



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue #13-9

September, 2013

**President:** Chuck Rose  
**Vice-President:** Bill Smith  
**Treasurer:** Mario Guerra  
**Secretary:** Bob Hand  
**Sgt at Arms:** Pat Connolly  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Buddy Gee  
**Membership Secy:** Richard Gilliam  
**Asst. Sgt at Arms:** Raul de la Garza  
**Public Affairs Off.:** Buddy Gee  
**Recruiter:** John Tippy  
**Recruiter:** Joe Cavallero  
**Recruiter:** TBD  
**Tellers Chairman:** Len Czarnecki  
**Canyon Lake Picnic:** Bob Hand  
**Dick's Last Resort:** TBD  
**Nomination Committee:** Buddy Gee  
**Christmas Banquet:** Bill Smith

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**Editor:** Mike Maloy  
**Web Master:** Scott Sutherland  
**Asst. Secy/Past Pres.:** Bill Beall  
**July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade:** Bill Beall  
**Oktober Fest VFW:** Bill Beall  
**Chaplain:** Adan Flores  
**Chaplain:** Rudy Johnson  
**SFA Conv. Chmn:** Fred Solis  
**SFA Conv Asst.Chmn:** Bob Walker  
**Memorial To Fallen:** Bob Walker  
**Memorial Day:** Bob Walker  
**JROTC Awards:** Dan Hopgood  
**JROTC Awards:** Henry Jimenez  
**Scholarships:** Alex Flores  
**SFA Motorcycle:** John McClinton  
**Cove Fund Raiser:** Mario Guerra

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

**03 Oct Board Meeting 1300**  
**05 Committee Leads 1000**  
**05 Membership Meeting 1300**  
**(Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)**  
**31 Nov Board Meeting 1300**

### November

**02 Committee Leads 1000**  
**02 Membership Meeting 1300**  
**(Election and Scholarship Results)**  
**10 Drop Input Due**  
**11 Veterans Day Ceremony (time TBD)**  
**11 Dick's Fund Raiser (time TBD)**

### December

**07 Board & Committee Leads meeting 1000**  
**14 Christmas Banquet and installation of Officers 1800**  
**NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

For those of you who missed our September General Membership Meeting and Convention Celebration at the El Tropicano Hotel, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, you missed one heck of a party. Chapter members and their guests partied and danced until after mid-night. Everyone had a great time! This event was just a small preview of our Christmas Banquet scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Currently the Chapter is in the nominations process for our 2014 Board of Directors. Nominations for the various positions are open and the voting ballots will be sent out after the October 5<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Please get involved in the election process and vote. This is your chapter, so let your voice be heard through your vote!

We are currently selling tickets for our fund raising event, to be held at Dick's Last Resort on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$25.00 a piece, which includes all food and well drinks, draft beer, wine and live music. We will also be conducting a silent auction of various items. I encourage everyone to attend. Parking is free for Purple Heart and DV plated cars.

I am looking for volunteers to assist me in contacting all members listed on the roster and ensuring their contact information is correct. Many of our members have changed email accounts and we need to update our roster. If you are willing to participate on this committee, please let me know at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also looking for volunteers to help:

Fred Solis with the Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser (Nov 11<sup>th</sup> PM)

Bobby Walker with the Honor Guard for Veterans Day Ceremony FSH (Nov 11<sup>th</sup> AM)

Bill Smith with the Christmas Banquet (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>)

Please contact these individuals if you are willing to participate on their committee.

Finally, I would like to recognize a new Honorary Member to our chapter, Angie Fennen of the Green Beret Foundation. Jen Paquette was approved and recommended by the general membership for Honorary Membership and submitted to National. She, too, will be joining us as part of our Chapter.

The October Board Meeting will on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1300 hours, at the VFW Post 8541. This board meeting is open to the membership. The General Membership Meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1300 hours, at VFW Post 8541. Lunch will be served from 1200-1300 hrs.

Chuck Rose  
President  
SFA Chapter XV



# SFA Chapter XV General Membership Meeting

Sept. 7, 2013 • El Tropicano Hotel

Meeting was called to order by President Chuck Rose at 6:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Rudy Johnson's invocation were followed by a moment of silence for fallen comrades.

Sick or in Distress: Ed Fernandez has moved to Baptist Hospital downtown for rehab following his open-heart surgery; Adan Flores, Alex Flores and Jere LeBleu also were scheduled for surgeries. Baldemar Ramirez passed away last month; Alex Flores and Henry Jimenez represented Chapter 15 at the funeral.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of minutes from last month's meeting was moved by Rudy Johnson, seconded by Dan Hopgood. Approved.
- Treasurer's report by Mario Guerra - "Pretty good" - was enthusiastically approved by membership. Chuck explained that Buddy and Mario, the convention treasurers, are awaiting August bank statement before finalizing financial report, which should be completed in the next two weeks. Fred Solis will finish Convention After Action Report once the financial report is complete.
- Octoberfest: Board voted to ask membership whether to schedule this annual event jointly with VFW, or skip it this year in view of all the other events on calendar. After discussion, Len Czarnecki moved to combine efforts with VFW for Oct. 20 event. Seconded by David Benavides and approved by members' vote. Mike Maloy will coordinate with VFW.
- We will again support Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery the morning of Nov. 11. That same night, the annual chapter fundraiser will be held at Dick's Last Resort. Tickets are \$25 per person (includes all food, drinks, entertainment). Chuck asked members to check out tickets and sell them; we also have posters to promote the event.
- Christmas Banquet will be at the El Tropicano on Dec. 7, featuring Joe Posada Band and SFA President Jack Tobin as guest speaker. Since that is Pearl Harbor Day, Len suggested inviting a Pearl Harbor veteran as a speaker. J.W. Martin said there are only three in San Antonio; we could invite them all. Rudy will contact the Admiral Nimitz Museum for information on these vets.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Election of chapter officers:** Assistant Treasurer Buddy Gee presented the slate of nominees for 2014 officers and board:

President, Chuck Rose  
Vice President, Bill Smith  
Secretary, Bob Hand  
Treasurer, Mario Guerra  
Sergeant at Arms, Pat Connolly  
Assistant Secretary, Barry Archer  
Assistant Treasurer, Buddy Gee  
Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Raul De la Garza

Gee said all the nominees have agreed to serve in these positions. Chuck announced his appointees to the Teller Committee: Len Czarnecki (chairman), Dan Hopgood and Bob Walker. Chuck opened the floor for other nominations. Len nominated Bill Smith for president and said Bill had agreed to accept the position if elected. (Smith was not present.) J.W. asked whether a person can run for two offices. {Yes, since by-laws do not prohibit it.} There were no other nominations from the floor. Gee said nominations will remain open at the October meeting and will close at the November meeting, when ballots will be counted and results will be announced. Chuck will mail and/or e-mail ballots to all members, and a ballot will be in the newsletter.

**Honorary Members:** The board recommended Angie Fennen for honorary chapter membership. Motion was made by Lenny and seconded by Marsha Scott. Approved. ... Chuck said the board would submit Jen Paquette, executive director of the Green Beret Foundation, for honorary membership in national SFA. Marti moved to submit her name, and Lenny seconded the motion. Approved.

Chuck asked for volunteers to work on a Membership Review Committee, to verify contact information and e-mail addresses of all members, and to contact those who have not been active and bring them back into the chapter. He also asked members to volunteer to present JROTC awards on behalf of the chapter; one of his goals is to expand this program, as it gives great visibility to Special Forces at very little cost.

#### CONVENTION AWARDS

Fred Solis presented 15 Certificates of Appreciation to workers who helped with SFA Convention 2013. Those present to accept the awards were Raul de la Garza, Mary Calantoni, Lisa Estrada, J.W. Martin, Steve Twining, Chris Bazany, Hugo Garcia, Dave Leonhardt, Lou Calantoni, John Lopez, John Woodworth, Jere LeBleu, Eileen Villarreal, Claudia Flores, Alex Flores, Rudy Johnson, Christine Guerra and Crystal Fuschino.

Chuck presented an Alamo-shaped, engraved trophy to Convention Chairman Fred Solis for his outstanding work, and another for Fred's wife, Susan Solis, for organizing the first formal convention ladies program. Fred and Chuck presented similar trophies to the following committee chairs: Bob Walker, Alex Flores, Pat Connolly and Arlene Connolly (not present), Marsha Scott, Ben Scott, Buddy Gee, Sharon Gee, Bill Francisco, John McClinton, Mario Guerra, David Benavides, John Tippy (not present), Dan Hopgood. Finally, Fred presented a special certificate to Chuck Rose acknowledging his leadership "with intelligence, tactfulness and attention to detail which inspired the entire membership." Chuck received a standing ovation from the members.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m., followed by a celebration including drinks, food, music by the Joe Posada Band and dancing into the wee hours.

Respectfully submitted

Respectfully submitted,  
Buddy Gee  
Acting Secretary



# **Special Notices:**

## **Wreaths Across America Program**

**If you want to support the “Wreaths Across America Program” or have a wreath put on your loved one’s grave site during the holiday season, please contact Judy Carlile who is the San Antonio point of contact for the program. Phone number: 210 861 8037. Address: P.O. Box460043, San Antonio, Texas, 78246. The wreaths are \$15.00 each and can be designated for specific people or just any grave.**

**Chuck Rose  
President  
SFA Chapter XV**

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## **Belated Birthday Greetings to a friend of Chapter XV:**

**Belated Birthday Greetings to our Friend Charlie Barksdale who officially turned 81 on 16 August. To celebrate his day, he did a jump with friends in Plano, TX. OF COURSE, he didn't jump solo, but as Charlie said..."if President George Bush did it for his 80th, so can I!!!!" Here is photo of Charlie B and Jay Massey after the event!**



## In case you missed it:

The following article by the editor appeared in the San Antonio Express-News on 23 September, 2013.

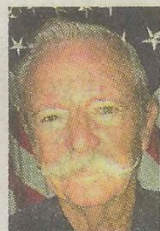
ANOTHER VIEW *by Mike Maloy*

# A true definition of heroism

For at least the past decade, and probably more years than that, the news media (both newsprint reporters and television talking heads) have referred to victims of tragedies and terrorist acts as heroes and heroines.

As much as it pains me to say this, it is an unfortunate and undeniable truth that none of us will leave this world alive. Dying is truly a fact of life.

Being killed because you are in the wrong place at the wrong time does not make you a hero or a heroine. It makes you a victim. But somewhere along the way, our media reporters have confused tragedy with heroism.



**Mike Maloy lives in Windcrest.**

A hero or heroine is one, who, in the face of extreme danger, displays courage and the will to sacrifice one's self for some greater good of his fellow man — that is heroism and that is what makes one a hero or heroine. Dying because you went to work this morning is not heroic; it is *tragic*.

When I think of heroes, I think of men and women like Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez (a

Texan, born on Aug. 5, 1935, who died on Nov. 29, 1998). On May 2, 1968, Sgt. Benavidez heard a plea for help over the radio coming from a 12-man Special Forces team that was surrounded and about to be overrun by the North Vietnamese army. With nothing but a knife and a medical bag, Sgt. Benavidez jumped on the helicopter with other Green Beret soldiers and flew off to try to save them.

Hours later, and after receiving more than 37 bullet, bayonet and shrapnel wounds, and having personally killed and wounded a number of the enemy while protecting other Special Forces soldiers, Sgt. Benavidez was finally the last man dragged off of that jungle landing zone.

Somehow, he survived and was ultimately awarded the Medal of Honor in 1981.

Sgt. Benavidez was not a victim. He — and men and women like him from all walks of life — are truly heroes.

To call the victim of a tragedy, a hero, detracts from the term “hero” when used to describe those who really are heroes and heroines. Instead, we need to give those victims their due and acknowledge the tragedy that has befallen them.

That in no way minimizes the loss that they and their families have suffered, nor their tragic loss of life.



## GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2013 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
05 Convention Meeting 1000 05 Jan Board Meeting 1300 10 Membership Meeting 1900 25 Feb Board Meeting 1300	02 Convention Meeting 1000 02 Membership Meeting 1300 10 Drop Input Due 23 Convention Cmt Mtg 1100 23 Motorcycl Cmt Mtg 1300 28 Mar Board Meeting 1300	02 Convention Meeting 1000 02 Membership Meeting 1300 08-10 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 23 Convention Cmt Mtg 1100 23 Motorcycl Cmt Mtg 1300
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
04 Apr Board Meeting 1300 06 Convention Meeting 1100 06 Membership Meeting 1300 13 Chpt Memorial Service 1100 for Fallen brothers/spouses 20 Convention Cmt Mtg 1300 20 Motorcycl Cmt Mtg 1500	04 May Board Meeting 1000 04 Convention Cmt Mtg 1100 10 Drop Input Due 17-19 Jack Hogue Picnic 27 Memorial Day Serv 1000 30 Jun Board Meeting 1300 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>	01 ConventionCmt Mtg 1100 01 Membership Meeting 1300 01 Motorcycl Cmt Mtg 1500 22 Jul Board Meeting 1300 26-30 National Convention
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
04 Fourth of July Parade TBD 06 Committee Meetings 1100 06 Mebership Meeting 1300 30 Aug Board Meeting 1300	03 Committee Meetings 1100 03 Mebership Meeting 1300 29 Sep Board Meet 1300	07 Committee Meetings 1100 07 Mebership Meeting 1300
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
03 Oct Board Meeting 1300 05 Committee Leads 1000 05 Mebership Meeting 1300 (Nonination of Officers & Scholarship Applications) <b>TBD</b> Dick's Fund Raiser 31 Nov Board Meeting 1300	02 Committee Leads 1000 02 Mebership Meeting 1300 (Election and Scholarship Results) 10 Drop Input Due <b>TBD</b> Veterans Day Ceremony	07 Dec Board & 1000 Committee Leads Meeting 14 Christmas Banquet 1800 & Installation of Officers <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>

Membership Meetings are held at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month. A meal will be served at 12:00 to 1:00 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Committee Meetings will begin at 11:00 hrs on the first Saturday of the month at the VFW. Board Meeting will be held during the week proir to the Membership Meeting.

### *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.M. 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 matched 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*





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**Commander George "Marty" Martinez**  
PO Box 28695 San Antonio, TX 78228-8695  
Editors: **Ed L. Fernandez & Hope A. Elizondo-**

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Email: SilverWingsAbn@aol.com  
Cdr's Phone: 210-590-2817  
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**Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide us with numerous photographs of Chapter XV events: David Benavides, Henry Jimenez, Dan Hopgood and Marti and Ben Scott. Selecting which ones to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone possible.**

### **The Editor**

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 Editor Mike Maloy at [Chinook501@aol.com](mailto:Chinook501@aol.com), or mail them to Chapter President Chuck Rose at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.



**"Carry on!"**

