



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## *The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue #07-22

July 2022

**President:** John Lopez  
**Vice-President:** Pat Meffert  
**Secretary:** Mike Brown  
**Asst. Secretary:** Sergio Venegas  
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**Asst. Treasurer:** Merrill Hall  
**Sgt at Arms:** Gordon Lee  
**Asst. Sgt at Arms:** Raul de la Garza  
**Membership Secy:** Sergio Venegas  
**Past President:** Bill Smith  
**Editor:** Daniel Bell  
**Webmaster:** Stefanie Young  
**VGSA Rep:** Raul de la Garza  
**Chaplains:** R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

### Visit us at our Home Page:

[www.sfa-xv.org](http://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



July 04 — Independence Day

July 09 — Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

### Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting



## 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:

**H**appy 4th of July! I hope everyone had a happy and safe Independence Day weekend. We are now beginning the second half of the year and summer is officially here. We have started with 100-degree weather since early May, so stay hydrated!

Speaking of hydration... Longtab Brewing Co., is releasing their new Lager called "Longtab Lager". It will go on sale July 1st at high noon. You still need to drink water though...ha ha!

I would like to congratulate our Chapter Education Grant/Scholarship winners:

Seth Bradley London for Texas A&M, stepson of David Marshall.

Madison Blue for Texas A&M, granddaughter of Donald Blue.

Harland Cook for Rice University, stepson of John Dominguez.

I would like to ask that if the student cannot be present for the July meeting, that a sponsor/family member be present to receive the grant.

We are a little over just two months away from the Special Forces Association International Convention (SFAIC). This year it is in Colorado Springs, CO. It will go through the 20-24th of September (Tues-Sat). Antler Hall Hotel is fully booked. Suggestions are: the Hilton & the Hyatt. It is approximately a 5 min walk to convention from both, they will also be providing a shuttle service. 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.



If you have a car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or RV that you no longer need or want, the Green Beret Foundation has just announced their new Vehicle Donation Program. Your donation will be towed for free and you'll receive a tax deduction. For more information go to [greenberetfoundation.org](http://greenberetfoundation.org) under "other ways to give", or by calling 877-957-2277.

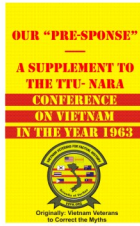
Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 9th. Lunch will begin at noon; remember we are now buying our lunch from the kitchen. Plates are \$10-\$12 dollars depending on the entrée being served. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. Hope to see you there and stay safe!

John A. Lopez  
President, SFA Chapter XV

*[president@sfa-XV.org](mailto:president@sfa-XV.org)*



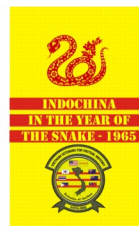
# “Indochina in the Year of. . .” Series by VVFH



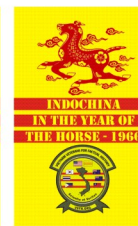
The Original  
“Little Yellow Book”



The Dragon  
1964



The Snake  
1965



The Horse  
1966



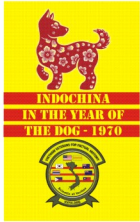
The Goat  
1967



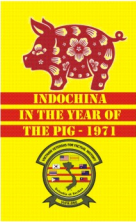
The Monkey  
1968



The Cock  
1969



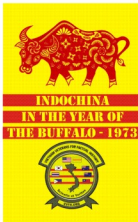
The Dog  
1970



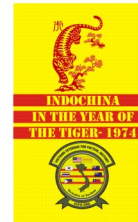
The Pig  
1971



The Rat  
1972



The Buffalo  
1973



The Tiger  
1974



The Cat  
1975



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# Remembering Tony Aquiningoc

Celebration of Life  
*Antonio "Tony" Afleje Aquiningoc*  
 November 11, 1944 - June 12, 2022



Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me  
 to be a happy one,  
 I'd like to leave an afterglow  
 of smiles when life is done.  
 I'd like to leave an echo  
 whispering softly down the ways,  
 of happy times and laughing times  
 and bright and sunny days.  
 I'd like the tears of those who grieve  
 to dry before the sun  
 of happy memories that I leave  
 behind when day is done.



**Antonio Afleje Aquiningoc**  
 November 11, 1944 to June 12, 2022



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
 And let perpetual light shine upon him.  
 May he rest in peace.*

# Echo Hill Ranch



Gold Star kids enjoying their week  
 of summer camp out at the Echo Hill Gold  
 Star Camp.



# June Meeting Minutes

## SFA Chapter XV

### 11JUN22 1300 Member Meeting Notes

### VFW Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas

Leadership Presiding:

Vice President: Pat Meffert

Secretary: Mike Brown

Treasurer: Pete Martinez

### Summary of Chapter Business:

1. **President John Lopez** not able to attend due to personal business out-of-state.
2. Meeting Highlight: **SFA National President Kevin Harry** was in town and briefed the Chapter on recent SFA news:
  - a. Recent National Election results
  - b. Overview of SFA National Initiatives
  - c. SFA National Convention update
  - d. SFA referendum results:
    - i. Only SF full members will be able to be national officers
    - ii. Only SF full members will vote for national officers
    - iii. Only SF full members will be able to vote for Constitution Changes
    - iv. All other rules at the national and local level remain unchanged.
3. **Vice President Pat Meffert** provided a sick and distress update. Highlighted were **Edgar Morales** who is now home with an injury and expecting further treatment. He provided a **Tony Aquiningoc** update, however, subsequently the Chapter was notified of his passing. Chapter XV was represented at his services held here in San Antonio.
4. Chapter **Treasurer Pete Martinez** provided the monthly and annual Budget. Membership voted unanimously to accept the budget reports as written.
5. **Minutes:** There was no meeting in May due to the Chapter picnic so not minutes for presentation at the JUN meeting.
6. **Membership Secretary Sergio Vanegas** announced Chapter membership again increased and stood at 249 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.

(continued on page 6)

# June Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 5)

7. **Member Tom Tannahil** briefed the Chapter on his presentation of an award to the Rudders Rangers ROTC group at Texas A&M University on 18APR. This presentation was done on a trial basis in coordination with the Special Forces Chapter 28 in Montana. Tom will provide an AAR to the Chapter and the Chapter will determine if it wants to support this effort in the future.
8. SFA CH XV Education Grant: Committee Chair **Pat Connally** briefed they will announce the winners of this year's grants during the July meeting. Applications were due 30APR.
9. **Key dates were announced:**
  - a. **24JUN** is the 70th Special Forces Anniversary Picnic at the SFA HQ in Fayetteville, NC. They are asking \$10 per person to attend. See Chapter leadership for attendance info or see it on the SFA National Website.
  - b. **09JUL** is the date for the July Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
  - c. **13AUG** is the date for the August Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
  - d. **10SEP** is the date for the September Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
  - e. **11-15SEP** is the 1st SFG reunion in Mobile, Alabama.
  - f. **19-25SEP** is the 5th SFG reunion at FT Campbell, Kentucky. Details will be posted by SFA Chapter 38 when confirmed.
  - g. **17-21OCT** is the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.
  - h. **12NOV** is the November Chapter XV meeting per SOP.
  - i. **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.
10. Membership Comments: Nothing to highlight
11. Meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.





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## VA BENEFITS & CLAIMS PROGRAM

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## 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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## July: In-progress Review

**W**elcome to July – I hope you enjoyed celebrating on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Being in July puts us in the second half of the calendar year. How has the first half gone for you? It seems that the entire world is trying to learn how to be “normal” again after the massive disruptions created by covid and results are mixed. Russia is continuing its war in the Ukraine, which keeps many people’s attention but has minimal daily impact on the life of most Americans. For the majority of our society, we are mostly in a stage of few external pressures. It is a good time to do a personal review.

In the Church’s liturgical calendar there are two times a year in which the faithful are encouraged to reflect on their lives. At Advent, near the end of fall, one is encouraged to reflect on what you want to be/how you desire to improve/question how can you be a new creation in Christ. Then the faithful is provided a season of reflection again during Lent, in the spring leading up to Easter, when the questions for consideration ask – Am I living up to my own and God’s expectations?, with God’s being the more important question. The calendar our society, and most of the world, follows does not include these seasons but it does have times prime for personal reflection.

Each year as the winter holidays progress, regardless of our faith practices (or lack thereof), we all begin to think of the new year. “New Year – New Me,” among many other such phrases, is heard on the lips of friends and family. It seems we all take time to reflect on who we want to be, how we want to improve, and how we can make ourselves better at the dawn of the new year. July, being the start of the second half of the calendar year, offers you the chance to reflect again. July can be the month of your In-Progress Review. Are you achieving that which you set out to in January? Are there still more changes/improvements to be made? Did something create a personal roadblock and now is the time to stop, reflect, and see how to remove it? Give yourself an IPR this July, and make the most of your life.



Buen Camino,  
Fr Steve

CH (MAJ, Ret.) Steven G Rindahl, DMin  
A-663 (Life)



# Warriors on the Way

[www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org](http://www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org)

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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

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 \_\_\_\_\_ ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE SSN (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
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OCCUPATION SERVICE	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY	
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KOREA DUTY (1955-present)	IRAQ (2003-2011)	
VIETNAM SERVICE	INHERENT RESOLVE (2014 - present)	
EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS	SSBN DETERRENCE PATROL INSIGNIA	
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's Name and Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quartermaster's Signature and Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
1 <b>SPECIAL FORCES</b> 1200-1400 2nd Sat. of the Month	2 <b>Sickcall</b> Every Sunday 1300 - 1500	3 <b>V Post 8541 V #1</b> Commander - Bill Smith Sr. Vice Commander - Chris Espinoza Quartermaster - Chris Espinoza	4 <b>TEXAS HOLD'EM</b>	5 <b>Philly Cheese</b> Steak Night \$10 Pre-4th of July Party	6 <b>Pool League</b>	7 <b>4th of July</b> Ceremony 1 PM Hamburgers Chili Dogs, Onions Pot Luck 1 to 4	8 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	9 <b>1900 General</b> Membership and Auxiliary Meetings Kitchen Open 5-7	10 <b>TEXAS HOLD'EM</b> 7 PM	11 <b>Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce</b> Broccoli Spears Garlic Bread Spring Salad \$10 Something Blue
10 <b>Pool League</b>	11 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	12 	13 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	14 	15 <b>TEXAS HOLD'EM</b>	16 <b>BBQ Chicken</b> Mashed Taters Lyonnaise Corn Garden Salad Corn Bread \$10 Karaoke with Dalila				
17 <b>Pool League</b>	18 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	19 	20 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	21 <b>House Committee Meeting</b> 1800	22 <b>TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER</b>	23 <b>Open Kitchen</b> Cross Hill Junction				
24 <b>Pool League</b>	25 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7	26 	27 <b>POOL</b> KITCHEN OPEN 5-7 Korean Armistice	28 <b>SUPPORT YOUR POST. BUY YOUR BUDDY A DRINK.</b>	29 <b>TEXAS HOLD'EM</b>	30 <b>Open Kitchen</b>				
31 <b>Pool League</b>	32 <b>Alamo Model A Club Meeting</b> 3rd Sunday at 1 PM	33 <b>ASWAA Meeting</b> 1230 3rd Saturday	34 <b>VPR's at 6 PM</b>	35 <b>For the latest info on Post activities, go to</b> www.vfwpost8541.org	36 <b>Saturday Music</b> 7:00 to 11:00 Meals 5:30 to 7:00	37 <b>Calendar is subject to change.</b> This is version 1 effective 27 Jun 22				

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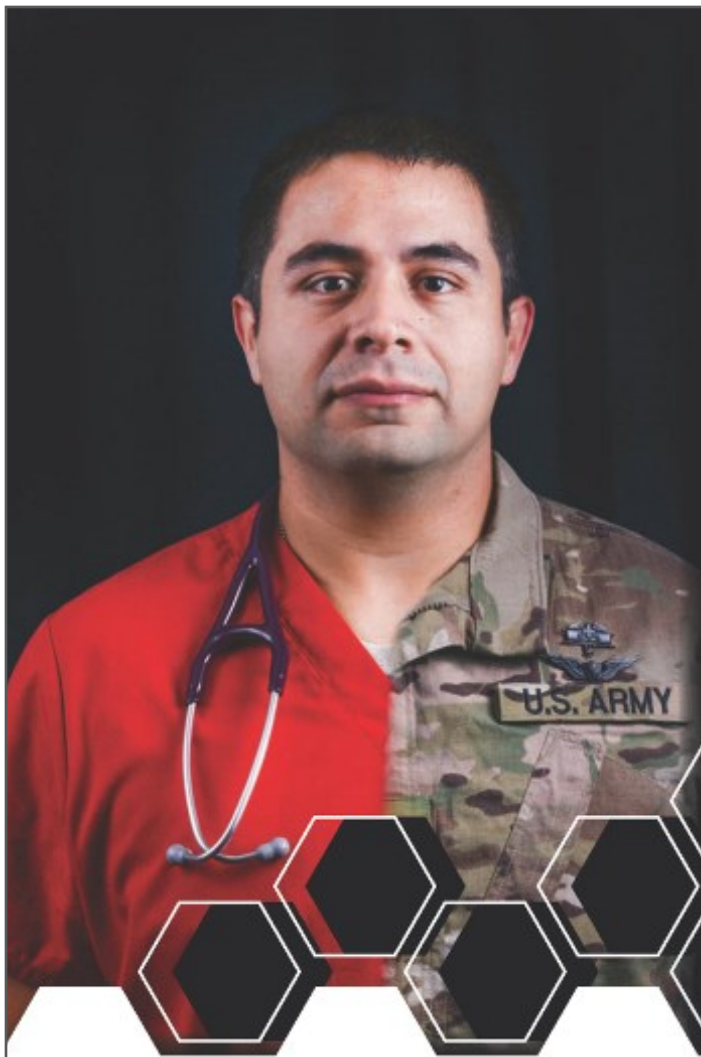
# GREEN BERET SFA CHAPTER XV

## 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 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 <b>NO BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 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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## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, July 2022:

Happy 4th of July! June quickly came and passed and we are already tearing through July. I wanted to send a thank you to an anonymous donor who wrote a check for \$500, thank you and much appreciated. During the month of June, \$440 in cash was deposited into the primary account; this included merchandise sales along with raffle ticket earnings. A check for \$385, was sent to National to cover the Lifetime member dues, along with \$164.51 for flowers, totaling \$549.51. The exact dollar amount for the scholarship is roughly \$2,220 per student, this will be confirmed at this month's meeting. In total, the Chapter along with Gen Valenzuela has put up a total of \$6,660 for 2022.

As of 07 July 2020, the following accounts are as follows:

Primary Business Account: \$6363.70

Investment Account: \$13,222.01

12 Month CD: \$15,071.99

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

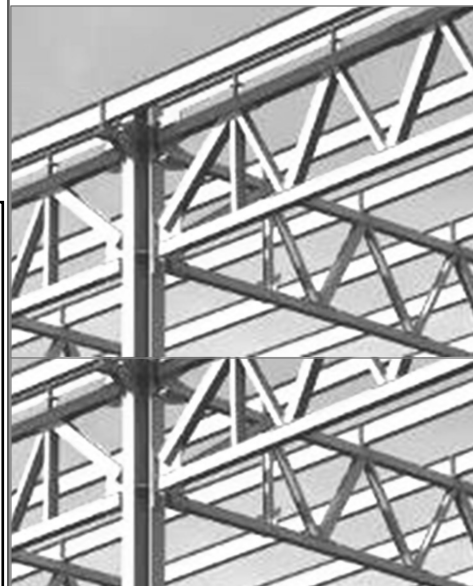
Chief Engineer-CEO



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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**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](mailto: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!"**