

Subject: **[Test] SFA Chapter XV January 2024 Newsletter**
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Special Forces Association





GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

P.O. BOX 33782 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265-3

SPECIAL EDITION

January 2024

President: Jeff Dahlby
Vice-President: Tom Tannahill
Secretary: Fred Solis
Asst. Secretary: Sergio Venegas
Treasurer: Deon Popoy
Asst. Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Chaplain: Steve Rindahl

Visit us at our Home Page:
www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs
Nominations: Chuck Rose
Membership: Sergio Venegas
JROTC Awards: John Lopez
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Christmas Banquet: Jeff Dahlby
Budget Committee: Deon Popoy
Chapter Memorial Svc: Jeff Dahlby
Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee
Fundraising: Jeff Dahlby

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



January 13 — Chapter XV Monthly Meeting

FWV Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

1100—Board Meeting

1200— Veterans Appreciation Day Brunch by VFW

1300 — Membership Meeting

January 15 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day



DON'T FORGET



- Our first meeting of the year will be Jan. 13 with new Chapter officers presiding. Lots on the New Year agenda. Before the business meeting, we are invited to enjoy the VFW Post's Veterans Appreciation Day Brunch; donations will be gratefully accepted.
- Sick call at 1300 every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.
- Annual membership dues are due by Jan. 31.

REMEMBERING GAY MEY
 See Page 6



Annual membership dues are due by Jan 31.

January 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings SFA Chapter XV! 2023 has passed and 2024 awaits us!

In January the Chapter held its first fundraiser thanks to Chase Decker at Fish City Grill in San Antonio. Thanks to all who attended this event.

This month we will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day on Monday the 15th.

We had a wonderful 2023 Christmas Banquet with over 70 Chapter members, friends, family, and guests in attendance. The music and food were excellent as well as the guest speaker Levi Rodgers. This event also provided an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of our former Chapter President Buddy Gee.

I want to thank all attendees for making the event so enjoyable, specifically John & Amy Lopez, Raul De La Garza, Sergio Venegas, Tom Tannahill, Mike Hurst and Merrill Hall for help loading, unloading, setting up &

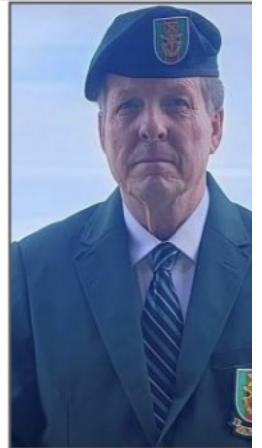
tearing down...your hard work was very much appreciated.

A heartfelt thanks for a generous end-of-year donation by Fred Solis and thanks to the other members who have donated throughout the year.

Our next membership meeting is Saturday, 13 January at 1 pm with a board meeting preceding at 11am. The VFW will be hosting brunch on the 13th and has graciously invited Chapt XV members. Donations will be accepted.

I look forward to seeing you there to start the year o right.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey D. Dahlby
President, SFA Chapter XV



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Max Krupp,
SFA Chapter 31 (Dallas)

January 2024

FUNDRAISER: It was a Yummy Day

By Jeff Dahlby

SFA Chapter XV started the New Year out with a 2 January fundraiser at Fish City Grill on Loop 1604. A heartfelt thanks to Chapter members, family and friends who braved the dreary, rainy day to attend.

A special thanks to Buddy Gee and Bob Walker for getting the word out to the Purple Heart Association, Blue Knights, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and Alamo Silver Wings, whose members were present to support the event, and to Gordon Lee who brought the bling.

Besides the attendance of retired generals and Chapter members Alfred Valenzuela and Simeon Trombitas among others, we were honored with the presence of a Bataan Death March survivor.

Fish City Grill General Manager Chase Decker was great to work with while setting up the event, along with his friendly wait staff who were provided with some Chapter memorabilia for their outstanding efforts.

Jan. 2, 2024



The Chapter looks forward to working with Fish City Grill again appreciates their monthly support for veterans organizations.



It was a good turnout and a great day despite the dreary weather. We saw lots of familiar faces, along with neighbors and family members. Fish City Grill is donating a portion of the day's sales to Chapter XV.

Photos by Monica Da

January 2024

CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2023

December 9, 2023



New officers take the oath of office for two-year terms: From left, President Jeff Dahlby, Vice President Tom Tannahill, Secretary Fred Solis, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon Lee, Assistant Treasurer Merrill Hall.



New President Jeff Dahlby



Guest Speaker Loui Badger



Swearing in by Chuck Bass

January 2024

CHRISTMAS BANQUET (Cont.)



Yes, a good time was had by all with dining, dancing, singing and celebrating until the wee hours of Dec.

January 2024

Remembering Gay Meyer

COL. Conan "Gay" Meyer

March 11, 1925—December 9, 2023



Five members of Chapter XV were honorary pall bearers at the funeral of COL. Conan "Gay" Meyer on Jan. 3. Gay was an active member and supporter of the Chapter for many years but had been sidelined by illness in recent years. He was a decorated Vietnam veteran who became a prominent San Antonio civic leader after 1987 retirement from the Army. Gay was a devoted family man and an avid outdoorsman who loved to kayak, ski and scuba dive.

He worked 27 years in the wholesale beer business and retired here as Vice President General Manager of Halo Distributing Co. As the chief representative of Miller Beer San Antonio, he hired several Chapter members, donated beer for countless events and helped with many beer-pouring fundraisers. Among his survivors are his daughter Missy Rockwood and grandson MAJ. Charlie Rockwood, a proud Green Beret with extensive service with 7th SF Group and now serving as a Special Forces officer at the Pentagon.



MAJ. Charlie Rockwood, right, with Chapter XV honorary pall bearers (from left) Ron Burkett, JW Martin, Raul de la Garza, Jeff Dahlby and Buddy Gee. Chapter members set up the boots and rifle display for the burial service at Fort Sam Cemetery.

January 2024



Chaplain's
Corner

Plotting the journey into 2024

Epiphany – a vision – to see, understand, or discover something in a new way. We are currently in the “Season of Epiphany,” which only lasts a few days but, when done well, helps shape the year ahead.

All of life is a journey – a pilgrimage of sorts – from where you are to where you are going. Because it is a journey, there will be a mixture of good and bad, love and hate, joy and heartache. It is making the most of your vision that will get you to your destination without getting lost along the way.

To whom do you turn for guidance? Because it is a journey, there are a lot of skills from LandNav that we can apply to our daily living of life. How do you plot your route? When you do get misdirected or disoriented (and it will happen from time to time), what steps do you take to re-orient yourself? Will you plot a new path to intersect your original route and start again, or will you shoot an azimuth from where you are and determine a new way forward?

What is your vision for this year’s journey called life? Be sure it includes friends, family, and your practice of faith. Each will help you stay on the right path and move you to your desired destination.

Speaking of Journeys – the Warriors on the Way pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago, Spain, for Combat Veterans is currently taking applications for 27 Sep-13 Oct 2024 Pilgrimage. If you would like to apply for this 180-mile walking pilgrimage, please send an email to WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com.

Happy New Year,
Fr Steve

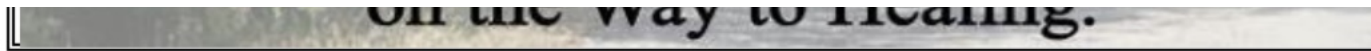
CH (MAJ-Ret) Steven G Rindahl, DMin STM
A-663 (Life)



Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org

Combat Veterans on the Camino de Santiago
Warriors on the Way ◦
(a 501(c)(3) Veterans’ organization)
is a Veterans Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Spain) designed to put Warriors with PTSD and Moral Injury on the Way to Healing



January 2024

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2024 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
2 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300	10 Board Meeting 1100 10 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Valentines Day 15 Drop Input Due 26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)	1 Scholarship Apps Open 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 9 Board Meeting 1100 9 Membership Meeting 1300 17 St. Patrick's Day 19 Presidents Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
13 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024 30 Scholarship Apps Close	12 Mothers' Day 15 Drop Input Due 17-19 Annual SFA Chapter Event (Formerly Canyon Lake) 27 Memorial Day	14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 16 Fathers' Day
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300	13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due	2 Labor Day 14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day 17-22 5th SFG 63rd Reunion Clarksville, TN
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
12 Board Meeting 1100 12 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Columbus Day 19-24 SFA Nat'l Convention Cruise from Tampa, FL 31 Halloween TBD Oktoberfest at FSH	9 Board Meeting 1100 9 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due 28 Thanksgiving	NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Annual Christmas Banquet 7 Pearl Harbor Day 25 Christmas

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 Meeting.

January 2024

Friends of Chapter XV



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January 2024

Friends of Chapter XV

Echo Hill Gold Star Camp Auction

A 1960's-era M-416 Trailer (project) for sale.

By Brian Kanof

The M-416 was the continuation of the M-100, which was towed behind the WWII and Korean War Jeeps (M-38 series) The rounded fenders were changed to squared ones to match the Vietnam series M-151's which were manufactured from 1960 to 1980. Larger trailers were then made to follow behind the Humvees from 1980 to present.

The M-416 survivors are very hard to find in any condition. Because they only weight 600 lbs., they can be towed on or off road by even the smallest 4-cylinder vehicles. There are Facebook sites devoted to them. Modified examples for camping use can drive the price up thousands.

Marcie Friedman is selling hers to support the Echo Hill Gold Star Camp. Bids start at \$500. Sale price will be 1040 deductible, as the camp is a 501c3 nonprofit. The trailer is in need of restoration but is complete. New tires and a bearing repack (and Pintel hitch) are all that are needed to pull it home. Contact Marcie Friedman at [Echo Hill Ranch](#) for more details.



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January 2024

Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces that applications are being accepted from 1 March until 30 April, 2024. 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.

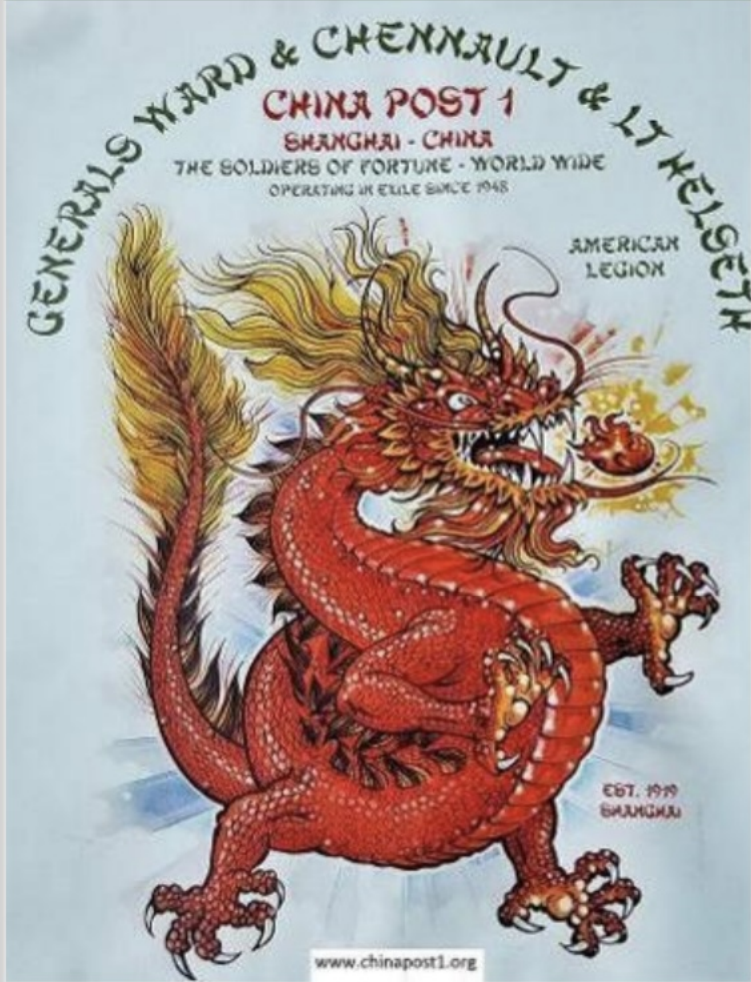
All items listed above are required. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit applications to:

President, SFA Chapter XV
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 33782 - San Antonio TX 78265-3782



January 2024

Friends of Chapter XV



Johnnie A. Terrazas, P

Chief Engineer-CEO



32310 Flat Rock View
Bulverde, Texas 78163

johnaterrazas@gmail.com

210-833-9493



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

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com

Jeffrey D. Dahlby

President, SFA Chapter XV
San Antonio TX

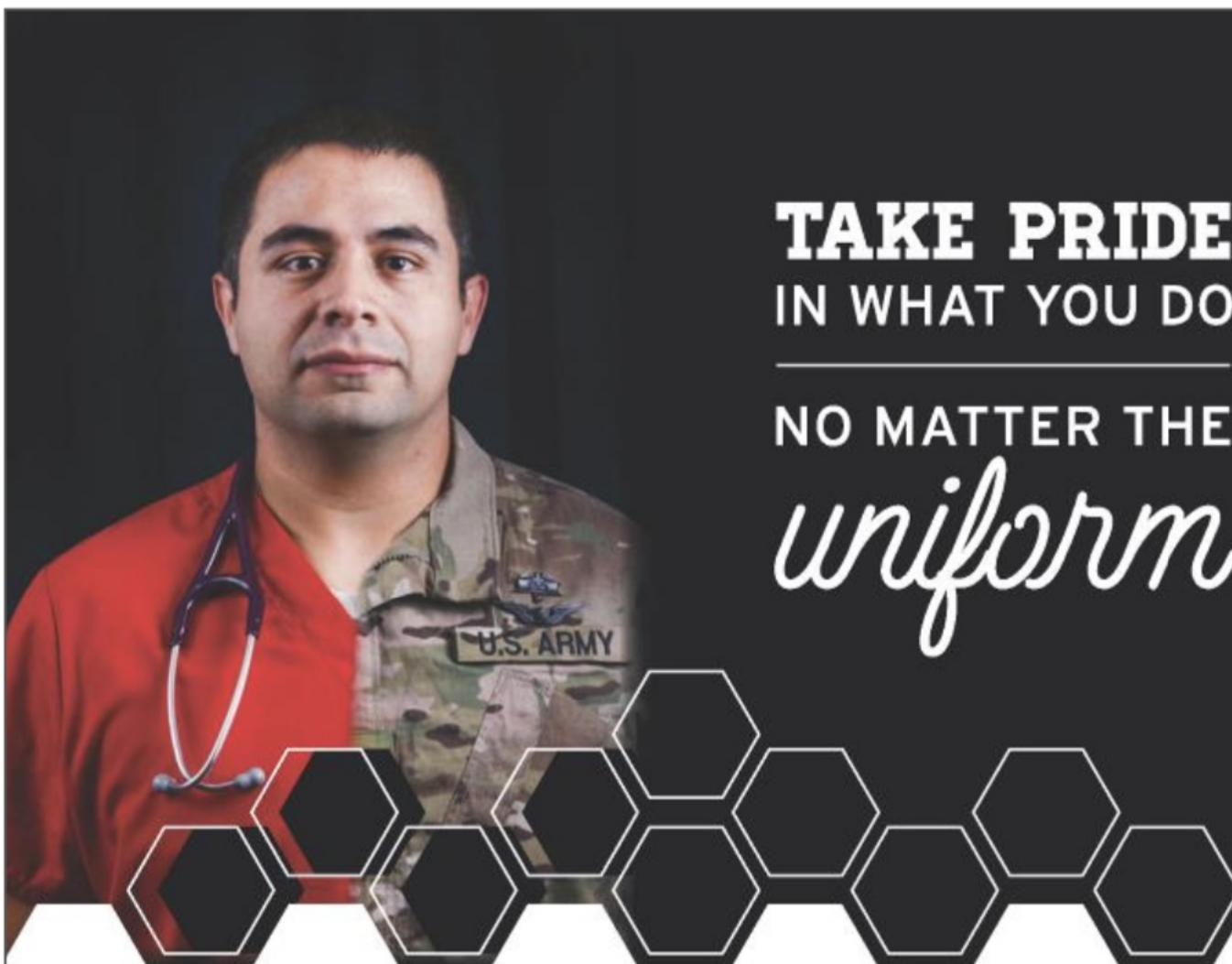
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www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx



January 2024

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



January 2024

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*

January 2024

Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

17-22 SEPT 2024 5th Group Reunion
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN

16-19 OCT 2024 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2024 Special Forces Association Convention
Cruise from Tampa, FL

Thanks to Monica Dahlby, Merrill Hall and John Lopez 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 for the newsletter to editor@sfa-xv.org, or mail them to Chapter President at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

The Editors



“Carry on!”

January 2024



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