



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 12-18

December 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: Steve Wolverton
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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



December 6 — Board meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 5 — First meeting of 2019

DECEMBER 8 — CHAPTER CHRISTMAS BANQUET

El Tropicano Hotel, 110 Lexington Avenue

1400— Hospitality Room

1700 — Social

1830 — Dinner

2000 — Celebration

Music by Rick Salinas



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Remember, there is no membership meeting this month. Our Board meeting will be Dec. 6 at 1400 hours, allowing us to finalize arrangements for the Christmas Banquet on Dec. 8. It's going to be a great event, as always. Thanks to Laura Brown for again providing appetizers in the hospitality room from her Medical Team Hospice. Our scholarships will be awarded during the banquet, and Rick Salinas will perform live music afterward.

The January meeting will be on Jan. 5.

2018 has been another great year, and I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Enjoy the banquet!

William Smith
Chapter XV President presidentchapterxv@gmail.com



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS



Treasurer's Report, November 2018

At the November membership meeting the budget committee presented the 2019 budget for vote and it passed.

We had a fair amount of income in November from annual membership renewals, Christmas banquet ticket sales and Fiesta medal sales.

We also had donations from Chuck Rose, Joseph Haro, John Rodden and Ramiro Daniel. Raul de la Garza and Gordon Lee raised \$60 for the door prize drawing. Thanks to The Medical Team Hospice for new full-page newsletter ad (Page 5.)

The only expense was for the meeting meal, which

went toward a fundraiser by a VFW member.

Reminder for annual members: Your dues are now due — \$40 for renewal; \$45 for reinstatement, \$50 for new members. A membership renewal form is reproduced on Page 11 of this newsletter. Mail checks to SFA Chapter XV, PO Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265-3782.

Merry Christmas to all and have a wonderful New Year. See you at the Chapter Christmas banquet this Saturday, Dec. 8.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer
sgmgee@aol.com

DON'T FORGET



- Annual dues are now due. See dues renewal application on Page 9.
- Raul needs help delivering supplies to the hotel on Saturday. Please contact him to volunteer and bring your pickup to the VFW the morning of the banquet.
- No membership meeting this month.
- A few tickets for the Christmas Banquet are still available. Contact Bill Smith immediately if you still need tickets.

Minutes of November Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 03 November 2018

The meeting was called to order by President William Smith at 1250 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance and the invocation which was given by Rudy Johnson. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

President Smith welcomed new members and guests to the Chapter: Gary Waggoner had surgery that went bad but is recovering.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Budget and Treasurer's Report: Buddy Gee presented the monthly report and it was accepted as read. The 2019 Budget was briefed and accepted by the membership.
- b. A report was given on our annual fund raiser at Dick Last Resort. The Chapter made a profit and looks strong for 2019.
- c. The president stated that we presently have 198 members with 30 some applications pending. These were the result of the recruiting effort at the Canyon Lake event. 40 members attended the meeting.
- d. Minutes of October meeting were accepted as read.
- e. Cruise: Karen Hermann said the cruise is from 28 Apr

until 5 May 2019 and we have 50 people signed up. Registration will be extended for a couple of weeks. Any questions contact Karen.

- f. Christmas Banquet is set for Saturday 8 December at the El Tropicano Hotel and there are a few tickets left. Tickets are \$55 and Rick Salinas will be the entertainment.
- g. Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee stated that 1,000 medals are now available and are selling.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Scholarship: Pat Connolly is the point of contact and applications are due by 15 Nov. The amount of the Scholarship will be based on the number of applicants.
- b. Need volunteers for the Veterans Day service at Ft Sam Houston Cemetery on 11 Nov. As always, members stepped forward.
- c. Open Discussion: CH XV door prize drawing was conducted by Raul De L Garza.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
JW Martin, D2041L
SFA Chapter XV Secretary



Among members socializing at the November meeting were (left to right) Steve Rindahl and Steve Hermann; Izzie Ortega; Chuck Rose and Bob Walker.

CHAPTER NEWS

Cargo Trailer makes its Maiden Voyage



By Mike Pagel

Hello Everyone. The trailer has come to life and has made its maiden voyage to support our organization and

engage in community service for the Alamo Chapter.

On November 20, 2018 the trailer helped deliver turkey and trimmings for over 750 people to enjoy at the San Antonio Westside Community Center. This was all thanks to AJ Allee and his organization, "Helping Hands," whose goal was to bring cheer and to kick off the holiday season with a great free Thanksgiving meal.

Helping Hands purchased 150 frozen turkeys and all the trimmings for this event. Fifty (50) of those turkeys were cooked at the VFW and then delivered to the Community Center to serve as meals for over 750 folks that day. Then, the 100 remaining frozen turkeys were given to the families at the Community Center to cook at home for Thanksgiving.

What a great maiden voyage!



Chapter XV's new cargo trailer, loaded with turkeys, pulls out for trip to West Side Community Center and a great Thanksgiving Day meal.

The Chapter was represented by Bill Smith, Mike Brown and Mike Pagel. We all look forward to doing it again next year and the many more events in store for the Chapter and its new trailer.

Thank you all for your assistance and support! The trailer and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

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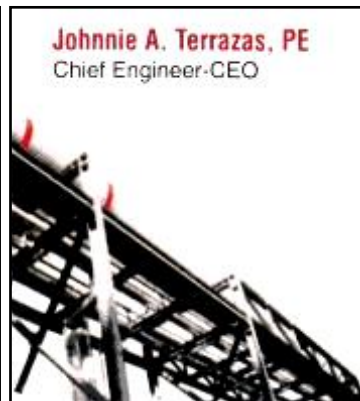


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CHAPTER NEWS



From Gordon Lee, "Medal Master"

Our first annual Fiesta Medals are here. The quality is excellent and the design is unique and has been very well received by all.

They are selling well even though it's a long way to Fiesta, and we want to give everyone the opportunity to get one. Let all of your friends know, too. San Antonio loves Fiesta and they love their Fiesta Medals. These will be collectible items, especially since it's the first edition and the first Green Beret offering to the public.

This will be a good fund raiser for the chapter. The price is a very reasonable \$10 each. You can contact Gordon Lee (210-602-2067) or Bill Smith (210-326-2228) if you need to get one or many medals. They will make great gifts or memorabilia for friends and co-workers.



Chaplain's Corner

Slow down to catch spirit of Christmas

By Steve Rindahl

Christmas is right around the corner. With Christmas comes all of the decorations and carols for the holidays as well as the shopping, feasting, and visiting friends and family. In all of this the "true spirit" of Christmas can be lost. Our Silent Night is run over by the reindeer that hit grandma and the message of Peace on Earth is crowded out by violence both at home and abroad. Before you know it, any thoughts of that family two thousand years ago laying a baby in a manger are gone.

You might not believe it but the same thing was happening over 800 years ago.

The Crusades were raging and there was violent unrest at home. Christmas was coming and the people, who would be in Church for Christmas Eve, were in no mood to worship or think of the baby Jesus. In an attempt to get people to actually experience the amazing night Jesus was born, a young Giovanni "Francis" Bernardone (AKA St. Francis of Assisi) assembled the scene of a barn, recruited men, a woman, a baby, and a small collection of

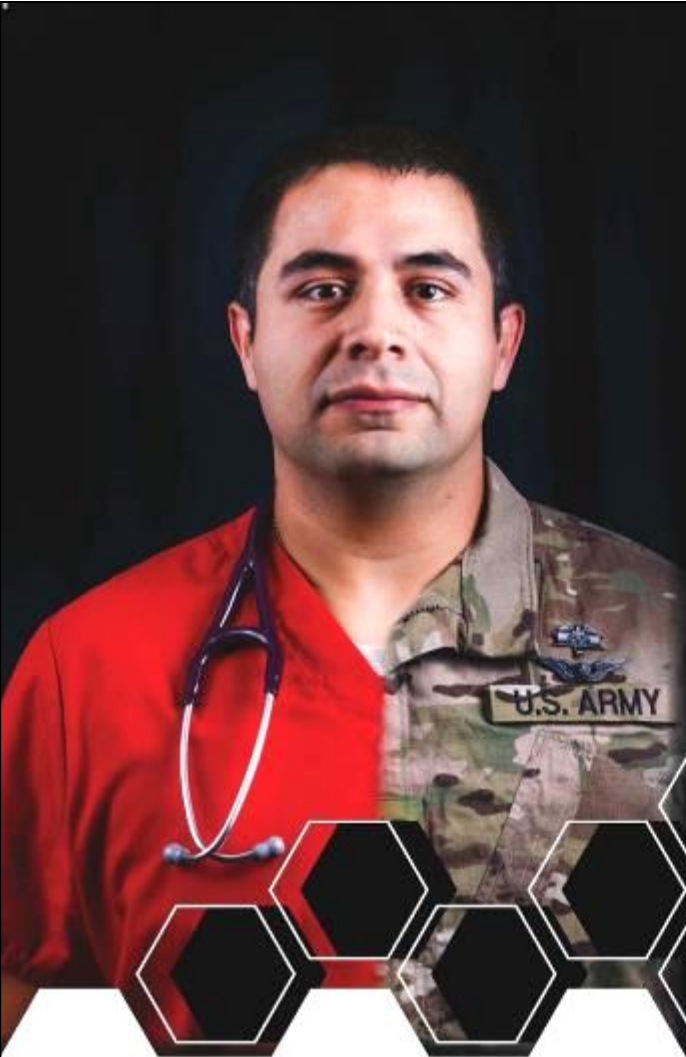
animals to make the very first Nativity Scene as we know them today. For one night, people were brought back to the "true spirit" of Christmas as they entered the living scene of that miraculous night. How? It was made real to them.

This Christmas season, I encourage you to slow down – at least a little – and allow Christmas to be made real to you. Take joy in your friends, family, and the giving and receiving of gifts which are emblems of the great gift to humanity that first Christmas night of God's own son. May tempers be calmed, may warring cease, may we all experience the blessed gift of peace.

Pax et Bonum,

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





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**NO MATTER THE
*uniform***

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www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergraduate/vbsn



VETERANS DAY 2018

November 11, 2018



Above: Our guys display service flags at the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Left to right are JW Martin, Barry Archer, Juan Lopez, Fred Solis and Raul de la Garza. Vice President Lopez thanks these members for helping out on this chilly and drizzling Veterans Day. Additional thanks to Bill Smith and Jose Campos for attending and showing their support. Nice job, guys!

Photos by Kim Phillips.

Chapter XV
Special Forces Association
PO Box 33782
San Antonio, TX
78265-3782

Membership Renewal Form
(Not for use by new members)

Dues pay period is from 1 October through 31 January. Any annual members who have not paid their dues by the grace period will be placed in an Inactive roster and will be removed from the mailing list.

I, _____ (Print Last Name, First Name, MI) _____ (Membership Number) hereby apply for renewal of my membership in Chapter _____ of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:

- Annual Dues.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$40.00** for a one-year renewal of my membership. Note: Annual renewal is \$40.00 if paid before 30 January of each year.
- Reinstatement.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$45.00**, which includes a \$5.00 reinstatement fee along with the \$40.00 annual renewal fee. Note: annual renewals are \$45.00 after 30 January of each year.
- Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$440.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$440.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement & Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$475.00** for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which \$440.00 is the life membership fee, \$30.00 is for annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement.
- Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$320.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$320.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement & Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$345.00** for reinstatement and a lifetime membership of which \$320.00 is the life membership fee, \$20.00 is for annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement

Current mailing address: _____
Address City State Zip + 4

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12/2017

2nd ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CRUISE



Special Forces Association Chapter XV

2nd Annual Fellowship & FUN-draising Cruise



7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN

Aboard Carnival Cruises amazing Carnival Vista

Departing Sunday, April 28, 2019

Sailing round-trip from Galveston, Texas to: Cozumel, Mexico, Belize, and Mahogany Bay, Roatan

- Chapter donation of \$210 per cabin
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- Optional SF Excursion

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Oh, what to do first?

Along with sun-kissed ports, you can call the adult-only Serenity Retreat, complete with hammocks, breezes and a near by bar or Guy's Burger Joint, munching on signature road-side style burgers your special spot for the week! This Fun-Ship comes fully loaded cool activities like the Skyride and great restaurants and venues to surpass your vacation expectations! Lift a pint with your SF buddies at the Red Frog Brewery (yep there's a craft brewery right on board and you can even do a tour) For your "date night" may I suggest you take a seat at Playlist Productions, a show that takes tunes you know and presents them like you've never experienced before — past favorites become full-blown musical productions. It's all this and more on the Carnival Vista!

Group Webpage: <http://sgreen.dreamvacationsgroups.com/#/groups/9290180>

Karen Hermann TEL: 210-372-5122

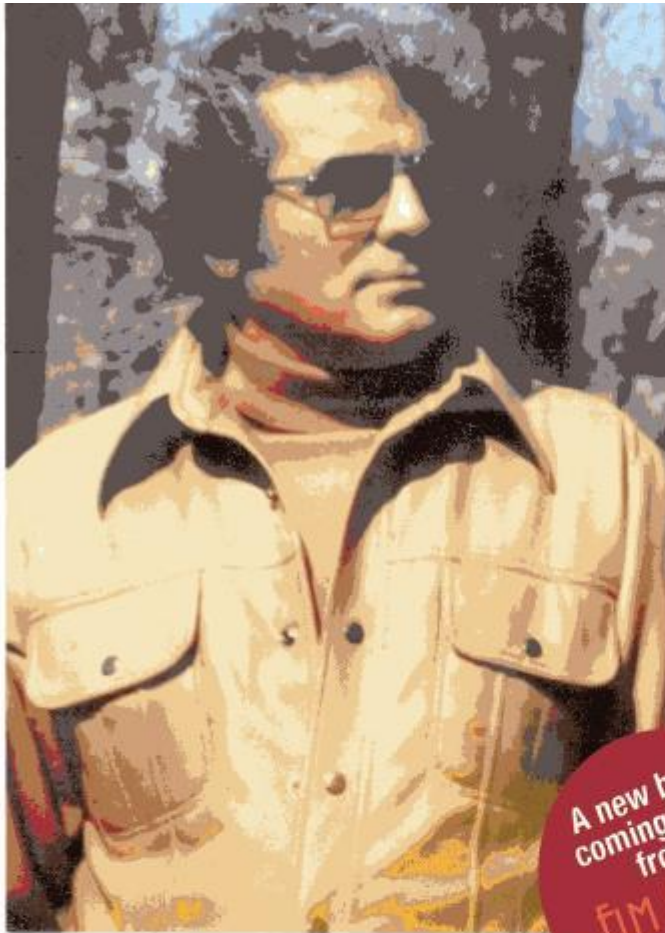
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Terms & Conditions: Prices are shown in U. S. Dollars. Prices are per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy, specified stateroom category, in USD, include non-commissionable fares and are subject to availability. Governmental departure taxes and fees are included. Certain restrictions may apply. Prices and promotional offers apply to new individual bookings and vary by departure date and city, sailing, ship, and stateroom category and are subject to availability, may change without notice, are capacity controlled, may not be combinable with other offers, and may be changed or withdrawn at any time. All reservations must be made in U.S. dollars and restrictions may apply for non-U.S. residents. Cancellation penalties, blackout dates, and other restrictions may also apply. Best Price Guarantee restrictions and instructions apply; see our Best Price Guarantee Policy. Ships Registry: Greece, Norway, Bahamas, Liberia, Panama, Marshall Islands, Great Britain, Bermuda, Wallis & Futun, Malta, the Netherlands and Italy. CA 2006278-40, FLST 35829, IA 655, WA 601896884, NV 2006-0073. © Dream Vacations 2018



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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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7/7/18



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8/4/18

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2018 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9-11 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 7 Membership Meeting 1030 15-22 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1400 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 18-20 Canyon Lake Picnic 28 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 31 June Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 1100 12-16 National SFA Conference TBD JROTC Presentations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1100 14 SOD-A Water Jump 0900</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Budget Committee meeting 1230 6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Membership Meeting 1300 Scholarship Applications</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1300 (Budget Approval) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Christmas Banquet 2018 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</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.

RECUERDO (REMEMBRANCE)

**I sing of one who would remain unsung,
whose name would fade like tracks upon the
sand. For him no bells were ordered to be
rung; no banners lowered by a grieving
land. No bugles blew the moment that he
expired; no clock was stopped to fix the final
hour; no doors were draped in black, no
cannons fired. These are the rites of men of
rank and power.**

**But still I sing of him with mounting pride,
who seized the challenge with uncommon
heart then ran the course with firm
unfaltering stride to reach the mark
determined from the start.**

**The measure of a man who runs the race —
lies in his distance from the starting place.**

Anonymous



Special Forces Creed

*I am an American Special Forces Soldier. A professional!
I will do all that my nation requires of me.
I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.
I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:
Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers,
the 1st Special Service Force, the Jedburghs, Detachment 101,
and the Special Forces Soldiers of the Vietnam War,
Who were awarded 17 Medals of Honor and 90 Distinguished Service Crosses.
I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all these,
In all That I am, all I do.
I am a professional soldier.
I will teach and fight whatever my nation requires,
To liberate the oppressed.
I will strive always, to excel in every art and artifice of war.
I know that I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation
Far from familiar faces and voices.
With the help and guidance of my God,
I will conquer my fears and succeed.
I will keep my mind and body clean, alert and strong, for this is my debt
to those who depend upon me.
I will not fail those with whom I serve, I will not bring shame upon myself or the
Forces. I will maintain myself, my arms, and my equipment
In an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces Soldier.
My goal is to succeed in any mission—and live to succeed again.
I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail in this sacred trust*

Special Forces Poem

By P.A. White

*I've lifted my glass and drank my fill, Of the wine that's known as pride.
I've walked among some gallant men,
And watched them stride for stride. I've crammed my head with devious ways
To defeat the enemy's goal. And kept inside for loyalty's sake,
The tales that can't be told. The need is gone for my service now,
I'll hang up my green beret and sip no more the wine of pride,
Till called again someday.
The strength and character of an organization are measured by its members.*

Bob and Vicki Walker

Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter:

A FULL-PAGE AD in this Newsletter is only \$100 for 12 issues.

To start your ad or keep it running, contact Buddy Gee,
sgmgee@aol.com



Other ad sizes available:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

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\$60



This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

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\$40

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.

Thanks to Kim Phillips and Mike Pagel 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, or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

The Editors



“Carry on!”