



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #10-20

October 2020

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www.sfa-xv.org



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JROTC Awards: John Lopez
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Wounded Warriors: J.W. Martin
FSH Cemetery Events: Raul de la Garza
Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul de la Garza
Dick's Fund Raiser: Fred Solis
Christmas Banquet: John Lopez
Budget Committee: Merrill Hall
Chapter Memorial Svc: Pat Meffert
Chapter Annual Cruise: Karen Hermann

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



October 9 — Board meeting 1000

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

October 10 — Membership Meeting

1200 — Noon meal served

1300 — Business meeting

October 12 — Columbus Day

October 31 — Halloween

November 1 — DST ends (fall back 1 hour)



DON'T FORGET



• MONTHLY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO 2ND SATURDAY.

• VFW Post 8541 is now open as a restaurant! Details on Page 6.

• If you haven't yet paid for your Newsletter ad, you can do so online

through our PayPal account at www.sfa-xv.org.



• Fiesta San Antonio is canceled for 2020, but Gordon and Dana Lee have our "historic" 2020 Fiesta medals. Contact them to get your medals, only \$15 each.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Hello CH XV members! It is now October, and as you have already noticed, the weather is finally changing for the better. We have been fortunate enough to experience cooler mornings, and the afternoons are not as blistering as they were last month and over the summer. So, enjoy this new weather and continue to stay safe.

Columbus Day will fall on Monday the 12th this month. Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries of the Americas and elsewhere, which officially celebrates the anniversary of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492. It was first celebrated in 1792 and named a federal holiday in 1937. A little-known fact is that South Dakota, Alaska and Hawaii do not recognize the holiday.

Halloween will be on Saturday the 31st. Did you know that over 90% of parents steal their children's

Halloween candy and that, according to the American Automobile Association statistics, it is the deadliest night of the year?

Just a reminder, our membership meetings are now on the second Saturday of the month at the same place and time. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 10 October at 1pm. Lunch is at noon.

Stay safe and see you all there!



John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV
president@sfa-XV.org

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report September 2020

I am still waiting on the numbers from the Secrets Akumal trip in August. I should have the final numbers by next month. Karen Hermann, our trip planner, says "things are taking a little longer in our industry right now due to staff reductions and shortened hours."

So far we have recouped about half of the expense for the Fiesta Medals — not bad for an event that got

canceled! For September, we received \$60 for the Door Prize drawing and \$70 in merchandise sales.

I also want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations to the Chapter..

On the expense side, we presented the Memorial Service Detachment a check for \$500 and I paid \$92 to the U.S. Postal Service for our PO Box.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org.

Editors Retiring ... Need Volunteer

In May 2016, Buddy and Sharon Gee took over publication of the Chapter newsletter from Mike Maloy on an interim basis, until a permanent editor would volunteer. Four-plus years have passed and your interim editors are retiring at the end of this year.

We are seeking a younger editor to take the reins and continue producing a good quality newsletter in a timely manner. The outgoing editors will work with the next volunteer editor for a smooth transition.

There is lots of talent in the Chapter and we need one volunteer to step forward ASAP. Call President John or Buddy (210- 778-7004) and volunteer today.

Buddy Gee, editor@sfa-XV.org



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IN WHAT YOU DO**

**NO MATTER THE
*uniform***

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SCHOOL OF NURSING OFFERS AN ACCELERATED VETERAN TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (VBSN) TRACK FOR VETERANS WITH PRIOR MILITARY MEDICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

The VBSN track is open to veterans from all branches of the service and is designed to build on the education and experience of the veteran with a system of assessment that will allow for advanced placement in the curriculum based upon demonstration of knowledge and skill. This accelerated 12-month track has online classes in addition to clinical instruction guided by assigned clinical coaches and nursing clinical faculty. The track has clinical sites in Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Lubbock, Odessa and San Antonio.

Call or click at:

vbsn@ttuhsc.edu | 806.743.9294 | 1.800.493.3954

www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx



Minutes of August Meeting

Meeting Notes SFA Chapter XV
“Alamo Chapter” San Antonio, Texas

Monthly meeting 12 SEPTEMBER 2020
VFW Post 8541 San Antonio, Texas

Attendance:

President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Chaplain, Sgt and Asst Sgt at Arms

23 total members in attendance

Meeting Highlights:

- Sick and Distressed: Member family identified with COVID-19 and update provided
- DAV rep to the Chapter, JR Garza, retired from position. Chapter pending new DAV POC
- Larry Dollarhide, long time Chapter member, passed away. Bobby Walker represented the Chapter at funeral services.
- Budget Report given: Motion to delay 2 x \$500 donations until we determine the end of year budget situation as a result of COVID-19 reduction in Chapter fund raising revenue. Motion carried and budget approved.

- Meeting notes for August meeting accepted
- Current membership briefed to be at 225 members as of the meeting date
- President provided feedback on Chapter get-away trip to Akumal, Mexico.
- President provided feedback from virtual SFA National Convention and provided key highlights
- Donation check was formally presented to the Memorial Service Detachment
- Annual Dick’s Last Resort fundraiser being coordinated for a possible date, but date will be confirmed in the coming weeks. A donated Charlie Daniels fiddle will be raffled off as part of this event.
- The Chapter’s annual Christmas Banquet will be held 12DEC20 at a local San Antonio Golf Course. Details to follow.

Meeting was adjourned without objection

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Brown, Secretary



Secretary Mike Brown, from left, President John Lopez and Treasurer Merrill Hall ready to start the monthly Chapter meeting.



Bill Neuiszer, right, accepts Chapter XV donation for Memorial Service Detachment.

**IN 2019, WE INVESTED \$2,136,586
INTO THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
OF 5,017 SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES.**



FAMILY SUPPORT: \$925,469

A GREEN BERET'S FAMILY IS HIS FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORT, AND SO IT'S CRITICAL THAT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION PROVIDES ADVOCACY AND SERVICES TO MEET THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS. THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES AS THEY NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING, DEPLOYMENTS, AND LIFE AFTER THE MILITARY.

EXTENDED SUPPORT: \$755,156

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GREEN BERETS AS THEY MANAGE WOUNDS, INJURIES, AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ACUTE AND POST-ACUTE CARE. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE TREATMENTS AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO THRIVE IN LIFE BEYOND THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

NEXT RIDGELINE[®] TRANSITION SUPPORT: \$179,886

WE KNOW THAT A GREEN BERET'S TRANSITION OUT OF THE MILITARY IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL TIME PERIODS IN HIS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONNECT GREEN BERETS WITH THE MENTORS, PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES NEEDED TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE A SUCCESS. THIS PROGRAM ENSURES THAT GREEN BERETS ARE PREPARED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE A FULL AND IMPACTFUL LIFE AFTER TAKING OFF THE MILITARY UNIFORM.

GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT: \$150,316

OUR MOST SACRED DUTY AT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION IS TO SERVE THE FAMILIES OF OUR GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. NO MATTER IF THE GREEN BERET WAS KILLED IN COMBAT OR IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE-RELATED INJURY, SUICIDE OR DISEASE, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE FAMILY NAVIGATE THEIR DIFFICULT JOURNEY, EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE.

CASUALTY SUPPORT: \$125,759

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO GREEN BERETS UPON SUSTAINING A WOUND OR INJURY, INCLUDING RECEIVING A CHECK FOR \$2500 AND A GORUCK GR1 RUCKSACK OF ESSENTIAL GEAR. BY PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT, WE HELP SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT: BEING TOGETHER AND HEALING.

87%

OR 87 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR WAS INVESTED INTO OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US TODAY AT WWW.GREENBERETFOUNDATION.ORG



**GREEN BERET
FOUNDATION**

Chapter News

Post 8541 is open again!

By Joe Pedrotti

Canteen Manager, VFW Post 8541

VFW Post 8541 is officially a restaurant and is open for business!

We offer a delectable menu of Texas favorites like Frito Pie, Chili Cheese Dogs and some of the best chili you'll find anywhere. We call it Wolfe Brand, and for only a little extra we'll throw in cheese and onions. Of course, we also offer a full bar featuring your favorite spirits, wine and beer, including some outstanding craft beers like Longtab's Bearded Bastard and Karbach's Hopadillo.

Post 8541 is the #1 Post in Texas and #2 in the country, so you know that we always go well beyond the call of duty for veterans and the community. That's why we decided to conform to the Covid-19 environmental requirements (at the urging of the governor, mayor and county judge) to acquire the Food and Beverage permit. In so doing, we became a restaurant, even though we're not using our real kitchen for the purpose. Our menu allows us to prepare and serve everything right there at the bar.

So please join us for a drink and a bite to eat between the hours of 1100 and 2000 (1200 to 2000 on Sunday). And while you are there, check out the extensive remodeling of the Rodela Room and the lobby restrooms. And amaze yourself with a look at the new Cyber Sports Suite. Simply awesome!



Chapter President John Lopez, left, receives a surprise reward from VFW 8541 Commander Bill Smith: a Bronze Legacy VFW membership in recognition of John's extensive volunteer work on renovations now near completion at the Post. Come in to see the great results of their labor!

Chapter XV membership continues to grow



**From Marti Scott
Membership Secretary**

Welcome to Fall!

Fall???? How did we get here so fast? What happened to Spring and Summer? Oh, I know...in lockdown. Well, even though we were shut out of 'normal' life, some of us did manage to make the few Chapter meetings when they happened — and our Chapter did continue to grow. We now have 225 members, with a couple more waiting for applications to arrive. I encourage you to reach out to those you know who are eligible (or already members of SFA) to come and join us. Thanks to Mike Brown

and John Lopez for bringing in our two newest Chapter members who changed their Chapter affiliations to Chapter XV. **Welcome, James T. Elliott and William Luna!**

As most of you know, for our Annual Dues paying members, dues for 2021 can be paid starting now. The deadline for payment is December 31.

Payments may be made online at our Chapter website or they may be paid by check, sent to our Chapter mailbox: SFA; P.O. Box 33782; San Antonio, TX 78265.

May you all stay safe, well and always remember those who are out in the faraway lands keeping our freedom. **AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!**

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Chapter News



AUGUST MEETING: Above, Raul de la Garza and Gordon Lee conduct Chapter business with Sergio Venegas (right) and other members. Top left, Sim Trombitas and Bobby Walker visit during the break. At left, Mark and Celia Goode paying attention to the speaker.

—Photos by Ben Scott

SOAR reunion will be a virtual affair Oct. 19-23

**From Ray Frovarp
SOA Membership Chairman**

Due to Covid-19, the physical SOAR XLIV reunion has been canceled and is being replaced by a virtual convention using ZOOM. This virtual platform will be an important "proof of concept." If it works well, the program will be run as an adjunct to future reunions so members who are unable to travel may participate.

The ZOOM platform is free, so SOA membership is not a requirement. Participation is open to all veterans or members of a branch of the US Armed Forces Special Operations Community who have conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided support to that

element.

Please distribute this information to anyone you feel will benefit from participating in the virtual reunion.

The 2020 SOAR VIRTUAL CONVENTION WEBSITE is operational and can be accessed at: <https://www.tinyURL.com/SOARXLIV>

We are still making changes but encourage everyone to visit and familiarize themselves with the site prior to the reunion. If you are not familiar with ZOOM, go to the zoom test at <https://www.tinyURL.com/SF-ZOOM>.

Many thanks to Steve Sherman for his efforts in putting the site together. If you have any questions or need help, contact Steve at sherman1@flash.net or 281-879-5688.



Note from Noel Benavidez:

Please check out the new book from Grunt Style, "Violent But True Bedtime Stories" featuring MSGT Roy P. Benavidez.

[Here's the link](#) for copies signed by author Ted Jensen (\$19.95.)

Remembering Bosnia



The Quiet Professionals in Bosnia-Herzegovina

July 2020 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Massacre



By Fred Solis

Bosnia has marked the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, the only declared genocide in Europe since the second world war. The execution of

more than 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys took place in July 1995. The massacre is the only episode of Bosnia's 1992-95 war to be defined as genocide. After murdering thousands of Srebrenica's Muslims, Serbs dumped their bodies in numerous mass graves scattered throughout eastern Bosnia, in an attempt to hide the crime. Almost 7,000 of those killed have been found and identified. Body parts are still being found in mass graves and are being put together.

A DoD article dated January 27, 1996, relates that Special operations forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force conducted numerous missions supporting NATO's implementation force in Bosnia. Nearly 700 members of the Army's Special Operations Command deployed to Bosnia in mid-December 1995 and began numerous operations throughout the Balkan nation. Included were more than 100 reservists serving in Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations positions.

Army special operations units included the 1st Special Forces Group, 5th Group, 10th Group, the Army National Guard 20th Special Forces Group, and portions of Fort Bragg (N.C.) 4th Psychological Operations Battalion, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, and 112th and 528th Special Operations Signal Battalions. Special operations personnel served as liaisons between NATO forces and local nationals. Other tasks included unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, counterterrorism, and humanitarian action.



Solis Deployment in January of 1996: assigned as an advisor to the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

Mission: provide for an immediate and lasting cease-fire; separation of military forces, withdrawal from demilitarized zones by all warring parties, establish lasting peace in Bosnia y Herzegovina,

Principal Task: Rebuild police forces in Bosnia and Croatia per the General Framework Agreement for Peace, negotiated at Dayton, Ohio. Focus on internationally accepted standards of policing and criminal justice activities of police, the courts, and corrections.

Result: Starting the implementation of police reform, IPTF screened 44,000 personnel for certification of police officers and the accreditation of law enforcement agencies. Before the conflict, the police were part of the military. During as well as in the immediate aftermath of war, police forces were separated along ethnic lines, operating within the geographical coverage enjoyed by their ethnic group. Although ethnic/political divisions continued, an integrated police force was established and still exists today.



Look to make life better for 2021

It is October, and once again we approach the coming of a New Year. In consideration of the year which we have had, there is a collective sense of pending "thank God 2020 is over." Not to cast a pall over 2021, but as we are sitting here in October, we can already see concerns that have the potential for giving 2021 a rough start.

As everyone knows, we are in an election year. Not only that — it is an election that is especially contentious. Regardless of who wins the race, large numbers of people will be mad/upset/outraged on the 20th of January at the inauguration of the next presidential term.

Covid, of course, continues to be an issue. We are all experiencing fatigue in hearing, "Normally we would... but because of coronavirus..." Now the President and First Lady have tested positive for Covid. Both the election politics and the national contention over what is appropriate regarding how to mitigate the spread of the virus are complicated all the more. We can each name other national concerns and our personal concerns that look as if they will not be over by December 31st.

Is the New Year doomed? NO – Of course not! Instead, it

is calling on all of us to do our part in making it better – to truly make it be a "recovery year" from 2020. The prayer given to us by Jesus, commonly called the Lord's Prayer, begins by saying: "Our Father who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. **Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth** as it is in Heaven."



This prayer is not a petition to be used like plugging money into a vending machine – put my prayer in and take my blessing out. Instead, it serves as a reminder that as a people, we are to do those things which improve life, improve the earth, that transform society. As those around us look for something about which they can complain, let us look around to find the things which we can improve – making life better for ourselves and those around us.

Buen Camino, Fr Steve
CH (MAJ-Ret) Steven G Rindahl, DMin
A-663 (Life)

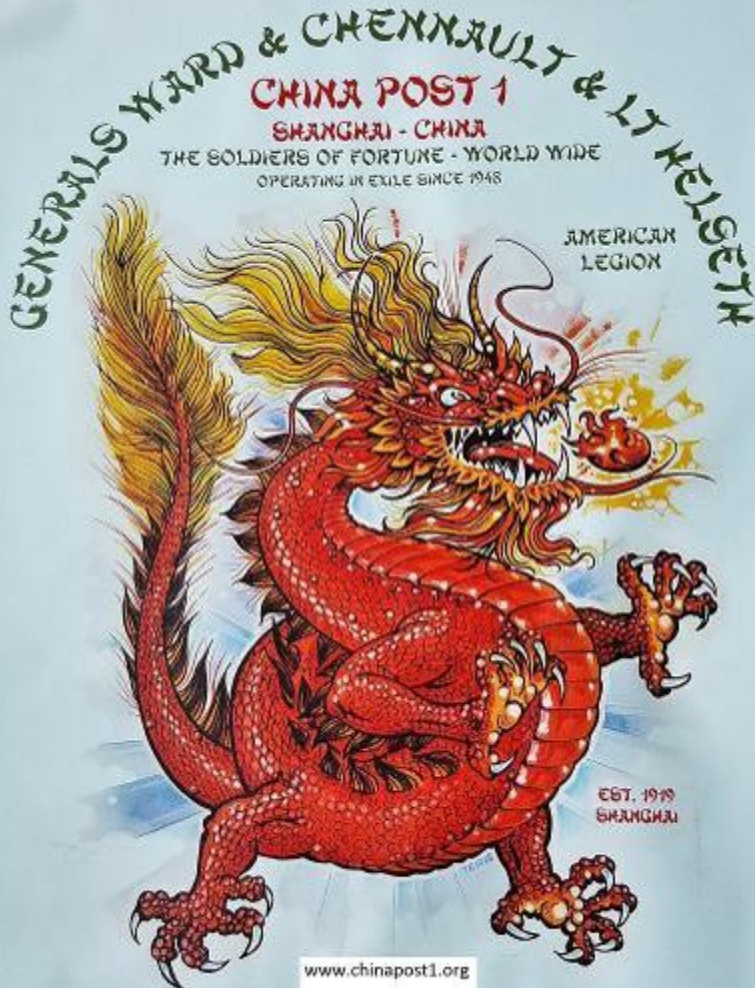


Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org

Combat Veterans on the Camino de Santiago
Warriors on the Way
(a 501(c)(3) Veterans' organization)
is a Veterans Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Spain) designed to put Warriors with PTSD and Moral Injury on the Way to Healing.

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GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2020 CALENDAR

<p><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 31 February Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 43rd anniversary</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 13-15 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day</p>
<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1000 4 Chapter Memorial Service 1000 4 Membership Meeting 1300 30 Scholarship applications due TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1000 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 15-17 Canyon Lake Picnic 25 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1000 6 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday</p>
<p><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300 31 August Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due 18-23 Escape to 'Secrets Akumal'</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>11 Board Meeting 1000 12 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>9 Board Meeting 1000 10 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>11 Veterans Day 13 Board meeting 1000 14 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 5 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Pearl Harbor Day 12 Christmas Banquet</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hours prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Friday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1000 hours unless announced otherwise.

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



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*

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,
editor@sfa-xv.org



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

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\$25



Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

12-15 AUG 2020 Special Forces Association Convention
Sandestin Beach and Spa Resort, Destin, FL

19-2 OCT 2020 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.
To be held virtually via ZOOM.

Thanks to Ben Scott and 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 editor@sfa-xv.org, or mail them to Chapter President John Lopez at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

The Editors



"Carry on!"