



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue # 5-17

May 2017

**President:** Bill Smith  
**Vice-President:** Barry Archer  
**Secretary:** Juan Lopez  
**Treasurer:** Buddy Gee  
**Sgt at Arms:** Raul de la Garza  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Toby Todd  
**Asst. Sgt at Arms:** Gordon Lee  
**Membership Secy:** Marti Scott  
**Past President:** Chuck Rose  
**Editors:** Buddy & Sharon Gee  
**Webmaster:** Scotty Codename  
**VGSA Rep:** Raul de la Garza  
**DAV/VA:**  
**Chaplains:** R. Johnson & A. Flores

**Visit us at our Home Page:**  
**[www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org)**



Committee Chairs

**By-Laws:** Bill Smith  
**Nominations:** TBD  
**Motorcycle Challenge:** Gordon Lee  
**JROTC Awards:** Jose Campos  
**Scholarships:** Pat Connolly  
**Wounded Warriors:** JW 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:** JW Martin

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 15 — Board Meeting (postponed from May 4)**  
1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**May 19-21 — Canyon Lake Weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic**  
JBSA Recreation Area, Canyon Lake

**May 29 — Memorial Day Service**  
0930 - Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery



## DON'T FORGET



- May 4 is the deadline to reserve (and pay for) cottages at the annual Canyon Lake Weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic. Three-bedroom trailers are \$110 per night. See Picnic details on P. 4.
- We still have a few tickets for the AR-15 and Glock drawing, \$10 each.
- Sick Call and "Choir Practice" every Sunday, noon at VFW Post 8541.
- JROTC presentations are ongoing. Contact Jose Campos to volunteer for a presentation at a high school near you.
- Congratulations to Bill Smith, elected commander of VFW Post 8541, and to Sim Trombitas, new board chairman of the Green Beret Foundation.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

I want to thank everyone who showed up at the last VFW meeting. The support for the VFW was greatly appreciated, and I also want to thank everyone who approached me to assist in the coming year. {Editor's note: Bill was elected post commander. See Page 4.} It will be a new learning experience but one I look forward to. Your input and experience is welcomed and very much appreciated.

I still have tickets for our AR-15 and Glock. We are close to the 500 mark and will most likely draw a winner at our meeting in June or July. Thanks to the members who have sold several tickets.

Canyon Lake is right around the corner. I will not be able to make it as my oldest son is getting married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May here in San Antonio. The Canyon Lake weekend is a great event with many memories. At the lake, maybe everyone can come together and determine a name change or addition. If you still need a trailer, let Raul know immediately. He must turn them back in by May 4<sup>th</sup>.

I can't thank the board enough for everything they do. I know I would not survive without them and the members who volunteer much of their time. Special thanks out to Dan and Jose for running with the JROTC Medals presentations. Outstanding job!

Until the Board Meeting May 15, I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

[presidentchapterxv@gmail.com](mailto:presidentchapterxv@gmail.com)

William Smith  
Chapter XV President



## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, March 2017

Raul and Gordon did a great job selling door prize tickets and merchandise at the April meeting, and Bill Smith sold another \$160 worth of tickets for the AR-15/Glock drawing that is coming up soon. Consequently, April income exceeded expenses, which were minimal.

We paid out \$150 to Sharon Rodriguez for a delicious meeting meal and your Treasurer wrote a check for \$65 to pay for hosting of the Chapter's new Web site that will soon be coming online.

The April and May Treasurer's Reports will be presented to the Chapter for approval at the June meeting.

Be safe and we hope to see you at Canyon Lake.

Buddy Gee  
Chapter XV Treasurer  
[sgmgee@aol.com](mailto:sgmgee@aol.com)



# HELPING VETERANS *help others*

TTUHSC Accelerated Veteran to BSN | Now available in San Antonio

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(806) 743-2730 or [kyle.chapman@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:kyle.chapman@ttuhsc.edu)

[www.ttuhsc.edu/son/undergraduate/vbsn](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/son/undergraduate/vbsn)



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.**

School of Nursing

1/18



## CHAPTER XV NEWS

### Canyon Lake Weekend— Don't miss it!

The annual Canyon Lake Weekend and Jack Hogue Picnic are coming up May 19-21. Don't miss this weekend of SF camaraderie, great food and outdoor adventures. Bring your kids, friends, even your dogs (a limited number of pet-friendly trailers are available.)

Last call for cottage rentals, which are \$110 per night and must be paid by May 4. *Contact Raul de la Garza for reservation.*



For day trippers, the big barbecue and covered-dish picnic will be at noon Saturday, May 20. The event is held at the Joint Base SA Recreation Area at Canyon Lake, 698 Jacobs Creek Park Rd., about an hour's drive from San Antonio.

**Directions:** Take I-35 north from San Antonio to Canyon Lake exit (Exit 191). Turn left on Farm Road 306, follow for 16 miles through Canyon City. Turn left onto Jacobs Creek Park Road (sign for Recreation Area). Go straight approximately 1/2 mile.



Chuck Rose presents medal and certificate to Cadet CPL Nikki Martian of Sam Houston High School. It was one of several presentations by Chapter XV members to outstanding JROTC cadets at local high schools during April.

### Bill Smith New Commander of VFW Post 8541

April 6, 2017



New officers elected to VFW Post 8541 (left to right): Stan Grover, Trustee; Gary Thompson, Trustee; Adan Flores, Chaplain; Joe Moynihan, Quartermaster; Victor Gorea, Junior Vice Commander; Leonso Rodriguez, 3rd Year Trustee; Bob Jenkins, Senior Vice Commander; William "Bill" Smith, Commander.



## CHAPTER XV MEMORIAL SERVICE



April 1, 2017

### *We remember ...*

Chapter XV members turned out in cool, misty weather for the annual remembrance of departed members and spouses. Juan Lopez rang a bell after each name was read by President Bill Smith. Following the ceremony, members scattered throughout Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery to place red roses at each grave site. The event was organized by J. W. Martin, with assistance from Raul de la Garza.



May 2017

## MEMORY LANE



Left photo shows John and Margaret Tippy at Margaret's farewell luncheon in December 1978 from 7<sup>th</sup> SFGA, Fort Bragg, N.C. At right, the couple are all smiles after John's 6,000th jump at San Marcos, Texas. Both are members of Chapter XV.

### Flying High with Ch. XV's John and Margaret Tippy

John Tippy has taken off but not landed in more aircraft than most people. He has more than 6,100 freefall jumps from both his military and civilian time in the air.

Tippy's career spanned 22 ½ years from July 1966 to January 1989. He served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam in 1967 and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in 1968 and 1969 at Fort Bragg. He started the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1969 and graduated in 1970.

Tippy started skydiving in 1971 while assigned to 10th SFGA at Fort Devens, Mass., hoping to get priority to attend HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) school. The Retired MSG became a HALO-qualified jumper in June 1973 while stationed with 46th Company in Thailand.

Tippy also became a skydiving instructor and HALO instructor so he could train others in freefall.

One feat he is particularly proud of — next to being a Team Sergeant with 10th SFGA at Bad Tolz, Germany, and 5th SFGA, Fort Bragg, N.C. — is being selected as a member of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the renowned Golden Knights, from 1977 to 1978.

Tippy stopped jumping in 2002 while living in Hawaii and bought a sailboat and taught himself how to sail. In 2005, he sailed solo around most of the Hawaiian Islands.

After a 10-year break, he went back to his skydiving passion. "At the time I stopped jumping, I had 5,885 jumps," Tippy said laughing. "I needed 115 jumps to get to my goal of 6,000."

On Dec. 30, 2012, he accomplished this goal making his 6,000th jump at San Marcos, Texas, with the support of his wife of 40 years, Margaret, who has 200-plus jumps of her own.

She was an active-duty, Airborne truck driver and served with 7th SFGA at Fort Bragg, 1976 through 1978. She first met Tippy while driving a deuce and ½ truck for the HALO Committee and he was her skydiving instructor at the Green Beret Sport Parachute Club.

In 2014, Tippy was diagnosed with cancer but he kept on jumping. He spent April to October 2014 going through chemotherapy and radiation. He has been declared cancer free since August 2016. He is currently jumping today with 6,118 jumps and 64-plus hours of freefall time and may consider going for 7,000 jumps.







## VA Now Posts Wait Times Online

Military.com | 12 Apr 2017 | by Richard Sisk

In a move to provide greater transparency, the Veterans Affairs Department has activated a website to give vets the wait times for appointments at every VA hospital and clinic nationwide by clicking in their zip codes.

The website, [acesstocare.va.gov](http://acesstocare.va.gov), also provides information on how care at VA hospitals compares with nearby private-sector hospitals and national averages.

The Access and Quality in VA Health site has four sections: "How quickly can my VA facility see me? How satisfied are [veterans with their care](#) in my facility? How does care in my facility compare to other hospitals in my area? How is the VA system doing with access nationally?"

The VA called the site the "most transparent and easy to understand wait time and quality data website in the health-care industry."

"Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their health care," VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin said in a statement. "No other health-care system in the country releases this type of information on wait times. This allows veterans to see how VA is performing," he said.

-- Richard Sisk can be reached at

[Richard.Sisk@Military.com](mailto:Richard.Sisk@Military.com).



## Forgotten Warrior:

A Moment in Time

A Military Science Fiction novel by SFA member Glenn A. Barnes (M9559)



- US Army Ranger Mark Chandler tries to cheat death and end up 500 years in the future. Is he ready for the 26<sup>th</sup> century...is the 26<sup>th</sup> century ready for a Ranger?
- 5 stars Amazon.com
- Reviews:
  - Fast paced tale of a man out of his element slowly finding familiar links to grow back into his element. Enough medical realism to allow for that thread of possibility. Fun read.
  - OUTSTANDING BOOK GLENN !! I cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail of each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your corctor encounters. RLW !! I look forward to the next one.
  - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1520227295>

2/18

# From the Green Beret Foundation



## Sim Trombitas to lead GBF

Retired Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, a member of Chapter XV, has been elected chairman of the Green Beret Foundation by its board of directors. Trombitas retired here in 2015 as Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico. During his career, he served three tours with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and became Deputy Commanding General of United States Army South. The Green Beret Foundation, based in San Antonio, is a non-profit serving the needs of Green Berets and their families.

## Friends of Chapter XV

**Louis Dracoulis**

**Past Master**

1414 Vista del Monte  
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOULIS45@YAHOO.COM



4/4/17

*Disabled American Veterans*

**JR Garza  
Commander  
Emeritus**

San Antonio, Texas  
"Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families".  
210-722-4256 Cell  
BGARZ@SATX.RR.COM

2/2/18

# St Francis Church



**Welcomes You  
To Join Us in Worship**

**Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin**  
SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

*Pax et Bonum*  
[www.StFrancis.Church](http://www.StFrancis.Church)



8/4/17





In March, the San Antonio Spurs sponsored a military appreciation day and offered reduced-price tickets for military members to attend the Spurs vs Memphis Grizzlies game. Ms. Glenda Oakley, USAA Lead Account Manager, Military Affinity, provided six game tickets and arranged for a soldier to visit and train with the Spurs.

Thanks to Mike Pagel, Staff Sgt. James Tash of the 1st Ranger Bn represented Chapter XV for an afternoon with the Spurs. The soldier, a lifelong Spurs fan, thanked Chapter XV and Ms. Oakley for "helping me cross a high-value item off my bucket list.... I grew up in San Antonio until I was 10 and have been a Spurs fan since I was old enough to watch the game, but I never would've imagined being given this experience," he said. Here is his account of the event:

## Spurs Fan's Mission Accomplished

**BY SSG JAMES TASH**

After arriving at the ATT Center and receiving a bag filled with Spurs fan gear, we were led down courtside where approximately 40 other service members and spouses were gathering. We had a brief orientation and were introduced to members of the Spurs' training staff and two of the assistant coaches, James Borrego and Ime Udoka.

All the participants were split into 4 teams and sent onto the court. For the next hour or so, we were put through different passing and shooting drills which eventually culminated into a full-court scrimmage. It was a surreal feeling to be down on the court, looking around and realizing I was playing my favorite game on the hardwood I'd spent numerous hours staring at through a TV screen while watching my favorite team and players over the years.

Next, they led us on a tour under the tunnel. Major highlights were a tour of the Spurs locker room and seeing the five Larry O'Brien championship trophies up close. Once we were led back onto the court we had a meet and greet/photo opportunity with Spurs' SG Danny Green. He was the first player I'd ever had a chance to meet face-to-face, so I was appreciative of the time he took on his day off to come meet us.

Another highlight was my wife meeting the Spurs Coyote while hanging out on the bench. She really



**Staff Sgt. and Mrs. James Tash get a close-up view of the Spurs' championship trophies.**

enjoyed that and even got a special "Coyote's Birthday" t-shirt.

Before we left, we received two tickets to the home game the following night. I took an Army friend's son who had never been to a Spurs game to watch the home win over the Grizzlies. His father told me just today that his son is still talking about that game and blames me for creating a monster. Mission accomplished.

# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2017 CALENDAR

| <b><u>JANUARY</u></b>   | <b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b>  | <b><u>MARCH</u></b>   |
|---|---|---|
| 5 Board Meeting 1400<br>7 Membership Meeting 1300   | 2 Board Meeting 1400<br>4 Membership Meeting 1200<br>40th Anniv celebration 1300<br>15 Drop Input Due   | 7 Board Meeting 1300<br><del>4 Membership Meeting 1300</del><br>10-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off<br>30 Apr Board Meeting 1400                 |
| <b><u>APRIL</u></b>   | <b><u>MAY</u></b>   | <b><u>JUNE</u></b>  |
| 1 Membership Meeting 1300<br>1 Chpt Memorial Service 1000<br>JROTC Presentations TBD              | 15 Board Meeting 1400<br>15 Drop Input Due<br>19-20 Jack Hogue Picnic<br>29 Memorial Day Serv 0930<br>JROTC Presentations TBD<br><b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> | 1 Board Meeting 1400<br>3 Membership Meeting 1300<br>12-17 National Convention<br>JROTC Presentations TBD<br>29 July Board Meeting 1400 |
| <b><u>JULY</u></b>  | <b><u>AUGUST</u></b>  | <b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>   |
| 1 Membership Meeting 1300<br>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD<br><br><b>Poss. Mini Convention TBD</b>  | 3 Board Meeting 1300<br>5 Membership Meeting 1300<br>15 Drop Input Due<br><br><b>Poss. Mini Convention TBD</b>  | 7 Board Meeting 1400<br>9 Membership Meeting 1300<br>(Nomination of Officers &<br>Scholarship Applications)                             |
| <b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>   | <b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>  | <b><u>DECEMBER</u></b>  |
| 5 Board Meeting 1400<br>7 Membership meeting 1300<br>12 Dick's Fund Raiser<br>TBD Motorcycle Ride | 2 Board Meeting 1400<br>4 Membership meeting 1300<br>11 Veterans Day Cerem. 1000<br>15 Drop Input Due<br>28 Scholarship Results                               | 7 Board Meeting<br>9 Christmas Banquet &<br>Installation of Officers<br><br><b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>                                |

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



# LLDB Invitation

**Dear Comrades-In-Arms,**

The Vietnam War was ended for over 42 years, but as Gen. McArthur said: “The old soldiers never die, they only fade away”

You’re cordially invited to attend our nation-wide event for the “Reunification of the ARVN Special Forces/81<sup>st</sup> Airborne Rangers” in Houston, Texas.

**Schedules:**

Friday May 26 2017 from 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

The Reunion party at Thiên phú restaurant (\$20 each person).

Address: 11215 Bellaire BLVD suite #100, Houston TX 77072 - Phone 281-568-1448.

Saturday May 27 2017 from 6:00 PM to 12:00 PM Suggest wearing Uniform

The Ceremony and dinner party at Ocean Place restaurant ( \$35 each person)

Address 11205 Bellaire blvd Houston TX 77072 - Phone : 281-988-8898.

Sunday May 28 2017 from Noon to 8 PM

The farewell party at Riverstones Clubs House Complemented Meals and drink

Address 9300 River Stone Ranch Dr. Houston TX 77089

**Hotel:**

Hilton garden Inn Houston, West Belt – Phone: 713-270-6100.

Military rate \$89, Self booking and subject to change so book as soon as possible

Address: 6855 W Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77072

Hampton Inn & Suites Houston-Westchase - Phone: 281- 530-7776

Military rate \$80 include breakfast and subject to change so book as soon as possible.

Block Rate is \$79 for **Vietnamese Green Beret Houston Chapter**, however the room must book by the end of April 2017 and the code is **BCD**

Address: 6440 W Sam Houston Pkwy S, Houston, TX 77072

**Contact:** - Nguyen Dinh Thanh 281-967-3400

- Nguyen Trong Hieu 832-995-7198

- Bich Phuong 832-955-7179

----- **cut here and return for RSVP** -----

**RSVP by May 15 2017** - For arrangement, please write down

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending:

Friday May 26 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday May 27 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday May 28 2017 \_\_\_\_\_

**Write check to:** Gia dinh 81/Houston

**Mail to:** Nguyen van Dai

1998 Honey Meadow Ln,

Houston TX 77089



### ***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**



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)

8" x 5"

\$60



This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$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](mailto:presidentchapterxv@gmail.com)





## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 26-28 MAY            Reunification of the ARVN Special Forces/81<sup>st</sup> Airborne Rangers  
Houston, TX  
POC: Nguyen Dinh Thanh 281-967-3400
- 05-10 JUN 2017    1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion  
El Paso, TX  
POC: [jsthong@hotmail.com](mailto:jsthong@hotmail.com)
- 12-17 JUN 2017    Special Forces Association International Conference 2017  
Fayetteville, NC  
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>
- 20-23 SEPT 2017   5th Special Forces (Airborne) Group Reunion  
Fort Campbell, KY  
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org>
- 

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](mailto: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!”**