



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 2-17

February 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: 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: 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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 2 — February Board meeting
1400—VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.

Feb. 4 — Membership Meeting & 40th Anniversary Celebration
1200—Business Meeting
Meal and celebration immediately after



DON'T FORGET

- The February meeting will start at noon (not the usual 1300), with meal and birthday celebration immediately following. Come help celebrate Chapter XV's 40th anniversary!
- Please take a few tickets for the AR-15 and Glock drawing and sell them to all



- your friends. Only \$10 each, and only 500 tickets will be sold.
- Members not paying annual dues (\$40) by Jan. 31 will be lapsed and will have to pay a reinstatement fee.
- "Choir Practice" every Sunday, noon at VFW Post 8541.

Alamo Chapter XV Turning 40

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Alamo Chapter XV will turn 40 years old on Feb. 6. The 40th anniversary will be celebrated at the monthly membership meeting on Saturday, Feb. 4.

The idea for a Special Forces Association Chapter in San Antonio came about at a meeting on or about Feb. 6, 1975. Twenty-one SFA members unanimously agreed that a chapter should be formed and that it should be named "The Alamo Chapter." The name was selected because the Chapter would be located in "The Alamo City" and it could also honor MSG Gabriel Alamo, Distinguished Service Medal, a Green Beret who was killed in action in Vietnam. The chapter was chartered by SFA National on Feb. 6, 1977, following the customary two-year probationary period.

At least three of the original 21 Chapter members are still active in the SFA. Joe Cavallero said "I am honored to have been a continuous Chapter XV member from Day 1." Joe lives in San Antonio and participates in Chapter activities when possible. Larry Van Horn and Clarence Paige are also charter members who have remained active in the SFA. Larry lives in Oklahoma and is affiliated with Chapter IX in El Paso; Clarence is living in Alvin TX and is with Houston Chapter XXXIX. Below is the complete list of charter members.

MSG Gabriel Alamo, DSC

SFA Chapter XV was named for the Alamo because the chapter's founders felt the San Antonio shrine symbolized "many of the traits of the Green Berets." The founding group in 1975 also decided to have the name represent MSG Gabriel Alamo, a Green Beret from New Jersey who was killed in action in Vietnam.



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

Gabriel's son, Michael Alamo Sr., who was 4 years old at the time of his father's death, also earned his green beret and served six years in the Army.

Chapter XV Charter Officers (1975):

Jack Williams – President
Harvey Brande – Vice President
Luke Thompson – Secretary
Clarence Paige – Treasurer

Charter Members

George Aguilar*	Wesley McDaniels
Gayle Alton*	Ed Miller*
Ken Anderson*	John Nugent*
Roy Benavidez*	Vincent J. F. Skeebea*
William Bost*	Bill Sylvester*
Joe Cavallero (San Antonio)	Jennings Thames
Luis Decker*	Larry Van Horn (Oklahoma, Ch. 9, El Paso)
James Homer	
Arthur Kownslor*	
Wesley McCaslin*	(*deceased)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I want to thank everyone again for a very successful 2016. I believe we had a good year and we accomplished a lot.

This coming meeting we will be celebrating 40 years as a Chapter. It is 42 years if we looked at the first two probationary years. I can only imagine and have great respect for the accomplishments over the years. The charter members did a great job and those who followed carried the torch well. Buddy has put together a great program for our upcoming meeting. I want everyone to remember the meeting is from 1200 – 1300 and we will eat lunch and tell tall tales afterward.

I still will have tickets for our AR-15 and Glock. I am asking everyone to assist in getting these tickets out and make this a productive fund raiser. Some of our members have moved over 100 of the tickets. We will draw as soon as we reach the 500 ticket mark. This will bring in \$5,000 to the Chapter.

Our next chapter event will be the Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-off. The event is March 9 until March 12. I hope everyone will be able to come for an afternoon or so during the event. Mike and Steve are organizing this event and they will be competing in the cook-off. It was a great event last year and will be even better 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, January 2017

Last month I failed to recognize Angie Canales for her generous donation and John Rodden for his monthly contribution. This month we tip our berets for donations by John Rodden and Mike Maloy. Our January meeting meal was covered by Mike Pagel, and Lyle Jackson is hosting the Chapter's 40th Anniversary meal for February. Thank you for your contributions! Chapter members have donated or pledged to donate the cost of the meeting meals for the remainder of the year. Thanks to all. Other income for January came from member dues, door prize drawing, merchandise sales and newsletter ad sales, totaling \$2,301.

January was an expensive month. Your treasurer has issued payments totaling \$2,996. At the January meeting the membership voted to approve an additional \$1,000 to last year's scholarship winners. Brandon Hopgood and Natalie Rae James each received an additional \$500 grant. Chapter contributions to charitable causes totaled \$1,200, including our annual donation to VFW Post 8541 and a donation to the Paseo del Rio Association in support of honorary member Ryan Wood. Other expenses included \$200 to reserve space for the Cotulla Hog Cookoff and \$71 to renew the license plates for the war wagon.

The membership voted to approve discounting newsletter ad rates by 25 percent (for members in good standing) on ads purchased by the end of February. These ads will run through the end of the calendar year. See P. 11 for regular ad rates.

The annual membership dues have increased to \$40 for renewals, \$45 for lapsed members and \$50 for new members.

Buddy Gee
Treasurer — *sgmgee@aol.com*



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1/18

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Chapter Meeting Date: 07 January 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **William 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.

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

Members Sick or In Distress:

Raul De La Garza recovering from shoulder surgery.

Edgar Morales back surgery postponed

SGM Bill Robles passed away 05 Jan 2017, memorial services at Ft Sam TBA, funeral services will be held in Florida TBA.

Steve Twining's daughter (**Miki**) is still fighting breast cancer.

Fred Solis's mother had another heart attack.

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.

Membership Report: presented by **Marti Scott:** 197 members and **John Tippy, Mike Maloy, and Chuck Poole** are now a life members.

Canyon Lake Picnic: 19th —21st May 2017.

Christmas Banquet: **Bill Smith**, scheduled for Saturday, 09 Dec 2017.

Gun Donation: AR-15 was donated, still selling

tickets

for

\$10 for a Glock 27. We are planning to sell 500 tickets before we do the drawing.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Cotulla Hog Cookoff:** **Mike Brown**, 10th-11th March 2017.

c. **Honorary Membership:** **Ryan Wood**, manager of Dick's Last Resort for his support; also a motion was passed to donate \$200 for his River King event.

d. **Scholarship:** 2K has been set aside; only two qualified applicants applied this year.

e. **Mini Convention:** Motion passed to attempt an area/local convention in the August 2017 time frame.

f. **Motorcycle Ride:** **Gordon Lee**, still TBD.

g. Open Discussion:

- **Mike Maloy** was presented a plaque for covering the chapter's newsletter.
- Motion passed for reduced rates/prices for ads in newsletter if paid by 28 Feb 2017.
- Vote on our annual May picnic name change was 12-12, which resulted in a null vote.
- Vote on our scholarship: 8 voted for no more than \$500 to each applicant, 17 voted against \$1,000 to each applicant.
- Vote on capping our scholarship at \$1,000.00: 12 voted to cap scholarship, 10 voted no.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Juan A. Lopez, D-8306



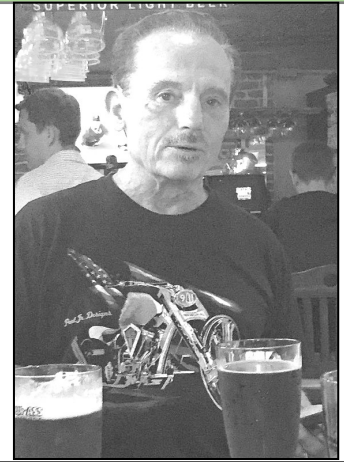
JANUARY MEETING: (Left to right) Mike Maloy with plaque; Marsha Scott with Glenn Barnes; David Benavidez shopping.

Then and Now



Joe Cavallero, a charter member of SFA Alamo Chapter XV, is seen as an Army captain in 1969 (left) and last year attending the chapter's Dick's Last Resort fundraiser.

Joe plans to attend the 40th Anniversary celebration Feb. 4 to help cut the cake and recall the earliest days of Chapter XV.



Friends of Chapter XV

Louis Dracoulis

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOULIS45@YAHOO.COM



4/4/17

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2/2/18

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To Join Us in Worship**

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SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

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8/4/17

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2017 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1200 40th Anniv celebration 1300 10 Drop Input Due	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 11-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 30 Board Meeting 1400
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 1 Chpt Memorial Service 1000 JROTC Presentations TBD	4 Board Meeting 1400 10 Drop Input Due 19-20 Jack Hogue Picnic 29 Memorial Day Serv 0930 JROTC Presentations TBD NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1300 12-17 National Convention JROTC Presentations TBD 29 July Board Meeting 1400
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
1 Membership Meeting 1300 4 Fourth of July Parade TBD Poss Mini Convention TBD	3 Board Meeting 1300 5 Membership Meeting 1300 Poss Mini Convention TBD	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications)
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300 TBD Motorcycle Ride TBD Dick's Fund Raiser	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 (Election and Scholarship) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 28 Scholarship Results	7 Dec Board Meeting 1400 9 Christmas Banquet 1730 & Installation of Officers NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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.

From J.R. Garza—DAV/VA

Please take action to stop these proposed cuts ... J.R.

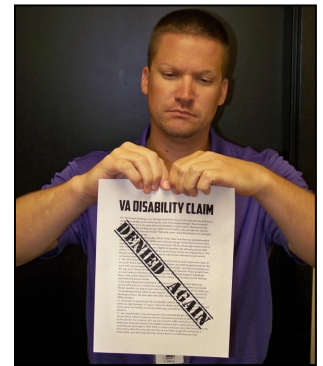
VA to Eliminate 7 Compensable Disabilities

Not all service-connected medical conditions are incurred or exacerbated in the performance of military duties. In 2015, VA paid 716,000 veterans a total of \$3.7 billion, the Congressional Budget Office estimates, to compensate for seven of the conditions that, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), military service is unlikely to cause or aggravate.

Those conditions are **arteriosclerotic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Crohn's disease, hemorrhoids, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis, and uterine fibroids.**

Beginning in January 2018, this option would end veterans' disability compensation for those seven conditions. Under the option, veterans now receiving compensation for those conditions would have their compensation reduced or eliminated, and veterans who applied for compensation for those conditions in the future would not be eligible for it.

An argument in support of this option is that it would make the disability compensation system for veterans more comparable to civilian systems. Few civilian employers offer long-term disability benefits, and among those that do, benefits do not typically compensate individuals for all medical problems that developed during employment.



An argument against this option is that military service is not like a civilian job; instead, it confers unique benefits to society and imposes extraordinary risks on service members. By that logic, the pay and benefits that service members receive should reflect the hardships of military life, including compensating veterans who become disabled in any way during their military service.

*Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office
Dec. 16, 2016*



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 26th century...is the 26th 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 or each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your corrector encounters. RLTW ! I look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

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



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

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>

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- **Annual dues members, please remember to renew your membership not later than Jan. 31, 2017. You may want to consider life membership which is currently \$440, or \$320 if over age 65. Mail checks to SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782. Any questions about annual dues or life membership should be directed to Membership Secretary Marsha Scott.**
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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!”