

Subject: **SFA Chapter XV March 2024 Newsletter**  
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**Special Forces Association**





# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

P.O. BOX 33782 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265-3

SPECIAL EDITION

March 2024

**President:** Jeff Dahlby  
**Vice-President:** Tom Tannahill  
**Secretary:** Fred Solis  
**Asst. Secretary:** Sergio Venegas  
**Treasurer:** Deon Popoy  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Merrill Hall  
**Sgt at Arms:** Raul de la Garza  
**Asst. Sgt at Arms:** Gordon Lee  
**Chaplain:** Steve Rindahl

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



**Committee Chairs**  
**Nominations:** Chuck Rose  
**Membership:** Sergio Venegas  
**JROTC Awards:** John Lopez  
**Scholarships:** Pat Connolly  
**Christmas Banquet:** Jeff Dahlby  
**Budget Committee:** Deon Popoy  
**Chapter Memorial Svc:** Jeff Dahlby  
**Fiesta Medals:** Gordon Lee  
**Fundraising:** Jeff Dahlby

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Note: No Chapter XV Meeting in March!!**



- March 8-9 — Cotulla Wild Hog Festival
- March 10 — Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- March 31 — Easter Sunday



## DON'T FORGET



- Sick call at 1300 every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

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March 2024

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings SFA Chapter XV,

During our February meeting, we continued to follow up with Chapter plans for the coming year while dining on Texas BBQ graciously provided by our Secretary Fred Solis. A tip of the beret for all Fred continues to do for the chapter. We were happy to see Tommy Shook, Jeff Conqui, John Halibon, COL John Gonzoba, Pat O'Neil, and longtime Chapter XV member Bill Beall could make the meeting among others after a long hiatus.



U.S. flag pins were presented to all attendees provided by CSM(R) David Jenkins in memory of his father (P) Chuck Jenkins and his teammates from A-342 killed in Vietnam. CSM Jenkins provided a historical summary of events leading to their death and subsequent honors. In his letter to the Chapter, CSM Jenk quoted President JF Kennedy: *"The Green Beret is again becoming a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom."*

A new set of double doors was placed on our storage shed thanks to Raul de la Garza and Gordon Lee, and the trailer was reorganized for our upcoming attendance at Cotulla thanks to Tom Tannahill.

The new Chapter XV website is under construction which will provide a means to update information quickly and ensure our members are better informed.

Chapter and family members were invited to attend the 23 March 2024 LongTab Brewery release of a beer commemorating the combat death of 7<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) SFC(P) Victor Cervantes in Afghanistan on 10 June 2005.

The Chapter is gearing up to support local high school ROTC presentations and is in discussions to also continue to support the recognition of a Texas A&M cadet and add a UTSA candidate who we hope will someday both become distinguished members of the Special Forces Regiment.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 10 April 2024 at 1pm with a board meeting preceding at 11am. The March meeting will be canceled given all the Chapter XV members who will be attending LaSalle County Fair and Wild Hog Cookoff from 8-10 March 2024.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Dahlby  
President  
SFA Chapter XV

March 2024

## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES — 2/9/24

### I. Board members present:

President Jeff Dahlby	Treasurer Leonicio Popoy
Vice President Tom Tanahill	Asst. Treasurer Merrill Hall
Secretary Fred Solis	SGT-at-Arms Raul de la Garza
Asst. Secretary Sergio Venegas	Asst. SGT-at-Arms Gordon Lee

II. The meeting was called to order by President **Jeff Dahlby** at 1300 hrs. followed by the pledge of allegiance and invocation by member **Harold McBride**. A moment of silence was held for fallen comrades and POW's. **President Dahlby** welcomed new members, associate members, and guest the Chapter: Tommy Shook and Jeff Conqui, John Halibon, COL John Gonzoba, Pat O'Neil, and longtime Chapter XV member Bill Beall.

### III. Members Sick or In Distress

- a. CMS Dave Clark has passed away, service is scheduled on 10 April.
- b. The passing of Roger Donlon was announced.

IV. January 2024 meeting Minutes: accepted as presented.

V. Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented by Leonicio Popoy.

- a. President Dahlby urged our members to attend sister organizations' meetings whenever possible. Reciprocal attendance will foster organizational relationships and support.
- b. Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff Event Report: Mike Brown provided hotel and event site information. Followed by comments by President Dahlby urging all to attend and have a good time.
- c. Jeff stated that Mail Chimp will be used as much as possible to keep our membership informed.
- d. The Annual Picnic report was presented by Merrill. The Picnic dates at Canyon Lake are May 3-5, 2024.
- e. The Fundraising Committee report was presented by Bobby Walker. Support the DAV and the Purple Heart Association at the Fish City Grill fundraisers.
- f. President Dahlby informed the membership on the focused effort to update our Chapter XV website as this is a primary and critical communications mode for our membership. The current (discounted) proposal in hand is \$7,500 to set up the website which is beyond our current budget. Fred Solis informed that current pricing for a new website averages \$10,000.00 initial fees plus monthly maintenance. A discussion was held as to the feasibility of changing the website host with the possibility of training chapter member(s) to maintain and post the site. It was agreed to continue looking for the best and affordable solution. Fred Solis asked for donations to establish a fund to rebuild the website and members present committed a total of \$4,000.00 to initiate the process.
- g. The method of providing meeting meals was discussed with the result of Chapter Members committing to sponsor each month for the rest of 2024.
- h. Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee will lead the continued effort to sell the existing stock of Fiesta Medals and will work towards the design and production of this year's medal (see picture on page 4).

March 2024

## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES — CONTINUED

- i. Gordon reported that the new doors for the storage shed after obtaining the required pieces of hardware. A group volunteered to meet the following Thursday at 1100 hrs. to complete the project.
  - j. Jeff addressed JROTC medals donations and staffing for the upcoming 2024 awards. Volunteers needed to cover the appropriate schools.
  - k. MG Frederick award – SFA Chapter 28 has sponsored the cost of the award for the last two years. Steve Damon is spearheading support for the award and requested funding for Chapter XV to cover this year's sponsorship. Chuck Rose suggested that we combine efforts with Houston, and Austin in the future.
  - l. President Dahlby provided an update on the Chapter XV memorial event.
- VI. Membership Report: Sergio Vanegas was out of town but reported that he is still in the process of scrubbing our membership roster and will provide the results as soon as possible.
- VII. New Business:
- a. Mike Brown reminded our members of the SFC Vic Cervantes beer dedication at the Longtab Brewery on March 23, 2024, inviting all to attend and inform former teammates, friends and SF'ers to honor his memory.
  - b. Pat Connally addressed the continued need for donations for the Chapter's Scholarship Program. He urged chapter members to contribute monthly as was previously suggested as this would reduce the dependence on annual fundraising activities.
  - c. President Dahlby conducted a flag pin presentation as requested by CSM(R) David Jenkins who asked that the pins be distributed to the members of Chapter XV in memory of his father, SGT Chuck Jenkins and his teammates from A-342 killed in Vietnam. CSM Jenkins provided a historical summary of events leading to their death and subsequent honors. He quoted President JF Kennedy: "The Green Beret is again becoming a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage and a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom."
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at: 1410 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Solis SFA Chapter XV Secretary



Fiesta Medal for 2024. Cost is \$10.

Note: There are only 200 available.

POC is Gordon Lee: gordonlee@att.net



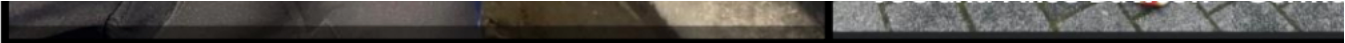


## CH XV MEMBERS OVERSEAS

Dave and Rhonda Marshall—Romania



Joe and Alice Dawson—Germany



March 2024

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2024 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
2 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300	10 Board Meeting 1100 10 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Valentines Day 15 Drop Input Due 26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)	1 Scholarship Apps Open 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 9 Board Meeting 1100 9 Membership Meeting 1300 17 St. Patrick's Day 19 Presidents Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
13 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024 30 Scholarship Apps Close	12 Mothers' Day 15 Drop Input Due 17-19 Annual SFA Chapter Event (Formerly Canyon Lake) 27 Memorial Day	14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 16 Fathers' Day
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300	13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due	2 Labor Day 14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day 17-22 5th SFG 63rd Reunion Clarksville, TN
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
12 Board Meeting 1100 12 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Columbus Day 19-24 SFA Nat'l Convention Cruise from Tampa, FL 31 Halloween TBD Oktoberfest at FSH	9 Board Meeting 1100 9 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due 28 Thanksgiving	<b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 7 Annual Christmas Banquet 7 Pearl Harbor Day 25 Christmas

**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 Meeting.**

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March 2024

## Friends of Chapter XV



Green Beret Owned and Operated

15% off all orders of two bags or more with free shipping.

For more information go to scan the QR code or go to [www.Tacubacoffeeco.com](http://www.Tacubacoffeeco.com)



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4700 TIMCO W SUITE 105 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
[LONGTABBREWING.COM](http://LONGTABBREWING.COM) | 210-947-4766



March 2024

## Friends of Chapter XV

### Echo Hill Gold Star Camp Auction

#### A 1960's-era M-416 Trailer (project) for sale.

By Brian Kanof

The M-416 was the continuation of the M-100, which was towed behind the WWII and Korean War Jeeps (M-38 series) The rounded fenders were changed to squared ones to match the Vietnam series M-151's which were manufactured from 1960 to 1980. Larger trailers were then made to follow behind the Humvees from 1980 to present.

The M-416 survivors are very hard to find in any condition. Because they only weight 600 lbs., they can be towed on or off road by even the smallest 4-cylinder vehicles. There are Facebook sites devoted to them. Modified examples for camping use can drive the price up thousands.

Marcie Friedman is selling hers to support the Echo Hill Gold Star Camp. Bids start at \$500. Sale price will be 1040 deductible, as the camp is a 501c3 nonprofit. The trailer is in need of restoration but is complete. New tires and a bearing repack (and Pintel hitch) are all that are needed to pull it home. Contact Marcie Friedman at [Echo Hill Ranch](#) for more details.



**Armandina (Mandy) Terrazas**  
REALTOR®



210-857-4247

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

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March 2024

# Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces that applications are being accepted from 1 March until 30 April, 2024. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM PAST YEARS. Here are the current scholarship guidelines:



## Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant provides scholarship grants to SFA Chapter XV members, their dependents, children and grandchildren. The number and amount of grants are determined by the budget and the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee, with approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the June Membership Meeting.

### Eligibility:

Applicant must be a Chapter member in good standing or the dependent spouse, child or grandchild of a member in good standing, or child or grandchild of a deceased member who was in good standing at the time of death. Applicant must have been accepted by, or already attending an accredited college, university or vocational institution.

### Application Process:

Applications must be submitted and postmarked not later than 30 April to be considered. Eligible applicants must submit the following:

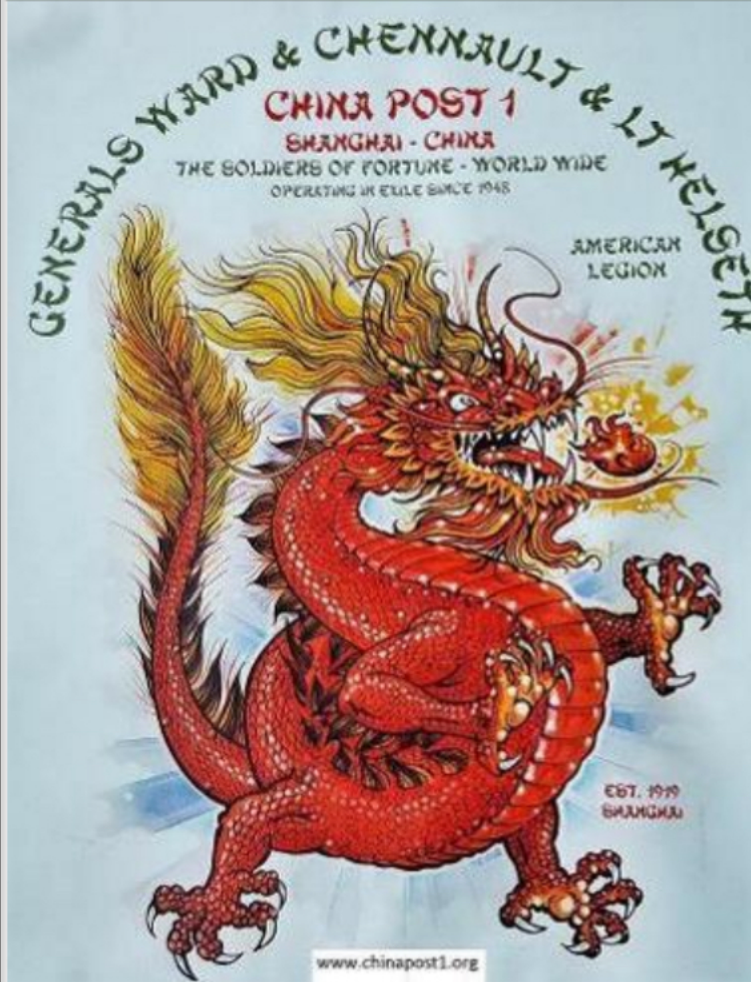
- a. A sponsor letter from Chapter XV member that states full name, member number and relationship to applicant, and the applicant's full contact information.
- b. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend and planned use of the grant.
- c. Copies of most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
- d. Reference letter from teacher(s), school counselor or principal. (minimum of one required)
- e. Summary of extra-curricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
- f. A copy of the application to the school, or acceptance letter from the registrar that the student has already been enrolled.

All items listed above are required. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit applications to:

**President, SFA Chapter XV**  
**Attn: Scholarship Committee**  
**P. O. Box 33782 - San Antonio TX 78265-3782**

March 2024

# Friends of Chapter XV



**Johnnie A. Terrazas, P**

Chief Engineer-CEO



32310 Flat Rock View  
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493



Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin  
SFA A-663 (Life)

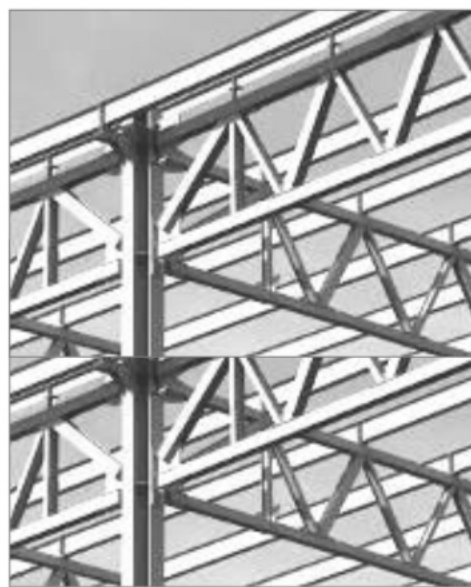
WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

**Jeffrey D. Dahlby**

President, SFA Chapter XV  
San Antonio TX

www.president@sfa-xv.org

D-4167



Terrazas and Associates, Inc.

March 2024

## \$\$\$ Dollars and Cents



Treasurer's Input—Not Received  
Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.



**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**



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March 2024

## **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**





March 2024

### *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 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*

March 2024

## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

17-22 SEPT 2024 5th Group Reunion  
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN

16-19 OCT 2024 Special Operations Association Reunion  
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2024 Special Forces Association Convention  
Cruise from Tampa, FL

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 for the newsletter to [editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org), or mail them to Chapter President at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

**John and Amy Lopez**  
**The Editors**

**Helpful Links:**

[Chapter XV Website](#)

[SFA National Website](#)



**“Carry on!”**

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March 2024



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