



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 8-17

September 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

**Visit us at our Home Page:
www.sfa-xv.org**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Vacant
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

September 7 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway NOTE: Time Change

September 9 — Membership Meeting

1200 - Meal served

1300-Business Meeting

September 21 — Fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort

1800-2100 - On the Riverwalk, 406 Navarro St.



DON'T FORGET

- **Auction items** are still needed for the annual fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort. Bring donations to September meeting. Tickets are \$30, available in advance or at the door. Details on Page 5.
- **Applications** for scholarship grants are being accepted from now until 15 November. See scholarship guidelines on Page 10.
- **Fourth annual** "Wishes for Our Heroes" gala, a benefit for local military families in need, will be Sept. 29. See Page 6.
- **Come Cruise with us!** Deadline to sign up for Chapter XV's spring Caribbean cruise has been extended. See Page 12.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

It has been a crazy last few weeks with the hurricane and its aftermath. I want to thank Dave Marshall and his son, Mario, Colin, Stan Grover and Pete for all the hard work this past Saturday down south. We started at the VFW in Taft, Texas. They had been without power for over a week and the VFW Post was hit hard. Stan and Colin tore up the debris with chainsaws and the rest of us hauled it off. From there we went to the VFW in Aransas Pass and assisted in cleanup there. Then it was on to an elderly gentleman's home to clear his yard. We spent close to 10 hours cleaning up and fighting mosquitoes. I cannot thank the group enough!



Dick's Last Resort fundraiser is 21 September. I have the tickets for this event and they are \$30. The more tickets we can sell prior to the night of the event, the better we will do. I have received some items for the silent auction and we need more. If you can donate items or know someone who will, it is greatly appreciated. As of now we have a watch, a knife and a S&W 40 cal. pistol. Again, we are looking for items the women would enjoy also. If you have items, please bring them to the meeting this weekend. It is imperative to get the items and have them ready for the 21st.

The Christmas banquet is set for 9 December. This event will be on us before you know it. I am hoping to sell the tickets ahead of the banquet. If you have seating requests, please let me know. The tickets are \$55 each and you can contact me at any time to purchase them. This year we will be having a DJ to provide a variety of all music. It will be a great time and I will update of any additions to the venue. I will be receiving the code for discount hotel reservations in the next week and will get them out.

Until the Membership Meeting, I hope everyone stays safe and has a great week. 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, August 2017

August was a good month on the revenue side of the accounting ledger. A tip of the beret goes to Marcy Maloy and Jerre and Pete Morakon for their generous donations IMO Mike Maloy; to John Tippy for his periodic donation to the kitty and to Ron Burkett for placing a ¼ page ad for China Post 1. Raul and Gordon did good ticket sales for the door prize drawings and merchandise sales, which helps a lot as the expense column is overflowing for the month.

The chapter made charitable donations totaling \$1,750 to the following charities: Battered Women and Children's Shelter, Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment, Blue Nights Police Motorcycle Club's back to school program, SFA Chapter 9 (El Paso) annual golf tournament, American Wounded Heroes Golf Classic and a Lake Texoma wounded warriors fishing expedition.

Chapter expenses were minimal: Memorial services and plaque for Mike Maloy (\$200) and the meeting noon meal (\$175).

The budget committee for next year's budget is being formed. So far, we have Buddy Gee, Toby Todd and Barry Archer and we need two more volunteers. Contact Buddy if you are willing to serve.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com

Minutes of August Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 05 August 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.

William Smith welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter.

Chris Marshall (SGM at Fort Sam)

John Dominguez (retired earlier this year)

Don Blue

Rolando Garza (C 1/19 SGM)

Members Sick or In Distress: **Fred Solis's** mother is ill.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly & annual budget reports which were accepted as read.

July meeting Minutes were accepted as read.

Membership Report: presented by **Marti Scott**, is currently at 188 members.

Veterans Affairs: **JR Garza**, not present, will be receiving a certificate of appreciation from Ch XV.

e. **Motorcycle Ride:** **Gordon Lee**, 28 October 2017.

f. **Election slatings:** in progress until November.

g. **Christmas Banquet:** 9 December 2017, \$55.00 per ticket, El Tropicano Hotel.

h. **Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser:** 21 September 2017, \$30 per ticket.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Scholarships:** **Pat Connolly**, we are giving out four (4) \$500 scholarships.

b. **Donations:** (2) \$300 donations going to returning soldiers from Iraq/Afghanistan going to Lake Texoma and to golf tournament.

c. **Local events:** **Charles Poole** put out information on local events in the area.

d. **5th Group Reunion:** 20-23 September 2017 at Fort Campbell, KY.

e. **JROTC awards:** **Dan Hopgood**, 30 high schools received awards this past year.

f. **VFW events:** \$50 tickets for viewing Mayweather/McGregor boxing match in the Rodela Room at VFW.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Juan A. Lopez, D-8306

SFA Chapter XV Secretary



Left photo: Rudy Johnson (r) gets acquainted with new members John Dominguez (l) and Christopher Marshall. Right photo: Pete and Jerrie Morakon, visiting from Fayetteville, enjoy noon meal with Lou Colantoni before the meeting.



Serving those who served America.

America's veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country, and we believe it is never too late to acknowledge their heroic service. That's why our hospice is taking part in the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are prepared to help veterans and their families meet the challenges they may face at the end of life. Our staff and volunteers understand the unique issues veterans face and can assist in making sure they get the support and resources they need.

We have embraced our mission to serve America's veterans. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.



For more information,
call **210.733.1212**
www.kindredhospice.com



Kindred Healthcare, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Español (Spanish) – ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-546-4831.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) – CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-546-4831.

Chapter Fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort

DON'T MISS IT!

Our big annual fundraiser is scheduled for **September 21st** at Dick's on the Riverwalk, 406 Navarro Street.

Join us from **1800 to 2100 hours**.

For anyone that is new to our chapter, after many other types of fundraisers over the years, this event has become our most productive event and it has allowed us to continue our good work in helping and supporting our chosen charities and events.

This would not be possible without the generosity of Dick's Corporate Office and our local managers Ryan Wood, David Swan and their terrific staff. All proceeds go directly to our chapter with Dick's providing all of the food, drink and staff for the three-hour event.

Tickets are only \$30, available in advance or at the door. This ticket buys three hours of all-you-can-eat buffet ; open bar for beer, wine and well



drinks; entertainment and dancing a la Dick's, door prizes and the exciting auction events.

Please bring quality items for our silent auction to the September meeting, and please, **DON'T FORGET SOME ITEMS FOR THE LADIES!** Think about the businesses you patronize and ask if they would donate a certificate for a service or item.

Join us in helping make this year's event a big one. As they say at Dick's **EAT, DRINK, AND LAUGH!**

—Fred Solis, Chairman

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 15

Operation Game Thief Shootout, Friday September 15th at the National Shooting Complex, 5931 Roft Road, San Antonio, TX 78253



Registration starts at 0730 and shoot starts at 0900. Register at ogttx.org

Or call 512-389-4628

Chapter XV contributes

President Bill Smith presents check to Nolan Martin of the Memorial Service Detachment, a dedicated group of volunteers who provide military honors at veterans' funeral services.

Also shown are Chapter XV members Buddy Gee (left), Gordon Lee (right) and Memorial Service Detachment members John Dever (yellow shirt), Roger Minton and Gene Carter.



HEROES Gala Sept. 29 to benefit local soldiers



From Jeff Wells, President & Founder,
WISH for OUR HEROES
www.wishforourheroes.org
Granting Wishes, One Hero at a Time

WHO: Join Coach Gregg Popovich, local military heroes, local celebrities and WISH for OUR HEROES.

WHAT: An evening of food, drink, fun, and most importantly, wishes granted for deserving military families in San Antonio. 100% of funds raised will remain within the greater San Antonio area to assist military families struggling with basic needs.

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 (Doors open at 6:00 PM/On-Stage activities commence at 7:00 PM)

WHERE: Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch (13715 FM 1560 N, Helotes, TX 78023).

WHY: Raise funds to assist local San Antonio military families struggling with basic needs (food, shelter, transportation, child needs, and medical expenses not covered).

ENTERTAINMENT: Country Music Legend **Mickey Gilley**.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Matt Bonner, Andrew Monaco, & Drew Waters.

ATTIRE: Texas-Casual!

Those wishing to attend this year's gala have the following ticket options:

Military – Free. Per our normal policy for any WISH for OUR HEROES event, active-duty military attend at no cost.

Individual Ticket - \$125

Couple (2 Tickets) - \$200

Table (10 Tickets/Includes Special Commemorative Gift) - \$1,500

VIP Table (8 Tickets/Includes Special Commemorative Gift and Seating w/ a Celebrity or Wounded Hero) - \$2,250

To purchase tickets for the 2017 Whiskey & Wishes Heroes Gala, and for complete information, visit www.whiskeyandwishes.org/tickets.



Chapter XV contributes

Chapter XV members Bill Smith, Mario Guerra, David Marshall and Marshall's son joined members of VFW Post 8541 in a mission to help clean up VFW posts in flood-ravaged areas of South Texas. In right photo, Chapter member Fr. Steve Rindahl leads a prayer as the group heads out. Scene from road trip, below.



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 !! Look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

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Remembering them

ED FERNANDEZ



CSM (Ret.) Eduardo Fernandez, an Associate Member of Chapter XV and owner of The Drop Zone Café & Bar, died Aug. 15 in San Antonio after a long illness. He was buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Sept. 1.

A Korean War veteran who served 29 years in the Army, Fernandez is survived by his wife of 27 years, Esperanza (Hope) Fernandez, who was also his business partner and constant supporter in his many veterans' service activities. He also leaves two daughters, a son and several grandchildren.

A life member of the Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association, Fernandez operated the Drop Zone as home base of ASWAA and the airborne community for many years. The club, located just outside Fort Sam Houston at 1802 E. Carson St., honors veterans and welcomes all military active duty and retirees in a "safe haven" environment where they can reminisce and meet old and new friends.



Sept. 1, 2017

Above, Fernandez' fellow troopers from ASWAA and fellow members of Chapter XV salute the coffin. Right, Gen. Fred Valenzuela prepares to present flag to Ed's widow, Hope Fernandez.



MIKE MALOY



Aug. 4, 2017

Army representative presents flag to Mike's son Jim at graveside service. Other family members are (left to right) Mike's mother Barbara, sister Marcy and son Bobby.

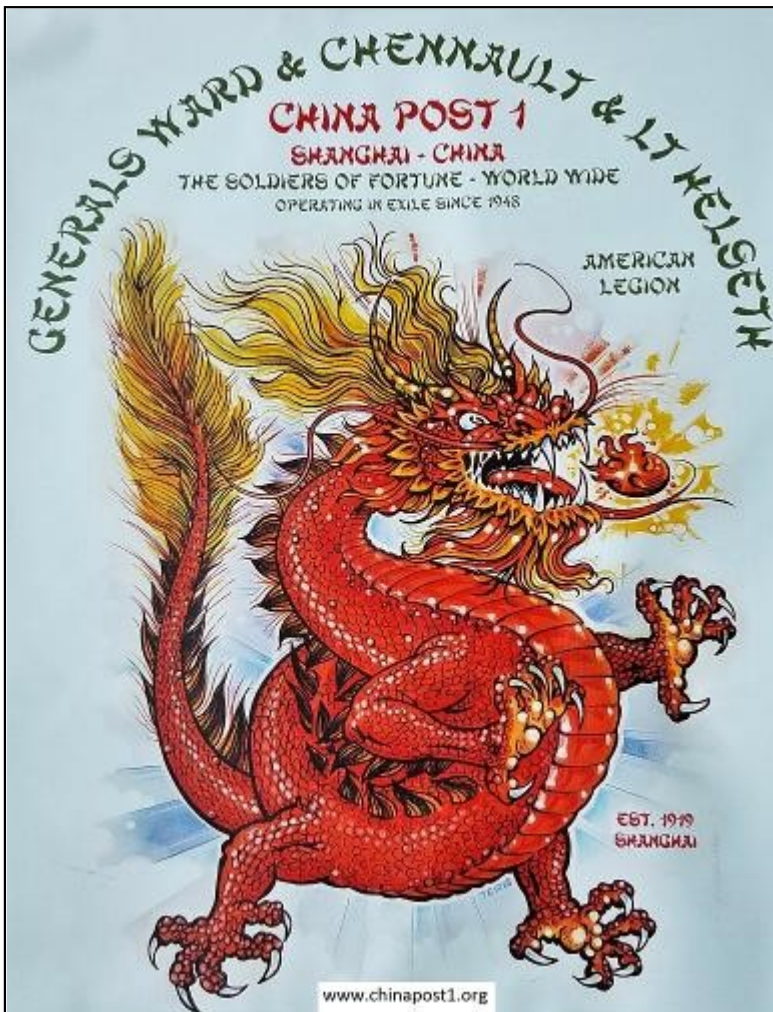
Friends of Chapter XV

China Post 1 Reunion

The 2017 Reunion of China Post 1, American Legion, will be 21-24 Sept. at Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

POC:

Hans Stockenberger, (281) 871-9725 ,
redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com



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St Francis Church



Welcomes You
To Join Us in Worship

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

Pax et Bonum
www.StFrancis.Church



8/4/17

Scholarship Applications Due

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, reminds that applications are being accepted from now until 15 November. Here are the scholarship guidelines:



Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant is designed to provide a one-time education grant of a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) The number and amount of grants are determined by the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee with the approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the annual Installation of Officers/ Christmas Banquet.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a SFA member or legal dependent or grandchild of a Chapter member in good standing.
2. A high school student anticipating graduation during the school year of application.
3. Grant must be used to attend an accredited college, university or vocational institution.
4. Eligible applicants must submit the following:
 - a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend, and planned use for the grant.
 - b. Copies of the most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
 - c. Two letters of reference from a teacher, school counselor or principal.
 - d. A summary of extracurricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
 - e. A copy of the application to the school or the acceptance letter.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than 15 November. Send to

President William Smith, SFA Chapter XV

Attn: Scholarship Committee

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



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**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.**

School of Nursing

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CHAPTER XV CRUISE (Deadline extended to Oct. 15)



EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Hermann advises that the deadline to sign up for our spring cruise has been extended to Oct. 15. So, if you haven't booked your cabin yet — or you've booked and have friends who want to join us — spread the word! This will be great fun and a Chapter fundraiser to boot!



Special Forces Association Chapter XV

Fellowship and FUN-d raising Cruise



7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN

Aboard Royal Caribbean's Incredible Liberty of the Seas

Departing Sunday, April 15-22, 2018

Sailing round-trip from Galveston, Texas to: Cozumel, Mexico, George Town, Grand Cayman and Falmouth, Jamaica.

- **Chapter donation of \$200* per cabin**
- **Private Cocktail Party**

* donation amount average based on outside cabin, double occupancy

A LIMITED NUMBER OF CABINS AVAILABLE AT THESE PRICES

Interior from	Oceanview from	Balcony from	Suite from
\$699	\$799	\$1099	On Request

Rates are per person and do not include: gratuities, transportation or personal expenses.

Deposit Amount: **\$250 p/p** | Insurance Cost: TBA | **Book by Sept. 5, 2017**

Trying to decide what to do first?

Along with our sun-splashed ports of call you can enjoy specialty restaurants, perfect for a romantic night out and sipping timeless cocktails in a retro-classic atmosphere. Lift a pint with your SF buddies at the Hoof & Claw English pub. Take in the Broadway hit, Saturday Night Fever, on "date night". Go for a dip in one of 4 pools or 6 whirlpools, including the Solarium pool for adults only with cantilevered whirlpools overlooking the sea. Discover bars, clubs and lounges that never require a cover and ladies, indulge in on-board steals and shopping with just a flick of your cabin key!

Group Webpage: <http://sgreen.dreamvacationsgroups.com/#/groups/8877821>

Karen Hermann TEL: 210-372-5122
khermann@wth.com
 Agency- Sheri Green & Associates, Austin, TX
 Agency Phone: (512) 796-8428



Terms & Conditions: Prices are shown in U.S. Dollars. Prices are per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy, specified stateroom category. In USD include non-commissionable fares and are subject to availability. Governmental departure taxes and fees are included. Certain restrictions may apply. Prices and promotional offers apply to new individual bookings and vary by departure date and city, sailing, ship, and stateroom category and are subject to availability, may change without notice, are capacity controlled, may not be combinable with other offers, and may be changed or withdrawn at any time. All reservations must be made in U.S. dollars and restrictions may apply for non-U.S. residents. Cancellation penalties, blackout dates, and other restrictions may also apply. Best Price Guarantee: restrictions and instructions apply; see our Best Price Guarantee Policy. Ships Registry: Greece, Norway, Bahamas, Liberia, Panama, Marshall Islands, Great Britain, Bermuda, Wallis & Futuna, Malta, the Netherlands and Italy. CA 2008278-40, FLST 35829, IA 856, WA 801696884, NV 2005-0073. © Dream Vacations 2017

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	4 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
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 6 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300	3 Board Meeting 1100 5 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications) 21 Dick's Fund Raiser
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300 28 Motorcycle Ride	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 (Election) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results	7 Dec Board Meeting 1400 9 Christmas Banquet 1730 & 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:

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



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

20-23 SEPT 2017 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion
Country Inn and Suites, Fort Campbell, KY
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org>

12-16 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018
Hotel Paseo del Norte, El Paso, TX
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>

Thanks to Henry Jimenez, Mario Guerra and Bill Smith 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 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!"