



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 5-17

June 2017

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Barry Archer
Secretary: Juan Lopez
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Treasurer: Toby Todd
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Steve Stone, Ch. 38
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

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www.sfa-xv.org**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: TBD
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Jose Campos
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Wounded Warriors: JW Martin
FSH Cemetery Events: Raul de la Garza
Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul de la Garza
Dick's Fund Raiser: Fred Solis
Christmas Banquet: Bill Smith
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee
Chapter Memorial Svc: JW Martin

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

1900—Installation of VFW Post officers, Post 8541

June 3 — Membership Meeting

1200 - Meal served (fried chicken, mashed, corn on cob)

1300-Business Meeting



DON'T FORGET



R.I.P. Bob Hand
Sept. 23, 1945—May 14, 2017

Chapter XV will pay tribute to Bob following the monthly membership meeting on Saturday, June 3.

Graveside Service will be 11 a.m. Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Our Membership meeting is set for 1 p.m. 3 June at the VFW. We lost a great member of the Chapter this past month and he will be forever remembered. Robert "Bob" Hand was known by many and respected by all. After the meeting is finished this Saturday we will stick around to toast a drink to Bob and spend some time remembering him and what he accomplished.

I know I missed a great time and a large turnout at Canyon Lake. I am happy everyone could have fun and made it out there. My son was married on Saturday, and even though the weather looked bad, it turned out perfect that night. His wedding was a success and I gained an awesome daughter-in-law. I was thankful to be able to stop by for a cold one on the Saturday morning.

I still have tickets for our AR-15 and Glock drawing. We are close to the 500 mark and will most likely draw a winner at our July meeting. Thanks to the members who have sold several tickets. I will attempt to sell some of the remainder at the National Convention and solicit some assistance from members going to the 1st Group Reunion.

This Thursday the 1st of June at 1900 I will be installed as the Commander of VFW Post 8541. I cannot thank everyone enough for showing up *en masse* to support the post and to try and get it back again. There was a rough spot, and financially it hurt the post. With some great board members and membership, things are looking very well for the future of the Post.

Until the Membership Meeting, I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com

William Smith
Chapter XV President



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, May 2017

At the April meeting I forecast that the Chapter would spend big in May. We did. But, we always do for the annual Canyon Lake weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic.

Our expenses for food, supplies, beer, wine, spirits and ice totaled \$1,957. It was close, but we came under the budget amount of \$2,000. We thank Chapter 41 (Austin) for their generous \$100 donation to the cause.

We had a great turn-out for the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Day Service, in spite of the rain. After the ceremony, chapter members assembled at VFW Post 8541 for traditional holiday hamburgers and hotdogs. It took a little arm twisting, but Chapter President Bill Smith whipped out the Chapter debit card and honored the honorees with a cold one.

The drawing for the AR/Glock has been delayed so that more tickets may be sold.

If you have not yet returned your SF Memorial Building Fund raffle tickets, please mark Chapter XV on them and send them back to SFA MBF.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com

Minutes of April 1 Meeting

SFA CHAPTER XV MEETING MINUTES

Chapter Meeting Date: 01 April 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Rudy Johnson gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

Members Sick or In Distress: **Bob Hand** is at SAMMC and is doing better awaiting rehab.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly & annual budget reports; voted and accepted as read.

Membership Report: presented by **Bill Smith**, is currently at 200 members.

Veterans Affairs: **JR Garza** will no longer be presenting due to health issues.

Canyon Lake Picnic: 19th—21st May 2017, cut-off for trailer/cabin rentals is May 4th.

Christmas Banquet: **Bill Smith**, scheduled for Saturday, 09 Dec 2017.

JROTC: **Jose Campos**, 45 schools on roster, 25 of them have contacted us already.

Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-off: **Steve Hermann** cooked the wild hog.

Memorial Day: 29 May 2017 at Ft Sam National Cemetery
Motorcycle Ride: **Gordon Lee**, we are looking at October 2017 time frame.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **SFA Ch XV cruise:** We are looking at April 2018 time frame, motion passed.

b. **Drawing for AR-15 & Glock:** Tickets still available, drawing will be held at the Canyon Lake picnic in May.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan A. Lopez, D-8306
SFA Chapter XV Secretary



Forgotten Warrior:

A Moment in Time

A Military Science Fiction novel by SFA member Glenn A. Barnes (M9559)



- US Army Ranger Mark Chandler tries to cheat death and end up 500 years in the future. Is he ready for the 26th century...is the 26th century ready for a Ranger?
- 5 stars Amazon.com
- Reviews:
 - Fast paced tale of a man out of his element slowly finding familiar links to grow back into his element. Enough medical realism to allow for that thread of possibility. Fun read.
 - OUTSTANDING BOOK GLENN !! I cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail of each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your corctor encounters. RLW !! I look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1520227295>

2/18

CHAPTER XV JROTC AWARDS

Members honor top cadets at 29 local high schools

Jose Campos, chairman of the JROTC Awards Program, reports that Chapter members presented awards to 29 schools this year as part of the annual Special Forces awards program.

Top cadets at local high schools were chosen to receive the awards from Chapter XV Green Berets during graduation or commencement ceremonies.

Twenty-nine schools (a record number!) required lots of coordination and communication by Jose and his volunteers. Congratulations to these men for a truly outstanding job. Their efforts go a long way to help get out the word and enhance the Green Beret image in our community.

Dan Hopgood prepared the certificates and medals for each cadet. Individual presentations were made by

- Barry Archer (New Braunfels, Medina, Medina Lake, Smithson Valley and Seguin high schools);
- Bill Beall (Champion High School);
- Jose Campos (McCollum, Edison, Alamo Heights, East Central, Johnson, Cole, Jefferson, Clemens, Southwest, Clark and Wagner high schools);
- Henry Jimenez (Lanier and Churchill high schools);
- John Lopez (Brackenridge, MacArthur, Madison, Reagan and Roosevelt high schools);
- Bill Martin (Floresville High School);
- Chuck Rose (Sam Houston High School); and
- Toby Todd (Steele High School.)

ALL AROUND THE TOWN: Top photo: Jose Campos presents award to Cadet 1Lt Sebastian Tararez at Clemens High School. Center: Henry Jimenez makes presentation to Cadet Rolando Samaniego, Sidney Lanier High School. Bottom: Toby Todd presents medal and certificate to Cadet Lt Col Regina Gould at Steele High School.





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School of Nursing

1/18

CANYON LAKE WEEKEND



May 20, 2017



CANYON LAKE WEEKEND



CANYON LAKE WEEKEND



CANYON LAKE WEEKEND



It was a great weekend!

The weather was good — not too hot, not too cold.

Friends came from near and far, including SF chapter members from Houston, Austin, Dallas and Killeen.

The food was delicious, thanks to our creative cooks Don Iverson, Steve and Karen Hermann, Marti Scott. Great desserts and side dishes were contributed by everyone, including Wic Sherman's famous egg rolls.

Drinks? Yes, plenty of beer ... and Margaritas (thanks, Pat Connolly) ... and Bloody Marys (thanks, Buddy Gee.)

John Lopez brought his boat, and Steve Hermann managed to ski — with a rope handle he crafted from a nearby cypress tree. No mishaps in the water this year.

Event coordinator Raul de la Garza did a great job bringing it all together for the enjoyment of everyone.

—Thanks to Ben Scott, Henry Jimenez and John Lopez for all the photos!

VFW POST 8541



Bill Smith to be installed as Commander

Chapter XV President William E. "Bill" Smith will be installed as the new commander of VFW Post 8541 at the post membership meeting on Thursday, June 1, at 7 p.m.

Bill was elected last month and will assume command of the post at 2222 Austin Highway, home of Special Forces Chapter XV for nearly two decades. If you are a VFW member, please plan to attend.

Friends of Chapter XV

Louis Dracoulis

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOULIS45@YAHOO.COM



4/4/17

Disabled American Veterans

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2/2/18

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Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

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8/4/17

MEMORIAL DAY



May 29, 2017

FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Chapter XV flag bearers (from left) John Tippy, J.W. Martin, Juan Lopez, Barry Archer and Raul de la Garza march into ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Below, they hold the service flags for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard songs. It was a wet morning, but Chapter members turned out in force to observe the day of remembrance. A few, like Chuck Rose and Sim Trombitas (below), had umbrellas — unlike the wet brass on front row. Afterward, participants dried out (so to speak) at VFW Post 8541.

—Photos by Henry Jimenez



MEMORY LANE



Alex Flores, a long-time member of Chapter XV, is seen at left in the jungle at Camp Ben Het, where he served with the Mike Force. His intel work during the siege of 1969 got him two purple hearts—and a promotion.

‘Godfather’ Alex Flores still taking care of problems

Alejandro Flores is a man of few words. His quiet manner and soft-spoken voice might remind you of Marlon Brando, but that’s not why people call him “the Godfather.” He acquired that nickname in the early days of Chapter XV, when some friends were being harassed by troublemakers.

Alex promised to “take care of the problem,” and it seems that he did. The trouble stopped. Afterward, his SF friends, including the late Chapter President Armando Canales, started calling him “godfather” and the nickname stuck. It still fits today. If party crashers show up at the chapter Christmas party, for example, or if a friendly argument gets too heated, Alex may quietly step in and take care of the problem.

He is a native San Antonian, born here to a family of 13 children. He began military service as an MP in the National Guard, which he joined along with two brothers. After high school, Alex enlisted in the Army, completed the basic medic course at Fort Sam Houston, went to Jump School at Fort Bragg and did a stint in Korea with the 82nd Airborne Division. He also deployed to the Dominican Republic as a medical aidman with the 320th Field Artillery during the civil war there in 1965.

He volunteered for Special Forces because he wanted a

promotion. As a young E6 with only four years of Army service, he was sent before a promotion board. But in competition with 10- and 15-year veterans, he realized his chances were nil. So he slipped away to take the SF qualification test and was accepted. “I caught hell from the chain of command,” he says, and he was held three more months in the 82nd “for the convenience of the government” before he could begin SF training.

He got his promotion to E7 in Vietnam – along with two purple hearts. As part of the Pleiku Mike Force sent to reinforce Camp Ben Het, he saw some of the most intense combat of the Vietnam war. “It was raining artillery,” Alex recalls.

His Mike Force company conducted Blackjack operations and trained Cambodian troops at Camp Dong Ba Thin.

He has never regretted his decision to join Special Forces because “SF training teaches you to survive in any situation,” he says. He has served with the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Special Forces Groups.

Alex was widowed in 2002 when he lost his wife Corinne, the mother of his three children. Alex has been an active and contributing member of Chapter XV since its beginning in the 1970s.

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2017 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1200 40th Anniv celebration 1300 15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1300 4 Membership Meeting 1300 10-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 30 Apr Board Meeting 1400
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 1 Chpt Memorial Service 1000 JROTC Presentations TBD	15 Board Meeting 1400 15 Drop Input Due 19-20 Jack Hogue Picnic 29 Memorial Day Serv 0930 JROTC Presentations TBD NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1300 12-17 National Convention JROTC Presentations TBD 29 July Board Meeting 1400
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 4 Fourth of July Parade TBD Poss. Mini Convention TBD	3 Board Meeting 1300 5 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due Poss. Mini Convention TBD	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership meeting 1300 12 Dick's Fund Raiser TBD Motorcycle Ride	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day Cerem. 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results	7 Board Meeting 9 Christmas Banquet & Installation of Officers NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All Chapter Meetings unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings are held at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar). A meal will be served at 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held during the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 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:

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Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: William E. Smith

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 05-10 JUN 2017 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion
El Paso, TX
POC: jsthong@hotmail.com
- 12-17 JUN 2017 Special Forces Association International Conference 2017
Fayetteville, NC
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>
- 20-23 SEPT 2017 5th Special Forces (Airborne) Group Reunion
Fort Campbell, KY
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org>
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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 sgmgee@aol.com, or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

The Editors



“Carry on!”