



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 12-17

December 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: Buddy Gee
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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: Juan Lopez
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

December 7 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

December 9 — Annual Christmas Banquet and Installation of Officers

El Tropicano Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave.

1400-1700 hours — Hospitality Room

1700-1800 hours — Social

1830-2000 hours — Dinner and program

2000-2300 hours — Celebration

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING



DON'T FORGET

- Volunteers** are needed on Dec. 9 to help with the Christmas banquet. We need two pickup trucks — one to transport beverages from Fort Sam Houston Class VI and another to move supplies from the VFW storage shed. Also, need two helpers to load and off-load. If you can help, contact Raul de la Garza at (210) 807-5092.



- January meeting** will be Jan. 6 with SFA/Ranger Breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. and business meeting at 11 a.m. No lunch.
- Web Master?** Chapter XV is seeking an experienced volunteer to administer the Chapter website. The web editor in use is Joomla and the web page may be viewed at www.sfa-xv.org. For more information or to volunteer, contact Buddy Gee at sgmgee@aol.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Remember, there is not a Membership meeting this month. We will have our Board meeting on 7 December at 1400 hrs. This will allow us to finalize last-minute issues regarding the banquet. The banquet is set for 9 December and it will be a good time! If you are still in need of tickets, contact me immediately as we are nearing the 100 number. I printed 120 tickets and we will be able to accommodate this number. If you are wanting to sit at a table as a group, please let me know before the 7th. This will allow me to make the adjustments. I am looking forward to another great banquet as we have had over the years.

Thank you to the membership for the opportunity to serve you for another two years. The current Board has done an outstanding job and I cannot thank them enough. It makes it easy for me when there is a Board willing to do the many things they do. Also, a special thanks to Buddy and Sharon for the outstanding newsletter. The last couple of years went by fast, as I am sure the next ones will.

As you will see in the newsletter, there are four recipients of our Chapter XV scholarship. I want to congratulate them and wish them continued success in their educational goals. I believe the scholarship is one of the better things we do and want to remind everyone that VFW Post 8541 will have three \$2000 scholarships available in the Spring. If you are not a member of the VFW, now would be a good time to join.

I also want to remind everyone that the January meeting will be on 6 January and breakfast will be served. I spoke to Bill (Doc) and he said he is excited to cook his famous SOS for the meeting. The times will be 0930 to 1100 for the breakfast and the meeting will follow at 1100. (If you have breakfast specialties, let us know. Don made the great pancakes last time.) We will also combine our breakfast with our Ranger buddies again.

Until the banquet, 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, November 2017

November was a quiet month for the Alamo Chapter financially. Most of the revenue was from membership renewals and Christmas Banquet ticket sales.

Raul and Gordon did a great job on the door-prize drawings but were lagging in merchandise sales. This was surprising since we had a great turn-out for the General Membership meeting.

A tip of the beret goes to J. R. Garza, Levi Rodgers and an anonymous Blue Knights member for their donations to the Chapter.

In the Expense column, we made a charitable contribution to O.A.S.I.S. and purchased beer mugs for the Dick's Last Resort fundraiser. (Alas, a hurricane delayed their arrival from Florida until after the event.) Also, food purchased for the Saturday breakfast was partially offset by donations.

Buddy Gee

Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com



Minutes of November Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 04 November 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1100 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain **Rudy Johnson** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POWs was held.

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

Levi Rodgers (is now a life member)
Dale Jennings (moved back from Oklahoma)
Ivan Davis
Mark Goode
Tony Aquiningoc
Tony Rubio (from Honduras)

Members Sick or In Distress:

Richard Harvey (recovering from auto accident)
Iris Archer (recovering from back surgery)
Gen. Valenzuela (mother is ill)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes:** October meeting minutes were accepted as read.
- Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly and annual budget reports and they were accepted as read.
- Membership report** given by **Marti Scott:** We currently have 189 members, **Levi Rodgers** is now a life member.
- Veterans Affairs:** **JR Garza**, talked about Medicare giving out new cards without SSNs and the VA issuing out new veteran ID cards for those that were honorably discharged.
- Final election results:** **Bobby Walker** read off final votes: President: **Bill Smith** (elected), Vice President: **Barry Archer** (elected), Treasurer: **Buddy Gee** (elected),

Asst. Treasurer: **Toby Todd** (elected), Secretary: **Juan Lopez** (elected), Asst. Secretary: **Dave Marshall** (elected), Sgt at Arms: **Raul De La Garza** (elected), Asst. Sgt at Arms: **Gordon Lee** (elected).

- Christmas Banquet:** Set for Saturday, December 9, 2017 at El Tropicano Hotel, \$55 per person, tickets on sale.
- Motorcycle Combat Skills Ride:** **Gordon Lee**, was canceled due to lack of riders (possibly due to weather).

NEW BUSINESS:

- Scholarships:** **Pat Connolly**, we are giving out (4) \$500 scholarships, however no applications have been turned in as of now. November 15 is application deadline.
- Canyon Lake Picnic:** **Raul De La Garza**, set for Friday - Sunday, May 18- 20th, 2018.
- Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-Off:** **Mike Brown & Steve Hermann**, set for Friday - Sunday, March 9-11, 2018.
- SF/Ranger Breakfast:** Is official and will now be from 9:30am - 11am at VFW Post 8541. Our membership meeting will follow immediately after the breakfast.
- Veterans Day Ceremony:** Saturday, November 11th at 9:30am at the Fort Sam Houston cemetery assembly area and pavilion.

Open Discussion: Veteran's Day November 11, 2017, 4pm - 11pm, food & band at VFW Post 8541. Also on November 12 & 18th, VFW Post 8541 will have fundraisers with music and food.

CH XV door prize drawing was conducted by **Raul De La Garza**.

Meeting Adjourned

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



Members of Election Committee (Dan Hopgood, Bobby Walker, Rudy Johnson) counting the votes.



Joe Dawson (left) and Don Hubbs welcome new member Levi Rodgers (right) at the November meeting.



Three generations: Paul Allen Sr. (center) with dad Benjamin E. Allen and son Paul Allen Jr.



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



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

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VETERANS DAY 2017

November 11, 2017



DOING THE HONORS

Members and officers of Chapter XV carried out their traditional mission — presenting the Armed Service flags at the Veterans Day ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

The good-looking group included (left to right, above) Juan Lopez, Chapter secretary; Bobby Walker; William Smith, president; Raul de la Garza, sergeant-at-arms; and Barry Archer, vice president.

Right photo shows our men presenting the service flags against backdrop of the Stars and Stripes. Good job, guys!

Photos by Kim Phillips



Scholarship Committee Results



Pat Connolly, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, reports the committee has made the following recommendations for this year's Chapter XV education grants:

- Ms Elizabeth M. Garza
McAllen, Texas
Granddaughter of Jaun Moya
- Mr. Daniel Kremer
Gladstone, Missouri
Grandson of Barry Archer
- Ms Madalynn Valera
San Antonio, Texas
Granddaughter of Santiago Sanchez
- Ms Helen Beck
Midway Park, North Carolina
Daughter of Chris Marshall

Each of these high school seniors has submitted a letter detailing his or her education plans and career aspirations.

They also submitted their SAT scores and grade transcripts; a summary of extracurricular activities or hobbies; two letters of reference from teachers or counselors; and letters of acceptance (or copies of applications) to the school they plan to attend.

The board will consider these recommendations at its December meeting, and the scholarships will be awarded at the Christmas Banquet.

Congratulations to these outstanding students!



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 corrector encounters. RLW !! I look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

2/18



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School of Nursing

1/18

Chapter XV Contributes ...



Thomas Allred, above center, accepts motorized wheelchair donated to the San Antonio Amputee Foundation by VFW Post 8541 and SFA Chapter XV. Joint presentation was made by Buddy Gee, left, treasurer of Chapter XV, and Bob Jenkins, senior vice commander of Post 8541. At right, Allred, a founding board member of the foundation, explains that the chair will be used by a young San Antonio woman who badly needs it.



FYI ...

From Raul de la Garza, Chapter XV representative to Veterans of Greater San Antonio

Notes from VGSA meeting:

1. Our \$25 dues are due in January.
2. Wilford Hall Ambulatory clinics are now open for business.
3. Enlisted Association at Fort Sam Golf Club is having a Christmas Lunch at the golf course on 20 December, Cost \$25 - POC (210) 658-2344. Must receive money by 13 December.
4. Next Honor Flight will be 4-5 May to Washington, D.C.

From the Web:

Most veterans know they can receive a 10% discount on purchases at Lowe's. Until now, they had to show a military ID or VA card to get the discount. Now there's an easy way for active-duty, veterans and

immediate family members to get the discount automatically, whether shopping in a Lowe's store or buying online.

Veterans should go to www.lowes.com/military and fill out the form to set up a MyLowe's account. It asks for Name, Phone Number, Email Address, Branch of Service, Military Status (veteran), Date of Birth and Date of Separation.

Lowe's uses "a trusted third-party vendor" to verify eligibility. Once verified, you and your spouse or dependent child can use the MyLowe's account card to get the automatic discount on purchases. Even if you don't have the card, the MyLowe's account is linked to a phone number that can be used instead. Veterans who don't want to set up an online account can still get the discount by registering in a store.




Friends of Chapter XV

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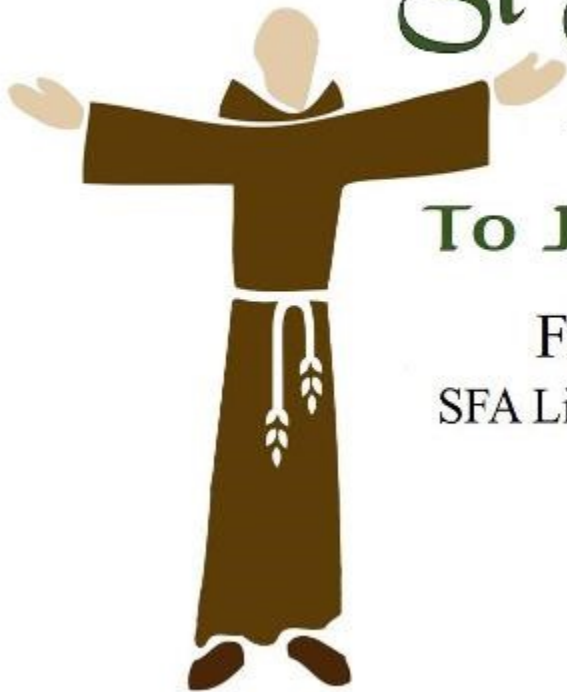


7/7/18



New Riverwalk location at 223 Losoya St .

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



8/4/18

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 1100 (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*

1/9/17/18

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)

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This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

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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

- 12-16 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018
Hotel Paseo del Norte, El Paso, TX
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>
- 19-22 SEPT 2018 57th annual Fifth Group Reunion
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN
(931) 645-1400 or cx_clrk@countryinns.com

Thanks to Kim Phillips 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!"