



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #8-19

August 2019

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Juan Lopez
Secretary: J.W. Martin
Asst. Secretary: David Marshall
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Asst. Treasurer: Mike Pagel
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster:
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
JROTC Awards: Juan 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: Bill Smith
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee
Chapter Memorial Svc: J.W. Martin
Chapter Annual Cruise: Karen Hermann

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1 — SFA Board Meeting

1400—VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

August 3 — Membership Meeting

1200 — Noon meal served

1300 — Business meeting

August 13-18 — SFA National Convention

Charleston, W.V.

OCTOBER 10 —CHAPTER FUNDRAISER AT DICK'S LAST RESORT

Oct. 19 — Oktoberfest at Fort Sam Houston



DON'T FORGET



• There is still time to register for the SFA National Convention in Charleston, W.V., honoring Gold Star families. See full schedule at [SFA website](http://www.sfa-xv.org).

• It's time to collect quality items for the silent auction at Dick's Last Resort

fundraiser. Ask your business friends for donations of goods and/or services to support this worthy cause. POC is Fred Solis.

• Christmas Banquet tickets now on sale. See P. 9.

• Sick call every Sunday, 1300 hours at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

The Board meeting is Thursday 1 August at 1400 with our membership meeting Saturday 3 August at 1300. Lunch will be served from 1200-1300 and the meeting will start at 1300. I will have the Christmas Banquet tickets available for purchase. It is important to purchase your tickets soon as they will go quickly. It is our intent to have at least a table for each of the redeploying SF units here in Texas.

Special Operations Detachment - Africa out of Austin has returned home from their deployment. They will be having their Yellow Ribbon Ceremony in August with a welcome home party in September. I will get the information out as I get it. I have been in contact with the commander and members of the unit. They are all back safe.

I have been in contact with one of our members serving in one of the combat zones, and they are fighting the good fight. Please keep them in your prayers. They are set to return in the next several weeks. I will also keep everyone posted on their return, as it would be great to welcome them home also.

Our next main event will be the National SFA Convention in West Virginia. This year they will be honoring Gold Star families. The dates of the convention are 12-18 August. There is still time to sign up for the convention and to purchase

tickets for the many events. It should be a great event.

Remember, nominations for officers will be in September and October with the voting in November. Chuck Rose is heading up the committee with assistance from Bobby Walker. If you are interested in filling one of the leadership positions, please let Chuck or Bobby know.



It has been a great five years and I enjoyed working with everyone. We have a great chapter and I believe we set a great example. I know I have dropped off some this past year and want to thank the board, as well as the membership, for being there when needed. Over the next couple of years, I plan to focus heavy on our VFW and District 20. I believe all the organizations working together has enabled our VFW to become the best in Texas.

I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys their family.

William Smith
Chapter XV President

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, July 2019

Your treasurer had a very busy month. Disbursements were \$4,000 and income nearly \$6,000.

Karen Hermann presented a handsome check for the Chapter's second annual fund-raising cruise.

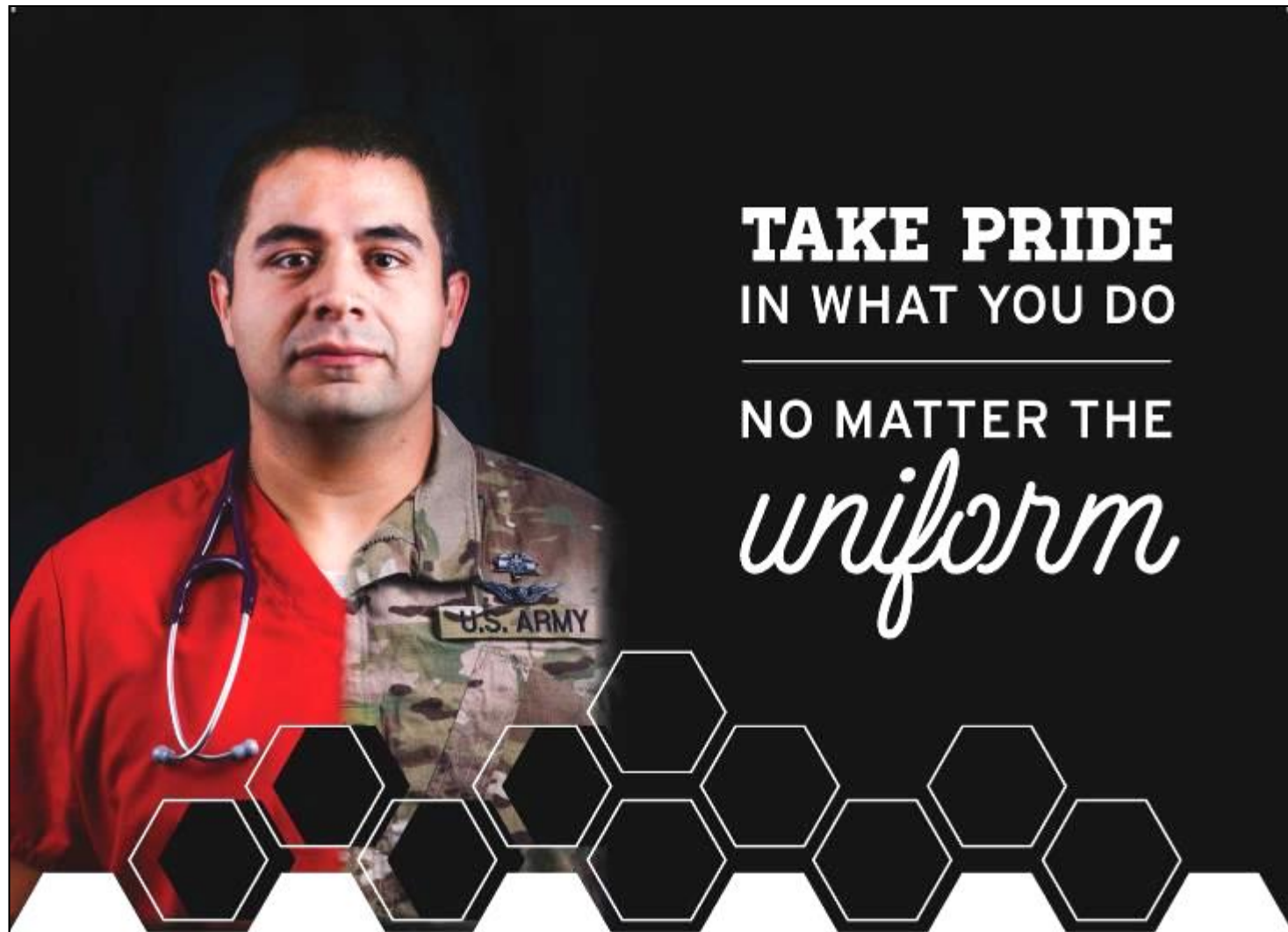
Donations were made by John Rodden, Steve Rindahl, Holly Signs, Simeon Trombitas and George Garcia. Barry Archer donated to sponsor a meal.

Other income was from the Fiesta San Antonio Commission for Fiesta medal sales, and from the monthly door prize drawing and merchandise sales.

July expenses included five scholarship grants, contributions to two local charities, payment for 2020 Fiesta Commission membership dues and several plaques. Web maintenance fees and the July noon meal were also included in the monthly expenses. A detailed accounting will be provided at the August membership meeting.

You can now order your Christmas Banquet tickets and pay with credit/debit card on the Chapter's web site at www.sfa-xv.org.

Buddy Gee
Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com



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Minutes of July Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 13 July 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by Vice President John Lopez followed by the pledge allegiance, a moment of silence. Steve Rindahl gave the invocation. The Vice President then welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter. Chuck Rose had his daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Don Signs, as guests. Langdon Anonk (US Navy) visiting from Hawaii was also recognized. Nice to see Mike Simpson again.

A donation was then presented to the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club to support their school supplies drive.

Karen Hermann gave the totals for the Chapter cruise and presented a check from the proceeds.

Scholarship plaques and checks were passed out to this year's winners: Antonio Dawson, son of Chapter member Joel Dawson; Rachel Jimenez, granddaughter of Henry Jimenez; Daniel Kremer, grandson of Barry Archer; John Lopez, Chapter member; and Natalie James, granddaughter of Jose Campos.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Buddy Gee presented the monthly report and it was accepted as read.
- b. **Minutes:** June Minutes as published in the newsletter were accepted by the membership.
- c. **Membership report:** Marti Scott stated that we currently have 204 members.

- d. **Dick's Last Resort:** Vice President Lopez shared a message from Fred Solis saying that Dick's is on for Thursday, 10 October. This is the Chapter's biggest fundraiser.
- e. **Cruise:** Karen Hermann is looking at dates and options for next year's cruise as it was again a great success. One of the things being considered is a land trip and change of dates; more info to follow. If you have any input or desires, talk with Karen.
- f. **Christmas Banquet:** Tickets are now on sale (\$55) for the event, which is 14 December.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **The Chapter Election Committee** will form in July, with nomination of officers for 2-year terms in September and October, and the vote in November. Chuck Rose is heading the Nominations Committee.
- b. **Donations** are being accepted for the 1st Fiesta Medal and Shadow Box, to be owned by the Chapter and displayed at Longtab Brewing. Gordon Lee said that due to the success of the medal sales, we would be starting earlier for next year and go to more events. We also were invited to participate in this year's Octoberfest at JBSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1354.

Respectfully submitted,
JW Martin, D2041L
Chapter Secretary



Chapter Vice President Juan Lopez presents donation to officers of the Blue Knights MC Club to support their annual school supplies drive. Accepting with thanks, from left to right, are Ron Davidson, Hugo Garcia, Bryan Ratcliff and Garry Thompson.

—Photo by Ben Scott

Bob Jenkins

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06/20

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



At left, Vice President Juan Lopez presents scholarship check and plaque to Antonio Dawson, son of Joe Dawson. At right, Juan accepts his own scholarship from Treasurer Buddy Gee. Antonio is attending Northwest Vista College, and Juan is attending St. Phillips College. Below, proud grandpas Jose Campos, Barry Archer and Henry Jimenez accept the awards on behalf of their grandkids, Natalia James, Daniel Kremer and Rachel Jimenez, respectively, during July meeting.



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Chapter News

Get Ready for 15th annual Night at Dick's

Fred Solis has coordinated with the new manager of Dick's Last Resort on the Riverwalk and announces: "We are all set for Oct. 10."

That's great news! With recent changes of ownership and management at the company, Chapter officers were not sure of plans for this year's fundraiser. Now the plans are in place for the 15th annual event.

Fred says Dick's will provide food and drink, as always, from 1800 to 2100 hours. The manager has agreed to set up the buffet and bar, an area for the silent auction, and arrange tables to maximize space and guest flow. Fred has also booked Fred Salinas to sing and play for the evening.

Now it will be up to Chapter members to sell tickets, promote the event and gather high-quality items for the silent auction. Donations of goods and services will be acknowledged at the auction. Fred will also be asking for



volunteers to help with the door prizes, on-site ticket sales, etc.

This is always a fun event and has been the major fundraiser for Chapter XV for



Fred

more than a decade. So please put it on your calendar:

- Night at Dick's Last Resort
- Green Beret Chapter XV 15th annual fundraiser
- Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019 -- 1800-2100 hours
- 223 Losoya St. (or enter from Riverwalk)
- Includes buffet, draft beer, wine and well drinks, live music, silent auction, door prizes
- Ticket price TBA

SFA.Colonel@hotmail.com

Hospice Seeks Veteran Volunteers

A Message from Laura Brown

Our hospice program has a number of patients who have served in the armed forces both in combat and noncombat situations. These veterans would benefit so much from a brother or sister in arms to come by and visit, to swap stories, to sit with them while their caregiver runs errands or attends their own appointments. No caregiving skills are required, just a kindred spirit and a service heart. Some of them love to hear music, some love to hear Bible verses, others would love to watch old wartime movies with someone who sees them the same way.

You could make an incredible difference for someone who has served like you have. Every day, every minute for these veterans is precious and they may need an ear or just the presence of another who has been far from home, possibly in a situation of fear or uncertainty. It can mean so much to know that someone understands your experiences, even if no words are spoken between you.

YOU CAN SERVE THESE PATRIOTS IN A WAY THAT WE CANNOT. PLEASE HELP US MEET THE UNSPOKEN NEED.

If you have an hour or two a month to spend with another Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine, please contact Diane Sell,

Volunteer Services Coordinator
The Medical Team Hospice at 303-489-2923

Laura A. Brown, MSN, RN CHPN
Director of Clinical Services
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Chapter News



Chapter Cruise pays off

Karen Hermann, the Chapter's cruise planner and marketing whiz, officially presented a check for proceeds of our spring Caribbean Cruise to Vice President Juan Lopez during the July meeting. It was a whopping \$4,450, composed of commissions donated by Austin travel agent Sheri Green, cabin credits from Carnival cruise line and add-on fees from the cruisers. Karen worked extremely hard before and during the cruise to make it another great success!

Now she is thinking about next year. She recommends moving the annual getaway farther into the year to give some distance from the Canyon Lake Picnic and April's Fiesta events. She is considering two possibilities — a 7-day summer cruise from Galveston to Key West, Nassau and a private island in the Bahamas; or a shorter land vacation at an all-inclusive luxury resort on Mexico's Riviera Maya. With direct flights now from San Antonio to Cancun, the airfare plus resort fees would be roughly equal to the cruise fare.

Karen would like to hear from members as to their preference between the cruise or the land resort. khermann@wth.com

From the Nomination Committee

Chuck Rose & Bobby Walker

Nominations process for Chapter XV Board of Directors, for a two year period, 2020-2021, in accordance with Chapter By-Laws will be held during the September and October Membership Meetings. For those unable to attend the meetings, nominations will be accepted by Chuck Rose over the phone, starting in September. The phone number will be published in next Newsletter. The election will take place beginning October 15 for absentee ballots and at the November Membership Meeting. The new board of directors will be announced at the end of the November Membership Meeting and will be sworn in at the Chapter Christmas Banquet on December 14. The eight positions open for nomination are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant at Arms
- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Treasurer
- Assistant Sargent at Arms

If you plan to nominate someone for office, please confirm with the person that they are willing to accept the nomination.

In accordance with Chapter By-Laws the President can only serve two consecutive terms in office, or a total of four years. Thus, Bill Smith cannot be nominated again for President for the upcoming election. Other positions have no restrictions for number of terms in office.



From Marsha 'Marti' Scott Membership Secretary

Congratulations to our Chapter XV members in helping our Chapter continue to grow. We are now at 205 members, and with your help in recruiting and locating those who are eligible or are 'out of touch' mem-

Marti bers, we will grow even stronger. The Chapter has such a long history and we'd like to expand that with our 'younger' generations coming into our fold. Their strong belief of continuing the sharing of Brotherhood and keeping alive the ideas and beliefs of what makes Special Forces stand out as the Best of the Best will forever stand in the forefront!

As a reminder, at the end of the fiscal year (Sept 30) dues for those who are Annual Members will become due for FY 2020. You have until Dec 31 to have them paid. Please put a reminder on your calendars (or for those technically savvy, in your phones.) Thank you for continually supporting our Chapter and being an important part of it!

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please feel free to email me.

oneangeLFL@hotmail.com

Chapter News

Chapter XV and VFW join up for Oktoberfest



Raul



Chris

Thanks to our membership in the Fiesta San Antonio Commission, the Chapter has been invited to participate in Fort Sam Houston's Oktoberfest on Oct. 19.

Chapter XV and VFW Post 8541 will join forces to participate in the event, with Raul de la Garza being the point of contact for SFA and Chris Marshall for VFW. They will attend a vendors meeting on Sept. 12 to pay the \$50 fee and finalize their plans.

The Oktoberfest will feature live music, authentic Biergarten-tapping of the keg, food trucks, games, and arts and crafts vendors. Angela Perez of the 502nd Force Support Squadron at JBSA says the purpose of the event is "to show our appreciation to our troops and to provide a fun time for all

the military families and the JBSA community."

Chris and Raul hope to bring the SFA trailer to attract attention to our booth. They propose to sell coasters, coins, medals, mugs, shirts and other swag. They will also have brochures and recruitment tools for both SFA and VFW.

Chris says they will need volunteers from the Chapter to help man the booth from 1 to 9 p.m. Susan Marshall will have sign-up sheets at Chapter meetings for two-hour "tours of duty."

Sounds like Oktoberfest will be a fun time and a chance for a high-profile appearance as part of the military community.



CHRISTMAS BANQUET DECEMBER 14, 2019

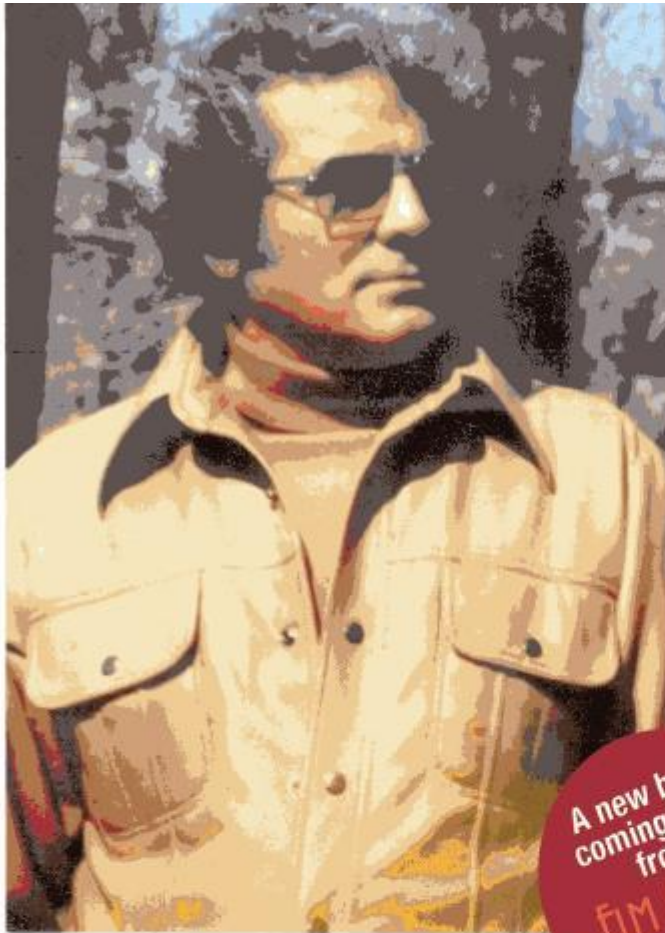
El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel
110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio 78205

- ◆ Hospitality Room, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Social, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Banquet, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (approximate)
- ◆ Dancing to the music of Rick Salinas, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- ◆ Tickets: \$55 each

Purchase tickets online with credit card or PayPal. www.sfa-xv.org



This is the official 2019 Fiesta poster, framed with the very first Chapter XV Fiesta Medal. Members are being asked to donate toward purchase of the artwork, which will be displayed on permanent loan at Longtab Brewing in San Antonio.



In World War II he fought with the armies of three different countries.

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Born in New York and raised in Italy, Vito "Tutuc" Cellini went from street gangster to soldier to resistance fighter to secret agent – all before he was twenty-one years of age.

Drafted into the fascist Italian army against his will and sent to the front line, he deserted and joined Tito's Yugoslavian Partisans fighting the Nazis, returning to Italy to join the Allies amid one of the biggest cover-ups of the European war.

He ended the war working covertly with the American OSS (forerunner of the CIA) hunting down criminals and undesirables.

Sailing home to New York in 1948 with a forged Italian passport and just 12 cents in his pocket, he was arrested at Ellis Island. Since then, Cellini's inventiveness, reputation and irrepressible sense of adventure have taken him all over the world, often putting his life in great peril.

Respected by the New York Mafia, Cellini later negotiated with some of the most feared organized crime syndicates in Italy. Nicaragua's President Somoza sought his advice on guerilla warfare and weapons tactics, and while in Nicaragua he was embroiled in the assassination of a high profile journalist and had

to flee for his life.

Cellini has kept Federal Agents informed of credible plots to assassinate known enemies of the United States. He even served for a short time, albeit inadvertently, as bodyguard for a notorious drug lord in Mexico.

He has never been afraid of taking the law into his own hands because, he says, sometimes that is the only way to survive.

His inventions, including the *Cellini Muzzle Brake*, have earned him 19 patents and the undying respect and gratitude of members of the U.S. Special Forces and Law Enforcement. He has been privileged to count some of America's most revered and decorated military heroes among his closest friends.

Cellini is, more than anything, a patriot; a man who puts honor above all. And while some of his adventures make fictional spies and secret agents pale by comparison, unlike his fictitious counterparts, Cellini always remained faithful to one woman.

Now at the age of 94, he finally feels comfortable talking about his life, and he isn't pulling any punches.

The good. The bad. The ugly. The truth.



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Cellini: Freedom Fighter

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Don't be a (spiritual) heat casualty

We are entering August and the summer heat is here. Days are longer, hotter and dryer.

When we first enter Basic Combat Training, we are indoctrinated on how not to be a heat casualty: Do not dehydrate! If you dehydrate you can suffer multiple bodily system failures, up to and including death. Step one – drink a lot of water. Going to BCT at Fort Sill in the mid-'80s, that meant drinking a quart of water every hour on the hour and then turning the canteen upside down over your head to prove it was empty. The next step was to self-check your hydration in the latrine, and drinking more than what was being externally enforced in order to get your urine as close to clear as possible. Of course, there was protection from the sun with headgear, long sleeves, sunscreen and maximizing the use of shade whenever possible.

Although forced hydration is probably no longer part of your daily activities, I hope that these basic principles of self-care are still part of your life. The easiest and most commonly abided principle is to make sure you are taking in enough liquids – most importantly water.

Similarly, in the heat created by the stresses and temptations of daily life, our spirits and souls can dehydrate. A lack of self-care and protection against spiritual dehydration can cause a variety

of problems in our lives. Spiritual dehydration, like its physical brother, leads to multiple system failures. Turning to drugs, excessive alcohol usage, risky behaviors, other illicit activities are all signs of system failures associated with spiritual dehydration. You need to, instead, find what feeds your soul and refreshes your spirit. For many, it is time in the outdoors, good hobbies, friends and family, among other good and helpful things.

I suggest also growing closer to God, who throughout the Scriptures is referred to as the Fount of Living Waters. And when you drink in deeply of the Living Waters, you yourself are promised this from Jesus: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'." (John 7:37-38). So do not be a heat casualty! When you step outside and feel the heat of the sun, drink some water. Let those moments be a reminder that it is also time to drink in the Son, who gives you Living Water.

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



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GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2019 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
10 Board Meeting 1400 12 Membership Meeting 31 February Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 42nd anniversary 28 March Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 6 Membership Meeting 1100 28-5 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser 30 Scholarship applications due TBD JROTC Presentations	2 Board Meeting 1400 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 17-19 Canyon Lake Picnic 27 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 30 June Board Meeting 1400	1 Membership Meeting 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 11 Board Meeting 1400 13 Membership Meeting	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 13-18 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 20 POW/MIA Day
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
3 Board Meeting 1400 5 Membership Meeting 31 November Board meeting	2 Membership Meeting Officer Elections 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 1000 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Pearl Harbor Day NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 14 Christmas Banquet
<p>All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.</p>		

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*

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:

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sgmgee@aol.com



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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

13-18 AUG 2019 SFA International Convention, Charleston, WV.
Charleston Marriott Town Center
POC Kevin Harry, divemedic@yahoo.com
<https://www.sfanationalconvention.com/>

16-21 SEPT 2019 5th Special Forces Group Reunion, Clarksville, TN
Country Inn & Suites
POC: www.sfa38.org

13-17 OCT 2019 1st Special Forces Group Reunion, Las Vegas, NV.
The Plaza Hotel & Casino
POC Phil Grounds, steppingwild@gmail.com

21-25 OCT 2019 Special Operations Association Reunion XLIII, Las Vegas
Orleans Hotel and Casino
POC Ivan Davis, registrar4soar@gmail.com

Thanks to Ben Scott for photos in this issue.

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The Editors



“Carry on!”