake Expense(\$55.24); SFA President Reunion (\$465.74); Check 3280-SFA Scholarship (\$1720).

As of 08 Aug 2022, the following accounts are as follows:

Primary Bussiness Account: \$4,192.95
Investment Account: \$13,222.12
12 Month CD: \$15,072.61

All the best,

Pete Martinez, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

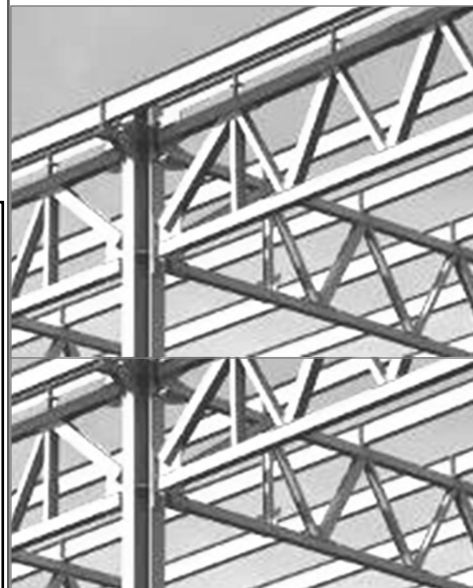
Chief Engineer-CEO



32310 Flat Rock View
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493



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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*

Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter:

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Thanks to John Lopez 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!"