



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## *The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue # 02-18

February 2018

**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:** Buddy Gee  
**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  
**Motorcycle Challenge:** Gordon Lee  
**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

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1 — Board Meeting**  
1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway
- March 3 — Regular Meeting**  
0930 — SFA/Ranger Breakfast  
1100 — SFA Membership Meeting
- March 9-11 — Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff**  
LaSalle County Fairgrounds, Cotulla TX



## DON'T FORGET



- Our next big Chapter event is the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff March 9-11. POC is Mike Brown. Details on Page 6.
- Members signed up for the fundraising Caribbean Cruise will be saying 'Bon Voyage' on April 15.
- It's time to reserve your "cottage" (3-bedroom trailer) for Canyon Lake Weekend May 18-20. Details on Page 6.
- See Juan Lopez to sign up for a JROTC award presentation at a high school near you.
- Sick Call at VFW 8541 every Sunday, 1300-1500 hours. POC Bill Beall.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

I hope everyone had a safe and good month. Our Board meeting is set for 1 March at 1400 hrs. The Membership meeting is on 3 March starting at 0930 with the breakfast, followed by the meeting at 1100 hrs. Last month's breakfast was outstanding and thanks again to all those who assisted — and special thanks to Edgar for the hams.

You should all be receiving the building fund raffle tickets in the mail from National. If you are able to sell them, I am asking you to send the money directly back to National. It makes it easier for our accounting and cleaner at the end of the year. I appreciate it.

Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff is coming up quickly. It is the second weekend in March (9th -11th.) I know Mike and Steve are ready to cook and win this year. Things are going well with this event, and it looks like the hogs will be plenty this year. If you have not been to this event it is an awesome time and a lot to do there with the family.

Remember the scholarship applications for the VFW will be due by 31 March. This will be a VFW 8541 Scholarship. The Post is awarding two \$2,000 scholarships to members of VFW 8541 or their immediate family. This also includes members of VFW 8541 Auxiliary.

I hope you all can set aside April 5<sup>th</sup>. The VFW membership meeting will be that Thursday at 1900 hrs. We will be having our elections that night and I would greatly appreciate your support one more time. I believe the VFW is going in a positive direction and I would like to continue to steer it that way. I truly respect the members of this chapter as well as the VFW membership.

Until the Membership Meeting, I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

*presidentchapterxv@gmail.com*

William Smith

Chapter XV President



## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, February 2017

Financially, the Chapter has had a good month. Pledges to sponsor a meeting breakfast meal filled all but two months for the year. We tip our berets to the following donors: Chuck Rose – March; Bob Walker – April; Mike Brown – June; Irene Sloan – July; Ron Burkett – August; Brent Davis – September. If you would like to sponsor the breakfast meeting meal for October or November please see Buddy Gee or Mike Pagel. The suggested amount is \$125.

We have signed up a renewal and two new full-page newsletter ads. A tip of the beret to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing for renewing, and to new advertisers Levi Rodgers Real Estate Group at ReMax Military City USA, and to Vito Cellini for an ad to promote his soon-to-be-published book. Please support the advertisers who are supporting us.

Johnnie Terrazas has signed up for life membership. Congratulations, Johnny!... Raul de la Garza and Gordon Lee took in \$168 for door prize drawings and merchandise sales. The drawing winners received some awesome door prizes. ... The only expenses for February were the breakfast meal and a check to SFA National for membership dues.

Hope to see you at the March Membership breakfast and meeting.

Buddy Gee

Chapter XV Treasurer

*sgmgee@aol.com*



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*uniform***

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# Minutes of February Meeting

## Chapter Meeting Date: 03 February 2018

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1100 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain **Steven Rindahl** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

**William Smith** welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter: **David Benavidez, Rich Harvey**

**Members Sick or In Distress:** **Iris Archer** (doing better & recovering from surgery); **Karen Hermann** (sick with flu)

### OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly treasurer's report and it was accepted as read.
- b. **Membership report:** **Marti Scott** stated that we currently have 194 members. **Johnnie Terrazas** is now a life member.
- c. **Veterans Affairs:** **William Smith**, VA currently is working on women's health care issues, and there will be a 2% raise in veteran's benefits this year.
- d. **Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-off:** **Mike Brown & Steve Hermann**, will take place 9-11 March 2018.
- e. **Cruise:** **Karen Hermann**, will take place 15-22 April 2018.
- f. **Canyon Lake Picnic:** **Raul De La Garza**, will be held 18-20 May 2018. Cabins are \$110 per night.

g. **SFA National Convention:** Will be held in El Paso, TX 12-18 June 2018 at the Wyndham Airport Hotel.

h. **Christmas Banquet:** Set for 8 December 2018 at El Tropicano Hotel. Room reservations are \$109 per night, banquet tickets go on sale in May for \$55 ea.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Updates to board member positions:** Secretary: **JW Martin**.
- b. **Donations:** **SFA Ch XV** thanked **Edgar Morales** and **Fred Solis** for SF/Ranger breakfast.
- c. **Scholarships:** **VFW Post 8541** will be giving out (2) \$2,000 scholarships this year.
- d. **Dick's Last Resort fundraiser:** **Fred Solis**, met with new manager. We are looking at 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of October.
- e. **Ch XV Memorial:** **JW Martin**, 7 April 2018, 0900hrs at Ft Sam Houston cemetery.
- f. **Open Discussion:** **Joe Dawson** purchased a full page ad on behalf of Levi Rodgers Real Estate Group in our newsletter. Also, Texas Tech Health Sciences renewed their full-page ad.
- g. **Raul De La Garza** conducted door prize drawings.

### Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Juan A. Lopez, D-8306  
SFA Chapter XV Vice President



Chapter XV's hardworking officers: J.W. Martin (left) stepped up at the meeting to become the new Secretary. At right, New Vice President Juan Lopez (former Secretary), President Bill Smith and Treasurer Buddy Gee take care of business.



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Call Us: 210-331-7000 (Opened 7 days a week from 8-8)

# Mark your calendar for these fun events

## MARCH 9-11—COTULLA WILD HOG COOKOFF

**Y**ou know the weather can be a little “yucky” for the LaSalle County Fair at Cotulla. Rain, clouds and/or drizzle often happen. However, that's never made any difference to contestants at the fair's traditional Wild Hog Cookoff, which happens this year on Saturday, March 10.



The hog-cookers are always well prepared. Here's a first-hand report from one of them:

*“First, we find a wild hog of the proper size, kill and butcher it appropriately. On Friday afternoon, we transport it to our reserved space at the fairgrounds*

*and enjoy some liquid refreshment.*

*“Next, we prepare the grill, the seasonings and the hog, put them all together in the right sequence, and have more liquid refreshments. Finally, we light the fire.*

*“Waiting for fire to get ‘just right,’ we tell some stories while having more liquid refreshments. We put the pig on the grill. Sleep. Wake up and check the pig.*

*“After breakfast (Karen's tacos and Buddy's Bloody Marys,) we get serious about the pig. Baste it, turn it. Adjust the fire and coax the pork to golden, succulent doneness. Prepare irresistible packets of pork for the judges. At noon, we turn in our official pork entries and have some liquid refreshment while we wait.”*

That's as far as we've ever gotten in the competition, but we always have high hopes. Our team leader, Mike Brown, and our lead chef, Steve Hermann, now have two years experience in the competition and are determined to outdo such lowly competitors as H.E.B. (last year's winner.) They do need our support, so come on out to the fairgrounds and help cheer them on. Bring the kids, bring Grandma, bring lawn chairs. Enjoy the carnival and the livestock shows. Stay Saturday night for the concert and dance.

Full details at [wildhogcookoff.org](http://wildhogcookoff.org).

## MAY 18-20 — CANYON LAKE WEEKEND

**T**he annual Canyon Lake Weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic are coming up 18-20 May. Don't miss this weekend of SF camaraderie, great food and outdoor adventures. Bring your kids, friends, even your dogs (a limited number of pet-friendly trailers are available.)

Three-bedroom cottage rentals are available for \$110 per night with a *two night minimum* and must be paid by May 4. *Contact Raul de la Garza for reservations ([dragonrose\\_10602@yahoo.com](mailto:dragonrose_10602@yahoo.com); telephone (210) 907-5092.* Payment may be made by check or cash to Raul or Buddy Gee, and checks can be mailed to SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782.

RV owners should reserve camping spaces directly with the Canyon Lake Recreation Park. Telephone: Commercial: (830) 964-3576; Toll Free: (800) 280-3466

### Schedule of Activities:

Friday: Check-in 3 pm to 6 pm to ?? Fajitas, margaritas and beer

Saturday Morning: Open time: Boating, fishing, swimming sightseeing (sleeping)

12 pm Lunch (BBQ Chicken, burgers dogs & who knows what by Chapter XV volunteer chefs) Side dishes are requested.

Saturday After lunch: Ditto Saturday morning

Saturday evening: Left-overs (or possibly a surprise menu by Steve & Karen);

Music dancing and good fellowship til ??

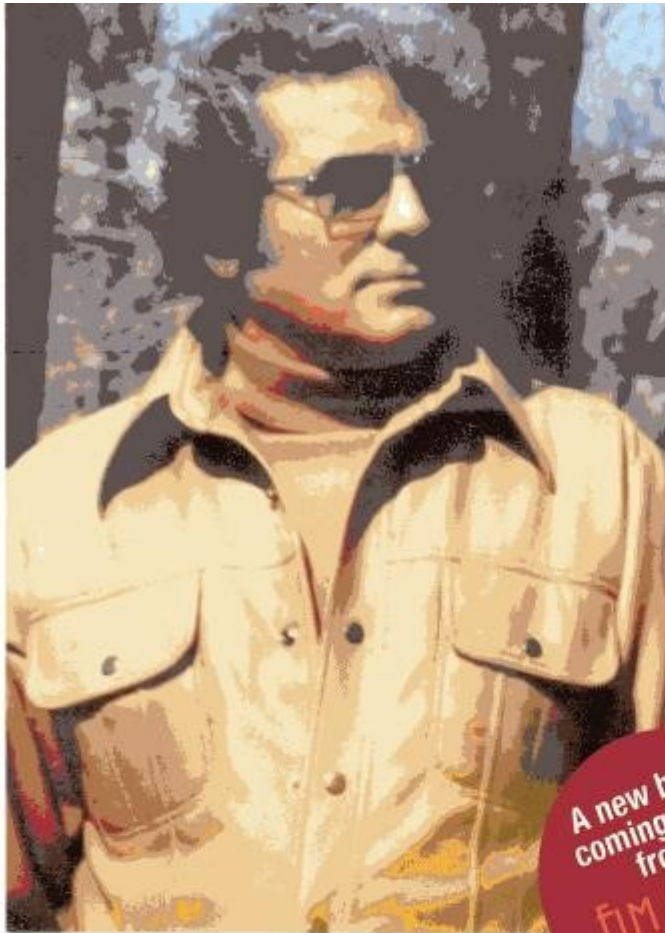
Sunday 8 am to 9 am: SOS by Marti; Bloody Mary's by Buddy

9 am – 11 am: Cleaning pavilion, loading (volunteer labor) and check-out

For day trippers, the big barbecue and covered-dish picnic will be at noon Saturday, May 19. The event is held at the Joint Base SA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake, 698 Jacobs Creek Park Rd., about an hour's drive from San Antonio.

More information about the Canyon Lake Recreation Park is available at: <https://www.myjbsa-fss-mwr.com/nm/articlefiles/32-2016CanyonLakeBrochure.pdf>

**Directions:** Take I-35 north from San Antonio to Canyon Lake exit (Exit 191). Turn left on Farm Road 306, follow for 16 miles through Canyon City. Turn left onto Jacobs Creek Park Road (sign for Recreation Area). Go straight



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

After that things *really* start to get complicated.

Soldier, resistance fighter, secret agent, inventor and American patriot.

This is his true life story.

# CELLINI

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

BIOGRAPHY of an AMERICAN PATRIOT  
MICK J. PRODGER with TUTUC CELLINI

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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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# Warriors on the Way

## 'There Is Healing in the Hump'

By Steve Rindahl

A friend of mine who is a Marine Corps Infantryman with combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan once told me, "There is healing in the hump."

He was, of course, speaking of the time spent logging miles under a rucksack. Time to think, consider, contemplate, plan, and pray all while putting one foot in front of the other. The Ruck March – just about everyone who has served in the military has done it, and benefitted from it, even if only in training.

The Warriors on the Way pilgrimage intends to capture the benefits while leaving the negatives behind. A 180-mile pilgrimage in Spain on the Camino de Santiago during the last two months of September, Warriors on the Way will travel through historic cities of Astorga, Ponferrada (home of one of the largest Knight Templar Castles still standing), Portomarin, and the gorgeous mountains of Galicia.

Each pilgrim will have the opportunity to participate in the ancient ritual of leaving burdens at the foot of the Cruz de Ferro, see the site of a documented miracle at O Cebreiro, and, ultimately, complete their journey at the amazing Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela.

Warriors on the Way is a purpose-designed pilgrimage for Combat Veterans by Combat Veterans. Capitalizing on the latest research in PTSD and Moral Injury care, pilgrim veterans will join in the tradition of pilgrims who have been walking the Camino de Santiago since the 9<sup>th</sup> Century.

Today the Camino welcomes pilgrims of all backgrounds from around the world with an established route with full logistical support. This means that while each day may be long, the weight each pilgrim must carry will be light (a max load of 18lbs).

Are you interested? Do you know somebody who may be interested? Please contact me at [WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com](mailto:WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com).

Can't go but would like to keep up with the project? Follow us on the following platforms:

[warriorsontheway.org](http://warriorsontheway.org) ;  
[facebook.com/WarriorsOnTheWay](https://facebook.com/WarriorsOnTheWay) ;  
[instagram.com/warriorsontheway/](https://instagram.com/warriorsontheway/)  
[and, twitter.com/WarriorsOnThWay](https://twitter.com/WarriorsOnThWay).

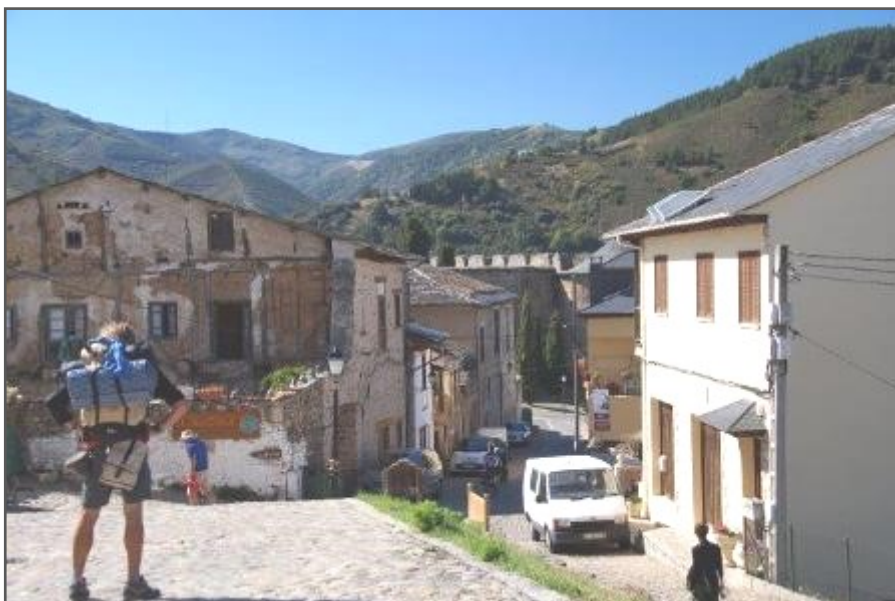


Can't go but would like to help make sure another vet can go? There are two ways to help. You can help us purchase required gear by going to our REI Gear Registry (<https://www.rei.com/GiftRegistryDetails/15260891>) and select one or more items. Whatever you buy will be shipped direct to us and you will receive a gift donation receipt for tax purposes.

You can also make a tax deductible donation through the SSAM Foundation (501c3) online by going to <https://ssamericanmemorialfoundation.cloverdonations.com/ss-american-memorial-foundation/> Use the drop down menu to mark your tax deductible donation for the Warriors on the Way account. All donations will be used for the Veterans' Pilgrimage.

**CH (MAJ-R) Steven G Rindahl, DMin**

**SFA A-663 (Life)**







# Serving those who served America.

America's veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country, and we believe it is never too late to acknowledge their heroic service. That's why our hospice is taking part in the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are prepared to help veterans and their families meet the challenges they may face at the end of life. Our staff and volunteers understand the unique issues veterans face and can assist in making sure they get the support and resources they need.

We have embraced our mission to serve America's veterans. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.



For more information,  
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# FROM EL PASO: June SFA Conference shaping up

**W**e hear that plans for the Special Forces Association National Conference in El Paso are coming along nicely.

The dates are June 12-16, 2018, and the conference hotel is the Wyndham Airport. Conference rate is \$98 per night.

Chapter 9 President Pete Peral says they have lined up "a great program for a great price," which is \$150 full registration for all events.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 12, in the hotel lobby and continues all day Tuesday and Wednesday. The Hospitality Room will be open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Special events include a golf outing Wednesday morning and War Eagles Museum Tour and "Whole Enchilada Picnic" that afternoon, hosted by Chapter 80 of Las Cruces NM and featuring free OH-6A "Loach" rides.



Wednesday night, there will be a 50th anniversary showing of the film classic "The Green Berets" starring John Wayne at the historic Plaza Theater.

A dinner at the famous Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliff Ranch is scheduled for Thursday night, and Friday night will be Green Beret Night at the El Paso Chihuahuas AAA Baseball game.

The annual SFA Banquet will be held Saturday night at the El Paso Convention Center, with a pre-banquet cocktail hour at 5 p.m. Sunday morning will be a Bloody Mary Morning and Sendoff from 8 to 10 a.m.

Full registration covers the banquet, hospitality room, picnic/museum tour and Cattleman's dinner. Those who can't attend the whole conference may register and pay for individual events online or by mail.

Full details and registration at <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com/>



## Forgotten Warrior:

A Moment in Time

A Military Science Fiction novel by SFA member Glenn A. Barnes (M9559)



- US Army Ranger Mark Chandler tries to cheat death and end up 500 years in the future. Is he ready for the 26<sup>th</sup> century...is the 26<sup>th</sup> century ready for a Ranger?
- 5 stars Amazon.com
- Reviews:
  - Fast paced tale of a man out of his element slowly finding familiar links to grow back into his element. Enough medical realism to allow for that thread of possibility. Fun read.
  - OUTSTANDING BOOK GLENN !! I cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail of each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your corrector encounters. RLW !! I look forward to the next one.
  - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>


2/18

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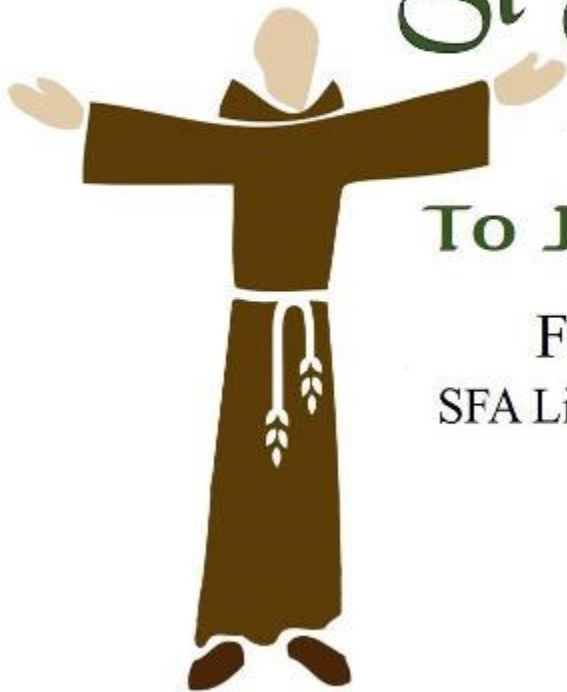


2/2/18



New Riverwalk location at 223 Losoya St .

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8/4/18



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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**San Antonio, Texas 78218**  
**Post Phone: (210) 655-2944**  
**Post Email: [Post8541@satx.rr.com](mailto:Post8541@satx.rr.com)**

### VFW Post 8541 Educational Scholarship

The VFW Post 8541 Educational Scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance through two annual scholarships of \$2,000 each. Recipients will be announced on 15 April each year.

#### **Eligibility:**

1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing of VFW Post 8541, its Auxiliary, or an immediate family member of such VFW/Auxiliary member.
2. *Qualified applicants must be:*
  - A. A high school senior anticipating graduation during the current school year; or
  - B. Attending or accepted by an accredited college, university, or vocational education institution.
  - C. Applicant must have a 2.5 GPA or better at the time of application.

#### **Procedure:** Eligible applicants must submit the following:

- a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's affiliation with VFW Post 8541, education plans, career aspirations and name of school they plan to attend.
- b. Contact name of the recipient institution's financial office to receive funds on behalf of the student.
- c. Copies of applicant's most recent academic transcripts or, if awaiting high school graduation, SAT/ACT scores, along with transcripts.
- d. Two letters of reference from a professor, instructor, teacher or administrator from current or former educational institution.
- e. A summary of scholastic achievements, non-academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and organizational memberships.

Applications must be received by VFW Post 8541 no later than 31 March 2018. Send to

**Commander William Smith, VFW Post 8541**  
**Attn: Scholarship Committee**  
**2222 Austin Highway – San Antonio TX 78218**

- *Packets that are not complete will not be considered for the scholarship.*
- *If selected, applicant should be prepared to submit a photo for use in the Post newsletter and other publications.*

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2018 CALENDAR

<p><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9-11 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p>
<p><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 7 Membership Meeting 1100 15-22 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1400 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 15 Drop Input Due 18-20 Canyon Lake Picnic 28 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 31 June Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 1100 12-16 National SFA Conference TBD JROTC Presentations</p>
<p><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Membership Meeting 1100 TBD Budget Committee meeting Scholarship Applications</p>
<p><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100  TBD Motorcycle Ride</p>	<p><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9 Budget Approval 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 9 Buddy's Birthday <b>10 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> TBD Christmas Banquet 2018</p>

**All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1100 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A breakfast meal will be served from 0930 to 1100 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.**

### *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*

1/9/17/18

## **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**



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## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 12-16 JUNE 2018    Special Forces Association International Conference 2018  
Wyndham Airport Hotel, El Paso, TX  
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>
- 19-22 SEPT 2018    57th annual Fifth Group Reunion  
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN  
(931) 645-1400 or [cx\\_clrk@countryinns.com](mailto:cx_clrk@countryinns.com)

### Thanks to Marlys Burkett for photos in this issue.

When submitting articles or photos for the newsletter please enter "SFA newsletter input" in the subject line of your email. Please submit articles and pictures (copies only) for the newsletter to Buddy Gee at [sgmgee@aol.com](mailto:sgmgee@aol.com), or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

The Editors



**"Carry on!"**