



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue # 06-16

July 2016

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  
Editor: Buddy & Sharon Gee  
Webmaster: Scotty Codename  
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza  
DAV/VA: JR Garza  
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

**Visit us at our Home Page:  
[www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org)**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith  
Nominations: TBD  
Oktober Fest VFW: Rudy Johnson  
Tellers: Lenny Czarnecki  
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee  
JROTC Awards: Bill Smith  
Scholarships: Alex Flores  
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

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOTE: Due to holiday weekend,  
July meeting will be held second Saturday this month**



**07 —July Board Meeting 1400**

**09—Membership Meeting:**

Lunch served - 1200

(Chicken/shrimp Alfredo, tossed salad, garlic bread)

Business Meeting - 1300

R.I.P.

**Leonard P. Czarnecki**

April 11, 1931- June 22, 2016

***Soldier, Comrade, Friend***



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our meeting is on Saturday the 9th of July and the Board meeting is Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 1400 hours. I hope to see everyone there.

June was a slow month and a sad one; we lost Leonard Czarnecki. He was a great man and a long-time member of our Chapter. He will be missed greatly and I know he will be part of our conversations forever. We can all agree he is memorable and was many times colorful. (See page 3 for some good times with Lenny.) I will get everyone the information on the services as I receive it.



The National SFA Convention went well. Buddy gives an overview of the membership meeting in this newsletter. The Presidents Meeting covered much of the same information, plus:

- National has decided to have each chapter prepare and present the plaques for our members who go before us. There was discussion, and SFA will come out with more information later. It was an issue where some chapters liked the idea and others did not. I was against it and will explain more at the meeting.
- Dues for widows, regarding associate membership, will only begin when the next-year dues are up. If a member passes in February, his widow will not pay any dues until the following year. We did not discuss life members.
- It was discussed about the financial issues with national and how *The Drop* costs over \$100,000 a year. Many ideas were tossed around, and input would be welcomed if you have any ideas.

Our Dicks Last Resort fundraiser is set for **6 October** and Fred Solis will be getting tickets out soon. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need everyone to assist in acquiring auction items and door prizes. Let's make this year our best.

Until our 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](mailto:presidentchapterxv@gmail.com)



William Smith  
Chapter XV President

## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, July 2016

We spent a bundle of money during the month of June. Although it was offset through donations from the MG Valenzuela Foundation, we issued checks totaling \$4,000 in additional scholarship grants.

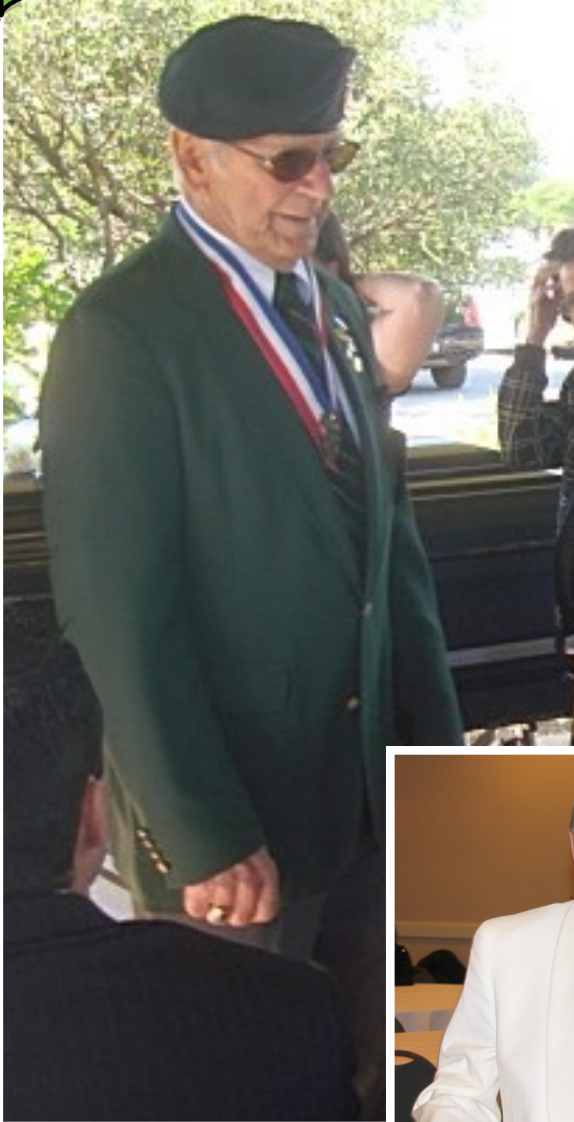
Checks totaling \$850 also went out for our second-quarter charitable donations to the following organizations: Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment, Disabled American Veterans of San Antonio, Battered Women and Children's Shelter of San Antonio, Joint Veterans of Greater San Antonio

Operating expenses included \$75 to ship awards from Jacksonville to San Antonio and \$25 for JROTC Awards postage and supplies. The noon meal for June cost \$150 from previous meal donations.

Revenue was light. Raul sold \$135 in door-prize tickets and brought in \$35 merchandise sales. Otherwise, membership dues and a donation brought total income for the month to \$225.

Buddy Gee  
Treasurer

# Remembering Lenny





## **SFA National Conference 2016**



**Above, one of many bridges viewed from conference headquarters at the Hyatt Hotel in Jacksonville.**

**At left, it looked like a perfect day for the Organization Day Picnic, until the bottom dropped out of the skies just as chow line formed. At lower left, picnic goers seek shelter from the downpour.**

**Below, Barry and Iris Archer enjoying happy hour at the Conference Hospitality Room.**



## SFA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016



**At the conference, from left, are Pete Vasquez, Buddy Gee, Jerrie LeBleu, Pete Morakon, Bill Smith.**

The SFA National Conference was held June 12-18 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jacksonville, Fla. Attending from Chapter XV were President Bill Smith and Tanya, Vice President Barry Archer and Iris, Treasurer Buddy Gee and Sharon, Jerrie LeBleu and Pete Morakon, Don Blue and Mary Beth, Pete Vasquez and Lydia.

On Saturday morning, President Jack Tobin made administrative announcements, introduced special guests, presented SFA National awards and then called the annual membership meeting to order. The meeting minutes will be available on the SFA website and in the summer edition of *The Drop*. Notes from the meeting:

- SFA Conference 2017 will be June 12-17 at the Double Tree Hotel in Fayetteville, N.C.
- June 2018 SFA Conference will be in El Paso, Texas.
- Betty Amaker, JFK Museum Gift Shop at Fort Bragg, was inducted as SFA National Honorary Member and presented a Certificate of

Membership.

### **AWARDS:**

- San Antonian Jen Paquette, executive director of the Green Beret Foundation, was named Honorary Member of the Year.
- The Golden Quill Award, Chapter 78, Southern California
- Best Monthly Newsletter, Chapter 85, North Palm Beach, Florida,
- Best Quarterly Newsletter, Chapter 13, Korea

### **BUSINESS:**

- It was announced that Gary Koenitzer has been elected as the next SF Association President. Gary is currently serving as SFA Secretary.
- President Tobin briefed the Association on calls from Generals Petraeus and McChrystal for further gun controls. A motion was made and

*(continued on page 5)*

# SFA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

(Continued from Page 4)

adopted to rebuke their stance on gun controls. The following is quoted from *The Daily Caller*:

“The organization [SFA] drew up a membership resolution at their annual convention in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, confirming prior statements of continued support of ‘the U.S. Constitution and all of its amendments, realizing that only the existence of the Second Amendment guarantees the freedom of the American people and that the Bill of Rights was written to delineate and restrict the power of government and not to restrict the powers and rights of the people or states.’ ”

Read more at <http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/20/special-forces-association-rejects-calls-for-gun-control-from-petraeus-mcchrystal/#ixzz4CQgrzM6e>

- A motion was adopted to endorse a proposal to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to H. Ross Perot.
- There was a briefing on the SFA National Alaska Bear Hunt Project. Gary Koenitzer’s company, Oak Grove Technologies, are project supporters and it costs about \$5,000 per person for the hunt. Some support is

provided by donors in Alaska, but donations are needed. This year three SF soldiers will go on the hunt. To qualify, soldiers must be Special Forces Qualified, must be on active duty, and must have been wounded in combat.

- Billy Casson, 46<sup>th</sup> SF Company (Thailand) briefed their wounded warrior cruise program and solicited donations from individuals and chapters. He stated that it costs about \$700 per cabin for the cruise.
- A pitch was given on social media with a recommendation that SF’ers join the SF Brothers page on Facebook. It is a vetted page.
- Stan Shank, chairman, briefed the status of the SF Memorial Building and Grounds. It costs about \$42,000 per year for repair and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. All funds are from donations, especially the annual MBF raffle tickets.
- The MBF raffle ticket drawing was conducted. There were no winners from the San Antonio chapter. The list of winners will be published by SFA.

—Buddy Gee



**MILITARY BALL:** Representing Chapter XV at the closing banquet are (from left) Bill Smith and wife Tanya Van, Barry and Iris Archer, Pete and Lydia Vasquez, Buddy and Sharon Gee, Jerrie LeBleu and husband Pete Morakon.

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2016 CALENDAR

<p><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting 10-13 Cotulla Cook-off 31 Board Meeting</p>
<p><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 2 Chpt Memorial Service 30 Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 13-15 Jack Hogue Picnic 30 Memorial Day Serv 0930</p>	<p><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>2 Jun Board Meeting 4 Membership Meeting 12-19 National Convention</p>
<p><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting (Scholarship Applications)</p>	<p><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 10 Membership Meeting 29 Oct. Board Meeting</p>
<p><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>3 Membership Meeting 6 Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser</p>	<p><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting (Scholarships due) 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p>8 Board Meeting <b>10 Christmas Banquet</b></p> <p><b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b></p>

**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 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hrs, unless announced otherwise.**

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,  
*sgmgee@aol.com*



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: William E. Smith

[presidentchapterxv@gmail.com](mailto:presidentchapterxv@gmail.com)





### ***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*

# Friends of Chapter XV



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



**Fernandez**  
"Helping Others Today for Their Tomorrows"

Email: SilverWingsAbn@aol.com  
Cdr's Phone: 210-590-2817  
Editors' Phone: 210-313-1891

Disabled American Veterans

**JR Garza**  
Commander  
Emeritus

San Antonio, Texas

"Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families".

210-722-4256 Cell  
BGARZ@SATX.RR.COM



**Louis Dracoulis**

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte  
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOU LIS45@YAHOO.COM



**Chapter XV, Special Forces  
Association**

P.O. Box 33782.5

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

**President: William E. Smith**

**presidentchapterxv@gmail.com**



**Downtown on the Riverwalk. 406 Navarro St., San Antonio, Tx 78205**

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## DON'T FORGET

- **WARNING!** Annual membership dues were due in to the Chapter by 31 January. If your name is not on the current membership roster, this will be your final newsletter. The Chapter maintains two email lists: one is maintained by the Chapter President for official notices; a separate list is maintained by the newsletter editor. The newsletter email list will be purged before the August issue is published. Please check with Membership Chairman Marti Scott to make sure your dues are up to date.
- **Christmas Banquet** tickets are now available. \$50 per person, including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, after-dinner drinks, live music and dancing. 10 December, El Tropicano Hotel. See Bill Smith for tickets.
- **Annual Fundraiser** for Chapter XV will be Thursday, 6 October at Dick's Last Resort on the Riverwalk. Chairman Fred Solis asks Chapter members to solicit prizes, auction items, donations for this fun and fabulous event. Tickets available soon.
- **Sunday 'Choir Practice'** every Sunday at noon, VFW 8541, 2222 Austin Highway.
- **Upcoming reunions:**
  - 19-24 September—5th Group Reunion, Clarksville, TN/Ft. Campbell KY
  - 5-10 October —“Return to Devens” Reunion — Ft. Devens, MA
  - 17-21 October — SOA, Las Vegas NV

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Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide numerous photographs of Chapter XV events: Toby and Linda Todd, David Benavides, Henry Jimenez, Barry Archer, Dan Hoppgood and Marti and Ben Scott. Selecting which photos to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone possible.

### The Editors

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](mailto:sgmgee@aol.com), or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.



**“Carry on!”**