



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #07-20

July 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

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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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 — Independence Day

July 10 — Board Meeting 1000
 VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

July 11 — Membership Meeting
 1200 - Noon meal served

1300 — Business meeting

July 31 — August Board Meeting

August 1 — Membership Meeting



DON'T FORGET



- VFW Post 8541 has closed again by governor's order. JULY SFA MEETINGS ARE CANCELED.

- The Special Forces International Convention will be held as scheduled, August 12-15 in Sandestin, FL. Details at

<https://www.sfainternationalconvention.org/>

- Gordon and Dana Lee have the new 2020 Fiesta medals. Contact them to get your medals, \$15 each. (Plenty of selling time before Fiesta San Antonio in November.)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Greetings CH XV, I hope you all are doing well and staying safe. We had a hot, triple-digit July 4th Independence Day weekend here in San Antonio. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable weekend and stayed out of the heat. Do not forget that also this month Tax Day falls on Wednesday, July 15th. So, if you have not submitted your income tax return, you still have a few days to do so.

I HAVE SOME GREAT NEWS about our Chapter's annual Christmas Banquet. For those who attended last month's membership meeting, we decided on having our annual gathering at our VFW Post 8541 because the El Tropicano Hotel is closed for renovations, and the other hotels I looked at were either booked or were too small for our crowd. Then Dan Pedrotti (Sharon Gee's cousin) offered his banquet room at the Republic Golf Club on 4226 SE Military Dr.

DAVE AND RHONDA MARSHALL and myself met with Dan later that week to look at the venue. It has everything we need—plenty of parking, we can bring in our own beer, wine, and liquor. We can bring in caterers as well. There are a couple of hotels within a mile from the banquet hall for those that do not want to drive home. I will meet with the hotels and see what the rates are and if they can perhaps give us a discount. We will also be decorating there and putting up a Christmas tree. For those interested, you can participate in the white elephant gift exchange. So, many thanks to Dan Pedrotti!

ALSO PRESENT AT OUR LAST MEETING was Marcie Friedman, who is a senior State Department officer. She has friends in the SF community and is a graduate of the Global Security course at Fort Bragg. Marcie spoke to us about her family's Echo Hill Ranch, which she is repurposing as a summer camp for Gold Star families. She is looking for volunteer

help at the ranch to help for the July re-opening. Kim, my daughter, and I have been out to the ranch twice already to help out. The ranch is just between Medina and Kerrville, TX. It is a beautiful place, and a possible place for a picnic that we did not have in May. If interested in helping, please let me know and I will give you the details. (See Pages 11-12)



AS FOR OUR CURRENT SITUATION, please continue to practice the guidelines that have been set forth to protect you from this pandemic. As you probably have already heard, San Antonio is experiencing a continued spike in COVID-19 cases. Texas Gov. Abbott has issued an Executive Order requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public places. There have also been restrictions on gatherings of more than 10 people. Therefore, I have decided to cancel our July board and membership meetings.

It was great seeing those who attended the June membership meeting, and I am glad you all are doing your best to stay safe and healthy. I do not want to risk any of our chapter members getting sick with the coronavirus. I hope to see you all again for our August meeting. The next board meeting will be Friday, July 31st, and our membership meeting will be Saturday, August 1st at our usual time.

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

\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurers Report, June 2020

Once again, things have been slow because of the Wuhan virus.

This month we were to present the scholarship checks at the July membership meeting. Since the meeting is canceled, we will mail the checks.

I want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org

Minutes of June Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 06 June, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President **John Lopez** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain **Steven Rindahl** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

John Lopez welcomed new members/associate members and guests: **Mike Simpson** (MAJ, Ret) Gold Star family member, and his son **Isaac Simpson** (former SF); **Dan Pedrotti**; **Marcie Friedman**.

Special thanks to **Jason Sloan** (son of the late **Lyle Sloan**) for donating the sausage for today's lunch.

Sick & distressed: **Pete Morakon** (Fayetteville, N.C. SFA member, husband of Jerrie LeBleu) passed away last week.

1. Treasurer's report: **Merrill Hall**, monthly budget report was presented and accepted as read.
2. Minutes: There were no minutes to be posted at this time. Our last meeting was in March. We will be posting minutes for March and June in the July Newsletter.
3. Membership report: **Marti Scott**. We are at 218 members.
4. SFA CH XV 2020 Educational Scholarship: **Pat Connolly**, Chapter awarding scholarship grants to five winners. (\$3K is divided among recipients into five \$600 checks.) We will present the checks at next month's meeting. In the event of a meeting cancellation we will mail out the checks.
5. **Steve Hermann** CHL class is 9 a.m. June 13 here at the VFW. Please bring your ID, 50 rounds of ammo, and \$50.
6. June 14th is Flag day and the Army's 245th Birthday.
7. SFA Award of Excellence medal JROTC presentations: We had 19 schools that we supported with our award this year.

Our \$500 donation check to East Central HS for their JROTC competition in Richmond, VA is being saved for next year. The competition was canceled due to COVID-19. They were very

appreciative and wanted to say thank you to the Chapter.

8. July 4th falls on a Saturday this year, so our board and member meetings will be the following week (Friday 10th & Saturday 11th at our normal times).
9. SFA International Convention: Sandestin Beach & Spa Resort in Destin, FL., August 12th – 15; it's the week before our trip to Akumal, Mexico.
10. 2020 Escape to Secrets Akumal Riviera Maya, Mexico: **Karen Hermann**, August 18-23, 2020, (Tue-Sun) 5 nights, 6 days. All-inclusive resort.
11. The SF Charitable Trust will host a shooting competition out off Culebra Road the last weekend in August. We are looking into setting up a table to sell Fiesta medals and merchandise.
12. Guest Speaker: **Marcie Friedman** spoke about Echo Hill Ranch, set to re-open in July as a summer camp for Gold Star families. She is looking for attendees and volunteer help.
13. 16th Annual Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser: **Fred Solis**, DLR has committed for this October, a Thursday (the 1st or 8th.) \$30 a ticket, all the food and drink you want from 1800-2100 hrs.
14. JBSA Oktoberfest 2020: TBD, **Chris Marshall**, Saturday October 17 event on Fort Sam; we need volunteers to help with the sales at our tables.
15. Fiesta 2020, 5th-15th of November 2020.
16. 2020 SFA CH XV Christmas Banquet: Friday, December 11 at our VFW. The El Tropicano Hotel is closed till February 2021 for renovations.
17. Open discussion: **Dan Pedrotti** invited us to come view banquet hall at the Republic Golf Club for a possible venue for the chapter Christmas Banquet.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Lopez, D-8306 SFA Chapter XV President



JUNE MEETING: Marti in mask; John in 'Ranger panties'; Marcie speaking to group; Gordon Lee with Merrill Hall, Dion Popoy.

Minutes of March Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: March 7, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President John Lopez at 1300 hours. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain Steven Rindahl gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POWs was held.

President Lopez welcomed new members and guests.

Members sick or in distress:

- Mark Goode was present and is being treated for cancer.
- Angie Canales is being treated for pancreatic cancer
- Dana Lee is scheduled for back surgery

Minutes of the February meeting were distributed and approved by the members.

February treasurer's report by Merrill Hall was approved by the members.

Membership: Marti Scott reported we currently have 215 members.

Pat Connolly reminded that April 30 is the deadline for Chapter scholarship applications. He has received one application so far.

Mike Brown briefed the Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-Off, March 13-15. Bring folding chairs and sunscreen.

President Lopez said JROTC awards of excellence will be presented March through June. Ten schools have already scheduled dates for the presentations. See John to volunteer.

The Chapter Memorial Service will be April 4, 10 AM at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. VP Pat Meffert will chair the event, taking over from J.W. Martin.

Gordon Lee said Fiesta medals will arrive by March 21 and will sell for \$15 each.

Raul de la Garza said Canyon Lake picnic will be May 15-17.

Cabins are \$115/night and must be reserved in advance.

John Lopez went through the future calendar of events:

- a. SFA National Convention in Destin, FL August 12-15. VP Pat Meffert volunteered to coordinate a Chapter XV hospitality room. Buddy and Sharon Gee agreed to work the room.
- b. The chapter getaway to Akumal is scheduled for August 18-23. Karen Hermann gave an update and advised that Southwest Airlines airfare sale begins March 13. The last date to cancel reservations without penalty is June 4.
- c. Dick's Last Resort fundraiser will be either October 1 or October 8. Event begins at 1800 hours and tickets are \$30 for food and drinks.
- d. October 17 is the Fort Sam Houston Oktoberfest.
- e. SOAR will be October 19-23 at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas.
- f. November 11 is Veterans Day. The Chapter withdrew from the service flag presentation at the Fort Sam Houston Cemetery and is looking into other venues.
- g. The Chapter Christmas Banquet will be either December 5 or December 12. Under consideration for the event are the Marriott, Hilton and El Tropicano hotels. President Lopez will contact the hotels for proposals.
- h. Chaplain Steven Rindahl conducts Swordbearer's Chapel Sundays in the Rodela Room, VFW Post 8541.
- i. The door prize drawing was conducted by Raul de la Garza. Pat Connolly had two winning tickets.

The meeting was adjourned at 1350.

Respectfully submitted,
Eldon A. "Buddy" Gee, Assistant Secretary



At left, Bill Smith and John Lopez bump elbows as Chapter XV presents annual donation to VFW Post 8541. Center, Wild Hog Cook-off boss Mike Brown receives gift of a cabrito from David Benavidez. At right, Kim Phillips, Karen Hermann, Marsha Scott and Dana Lee visit after March meeting.

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SFA Life Member A-4670

Chapter News

More Scholarships awarded for Chapter XV

Ramiro Daniel, a member of Chapter XV who lives in Donna, TX, has again presented scholarships on behalf of the Chapter. This time, he funded two scholarships of \$1,000 each and presented them to two outstanding graduates at Donna High School: **Marcus Ysaguirre** and **Daniela Treviño**.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the graduation ceremonies were held online, but Ramiro was able to talk to each of the winners. They were selected from eight scholarship applicants, and both students have plans for an active Army career.

Ysaguirre, a running back with the Donna varsity football team, enlisted in the Army Reserve during his junior year and went on full-time active duty early this month. "He wants to have NCO experience and attain college hours before going to OCS," Ramiro reports.

Daniela Treviño plans to enlist after one year of college and wants to become an Army officer.

Ramiro says he hopes the scholarship grants will be an incentive for seniors to enlist in the Army upon graduation. (Thanks, Ramiro, for your good work on behalf of SFA Chapter XV!)

Chapter XV previously announced the award of five scholarships to children or grandchildren of members. One of those, **Rachael Jimenez**, was not pictured in the newsletter, but here she is!

Rachael, 21, of Clovis, NM, is the granddaughter of Chapter XV's Enrique (Henry) Jimenez. She is in her second year at Eastern New Mexico University. She is a graduate of Clovis High School, where she was a member of the marching band and the National Honor Society. She is studying to be a teacher in elementary and Special Education. She is consistently on the Dean's List and is an officer of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity.



The other scholarship recipients for 2020 are Kaitlyn Marie Adams, granddaughter of Toby Todd; Natalie Rae James, granddaughter of Jose Campos Jr.; Lilian M. Kremer, granddaughter of Barry Archer, and Seth London, stepson of David Marshall.

Ready for beach time? Akumal, here we come!

From Karen Hermann:

Akumal is open! After some cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic, the group traveling to Secrets Akumal Riviera Maya for the August fundraising trip is now at 15 people. Mike and



Carle Hurst from SFA in the Austin area are also joining us.

The resort opened on schedule July 1 and is ready for U.S. travelers.

Travelers, please get your flight schedule to Sheri Green and purchase the travel insurance.

Check out this sausage deal

Jason Sloan, son of the late Lyle Sloan (a long-time Chapter member,) donated the delicious sausage for our June luncheon. There was a hot and a not-so hot variety – both delicious!

Now Jason invites us to contact him

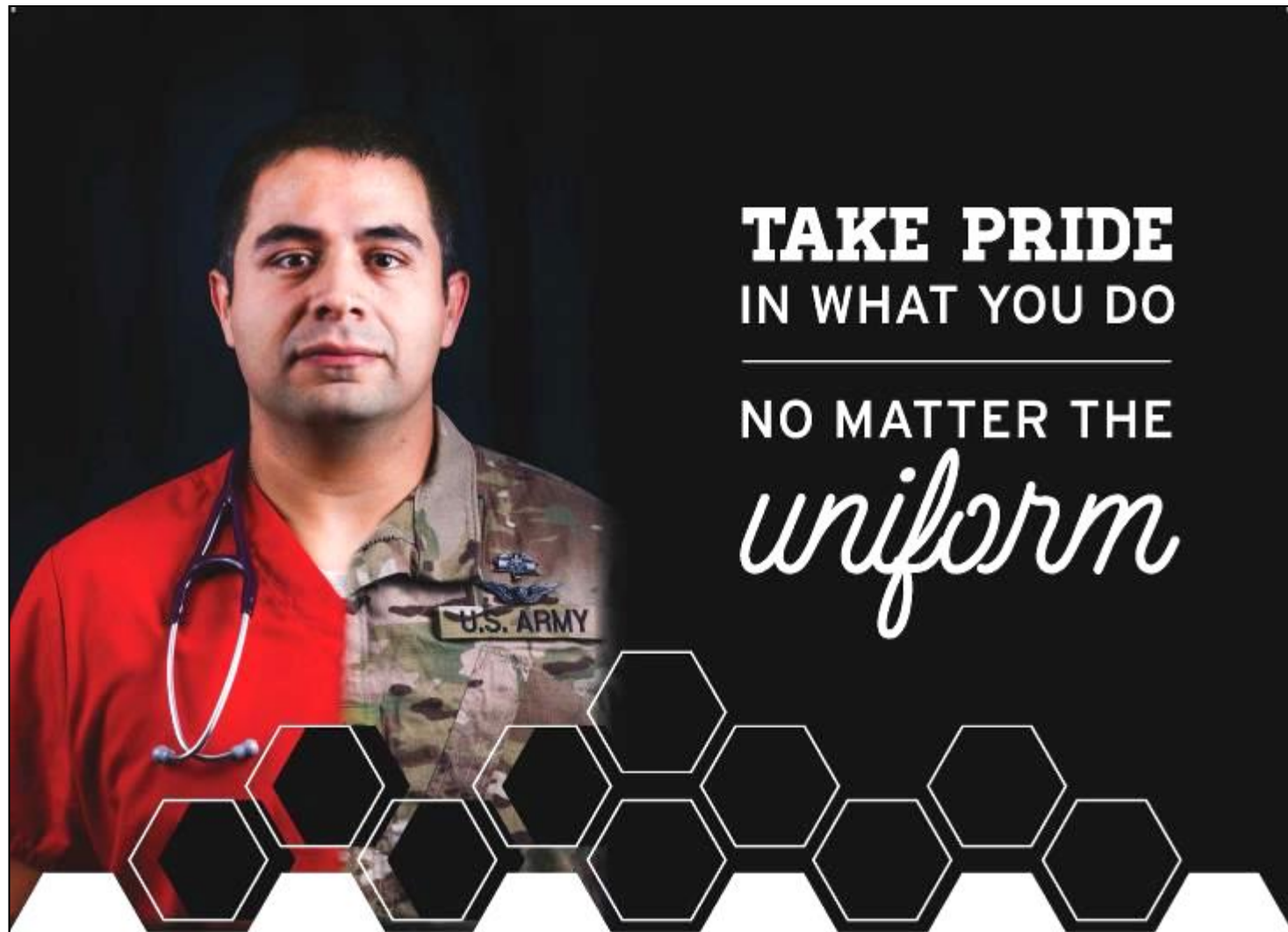
for discount deals from Kiolbassa Smoked Meats, where he works. “

We do a buy 2, get 1 free program for any special events, fundraisers and such,” he says. “All that is needed is a flyer for verification and tax purposes.”

Jason says the company has remained open during the pandemic and sells directly to the public – not

only smoked sausage but bulk chorizo, summer sausage, breakfast links and bacon. You can contact him at the plant, 1325 S. Brazos St., 210- 852- 8138, or at jsloan@kiolbassa.com. Tell him you're a member of Chapter XV.





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Other News



E-GAMES: Chapter member William Smith, left, commander of VFW Post 8541, is interviewed by Max Massey of KSAT-12 News for a story about the Post's planned egame room, which will be the first of its kind. The hi-tech room, due to be completed this month, is designed to attract younger veterans who enjoy playing

the latest video games. The room is outfitted with eight "socially distanced" playing stations. Smith has partnered with LFG Cybercafe and is supported by Microsoft to create the special room, which could be expanded in the future. Veterans will pay a nominal fee to play.

Army Changes Rules for Retiree Uniforms



In 2020, the U.S. Army is replacing the blue Army Service Uniform with the new Army Green Service Uniform. A key difference between the uniforms is the shoulder sleeve insignia of the wearer's unit of assignment that is sewn on the left shoulder of the Army Green Service Uniform, but is not worn on the Army Service Uniform. Before retired soldiers may wear their service uniforms, they must replace their last unit's shoulder sleeve insignia with the new 3-inch diameter retired shoulder sleeve insignia (pictured above).

Retired Soldiers who wear the blue Army Service Uniform must wear the Retired Identification Badge, a two-inch badge that identifies them as retired. Soldiers who wear

the new Army Green Service Uniform and older service uniforms that include a shoulder sleeve insignia should wear the new retired shoulder sleeve insignia.

Army policy permits retired members to wear uniforms only "while attending military funerals, memorial services, weddings, inaugurations, and other occasions of ceremony [including] attending parades on national or state holidays, or other patriotic parades or ceremonies in which any active or reserve U.S. military unit is taking part. Uniforms for these occasions are restricted to service and dress uniforms."

Extracted From Army Echoes Magazine, June-September 2020 issue

R.I.P.

Chapter XV owes big thanks to Charlie Daniels

Charlie Daniels
Oct. 28, 1936-July 6, 2020

July 6 was a sad day for America. That day we lost a patriot who loved America, the U.S. military and its veterans. Charlie Daniels, born in Wilmington, NC, died of a stroke in a Nashville hospital at age 83. He is survived by his wife Hazel and son Charlie Daniels Jr.

“He was a singer, songwriter, bandleader and a blazing fiddle player on hits like ‘The Devil Went Down to Georgia,’” wrote the *New York Times*. A legendary musician, he was a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Grand Old Opry and leader of the hugely popular country-rockers, the Charlie Daniels Band.

CHAPTER XV OWES a big thank-you to Charlie Daniels and the staff and family that he left behind. Charlie was so dedicated to the military community that he had a military advisor, Joel Pruitt, 5th SF Group (Ret.) and former VP of Chapter 38. Through Joel, Charlie hosted an annual luncheon in Nashville for all attendees at the 5th Group Reunion. At the luncheon in September 2019, Charlie took it a step further and donated an autographed fiddle to every SFA Chapter in attendance. Chapter XV received one.

Unfortunately, we never got a chance to thank Charlie for his generosity because we planned to do so after the fiddle was auctioned at a fundraiser. Due to COVID-19, the Chapter still has the fiddle.



So, here is a big thank-you in advance to Charlie for the donation, to his manager David Corlew for coordinating and overseeing the events, and to Angie, who is the workhorse in Charlie’s office. Also, thank you to Joel Pruitt for making things happen.

We thank you and salute you, Mr. Charlie Daniels. May you rest in eternal peace.

—*Special Forces Association, Chapter XV, San Antonio, TX.*



Jesse G. Jimenez

Nov. 25, 1946 - July 3, 2020

Condolences to Henry Jimenez, who lost his younger brother, Jesús “Jesse” Jimenez, to COVID-19. Jesse entered the VA Hospital two weeks ago and died on July 3.

He was an Army veteran who served with the Americal Division in Vietnam, then had a long career working as a district manager for the *San Antonio Express-News*. He used a wheelchair in his later years due to paralysis from a stroke.

Henry recalls that he was home on leave when Jesse graduated from Lanier High School in 1966. Henry personally took him to the recruiting station, he says, and supervised his enlistment as a diesel mechanic. “My mother wasn’t happy with me,” he adds.

Jesse is survived by his wife Victoria, five adult children, three brothers and two sisters. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Editor’s Note: Several ads in this edition of the newsletter have expired. If your ad has expired, we hope you will continue your support by renewing for another year. The rates have not changed. (See Page 19 for pricing.) To renew or change your ad, email to editor@sfa-xv.org. You can pay on line at the Chapter website or in person at the next membership meeting.

Thank you and DOL.

Buddy Gee
editor@sfa-XV.org



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Gold Star Families

Friedmans fix up Hill Country camp for Gold Star kids

By MARCIE FRIEDMAN

Echo Hill Ranch Gold Star Camp is dedicated to providing a safe, fun, relaxing and empowering experience to boys and girls from Gold Star Families at no cost to the families. Our goal is to "let kids be kids" and provide the opportunity for them to have friendship and fellowship with others who share their life experiences while having fun in nature.

Located high in the Texas Hill Country on Echo Hill Ranch, Gold Star Camp is 266 acres of beautiful and peaceful land in a private valley. Spring-fed Wallace Creek runs through Echo Hill on its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

LAST YEAR, MY BROTHER KINKY Friedman and I decided to re-invent Echo Hill Ranch, which had been a successful private children's camp for over 60 years. Founded by our parents, Tom and Min Friedman, Echo Hill was known by generations of happy girls and boys as a place to have fun, make friends and learn new skills like horseback riding, swimming, nature study, sports and the creative arts. Girls and boys stay with counselors in Western-style cabins. Each bunkhouse has its own bathroom attached with hot and cold water. The camp has a dining hall which can serve over 125 people and a fully stocked

infirmary.

BUILDING ON MY YEARS of experience overseas as a Foreign Service Officer and an American Red Cross Country Director, I had participated in a recent Joint Special Operations Masters program at the National Defense University at Fort

Bragg. I turned to my military classmates for advice and support, and Echo Hill Ranch Gold Star Camp was born.

THE CAMP CONDUCTS 10-day sessions for 50 to 60 boys and girls from Gold Star Families from Texas and around the country. Each child receives individual attention and complete financial support including travel expenses. Volunteers work closely with the entire family to ensure



a positive experience with lasting impact. The program is flexible and also provides opportunities for mentoring and leadership training for teen-agers and young adults.

THERE WILL ALSO BE opportunities for "A Day at Echo Hill Ranch" events, where local children and families can come for a day of programming and special activities.

Over the past months, military volunteers from the San Antonio area have contributed over 700 volunteer hours to support the preparation of Echo Hill Ranch for the Gold Star Children and related programs.

Left: Marcie and friends at the ranch. Right: Chapter XV President John Lopez helps with ranch chores.



Gold Star Camp (cont.)



ECHO HILL RANCH GSC warmly invites all those who share our mission to join us. Please see our website at <http://www.echohill.org> for opportunities to help out!

We are looking for:

1. Referrals of children/families who would like to participate
2. Volunteer staff and mentors
3. Volunteers to help with painting, repairs, carpentry, etc.
4. Volunteers to help with fund-raising
5. Financial donations to sponsor children
6. Donations of new athletic and camping gear

You can reach us by email at: military.outreach@echohill.org or info@echohill.org.

You can reach us by phone at: 1-830-589-2520

or contact Marcie at marciefriedman@echohill.org.

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Bob Jenkins, U.S. Army (Retired)



06/20



Let's work toward a healthy tomorrow

It is July and summer is in full-swing – kind of. Restrictions are back in place – how many can gather, in what settings, we must be wearing masks, many businesses (and our VFW) shut down (again).

The just celebrated Independence Day was not so much a celebration as much as it was an observation with almost all public fireworks displays canceled and outdoor recreation locations closed. The country is in a split-opinion between focusing on over-all public health and a concern over infringements on liberty. Sometimes those differences of opinion can grow quite heated in how they are expressed.

The situation is, however, the restrictions are in place. We are all being called upon to sacrifice, at least temporarily. Sacrifice is nothing new to any of us here. We all set aside personal freedoms, and made sacrifices, when we entered a life ensuring the freedoms of others and bringing freedom to those who were previously oppressed.

Sacrificing for the benefit of others – even those who do not know us nor we them is, in a small way, a divine mission. It reflects how we are, in fact, made in God's image. Not in how we look – eyes and nose and fingers and toes – but in those attributes and qualities that reveal God as willing to sacrifice for us even when we did not know Him.



Eventually, we will all enjoy greater freedoms again. Until then, God bless you and let us all work together towards a healthy tomorrow.

Buen Camino,

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

“Set at liberty the oppressed”
~ Jesus ~



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GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2020 CALENDAR

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

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Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

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President: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

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

22-25 OCT 2020 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Thanks to Ben Scott, Kim Phillips, Chris Marshall, Henry Jimenez and Marcie Friedman 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!”