

Issue #12-20

President: John Lopez Vice-President: Pat Meffert Secretary: Mike Brown Asst. Secretary: Buddy Gee Treasurer: Merrill Hall Asst. Treasurer: Joel Dawson Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee Asst. Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza Membership Secy: Marti Scott Past President: Bill Smith Editor: Joe Dawson Webmaster: Sam Elizondo VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl



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 Chapter Annual Cruise: Karen Hermann

December 2020

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



December 7 — Pearl Harbor Day

December 11 — Board Meeting 1000

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

December 12 — Annual Christmas Banquet

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 31 — New Year's Eve



DON'T FORGET

SFA Chapter XV

CHRISTMAS BANQUET \$55

December 12, 2020 at Republic Golf Club 4226 SE Military Drive 5:00 pm Cocktails 6:30 pm Catered dinner 8-11 pm Music and dancing



You are invited for Bloody Mary's and Breakfast Tacos @ The Republic Banquet Hall on Sunday 13 DEC @ 1000 am

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

appy Holidays Chapter XV! We have made it to the end of the year, and what a year it has been. Please continue doing what you have been doing to keep safe. We have made it this far, and we can finish strong and beat this pandemic.

As we have seen and heard on the news, there are a couple companies that are preparing to release the COVID-19 vaccine very soon. Moderna has announced that its vaccine is 94.5% effective against coronavirus. The Pfizer vaccine is more than 90% effective. The FDA will consider emergency approval requests December 10. After a vaccine is approved, first inoculations can occur quickly.

Some important dates for this month: Monday, December 7, is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Monday, December 21, is the first day of winter. Also, happy belated birthday to Bobby Walker (November 29), and happy birthday to our December folks: Arline Connolly (December 2), Karen Hermann (December 6), Buddy Gee (December 9), Raul De La Garza, Joe Dawson (December 30), and Bill Smith (December 31).

I would like to thank Fred Solis for his hard work and dedication in raising 5K in donations for the Chapter to make up for our annual Dick's Last Resort fundraiser that was cancelled due to the pandemic. It is people like Fred that make this Chapter what it is. Also, I want to thank everyone as well that helped the Chapter during this very trying year.

Our Christmas banquet is set for Saturday, December 12. Christmas banquet tickets are still available for purchase for \$55. Please contact me if interested. Our banquet will be at the Republic Golf Club, 4226 SE Military Drive. Cocktails will start at 5pm, followed by a catered dinner at 6:30pm which consists of salad, steak and salmon, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, coffee or tea, and strawberry cheesecake. Then there will be music by DJ Jimmie Salas, along with dancing from 8-11pm.



The Holiday Inn Express & Suites on 8222 City Base Landing is approximately 1.25. Call (210) 337-3723 to make your reservations. Hope to see you there!

Just a reminder, there is no membership meeting this month because of our Christmas banquet. Our board meeting is Friday, December 11 at our usual time and location. Merry Christmas and stay safe.

> John A. Lopez President, SFA Chapter XV president@sfa-XV.org

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, November 2020

Karen Hermann Presented a check in the amount of \$2,834.36 for the annual Chapter trip. Thank you Sheri Green for donating your commission back to the Chapter.

This month membership renewals were from William Neuiszer and Deon Popoy.

Door prize income was \$120.

November's meal was compliments of John Tippy and Chris Perry. I also want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations. 57 Christmas Banquet tickets have been sold, and we have two couples attending from 19th Group.

> Merrill Hall, Treasurer treasurer@sfa-XV.org

Minutes of November Meeting

SFA Chapter XV

San Antonio, Texas

14NOV20 Member Meeting Notes

Meeting Held at VFW Post 8541

 SOP: Pledge, Invocation, and Moment of Silence for fallen comrades

Budget and Treasurers Report: Merrill Hall presented the monthly and annual budget reports. The budget was accepted as read.

- Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes for the 10OCT meeting were posted in the NOV newsletter and accepted as written.
- Membership: Marti Scott, membership coordinator, announced that with the addition of new members that the Chapter membership stood at 229 members.
- Two new members were introduced: Jim Sellers (5th SFG) and Ron Williams (1st SFG)
- Chapter Member Sergio Venegas announced as the new Membership Coordinator.
- SF Charitable Trust shooting event 31OCT: Members Bill Smith, Tim Ochsner, Ben & Marti Scott, and Mark & Celia Goode attended the event representing Chapter XV.
- 16th Annual Dicks Last Resort Fundraiser: The event was cancelled for 2020 due to COVID related complications. Chapter Coordinator Fred Solis committed to raise \$5,000 through donations so that the budgeted scholarship and support funds would not be affected for 2020.



Bob Walker making a tribute to the great Chuck Rose

- The annual Chapter XV trip to Akumal, Mexico: In spite of reduced attendance due to COVID, Chapter Coordinator Karen Hermann announced that they were still able to raise \$2,924.86 for the Chapter. Karen Hermann also briefly discussed options and considerations for the 2021 trip.
- Chapter XV Christmas Banquet: The event will take place at the Republic Golf Club 12DEC20 at 1800 hours. Approximately 65 people had reserved seats as of the meeting.
- Green Beret Foundation Donation: Chapter XV President Juan Lopez made a \$500 donation to GBF representative (and Chapter member) John Armezzani.
- Chapter Member Bobby Walker made a tribute to member Chuck Rose as a result of his induction into the Infantry Hall of Fame at Fort Benning.
- Josie Dollarhide, widow of deceased member Larry Dollarhide, thanked the Chapter for attending and supporting his services.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Brown, Secretary



John Lopez presenting a check from the chapter to The GBF in care of John Armezzani

Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces that applications are being accepted from now until 30 April, 2021. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM PAST YEARS. Here are the current scholarship guidelines:

Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

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

Eligibility:

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

Application Process:

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

- a. A sponsor letter from Chapter XV member that states full name, member number and relationship to applicant, and the applicant's full contact information.
- b. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend and planned use of the grant.
- c. Copies of most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
- d. Reference letter from teacher(s), school counselor or principal. (minimum of one required)
- e. Summary of extra-curricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
- f. A copy of the application to the school, or acceptance letter from the registrar that the student has already been enrolled.
- All items listed above are required. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit applications to:

President, SFA Chapter XV

Attn: Scholarship Committee

P. O. Box 33782 - San Antonio TX 78265-3782

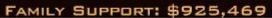
IN 2019, WE INVESTED \$2,136,586 INTO THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF 5,017 SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES.

OR 87 CENTS OF EVERY

DOLLAR WAS INVESTED

INTO OUR PROGRAMS

AND SERVICES.



A GREEN BERET'S FAMILY IS HIS FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORT, AND SD IT'S CRITICAL THAT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION PROVIDES ADVDCACY AND SERVICES TO MEET THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS, THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES AS THEY NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING, DEPLOYMENTS, AND LIFE AFTER THE MILITARY.

EXTENDED SUPPORT: \$755,156

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GREEN BERETS AS THEY MANAGE WOUNDS, INJURIES, AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ACUTE AND POST-ACUTE CARE. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE TREATMENTS AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO THRIVE IN LIFE BEYOND THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

NEXT RIDGELINE[®] TRANSITION SUPPORT: \$179,886

WE KNOW THAT A GREEN BERET'S TRANSITION OUT OF THE MILITARY IS DNE OF THE MOST ORITICAL TIME PERIODS IN HIS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONNECT GREEN BERETS WITH THE MENTORS, PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES NEEDED TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE A SUCCESS. THIS PROGRAM ENSURES THAT GREEN BERETS ARE PREPARED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE A FULL AND IMPACTFUL LIFE AFTER TAKING OFF THE MILITARY UNIFORM.

GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT: \$150,316

DUR MOGT SACRED DUTY AT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION IS TO SERVE THE FAMILIES OF DUR GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. NO MATTER IF THE GREEN BERET WAS KILLED IN COMBAT OR IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE-RELATED INJURY, SUICIDE OR DISEASE, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE FAMILY NAVIGATE THEIR DIFFICULT JOURNEY, EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE.

CASUALTY SUPPORT: \$125,759

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO GREEN BERETS UPON SUSTAINING A WOUND DR INJURY, INCLUDING RECEIVING A CHECK FOR \$2500 AND A GORUCK GR1 RUCKSACK OF ESSENTIAL GEAR. BY PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT, WE HELP SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT: BEING TOGETHER AND HEALING.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US TODAY AT WWW.GREENBERETFOUNDATION.ORG



Chapter News



Michelle selected for promotion

CONGRATULATIONS to Michelle "Shele" Buratti, SFA Chapter XV Life Member serving on active duty in Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck, Germany. She has been selected for

promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Schele is a Pittsburgh native and she earned her SF combat patch while serving with the 102nd Forward Surgical Team (FST,) which was attached to 7th SF Group in southern Afghanistan from June 2015 to March 2016. Way to go, MAJ (P) Schele!



Karen gets a birthday surprise

The date was December 6, and the occasion was a birthday party at Longtab Brewery, secretly organized by Steve Hermann and Mike Brown. (No written

communications!) It was a "significant" birthday for Karen Hermann, our Chapter's Chief Tour Guide and Event Planner.

About 20 Chapter members turned out to yell "Surprise!" as she arrived, supposedly on her way to a quiet family dinner and wearing her birthday crown. Yes, she was surprised - the beer and birthday-cake bash actually brought Karen to tears. Happy Birthday, Karen!

Green Beret Foundation is now a VSO

The Green Beret Foundation (GBF), an organization dedicated to supporting soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Forces and their families, is pleased to announce its accreditation by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), and recognized by the Department of VA Office of General Counsel for the purpose of preparation, presentation,

and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the VA.

VA-accreditation is a rare distinction, and GBF is now the sole special operations benevolent organization serving as a VA-accredited organization.





TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SCHOOL OF NURSING OFFERS AN ACCELERATED VETERAN TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (VBSN) TRACK FOR VETERANS WITH PRIOR MILITARY MEDICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

The VBSN track is open to veterans from all branches of the service and is designed to build on the education and experience of the veteran with a system of assessment that will allow for advanced placement in the curriculum based upon demonstration of knowledge and skill. This accelerated 12-month track has online classes in addition to clinical instruction guided by assigned clinical coaches and nursing clinical faculty. The track has clinical sites in Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Lubbock, Odessa and San Antonio.

Call or click at: vbsn@ttuhsc.edu | 806.743.9294 | 1.800.493.3954 www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx









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SFA Life Member A-4670

B GOO

Other News

National Park admission will be free to all vets

Military.com | By Amy Bushatz

N ational Parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands will all be free for veterans and Gold Star family members to use starting <u>Veterans Day</u>, Interior Department officials have announced.

The change extends to veterans and Gold Star families the existing free admission policy

already in play for active-duty troops and their families, as well as Guard and Reserve members. It waives both entrance and day use recreation fees for lands managed by the Department of the Interior nationwide. While not all of the system's 2,000 public recreation areas charge entrance fees, many of the more

popular destinations do, such as



Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. The fees vary by location.

Disabled veterans <u>qualify for the</u> <u>Access Pass</u>, which gives free admission and a 50% discount on some costs such as camping or boat launch fees. Other passholders pay out of pocket for those costs. The new program expands free park access to millions of honorably discharged veterans. To gain access, veterans can present a DoD ID card; a Veteran Health Identification Card; a Veteran ID card; or a state-issued card displaying veteran status, according to the release. While the free pass for activeduty troops can be used by their dependents, the new free-access rule for veterans

does not extend to their immediate family members. That means that at parks where entrance fees are paid per vehicle, veterans and their families will be able to enter free using the veteran pass. At parks where admission is paid per person, however, only the veteran will be able to enter free.



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Chaplain's Corner

Be the light in someone's life

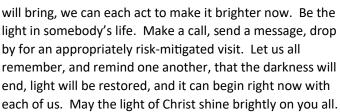
Merry Christmas! Words we will be hearing, in the form of holiday greeting, for the next few weeks. Of course, there will also be Happy Hannukah, Happy Holidays, and Seasons' Greetings – each representing the reality that multiple holiday seasons are celebrated at this time of year.

Why do so many faith traditions (and even those without faith) find reasons to celebrate during December? While many specific reasons are tied to each different faith, there is an underlying motivation to respond to the darkness.

In Judaism, the darkness of winter receives the response of the light of the many candled menorah during the celebration of Hannukah and its promise of God's provision. Christianity responds to the darkness, and its foreboding of death, with the birth of Christ and the promise of eternal life He brings to the world. In the various Norse/Germanic/ Northern European pagan faiths, there was (and is being revived among a growing number of people) the celebration of Yule and the burning of the Yule Log, forcing light into the darkness with the intention of reinvigorating the sun god. People, wherever they are and whatever they believe, do not want to be in the dark.

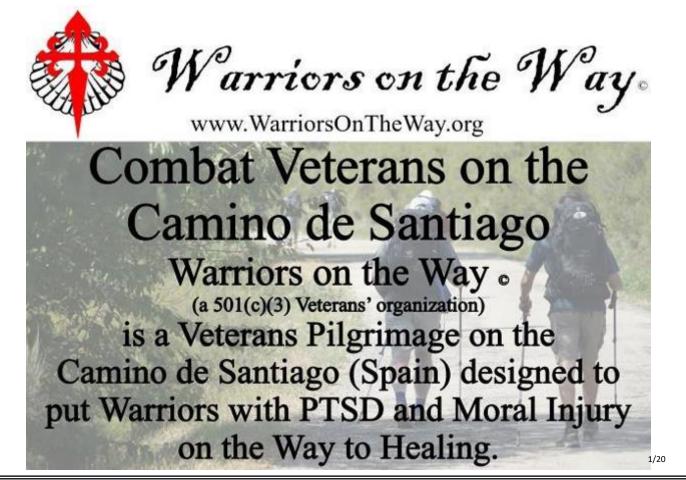
As 2020 comes to a close, I think we can largely agree – it has been a "dark" year. Lives have been disrupted at least and lost at worst. The cascading effects on the economy, families, emotional and mental health, and more, will all be the subject of attempts at calculation for many years to come.

While we must wait to see what 2021

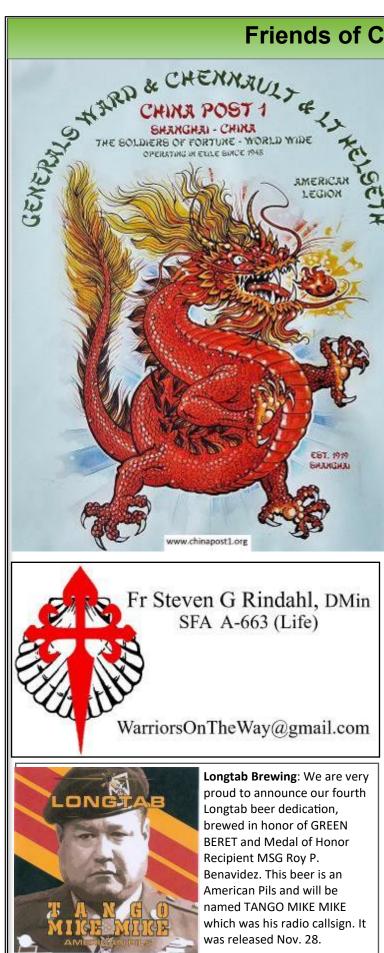


Buen Camino, Fr Steve CH (MAJ-Ret) Steven G Rindahl, DMin A-663 (Life)

"Set at liberty the oppressed" ~ Jesus ~



Friends of Chapter XV



Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

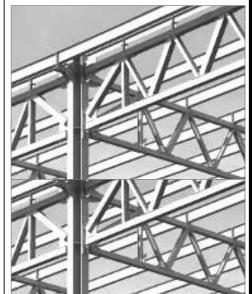
Chief Engineer-CEO



32310 Flat Rock View Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493



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



10/10/17

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2020 CALENDAR

	I	I
<u>JANUARY</u>	FEBRUARY	MARCH
2 Board Meeting 1400	1 Membership Meeting 1300	6 Board Meeting 1000
4 Membership Meeting 1300	15 Drop Input Due	7 Membership Meeting 1300
31 February Board Meeting 1000	26 Ch. XV 43nd anniversary	13-15 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff
		29 Vietnam Veterans Day
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
3 Board Meeting 1000	1 Board Meeting 1000	5 Board Meeting 1000
4 Chapter Memorial Service 1000	NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING	6 Membership Meeting 1300
4 Membership Meeting 1300	15 Drop Input Due	14 Flag Day & Army Birthday
30 Scholarship applications due	15-17 Canyon Lake Picnic	
TBD JROTC Presentations	25 Memorial Day Serv 0930	
	TBD - JROTC Presentations	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
JULY 4 Independence Day	AUGUST 1 Membership Meeting 1300	SEPTEMBER 11 Board Meeting 1000
	1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention	
4 Independence Day	1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due	11 Board Meeting 1000
4 Independence Day 10 Board Me cti ng 1000	1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention	 Board Meeting 1000 Membership Meeting 1300
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 4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300 	1 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due	 Board Meeting 1000 Membership Meeting 1300
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 4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300 31 August Board Meeting 1000 31 OCTOBER 9 Board Meeting 1000 10 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser 	 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due 18-23 Escape to 'Secrets Akumal' NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day 13 Board meeting 1000 14 Membership Meeting 1300	 11 Board Meeting 1000 12 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day DECEMBER 11 Board Meeting 1000 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Pearl Harbor Day

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hours prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Friday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1000 hours unless announced otherwise.

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. 1 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 quidance of my God, I will conquer my fears and succeed. I will keeps 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 Creed

Special Forces Poem By P.M. White

I'be lifted my glass and drank my fill, Gf the wine that's known as pride. I'be walked among some gallant men, And matched them stride for stride. I'be 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

1/9/2021

L D

Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter: A FULL-PAGE AD in this Newsletter is only \$100 for 12 issues.

To start your ad or keep it running, contact Buddy Gee, <u>editor@sfa-xv.org</u>



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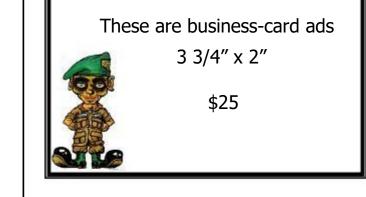




This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

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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

Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

18-22 SEPT 2021 5th Group Reunion Clarksville, TN

18-22 OCT 2021 Special Operations Association Reunion The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2021 Special Forces Association Convention The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Thanks to Kim Phillips and Michelle Buretti 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 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!"