



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

*The Alamo Chapter*

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

Issue # 1-19

January 2019

President: Bill Smith  
Vice-President: Juan Lopez  
Secretary: J.W. Martin  
Asst. Secretary: David Marshall  
Treasurer: Buddy Gee  
Asst. Treasurer: Mike Pagel  
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza  
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee  
Membership Secy: Marti Scott  
Past President: Chuck Rose  
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee  
Webmaster: Steve Wolverton  
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Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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**[www.sfa-xv.org](http://www.sfa-xv.org)**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith  
Nominations: Chuck Rose  
JROTC Awards: Juan Lopez  
Scholarships: Pat Connolly  
Wounded Warriors: J.W. Martin  
FSH Cemetery Events: Raul de la Garza  
Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul de la Garza  
Dick's Fund Raiser: Fred Solis  
Christmas Banquet: Bill Smith  
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee  
Chapter Memorial Svc: J.W. Martin

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 10 — Board meeting**

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

**January 12 — Membership Meeting**

1200 — noon meal served (fried chicken)

1300 — Business meeting

**January 31 — February board meeting**



## DON'T FORGET



- Annual dues are due by Jan. 31. See Marti's note and dues renewal application on Page 9.
- Folks signed up for the 2nd Annual Chapter XV Cruise must make final payment by Feb. 5. See Page 4.
- Mark your calendar for a big weekend at the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff March 8-10 in Cotulla. POC is Mike Brown.
- Sick call at 1300 hours every Sunday at the VFW. POC is Bill Beall.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President Sends:

**O**ur next board meeting is 10 January at 1400 hrs. Our membership meeting is 12 January with lunch from 1200 to 1300 and the meeting from 1300 until complete.

We had a great year and I cannot thank everyone enough who has volunteered and made it a great year. I was unable to be at the Christmas Banquet, but I want to thank John for doing an outstanding job. It makes life much easier when the team comes together and accomplishes the mission.

Our next big event will be the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff in March. It is always a big event and grows bigger every year. Steve and Mike will provide details the closer we get to the event. It is always set for the second weekend in March.

This Friday, 11 January, the VFW is recognizing a Pearl Harbor survivor on his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. I sent out a notice and hope we can support. Saturday night is steak night

at the VFW and Rick Salinas is the entertainment for the night.

Scholarships are going out from both the chapter and the VFW. Keep watch as they are great opportunities for our members and their families.

I hope everyone had a great holiday and if you still want to join us on our cruise April 28-May 5, please contact Karen. There is still time to get you on the best trip of the year.

Until our meeting stay safe and enjoy your families.

William Smith  
Chapter XV President

*presidentchapterxv@gmail.com*



## \$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

### Treasurer's Report, December 2018

**T**he Chapter does not hold a membership meeting in December due to the holidays and annual Christmas Banquet. The November and December Treasurer Reports will be presented for a vote at the January meeting. The treasurer will brief the membership on the financials for the Christmas banquet and present the year-end budget report. I promise, I will be brief.

The Chapter received a very generous donation from Rex Hammarback to be applied to the annual contribution to our Save The Montagnard Project IMO his deceased cousin, Lyle G. Sloan. Thank you, Rex! We also tip our berets to Rudy Johnson for a hefty contribution and to John Rodden and Ramiro Daniel for their monthly donations. We appreciate it! Mike Pagel reports the Chapter has received its first donation from our online GoFundMe account — Elena Rios donated \$35. Thanks, Elena!

Again, the Christmas banquet was under budget due to the astute planning and ticket sales by Chapter President Bill Smith. Raul de la Garza purchased and delivered the supplies with the help of Mike Pagel, John Lopez and Kim Phillips. Laura and Mike Brown donated afternoon hors oeuvres again this year. We salute you all for your support.

In addition to the Christmas Banquet, monthly expenses included \$2,000 in scholarship grants and awards for the honorees.

We need meal sponsors for this year. Suggested donation is \$125, although actual cost is typically \$175. Chef Sharon's food is always good, and we'll look for donations at the meeting Saturday. We hope to see you there.

Buddy Gee  
Chapter XV Treasurer  
*sgmgee@aol.com*



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12/2017

# Chapter News

## 'The Chief' Gets A Permanent Home

Kim Phillips gets behind the wheel of old Army vehicle donated by Bill Beall. The deuce & a half had been co-owned with the late Mike Maloy, who bequeathed his half to Bill. Now refurbished by Raul de la Garza and Juan Lopez, it has been moved to the front of VFW Post 8541, where it will be on permanent display. After starring in parades and events supported by Chapter XV for many years, she will toot her horn no more.



## 2nd Annual Cruise Looking Good



Our own cruise planner, Karen Hermann, has everything on track for another terrific cruise this year. We depart Galveston April 28 on *Carnival Vista* for the second annual Chapter XV Fundraising Cruise. Fifty-two people have signed up! Ports of call are Cozumel, Mexico; Belize City, Belize; and Roatan, Honduras.

Karen has advised all cruisers that final payment will be due Feb. 5. Also, any changes to members of your group should be made by that date. Cancellation penalties begin on Feb. 12. Please make your payment to Karen or to Sheri Green in Austin in order to be registered with our group.

Karen has already lined up a group photo, cocktail party and get-togethers for us on board the ship. Best of all, she's arranged an optional "R&R" shore excursion for our stop in Roatan on May 2. This will be an all-day pass to the beautiful Little French Key, a private island with clear blue water, sandy beaches and lots of things to do. This \$87 excursion must be booked in advance.

Other recommendations from Karen:

- Bring your passport.
- Take out the trip insurance offered by her company, Dream Vacations.
- If you plan to imbibe, save money by purchasing the ship's drinks package before boarding.
- If you're a Purple Heart recipient or a disabled vet, bring documentation for free parking at the port. If not, contact Karen for \$15 discount.



Rachel

Adam

Monica

## Ch. XV awards 5 scholarships

Pat Connolly, scholarship chairman, reports that his committee received five applications for scholarships this year. Three were new applicants and two were previous awardees. The board approved the committee's recommendation to award three full grants of \$500 each and two partial grants to previous recipients.

Those receiving full grants are Monica Medina of San Antonio, daughter of Arturo Medina; Rachel Jimenez of Clovis, N.M., granddaughter of Henry Jimenez; and Adam Halldorsson of San Antonio, stepson of William Smith.

Partial grants of \$250 were awarded to previous recipients Natalie James of San Antonio, granddaughter of José Campos, and Daniel Kremer of Gladstone, Mo., grandson of Barry Archer.

Congratulations and continued success to these fine students.



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# CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2018



December 8, 2018

## Santa didn't show ...

But we had a wonderful celebration at the annual Chapter XV Christmas Banquet. In the dining room, we heard a soaring rendition of the National Anthem by soprano Adrienne Pedrotti of Austin and a live performance of "The Ballad of the Green Beret" by Rick Salinas. We heard a rousing talk by Professor Jeffrey Addicott (at left) of St. Mary's University.

We presented five (yes, five) scholarships. And Vice President Juan Lopez, the banquet emcee, awarded plaques of appreciation to people who have contributed so much to the chapter all year. Beforehand, we enjoyed a sumptuous spread of appetizers, courtesy of Laura Brown's Hospice. Afterward, there was merrymaking and dancing to Rick's great country-western music.



Above, left to right: Entertainers Adrienne Pedrotti and Rick Salinas; Marlys and Ron Burkett; Dana and Gordon Lee. Below, Steve Hermann receives plaque from Juan Lopez; photo booth keeps everyone busy; Corrie Johnson dancing with Mario Guerra.



# Christmas Banquet

**CHRISTMAS CHEER.** First row (left to right): Barry Archer picks up scholarship check for his grandson; Steve and Karen Hermann hold plaque honoring their many contributions to the chapter; "Trailer master" Mike Pagel receives plaque for his hard work. Second row: José Campos accepts scholarship check; Vito Cellini with family of singer Adrienne Pedrotti; Chuck and Jai Rose. Third row: Mike, Juan and Chris Marshall celebrate the season; Claudia Flores and friend; Raul de la Garza; Juan and Merrill Hall. Fourth row: JW Martin with Charlotte; Alex Flores Jr. and wife; Dion and Delia Popoy. —Photos by Ben Scott and Kim Phillips.





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**From Marsha 'Marti' Scott,  
Membership Secretary**

SFA Chapter XV Members: Please be aware that, per SFA National, those who are Annual Members have until 31 December to renew your membership dues. Yes, there is a 'Grace Period' which ends 31 January of each year. Your dues are NOW

due, and if we have not received them by the end of this month, you will be delinquent and you will be dropped from receiving the DROP and our monthly newsletter.

You may send a check for \$40 made payable to Special Forces Association mailed to: SFA Chapter XV; P.O. Box 33782; San Antonio, TX 78265. After the grace period, the amount to reinstate will be \$45. Please ensure that you get your dues in with us at the Chapter, as we get a 'small' rebate from National to help defer some of our costs in handling the membership fees. We do have several who are truly delinquent (have not paid since 2017,) and if you are not sure about your status, please feel free to contact me or see me at the next Membership Meeting to ensure we get you updated. Thanks again for your participation in helping us, helping you.

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

**Membership Renewal Form  
(Not for use by new members)**

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Last Name, First Name, MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Membership Number) hereby apply for renewal of my

membership in Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

**CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:**

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

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Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Retired Rank/Rank at Separation: \_\_\_\_\_



## Don't give up on new year's resolutions

It is January, and that means people all around the world have committed to making changes in their lives in the upcoming year. Most realize that these New Year's Resolutions are merely aspirational – they want to do them but it is not too likely that they will. Others take themselves more seriously and place great confidence in themselves to turn a new leaf whether it be to start a good habit or rid themselves of a bad one.

Either way, statistics show that — while a good number of people achieve at least moderate success in their goals — most resolutions are abandoned by the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

By the time you read this the 8<sup>th</sup> of January will have come and gone. The question is: What resolution (or resolutions) did you make and has it come and gone as well? I confess my regular resolution to keep a more organized desk rarely lasts more than a couple of days.

But what of resolutions of greater consequence? Resolutions to improve your relationships with family,

friends, and strengthen your faith should not be given up. At the same time, they can be some of the most challenging to keep. It is important to not give up on these resolutions, though. You have sacrificed much for others over the years. Your family, your friends, and your faith deserve as much sacrifice and more. You are America's best, so give them your best.

Pax et Bonum,

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

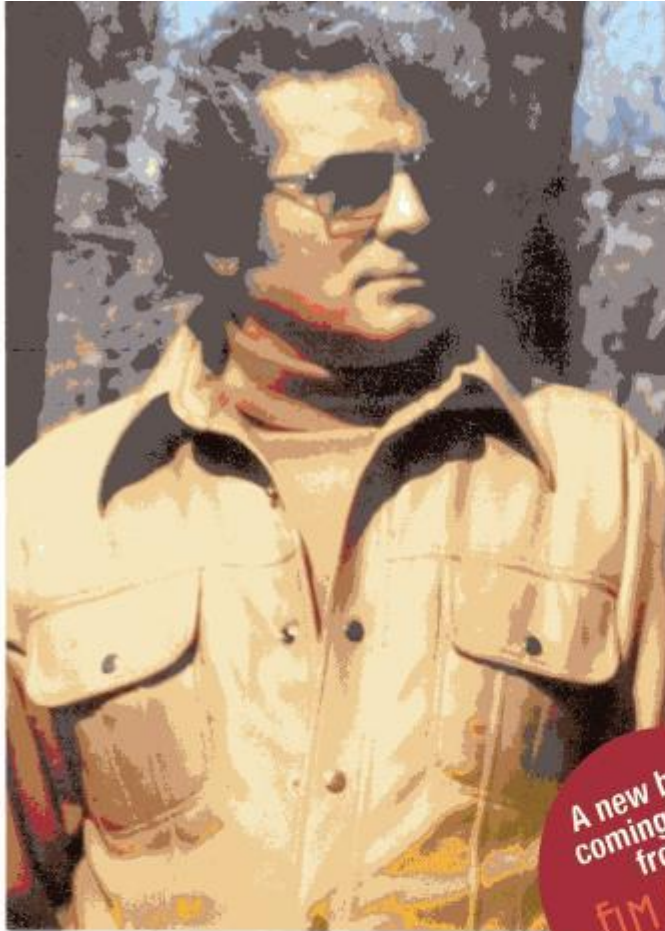


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1/20



In World War II he fought with the armies of three different countries.

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# CELLINI

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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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# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2019 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
10 Board Meeting 1400 12 Membership Meeting 31 February Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 42nd anniversary 28 March Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 6 Membership Meeting 28-5 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD JROTC Presentations	2 Board Meeting 1400 <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 15 Drop Input Due 17-19 Canyon Lake Picnic 27 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 30 June Board Meeting 1400	1 Membership Meeting 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday TBD JROTC Presentations
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 11 Board Meeting 1400 13 Membership Meeting	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 13-18 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 20 POW/MIA Day TBD Scholarship Applications Due
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
3 Board Meeting 1400 5 Membership Meeting 31 November Board meeting	2 Membership Meeting Officer Elections 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 1000 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Pearl Harbor Day <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> 14 Christmas Banquet
<p><b>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.</b></p>		

## **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**

**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

13-18 AUG 2019 SFA International Convention, Charleston, WV.  
Charleston Marriott Town Center  
POC Kevin Harry, [divemedic@yahoo.com](mailto:divemedic@yahoo.com).

19-22 SEPT 2019 5th Special Forces Group Reunion, Clarksville, TN  
Country Inn & Suites  
POC TBA

13-17 OCT 2019 1st Special Forces Group Reunion, Las Vegas, NV.  
The Plaza Hotel & Casino  
POC Phil Grounds, [steppingwild@gmail.com](mailto:steppingwild@gmail.com)

### Thanks to Kim Phillips and Ben Scott for photos in this issue.

When submitting articles or photos for the newsletter please enter "SFA newsletter input" in the subject line of your email. Please submit articles and pictures (copies only) for the newsletter to Buddy Gee at [sgmgee@aol.com](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!"**