



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #09-22

September 2022

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Vice-President: Pat Meffert
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Asst. Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
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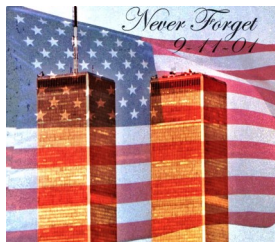
www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
JROTC Awards: John Lopez
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



September 10 — Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting



September 11 — Patriot Day

September 16 — POW / MIA Recognition Day

September 22 — First Day of Autumn



DON'T FORGET



Swordbearer's Chapel service with Fr. Steve Rindahl is no longer meeting at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs. on Sunday in the Rodela Room.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend. That is right CH XV, we are now in September! We made it through June, July, and August. However, we still have a couple more weeks of summer. But I feel the hottest days are behind us.

Sunday, September 11th, Patriot Day, marks the 21-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Friday, September 16th. Autumn begins on Thursday, September 22nd.

The Special Forces Association International Convention (SFAIC) is this month in Colorado Springs, CO. It will go through the 20-24th of September (Tues-Sat). The Antler Hall Hotel is where the convention will be held. However, it is fully booked. Suggestions are: the Hilton & the Hyatt. It is approximately a 5 min walk to the convention from both the Hilton & the Hyatt. There will be a shuttle service to the convention from both hotels. Info is on the National homepage and the Drop.

This year the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) will be on the 17-21st (Mon-Fri) of October at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

On a sad note, we lost long time CH XV member and WWII veteran, Eugene (Gene) Gutierrez, of McAllen, TX., late last month. Gene passed away just a few days before his 101st birthday. At age 100, he still drove and attended to business affairs. He leaves behind his wife Penny, three children, Tommy, Margaret, and Elizabeth, and four grandchildren Ivan, Eden, Jules, and Tory. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gutierrez family. May Gene rest in peace. <https://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Eugene-Gene-Gutierrez/#!/Obituary>

The Special Forces Brotherhood MC Camp Bullis mourns the passing of Jim "Blue" McLlroy and his service dog Osa, due to a motorcycle accident on

August 27th. Mr. McLlroy served on Recon Team Alabama in MACV-SOG during Vietnam, and later in the 10th SFG(A). May Jim and Osa rest in peace.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 10th. Lunch will begin at noon; remember we are now buying our lunch from the kitchen. Plates are \$10-\$12 dollars depending on the entrée being served. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. Hope to see you there and stay safe!



John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV

president@sfa-XV.org

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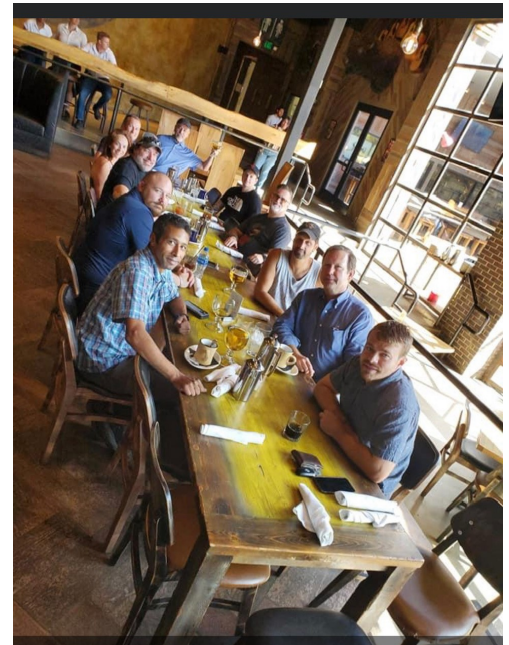
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Photos



Mandy Terrazas with CH XV President John Lopez.



August'22 Ranger SF breakfast

Remembering Gene Gutierrez and Jim McLlory

The Special Forces Brotherhood MC Camp Bullis mourns the passing of Jim "Blue" McLlory and his service dog Osa.



CH XV member and WWII veteran, Eugene (Gene) Gutierrez, of McAllen, TX.

Scholarships



Gen Valenzuela presents Madison Blue with a check.

Gen Valenzuela receives an appreciation plaque from CH XV President John Lopez.



August Meeting Minutes

SFA Chapter XV

13AUG22 1300 Member Meeting Notes

VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

President: John Lopez

Treasurer: Pete Martinez

Secretary: Mike Brown

Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **President John Lopez** introduced new member **James Elliot** from 3rd SFG(A).
2. Chapter member **Vito Cellini** turned 99 years young on 14AUG22. Happy Birthday to Vito.
3. **Sick and Distressed:** Chapter member Robert Simpson is currently in hospice. His wife Denyse is keeping the Chapter updated. Chapter member Rudy Johnson is in an independent living facility in Kerrville. Chapter member Buddy Gee is recovering and doing well and rehabilitating on river cruises.
4. Chapter **Treasurer Pete Martinez** provided the monthly and annual Budget update. The budget was accepted as read.
5. **Minutes:** The July minutes were posted in the August newsletter. Minutes were accepted as written.
6. **Chapter XV Membership** currently stands at 245 members. A reminder that anyone with a change of email or phone number should let the Membership Secretary know so that the Chapter and National rosters are updated.
7. SFA CH XV Education Grant: Committee Chair **Pat Connally** announced the winners of this year's grants during the meeting. Each student was previously provided with \$1,720.00 from the Chapter and at the meeting an additional \$500 matching donation for each student **from MG(R) Valenzuela**.
 - a. **Seth Bradley London:** Texas A&M and stepson of member **David Marshall**. Check accepted by his mother **Rhonda Marshall** (immediate supervisor of Chapter member **David Marshall**).
 - b. **Madison Blue:** Texas A&M and granddaughter of member **Don Blue**.
 - c. **Harland Cook:** Rice University and stepson of member **John Dominguez** (not present)

(continued on page 6)

August Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 5)

8. President John Lopez presented a plaque as appreciation to **Mandy Terrazas**, wife of member **Johnny Terrazas** for her support during the Canyon Lake Picnic.
9. President **John Lopez** briefed the Chapter on highlights from the July SFA National Presidents meeting. Key issues for SFA National under consideration or pending votes were:
 - a. Life Memberships to Medal of Honor recipients
 - b. Individual Chapter Ladies Auxiliary or SFA National Auxiliary options and if membership would be paid for or free.
 - c. National is moving forward with a strategic partnership with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) after an overwhelming majority vote. SFA and AUSA will seek opportunities to engage in mutually supporting activities where appropriate and where both organizations concur.
 - d. "The Drop": PDF file on the national website will be updated to make it more user friendly. Future new members "may" have to pay \$20 for a printed monthly copy.
 - e. There will be an option on the national website to enter your credit card information and pay your annual dues electronically with national and the Chapter receiving the appropriate allocation.
 - f. Vetting for new general members is DD214 or orders awarding the SF tab.
10. **Key dates were announced:**
 - a. **The Dicks Last Resort annual fundraiser is permanently cancelled. Event coordinator Fred Solis looking for**
 - b. **10SEP** is the date for the September Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
 - c. **11-15SEP** is the 1st SFG reunion in Mobile, Alabama.
 - d. **19SEP-25** is the 5th SFG reunion at FT Campbell, Kentucky. Details will be posted by SFA Chapter 38 when confirmed.
 - e. **20-24SEP** is the Special Forces Association International Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. The original Antler hotel is fully booked so recommend using the Hilton and Hyatt which are a five-minute walk from the convention site. Shuttle service will be provided. Detailed information in the Drop and on the SFA National Homepage.
 - f. **17-21OCT** is the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.
 - g. **12NOV** is the November Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
 - h. **10DEC** is the annual Chapter XV Christmas Ball at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Airport Hotel. No meeting will be held that month per normal practice.
11. Membership Comments:
 - a. **Chapter Chaplain Steven Rindhal** announced he would be leading a group of 13 veterans sponsored by the "Warriors on the Way" foundation to walk the 180 miles of the Camino de Santiago in Spain 10-25SEP. If you would like to donate or support this veteran non-profit contact **Steve Rindhal**.
12. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.



We realize that a Green Beret's transition out of the military is one of the most critical and sometimes most difficult times in their life. We take this very seriously by focusing on our three pillars: Resiliency, Redirection, and Reintegration. Within each of those pillars, we provide trust, strength, and direction. We provide both in-house GBF support and external resources advocacy, consultancy, and community connection to support the Green Beret's transition. We focus on connecting Green Berets with the mentors, programs, and advocates needed to make their next mission a success.



VA BENEFITS & CLAIMS PROGRAM

The Green Beret Foundation's Next Ridgeline® Transition Support program is designed to provide the Special Operations community a comprehensive understanding of the VA Benefits & Disability Claims process, and internal systems to ensure a fair and thorough evaluation of VA claims. VA claims accuracy can result in a quantifiable increase in tax-free compensation to each Green Beret's entire household.

THIS PROGRAM ADDRESSES CHALLENGES BY PROVIDING:

- ➔ Veteran Affairs advocacy to review current military/personnel service medical records or post-service VA.
- ➔ Access to our regional Accredited Veterans Services Officers (VSO) to file an original or updated VA disability claim.
- ➔ Pre-transition briefings for Special Forces soldiers and their family.
- ➔ Locating any treatment records or archived documents as evidence to submit when filing VA disability claims.
- ➔ Assess previous service documentation or records for a condition or an injury that could have potentially led to a service-connection: the in-service injury or diagnosis.

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GREENBERETFUNDATION.ORG**





Reaching Out and Lifting Up

It struck me earlier in the year that September 11th would fall on a Sunday this year. This is not the first time since 2001 that 9/11 has fallen on a Sunday – just the first time I noticed it. The reason that it stands out to me this year is that on Sunday, 9/11 of 2022, thirteen combat veterans will begin their PTSD/Moral Injury healing pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. The day that started the wars most of them served in is the day that they will take literal steps intended to heal the internal damage done by those wars. This will be the fourth iteration of the Warriors on the Way pilgrimage. Previous iterations have demonstrated amazing success in reducing the symptoms of both PTSD and Moral Injury. We pray the same for this year's pilgrimage.

A person does not need to, however, go off to another place and do some large event to find relief from PTSD/Moral Injury. There are definite steps each of us can take to reduce our experience of unwanted residual effects of our combat experience. The first is to get out and be with other people – especially those with similar

experiences as yourself (that is why the SFA, the VFW, and other vet orgs are so important). Go outside in a peaceful place and take a break from the hectic world. Drink less and exercise more. Get involved with a positive faith community of your choice. All of these steps have been proven to reduce the experience of symptoms of PTSD and Moral Injury. Do your body and soul some good and take these steps in your own personal pilgrimage of daily life.



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.

I Want To Join! **POST 8541**
 If you've served honorably in a foreign conflict, **even if you're still serving**, we want you on our side as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. By filling out the application on the next page, you can take the first step towards becoming part of the nation's largest group of combat veterans. We offer multiple membership options, from Annual membership to a Lifetime membership payable in one lump sum or as installments over the course of a year.

Annual Membership - \$45/year
 Lifetime Membership - see below

Mail in the completed application with the appropriate dues to the address on the back of the form, or bring it to your local VFW Post and you're on your way to becoming part of a group where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!**

Join the VFW!

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE	
	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	initial payment \$45.00 11 payments of \$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00 \$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00 \$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00 \$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00 \$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00 \$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00 \$15.45

POST 8541

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 78218

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Name: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____ Branch of Service: (circle all applicable) Phone: _____
 _____ ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE SSN (optional): _____
 _____ MARINES COAST GUARD Gender (M) (F)

Qualifying Foreign Service (circle all applicable)

- WORLD WAR II
- OCCUPATION SERVICE
- KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954)
- KOREA DUTY (1955-present)
- VIETNAM SERVICE
- EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS
- DESERT SHIELD/STORM
- BOSNIA/KOSOVO
- GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY
- AFGHANISTAN (2001-present)
- IRAQ (2003-2011)
- INHERENT RESOLVE (2014 - present)
- SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA
- HOSTILE FIRE / IMMINENT DANGER PAY

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (circle one)

Member-At-Large OR Post # _____

- ANNUAL MEMBER: Please enclose \$45 dues or Post dues of \$____
- Check if you wish to be automatically billed for annual dues
- LIFE MEMBER: Please enclose amount shown on table.
- LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN: Please enclose \$45 dues.
- Check if you wish to be automatically billed for installments

BILLING INFORMATION

- MASTERCARD VISA DISCOVER AMEX CHECK

Dates and location of service in an overseas conflict:

Please list any campaign medals received below:

I affirm that I am a citizen or national of the United States that my Campaign Service was honorable, and that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. government based on my overseas service or (2) I have served overseas in Korea or (3) I have received Imminent Danger or Hostile Fire Pay. I authorize your authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.

Applicant's Signature: _____
 Member's Name and Membership Number: _____
 Quartermaster's Signature and Membership Number: _____



2222 Austin Hwy **September 2022** 210-655-2944

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
VPR's at 6 PM	V Post 8541 V F Commander - Bill Smith F W Sr. Vice Commander - Robert DeArmon W W Quartermaster - Chris Espinoza W		#1 Post in TEXAS	1 1900 General Membership & Auxiliary Meetings Kitchen Open 4 - 7	2 P Victory Over Japan	3 Karaoke with Dalila
4 Pool League	5 Labor Day Hamburgers Hot Dogs 1 to 4 Check the Flyer	6 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	7 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	8 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	9 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	10 Karaoke with Dalila
11 Pool League Patriot Day	12 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	13 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	14 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	15 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	16 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	17 Karaoke with Dalila
18 Pool League	19 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	20 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	21 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	22 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	23 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	24 Something Blue
25 Pool League	26 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	27 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	28 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	29 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	30 P KITCHEN OPEN 5 - 7	ASWAA Meeting 1230 3rd Saturday
Alamo Model A Club Meeting 3rd Sunday at 1 PM	Post Calendar	Post Web Page	Scholarship	Saturday Bands Play From 6:30 to 10:30 Meals are 5:30 to 7:00	SPECIAL FORCES 1200-1400 2nd Sat. of the Month	Sickcall Every Sunday 1300 - 1500



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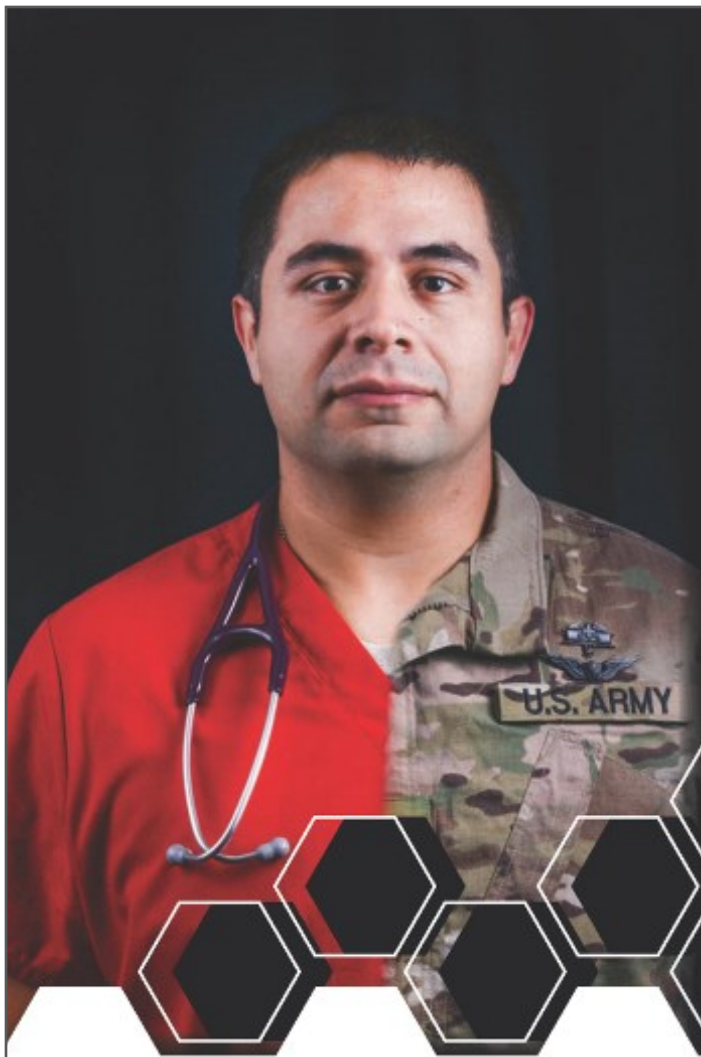
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GREEN BERET SFA CHAPTER XV

2022 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
01 New Year's Day 15 Board Meeting 1100hrs 15 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 17 Martin Luther King Day	12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Valentine's Day 15 Drop Input Due 21 President's Day 26 CH XV 45 th Anniversary	02 Ash Wednesday 05 Board Meeting 1130hrs 05 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11-13 Cotulla Event 13 Daylight Savings Time Change 17 St. Patrick's Day 20 Spring Begins 25 CMOH Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
01 April Fool's Day 02 4th Annual GBF Crawfish Boil 09 CH XV Memorial 1000hrs 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Palm Sunday 15 Good Friday 17 Easter Sunday	08 Mother's Day NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING 13-15 Canyon Lake Picnic 15 Drop Input Due 30 Memorial Day	11 Board Meeting 1130hrs 11 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 19 Father's Day/Juneteenth
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
04 Independence Day 09 Board Meeting 1130hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs	13 Board Meeting 1130hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due	05 Labor Day 10 Board Meeting 1130hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 16 POW/MIA Day 20-24 SFAIC
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
08 Board Meeting 1130hrs 08 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 10 Columbus Day 13 or 27 DLR's Fundraiser 15 JBSA Octoberfest 17-21 SOAR Reunion	06 Daylights Saving Time Change 11 Veterans Day 12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due 24 Thanksgiving Day	07 Pearl Harbor Day NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10 Christmas Banquet 25 Christmas Day

Annual Membership Dues are now due. Pay \$40 for dues online at Chapter website, in person at Chapter meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782.



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Treasurer's Report, September 2022:

Have a safe and Happy Labor Day. All three checks have been given to all scholarship recipients, along with them all being cashed leaving the Business Account at \$1,109.95. I look forward to hearing about the details for our Oct fundraiser event. Nothing else was cashed or spent for Aug. One check was deposited for \$50 and \$292 in cash into our Business Account.

As of 03 Sept 2022, the following accounts are as follows:

Primary Business Account: \$1,109.95

Investment Account: \$13,222.23

12 Month CD: \$15,073.25

All the best,

Pete Martinez, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

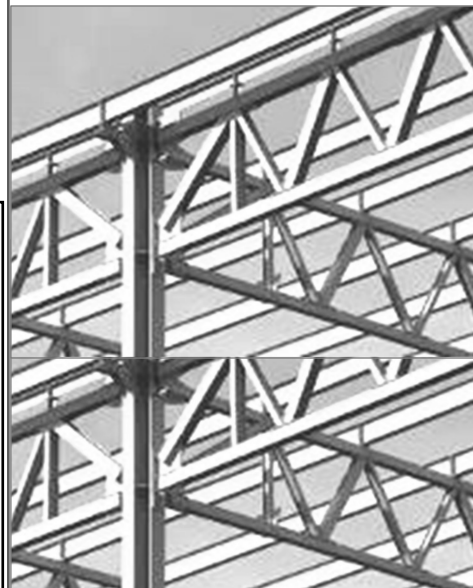
Chief Engineer-CEO



32310 Flat Rock View
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493



Terrazas and Associates, Inc.

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:

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These are business-card ads

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Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Thanks to John Lopez for the photos in this month's newsletter

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 Daniel Bell 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!"