



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #02-20

February 2020

**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  
**Editors:** Buddy & Sharon Gee  
**Webmaster:** Jackie Leavitt  
**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  
**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:** Bill Smith  
**Budget Committee:** Merrill Hall  
**Chapter Memorial Svc:** J.W. Martin  
**Chapter Annual Cruise:** Karen Hermann

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31—Board meeting

1000— VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

February 1 — Membership Meeting

1200 - Noon meal served

1300 - Business meeting

February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 26 — Chapter XV 43rd Anniversary



## DON'T FORGET



- **PLEASE NOTE:** President John has reset Chapter board meetings from Thursday afternoons to Friday mornings, 10 a.m.
- Annual dues will be delinquent after 31 January. \$45 reinstatement fee.
- Chapter XV Scholarship applications now being accepted until April 30. VFW scholarships also offered through March 31. See details on Pages 11 and 12.
- Still time to reserve your spot for next year's Beach Getaway to Secrets Akumal, Mexico. Details on Pages 6 and 7.
- Fr. Steve Rindahl is conducting a "Swordbearers Chapel" service at VFW 8541, every Sunday at 1030 hrs. Sick call with Bill Beall at 1200.
- Upcoming Spring events on Page 8.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## President Sends:

Happy 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary SFA CH XV and Happy Valentine's Day! Gentlemen, do not forget to buy your ladies some "lickies and chewies" and some flowers! I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and for those who attended our Annual Christmas Banquet I thank you for attending and for your support. For those that did not make it, you missed a great time, you were missed, and I hope to see you at our next banquet in December.

I am looking forward to our February membership meeting, for it is our chapter anniversary month. For our newer members and those who may have forgotten, SFA CH XV was formed on or about 6 February 1975. After complying with the Association's two-year probationary period, on 26 February 1977 our chapter was granted official status.

For those interested in how we came up with the name "The Alamo Chapter," I have included the following post from our chapter's website history section. It reads as follows:

***SFA CHAPTER XV** was named for the Alamo because the chapter's founders felt the San Antonio shrine symbolized "many of the traits of the Green Berets." The founding group in 1976 also decided to have the name represent MSG Gabriel Alamo, a Green Beret from New Jersey who was killed in action in Vietnam. MSG Alamo was a veteran*

*of World War II and Korea by the time of the fatal firefight at Nam Dong in 1964. His A-team, commanded by CPT Roger H.C. Donlon, became one of the most decorated in Army history. The battle at Nam Dong resulted in the Medal of Honor for CPT Donlon, the Distinguished Service Cross (awarded posthumously) to MSG Alamo and another team member, plus four Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars with "V" for valor to other members of the team.*



**SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT**, just in case anyone ever asks you why we are called the "Alamo Chapter" you now can give them a bit of information that you can be proud of!

Our next board meeting is Friday, 31 January at 1000 hrs at our usual location, with our membership meeting following on Saturday, 1 February, with lunch at noon followed by our members meeting at 1300 hrs. See you there!

John A. Lopez  
President, SFA CH XV  
president@sfa-xv.org

## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, January 2019

As this is my first time to write the \$\$\$ Dollars and Cents, the handoff from Buddy to myself as treasurer is complete. I would like to thank Buddy for the superb job he has done as the Treasurer and an outstanding job of supporting me during the transition phase. Next I would like to thank everyone for the support and am looking forward to a successful two years.

I want to thank Edgar Morales for the donation for the February meal. The membership meals thru June have

been provided by Iris Archer, John Tippy and Chuck Rose deserve thanks. That leaves 5 membership meals left to pay for this year. Also I want to thank George Garcia and John Rodden for the Monthly donation.

I am looking forward to see everyone at the membership meeting 1 February.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer  
treasurer@sfa-xv.org



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# Minutes of January Meeting

**Chapter Meeting Date: 04 JAN 2020**  
**Meeting Held at VFW Post 8541**

**SOP:** Pledge, Invocation, and Moment of Silence for fallen comrades. Identified 3 new Chapter Members. Member Mark Goode identified as sick and offered support as required.

**Chapter VII Member Dan Carlton** spoke about recent teammate KIA AFG (SFC Mike Goble) and requested any appropriate support for his family. Chapter voted for a \$300 donation to SFC Goble's family.

**2019 Treasurer Buddy Gee** provided 2019 annual budget report & NOV/DEC 2019 treasurer report. Chapter members voted to approve both reports.... Motion to approve DEC 19 Meeting Notes was voted and accepted.

**Marti Scott** reminded members of annual dues deadline and briefed Chapter XV membership currently stands at 216 members

**President John Lopez** provided DEC 2019 Christmas event outbrief. Confirmed that Chapter will wait till 2022 to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapter.

**Pat Connolly, Chapter Scholarship** coordinator, briefed scholarship application guidelines and due date of April 30.

**Cotulla BBQ Coordinator Mike Brown** briefed the dates and general concept for the annual Cotulla Wild Hog BBQ competition.

Chapter XV will conduct the annual **Chapter Memorial Service** at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery 04 APR 2020

**JROTC Awards** Coordinator briefed 2020 awards status for applications and Chapter presenters.

**Fiesta Medal Coordinator Gordon Lee** briefed the current status of the 2020 Chapter XV Fiesta Medal.

**Canyon Lake Picnic Coordinator Raul de La Garza** briefed the current status of the picnic area and lodging options for the annual event 15-17 MAY 2020. Need Chapter volunteers to assist in setup and coordination. Lodging information still TBD

**President John Lopez** briefed the AUG 2020 SFA National Convention: 12-15 AUG (week prior to Chapter Mexico event), Destin, Florida. Chapter President will attend.

**Buddy Gee** briefed the current status of the 2020 Chapter get-away vacation event: Akumal, Mexico 18-23 AUG.

**Dick's Last Resort** Annual Fundraiser: 1-8 October timeframe (TBD.) Member Fred Solis is the Chapter POC.

Discussion of the 2020 **Annual JBSA Oktoberfest** Celebration. 17 OCT 2020. Chris Marshall and Raul de la Garza are POCs.

Discussion of the 11 NOV **Veterans Day celebration**: This year Chapter XV participation is TBD. Chapter looking at alternate proposals for a Veterans Day event.

Discussion of the 2020 **Chapter Christmas Banquet**. Possible new hotel venue for event due to rising costs. President John Lopez and Member Bill Smith working details.

**Reminder of C/5/19 SFG(A)** Awards Ceremony 12 JAN at 1400 hours.

Chapter **Meeting Lunch Donations**: all months except MAY and DEC were requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Brown, Secretary



**Left: Chapter VII member Dan Carlton (with son) speaks on behalf of his teammate, Mike Goble, KIA in Afghanistan.**  
**At right: New officers Mike Brown, secretary; John Lopez, president; and Merrill Hall, treasurer, take the helm.**

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# Chapter News

## Report from the Riviera Maya: Awesome!

By SHARON GEE

**K**aren Hermann has sold three more rooms for our August 18-23 Getaway to Secrets Akumal Resort in Mexico, so we're up to 17 rooms sold. She says one Junior Suite Swim-Out room remains available in the inventory, but she can request more.

Karen also advises that Southwest Airlines will open up their late-summer schedule (from Aug. 10th forward) on Feb. 13, so get ready to book your airfare. Karen will need everyone's air schedule as soon as you have it in order to arrange transfers from the airport to the resort. She also reminds that you will need a passport that's valid for six months beyond the return date for this trip.

**THANKS TO** Karen's Dream Vacations and Austin agent Sheri Green, Chapter XV received a donation of a 3-night stay at Dreams Tulum Resort. This is a sister property of Secrets Akumal, located about 15 miles away on the beautiful Riviera Maya. Buddy and I were top bidders for this trip during the Dick's Last Resort fundraiser last year, so in January, we were off to Tulum.



**LET ME TELL YOU:** It was truly "unlimited luxury," as they advertise. The buildings are gorgeous, the landscape is breathtaking, and the service makes you feel like royalty. No waiting, no wristbands, no need to make reservations for the gourmet meal of your

choice. French, Italian, Asian, Mexican, or burgers on the beach -- all the food was outstanding!

**THIS RESORT** has most of the same restaurants and amenities as Secrets Akumal, a main difference being that Tulum is not "adults-only." The spectacular beaches and pools featured quick, friendly wait service with whatever drinks you might desire. Each room has a private balcony, 24-hour room service, and a free mini-bar. Transportation to and from the resort is included in the price, as are all fees and taxes.

Based on our Tulum experience, we can't wait for Akumal in August to eat, drink, relax and be pampered.



### Website update: From Buddy Gee

The Chapter website has been undergoing change for the past few months. Some changes are not visible, but are necessary for efficiency and appearance. Steve Wolverton has accepted the task of managing the website to streamline and make improvements almost daily.

The website has made it possible for Chapter officers to be assigned a permanent email address that can pass on to succeeding officers. In the past, officers used personal email addresses for chapter business. When officers changed it was difficult or impossible to pass to succeeding officer. In future, the incoming officer will only need to change the password. This new process is

particularly important to the newsletter editor and some committee chairs, like JROTC. It also brings some consistency to the Chapter email process. Assigned email addresses are:

[president@sfa-xv.org](mailto:president@sfa-xv.org)  
[vp@sfa-xv.org](mailto:vp@sfa-xv.org)  
[secretary@sfa-xv.org](mailto:secretary@sfa-xv.org)  
[treasurer@sfa-xv.org](mailto:treasurer@sfa-xv.org)  
[editor@sfa-xv.org](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org)  
[membership@sfa-xv.org](mailto:membership@sfa-xv.org)  
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[asstsec@sfa-xv.org](mailto:asstsec@sfa-xv.org)  
[assttreasurer@sfa-xv.org](mailto:assttreasurer@sfa-xv.org)

The chapter web address is: [www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org).

# Chapter News

## Special Forces Association Chapter XV 2020 Escape to Secrets Akumal!

Enjoy Unlimited Luxury\* – An all-inclusive experience that exceeds expectations!

Secrets Akumal Riviera Maya - Idyllic. Striking. Nature. Nestled in the heart of the Riviera Maya, bask on white-sand beaches and relax in calm, clear waters. This adult-only paradise fuses elegant and original design with nature's elements. Akumal means "place of the turtle" in Mayan and is renowned for its beautiful beaches and green sea turtles

\*Limitless access to gourmet à la carte dining options  
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Let's go play on the beautiful beaches of the Riviera Maya!



**August 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 - 5 night / 6 Days Land Only – \*includes transfers to / from resort**

**Junior Suite Tropical View**

**\$1115.00 per person**

**Junior Suite – Swim Out**

**\$1190.00 per person**

**Preferred Club Junior Suite – Swim Out**

**\$1418.00 per person**

\$200 p/p deposit due at booking. \*Additional suite categories and pre/post 1, 2 and 3 night combinations available on request with special pricing. Space subject to availability at time of booking. Complimentary transfers on 5 day package arrival and departure days only. Contact for more details.

Contact Karen Hermann @ 210-372-5122 or [khermann@wth.com](mailto:khermann@wth.com) for more information or to book

Sheri Green  
Austin, TX  
T: (855) HIP-2CRZ  
E: [sgreen@dreamvacations.com](mailto:sgreen@dreamvacations.com)



\*Prices are per person, based on double occupancy, land only, space is limited. Rates include a \$45 per person markup donation to SFA Chapter XV. Mark-up will not be waived. Other restrictions may apply. © 2020 Dream Vacations.

# Chapter News

## 2020 Fiesta medals are on the way



**G**ordon and Dana Lee have placed an order for 750 Chapter XV Fiesta medals for 2020. The interesting design eliminates the usual ribbon and adds two sets of chains. The figure has red eyes that light up!

This will be our second year of Fiesta medals, which proved to be a great fundraiser in 2019. This year's medals will sell for \$15. They should arrive within the first two weeks of February.

"We will be attending more Fiesta sales opportunities this year and all Chapter members are encouraged to help sell medals to their friends, as well keep one for themselves," says Gordon.

## Chapter members help open Longtab Brewing Co.



Chapter XV members Mike Brown and David Holland (above) launched their brewpub and coffee house in January. Chapter members turned out in force for the soft opening.





# Chapter News

**WELCOME HOME, SOLDIERS!** Chapter XV helped welcome home Co C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 19<sup>th</sup> SF (Airborne) from their recent deployment to Iraq and Syria.

Left photo: Chapter member and VFW Post 8541 Commander Bill Smith addresses the soldiers and their families following

an awards ceremony. They were treated to lunch and some good fellowship. Right photo: MSG Lionel Gaudet received a surprise promotion to Sergeant Major.

C/1/19 are Texas National Guard soldiers stationed at Camp Bullis, San Antonio, TX.



## Coming Up this Spring:



**March 13-15:** Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff at LaSalle County Fair, Cotulla, Texas. For information, contact Mike Brown.

**April 7:** Chapter XV Memorial Service, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. POC is JW Martin.

**April 16** — Fiesta kickoff and “Pin Pandemonium.” Hemisfair Park. Volunteers needed to sell Fiesta medals. Contact Karen Hermann.

**April 19** — Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Fireworks, MacArthur Parade Field. Volunteers needed to set up and sell.

**May 15-17** — Annual Canyon Lake Picnic. POC is Raul de la Garza.

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06/20

# Scholarship Applications Now Due

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces that applications are being accepted from now until 30 April, 2020. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM PAST YEARS. Here are the revised 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**



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

**James B Sprague Memorial Post 8541**

**2222 Austin Highway**

**San Antonio, Texas 78218**

**Post Phone: (210) 655-2944**

**Email: [commander@vfwpost8541.org](mailto:commander@vfwpost8541.org)**

### **VFW Post 8541 2020 Educational Scholarship**

The VFW Post 8541 Educational Scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance through an annual scholarship of \$4,000. There will be two scholarships awarded. 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 who will graduate in the Spring and has a current letter of acceptance, or
  - B. Currently attending or accepted by an accredited college, university, or vocational 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, summary of achievements, 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.

Applications must be received by VFW Post 8541 no later than 31 March 2020. 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.*

*William E. Smith*

William E. Smith

Commander

12/19



## Remind others: Wear RED this Friday

**W**hen you consider the color red, what do you think of? For a growing number of military members, veterans, military families and supporters, red has become an acronym – RED, for Remember Everyone Deployed.

Wear-RED Fridays have become a standard on military installations and in veteran communities. Wearing the color red has become a method of signaling to the rest of the community that we still have men and women deployed around the world who are in harm's way on our behalf – a fact that an increasing number of the general population have forgotten. Those who do recognize that our country still has men and women deployed largely believe that such deployments are restricted to Afghanistan and, maybe, Iraq.

**LITTLE DO THEY KNOW** that our service members are deployed to every corner of the globe in the effort to protect America and liberate those currently living under oppression. We understand this but they, all too often do not. It is one among many signs of the ever-growing military/civilian gap. As a result, we recognize each other; we support each other; we show up to honor the sacrifices made — men and women martyred for the cause — that most others do not even know have occurred.

Similarly, there is a custom of wearing of red within the Church. The color red has come to symbolize blood, fire and

passion (in its original meaning of suffering to the point of death – Think, as in the movie title “The Passion of the Christ.”) As a result, red has become the color used when remembering the death of Christ and Christian martyrs.

Much like the sacrifices of our military men and women, most people of the world do not realize that we are currently living in the era of the highest levels of martyrdom in the history of Christianity. Fox News has reported on the vast numbers killed and how the numbers are on the rise. Even the far-left leaning *Guardian* newspaper has declared that the modern martyrdom of Christians has reached genocidal levels.

What do both of these groups, our deployed military members and the largely ignored Christian martyrs around the world, have in common? They both live and defend what they believe in – even if it costs their lives. Will you remember them and wear RED this Friday? I hope you do. Even more important – will you show even greater respect to them and live a life worth dying for?

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



## Warriors on the Way

[www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org](http://www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org)

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# CELLINI

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

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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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## Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE

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**Terrazas and Associates, Inc.**

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2020 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 31 February Board Meeting 1000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>1 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 43rd anniversary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 13-15 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1000 4 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 4 Membership Meeting 1100 30 Scholarship applications due TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1000 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 15 Drop Input Due 15-17 Canyon Lake Picnic 25 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1000 6 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day &amp; Army Birthday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>4 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1000 11 Membership Meeting 1300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AUGUST</u></b></p> <p>7 Board Meeting 1000 8 Membership Meeting 1300 12-15 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due 18-23 Escape to 'Secrets Akumal'</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1000 5 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1000 3 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Dick's Last Resort fundraiser TBD Oktoberfest at FSH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>6 Board meeting 1000 7 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 5 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 7 Pearl Harbor Day 12 Christmas Banquet</p>

**All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.**



### *Special Forces Creed*

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

### *Special Forces Poem*

*By P.A. White*

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

## **RECUERDO (REMEMBRANCE)**

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

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

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

**Anonymous**



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Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

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## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

12-15 AUG 2020 Special Forces Association Convention  
Sandestin Beach and Spa Resort, Destin, FL

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

**Thanks to Ben Scott, Chris Marshall, Denyse Simpson and Kim Phillips 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](mailto:editor@sfa-xv.org), or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

**The Editors**



**"Carry on!"**