



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 07-16

August 2016

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
Editor: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Scotty Codename
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
DAV/VA: JR Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

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



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: TBD
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Bill Smith
Scholarships: Alex Flores
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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



04 — August Board Meeting 1400


06 — Membership Meeting:

Lunch served - 1200

Business Meeting - 1300

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.

August meeting menu:

- Baby back ribs with barbecue sauce
- Potato salad
- Baked Beans 
- Bread rolls

DON'T FORGET

- **Christmas Banquet** tickets are now available. \$50 per person, including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, after-dinner drinks, live music and dancing. 10 December, El Tropicano Hotel. See Bill Smith for tickets.
- **Annual Fundraiser** for Chapter XV will be Thursday, 6 October at Dick's Last Resort on the Riverwalk. Chairman Fred Solis asks Chapter members to solicit prizes, auction items, donations for this fun and fabulous event. Tickets available now. Details on Page 8.
- **Sunday 'Choir Practice'** every Sunday at noon, VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our membership meeting is on Saturday the 6th of August and the Board meeting is Thursday the 4th of August at 1400. I hope to see everyone there.

I truly believe our Chapter did Leonard proud with the turnout and gathering we had to say farewell. Leonard was a great warrior and a true friend to many of us. We will continue to have him with us and we will always keep his family in our prayers. The donations were greatly appreciated, and the VFW did an outstanding job.

I have invited Jen Paquette to our next meeting. She is the Director of the Green Beret Foundation and will be presented a plaque that was awarded at the National Convention. She was not able to attend the convention and I thought it worthy to present the plaque at our next meeting. The GBF does great things for our community and their families.

Our Dick's Last Resort fundraiser is set for 6 October and we will have the tickets at the meeting. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need everyone to assist in acquiring auction items and door prizes. Let's make this our best year ever and move our budget forward.

We will be working on the budget and if you would like to have some input, or you have ideas, please feel free to get with me or Buddy and we will try to work them in. I hope we can have another successful year this year.

Until our meeting 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



William Smith
Chapter XV President



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, July 2016

We are about halfway through the 2016 budget year and are on track with planned revenue and expenses. Bankruptcy is not imminent.

A good portion of our July expenses (\$2,600) were offset with donations. The bar bill for Lenny's memorial service was \$800. We received \$750 in donations IMO Lenny from Maria, Chuck Rose, Charles Blake, Marcia Carper and Chapter XV. Our president sent a check for \$900 to a soldier in need at Fort Hood who is the son of a retired Special Forces veteran. The Chapter, Bob Hand and an anonymous Chapter member each donated \$300. We paid \$750 to the Chapter president to help defray his SFA Conference expenses, in accordance with Chapter bylaws. The July noon meal was \$150.

Revenue for the month included a \$100 donation to the Chapter Scholarship Fund by Mike Czarnecki. Raul raised \$120 in door prize tickets and \$14 in merchandise sales. SFA National sent a member-renewal rebate check for \$59. Total uncommitted income for July was \$213.

We are seeking two volunteers to serve on the budget committee to help plan our 2017 annual budget. If you are willing and able, please contact Buddy Gee or Bill Smith.

Buddy Gee
Treasurer, Chapter XV

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Chapter Meeting Date: 9 July 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Bill Smith** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. **Rudy Johnson** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

Bill Smith welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter.

Greg Cunningham

Cleo Hogue and her husband

Donnie Burton

SF Brotherhood Motorcycle Club

Members Sick or In Distress: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly & annual budget reports to Ch XV members and it was voted on and accepted as read.

Possible Financial Assistance: Motion passed and approved to seek financial assistance for the chapter.

Membership Report: presented by **Marti Scott**, 191 current members. **Greg Cunningham** new member (retired from 7th SFG(A), lives in New Braunfels, TX).

Veterans Affairs: **JR Garza** mentioned that Special Forces Group donated to a veteran's chapter in San Antonio that needed assistance.

Christmas Banquet: **Bill Smith**, tickets on sale now for \$50 per person and \$99 per night at hotel, 10 Dec 2016.

Dicks Last Resort: **Fred Solis**, still set for 06 Oct 2016.

National Convention/Conference: 12-17 June 2017 in Fayetteville, N.C.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Ads in News Letter:** **Mike Malloy** was recognized for a great job.

b. **Scholarship Revision:** **Dan Hopgood & Henry Jimenez** recognized for helping with revisions.

c. **Wounded Soldier at SAMC:** **JW**, no updates.

d. **Motorcycle Ride:** **Gordon Lee & John Lopez** talked with SF Brotherhood Motorcycle Club and will be working with them for the 29 Oct 2016 motorcycle ride.

e. **Possible Fundraising:** N/A.

f. **Open Discussions:** Talked about VA claims and death certificates.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Juan A. Lopez, D-8306
SFA Chapter XV Secretary

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A new pilot program will give some TRICARE users who are admitted to a civilian hospital through the emergency room the **option to transfer to a Military Treatment Facility**.

The program, announced on 29 June, will start 25 July and run for up to two years at 11 Army, Air Force and Navy locations nationwide.

Officials want the moves to save both the TRICARE system and beneficiaries money by switching patients out of higher-cost civilian care

and into the military system, according to policy documents.

Users who qualify for MTF care, including TRICARE for Life beneficiaries, will be offered a move to a military facility via an ambulance, the policy states -- but only if doctors both at the civilian hospital and the military facility agree that they are stable enough to move and if there is space.

Source: Military.com | Amy Bushatz | June 28, 2016]

Remembering Lenny



Family, friends and fellow SFers bid a fond farewell to longtime Chapter XV member Leonard Czarnecki, who died June 22. In top photo, Army caisson approaches at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Above, Len's common law wife Maria and son Michael hear tributes. At left, Chapter XV and friends give a final salute. Rest In peace, Lenny.

Remembering Lenny

Graveside service
Fort Sam Houston
July 25, 2016



Remembering Lenny



After the service, Len's three sons (from left) Eric, Robert and Michael joined chapter members at the VFW for a reception celebrating Lenny's life and his many contributions to Chapter XV. Michael Czarnecki is a Green Beret and a member of the chapter.



Jerrie LeBleu created this spectacular cake for the reception. Toasts included a Jagermeister toast to Lenny.



Jesse Dominguez, VFW District 20 Commander and commander of Post 8541, invited everyone to the post home for Lenny's reception.

Scholarship Grants

The Board has approved revised requirements for the Chapter XV Education Grants. Thanks to the Scholarship Committee (Pat Connolly, Dan Hopgood, Henry Jimenez) for working out the new eligibility guidelines. Applications are being accepted from now until 15 November. Below are the revised guidelines.



Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant is designed to provide a one-time education grant of a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) The number and amount of grants are determined by the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee with the approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the annual Installation of Officers/ Christmas Banquet.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a SFA member or legal dependent or grandchild of a Chapter member in good standing.
2. A high school student anticipating graduation during the school year of application.
3. Grant must be used to attend an accredited college, university or vocational institution.
4. Eligible applicants must submit the following:
 - a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend, and planned use for the grant.
 - b. Copies of the most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
 - c. Two letters of reference from a teacher, school counselor or principal.
 - d. A summary of extracurricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
 - e. A copy of the application to the school or the acceptance letter.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than 15 November. Send to

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

DICK'S FUNDRAISER



SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERETS

“The Alamo Chapter” XV

11th Annual

“NIGHT AT DICK'S LAST RESORT”

Thursday, OCT 6th, 2016



It's time to have a good time” at Chapter XV’s Dick’s Last Resort fundraising event. After organizing and participating in many different types of fundraising activities over the years, this event has become our most successful fundraiser. For the past ten years Chapter XV has received great support from Dick’s Corporate Headquarters, and it goes without saying that the staff at our San Antonio location always goes above and beyond to help make each event a success.

In preparation and behind the scenes, Manager Ryan Wood spends many hours planning and supporting our event and this year is no exception. Ryan and his staff agreed to schedule Thursday, October 6th as we have found that a Thursday in early October seems to give us the best results in term of foot traffic on the River Walk. We draw about an equal number of guests from “hawked” passersby as we do from pre-event ticket sales.

Tickets for the event will be available to you at our next monthly meeting. We ask that you sign for ten tickets and help sell them, but more important, please join us as it is truly a fun time. Remember that it is an “all you can eat and drink” for \$25 bucks. The buffet style menu is tops and of course this includes adult beverages. Anyone saying they cannot attend that night can still donate by purchasing a ticket (s) and can be listed as a donation. As you know, anyone with Disabled Veteran license plates can park free in the immediate area.

A key component of the fundraiser is our silent auction. Please think about donating an item or two for the auction and bring ‘em with you to our next meeting. Please contact me if you need assistance with item(s) pick up. In the past military items (especially weapons) have been the most popular with personal services certificates as well as travel and hotel deals a close second. But any item that we can start off as a minimum bid of \$25 will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me with any comments or questions.

Fred Solis,
Chairman

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2016 CALENDAR

<p><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting 10-13 Cotulla Cook-off 31 Board Meeting</p>
<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 2 Chpt Memorial Service 30 Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 13-15 Jack Hogue Picnic 30 Memorial Day Serv 0930</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>2 Jun Board Meeting 4 Membership Meeting 12-19 National Convention</p>
<p><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting (Scholarship Applications)</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 10 Membership Meeting 29 Oct. Board Meeting</p>
<p><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>3 Membership Meeting 6 Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser 29 Motorcycle Ride</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting (Scholarships due) 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 10 Christmas Banquet</p> <p>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</p>

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 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hrs, unless announced otherwise.

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



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*

Friends of Chapter XV



Louis Dracoulis

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOU LIS45@YAHOO.COM



Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association

Commander George "Marty" Martinez

PO Box 28695 San Antonio, TX 78228-8695

Editors: Ed L. Fernandez & Hope A. Elizondo-

Fernandez

"Helping Others Today for Their Tomorrows"



Email: SilverWingsAbn@aol.com

Cdr's Phone: 210-590-2817

Editors' Phone: 210-313-1891

Disabled American Veterans

JR Garza
Commander
Emeritus

San Antonio, Texas

"Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families".

210-722-4256 Cell

BGARZ@SATX.RR.COM



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



#SAPDALWAYSHIRING

WHAT YOU
DECIDE TODAY
WILL BE WHAT
PROVIDES FOR
TOMORROW



WWW.SAPDCAREERS.COM
555 ACADEMIC CT | 210.207.5050

Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 19-24 SEP 2016 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) 55th Anniversary Reunion
Fort Campbell, KY/Clarksville, TN
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org/sfa38/index.php/5th-group-reunion>
- 05-10 OCT 2016 Return to Fort Devans Reunion 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Fort Devans, MA
POC: Gary L Baura freefallgb@aol.com
- 17-21 OCT 2016 The Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) 2016
Las Vegas, NV
POC: <http://www.specialoperations.org/soa/soar/>
- 05-10 JUN 2017 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion
El Paso, TX
POC: jsthong@hotmail.com
- 12-17 JUN 2017 Special Forces Association International Conference 2017
Fayetteville, NC
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>
-

Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide photographs of Chapter XV events: Ben and Marti Scott, Henry Jimenez, Barry Archer, Toby and Linda Todd, David Benavides, and Dan Hopgood. Selecting which photos to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone possible.

The Editors

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.



“Carry on!”