



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #10

October, 2012

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Home Page: www.sfa-xv.org

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

06 Board Meeting 1300
11 Membership Meeting 1900, meal:18:00
**** Fund raiser at Dick's? TBA**
Scholarship Applications Accepted
Nominations for Chapter Officers

NOVEMBER

03 Board Meeting 1300
06 Fund raiser at Dick's Last Resort
08 Membership Meeting: 1900 meal: 1800
10 Drop Input Due
11 Veterans Ceremony FSH
Election and Scholarship results

DECEMBER

01 Board Meeting 1300
15 Installation of Officers and
Christmas Banquet, venue:TBA
EL TROPICANO HOTEL ON RIVERWALK
MERRY CHRISTMAS
***No Membership Meeting**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have lost a great warrior, an icon, a green beret brother and friend. LTC Miguel (Mike) de la Pena died peacefully in his sleep on September 16, 2012. He was truly a magnificent soldier and we will not see the likes of him again in our lifetime. Miguel was interred next to his beloved and sweetheart Ruby Ann, his bride for over 60 years.

His death is a tremendous loss to his family and the Green Beret community. Miguel was a veteran of three wars and earned the prestigious Combat Infantryman's Badge in each conflict. He was the innovator of the concept of the "Mike Force" in Vietnam.

Happy trails amigo, I know that you're at peace and content with Ruby by your side. You will be missed. Hasta luego amigo!

We have a full agenda for our chapter before the end of the year and I've listed all the activities in the next page. **Red Bird sends**



Red Bird sends.



ACTIVITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR FOR **GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV.**

- 1. October 3, 2012- Seal Team Commander Briefing. See earlier notice.**
 - 2. October 6, 2012- Board Meeting VFW Post 8541, 1300.**
 - 3. October 11, 2012- Membership Meeting VFW Post 8541, 1900, meal at 1815.**
 - 4. October 13, 2012- Parade honoring Vietnam Veterans in Victoria, Texas.**
 - 5. November 3, 2012- Board Meeting VFW Post 8541, 1300.**
 - 6. November 6, 2012- Dick's Last Resort fund raiser, 6-9, tickets on sale \$25.**
 - 7. November 7, 2012- Golf Tournament, venue TBA, fund raiser.**
 - 8. November 7, 2012- Static display (Army North) at FSH Parade Field for Vietnam Vets.**
 - 9. November 8, 2012- Security Detail at the "Cove" for chef, Anthony Berdain. SELECTED CHAPTER MEMBERS (TBA)**
 - 10. November 8, 2012- Membership Meeting, Post 8541, meal at 1815, meeting 1900.**
 - 11. December 1, 2012- Board Meeting Post 8541, 1300.**
 - 12. December 15, 2012- Installation of Officers/Christmas Banquet at the El Tropicano Hotel on the Riverwalk. Tickets (\$50 each) on sale at next board meeting.**
- Reminders: 1. Ads in newsletter: must renew or it will be terminated.**
- 2. Applications for Educational Grant are being accepted. Dead line: November 1, 2012.**
- 3. Need items for Silent Auction for Dick's Last Resort.**



!!!!SPECIAL NOTICES!!!!

Notice to All Chapter XV Members

In order to maintain our lines of communication, please notify Marti Scott (210-491-2783) anytime you have a change to your address, phone number or e-mail address. If you have recently obtained an internet connection and now have an e-mail address please let us know as it saves our chapter \$\$\$\$\$\$ if we can e-mail you the newsletter and other notices.

We need volunteers to assist with all aspects of the 2013 SFA National Convention which we are hosting here in San Antonio next year. Please step forward and do your part.



Meeting Minutes---Thursday, October 11, 2012

013, Fred, Marti

2. **New Business: Static Display sponsored by Army North on November 7Th at Staff Post Parade Field at 16:00 SF Participation? SGM Smith. Meeting with Major General Mcqueen at VFW Post 76 on Thursday, October 11 at 16:00. All Military organizations are invited to participate.**
3. **Ceiling Panel honoring Miguel de la Pena donated by VFW Post 8541. Location: over our board meeting area. It will read:
TLC Miguel de la Pena. World War II, Korea, Vietnam
awarded Combat Infantry Badge in each conflict
First Commander of "Mike Force" in Vietnam**
 1. Meeting called to order at 19:00
 2. Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen brothers and spouses.
 3. Meal: Marti, Bill, Adan, Mike
 4. Services for Miguel de la Pena. family is very grateful.
 5. Presentation of Memorial Plaque to Mary and Karl
 6. Members sick or in distress
7. **Parade for Vietnam Vets sponsored by American Legion/VFW in Victoria, Texas. Mike and Bill will be driving the Chief and RV.**
8. **Dick's Last Resort fund raiser, November 6Th 6-9. Tickets \$25 all you can eat, drinks and live music. chapter XV will co-host the event with the Military Warriors Support Foundation headed by Josh Kinser**
9. **Next day, November 7Th, we will again participate with same foundation in a golf tournament. We will split proceeds with them. more details will follow. by Fred?**
10. **In desperate of appropriate items for our silent auction on 6 November. I will collect them. Godfather will be in charge.**
11. **Treasurer's report: Mario---- motion to approve
15 minute break**
1. **Unfinished Business: Convention 2013, Fred, Marti**
2. **New Business: Static Display sponsored by Army North on November 7Th at Staff Post Parade Field at 16:00 SF Participation? SGM Smith. Meeting with Major General Mcqueen at VFW Post 76 on Thursday, October 11 at 16:00. All Military organizations are invited to participate.**
3. **Ceiling Panel honoring Miguel de la Pena donated by VFW Post 8541. Location: over our board meeting area. It will read:
TLC Miguel de la Pena. World War II, Korea, Vietnam
awarded Combat Infantry Badge in each conflict
First Commander of "Mike Force" in Vietnam
Infantry Badge with two stars and Master Parachutist Wings**



SFA National Convention 2013
San Antonio, TX
June 26 –30, 2013
Special Forces Traditions Adapting and Making History
Hosted by Chapter XV

Registration Form

LOCATION: Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
(1-888-421-1442, Group #8220, Special Forces Association)

COST: The full registration is **\$135.00**
(Includes PICNIC, BANQUET, RECEPTION and HOSPITALITY ROOM)

If you are not to attend all events, please use the Limited Registration section below. Any registration with insufficient funds will be returned to the applicant.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SFA CHAPTER 15 CONVENTION 2013

MAIL TO: SFA Chapter 15 Convention 2013
Attn: Convention Registration
P.O. Box 33782
San Antonio, TX 78265-3782

Sponsor must be an SFA Member in Good Standing to attend the Convention.

SFA Member Number: _____

Name on ID Tag: _____ Number of Guests: _____

Names on Guest(s) ID Tag: _____

Please check if you do want your name listed on the Attendance Roster at the Convention

FULL REGISTRATION Number of Attendees ____ X \$135.00 = _____

LIMITED REGISTRATION

Banquet: No. of Attendees ____ X \$50.00 = _____

Picnic: No. of Attendees ____ X \$25.00 = _____

Hospitality: No. of Attendees ____ X \$60.00 = _____

Reception: No. of Attendees ____ FREE

TOTAL = _____

Convention Chairman: Fred Solis

For questions, please call: (210) 854-5555 EMAIL: sfa.colonel@hotmail.com or Pat Connolly @ (210) 826-8023

SFA Convention 2013
San Antonio, TX
Special Forces Traditions Adapting and Making History
June 26 - 30, 2013
Schedule of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
26 Jun 13 (Wednesday)	0800 – 1700	Registration	
	0800 – 1200	Motorcycle Ride	
	1000 – 2400	Hospitality Room	
	0900 – 1800	Vendors	
	1300 - ????	Free Time	
	1800 – 2100	Opening Reception	
27 Jun 13 (Thursday)	0800 – 1700	Registration	
	0800 – 1200	Golf Tournament	POVs/Shuttle to Golf Course 0700 – 1300
		NBO/Chapter Presidents/Regional Reps Meeting	
	0900 – 1800	Vendors	
	1000 – 1300	Hospitality Room	
		(Hospitality Room will close during picnic and reopen after picnic)	
	1400 – 1700	Texas Style BBQ Picnic	
	1600 – 2400	Hospitality Room	
28 Jun 13 (Friday)	0800 – 1700	Registration	
	0900 – 1800	Vendors	
	0900 – 1200	Annual General Membership Meeting/Guest Speakers	
		(No Alcohol Served During Meeting)	
	1200 – 2400	Hospitality Room	
	1800 – 2100	VFW Post 76 Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, \$2.00 Beer	
		More Info to Come via Flyer in Gift Bag	
		Free Day Open for Attendees to Tour San Antonio and Surrounding Military Installations	
29 Jun 13 (Sat)	0800 – 1400	Registration	
	0900 – 1600	Vendors	
	0900 – 1000	SFA Wreath Laying Ceremony at The Alamo	
	1000 – 1700	Hospitality Room	
	1800 – 1900	Cocktails and Receiving Line (Ballroom Cash Bar)	
	1900 – 2300	Banquet/Ballroom (Cash Bar)	
30 Jun 13 (Sun)	Dawn – 1200	Checkout/Departure	
	0800 – 1200	Hospitality Room (Coffee/Bloody Mary's)	
		Hotel will have a special rate Breakfast for guests	

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Hyatt Regency (Primary Hotel)	1-888-421-1442 Group #8220 Special Forces Assn.	\$106 (Double Occupancy) (Additional Charge for extra guest)
	(Hotel will extend rate 3 days +/-)	

Overflow Hotel: Grand Hyatt, 600 E. Market St., San Antonio, Texas 78205

Pictures From LTC Miguel de la Pena's Funeral



Miguel de la Pena Obituary

Lt. Col. (ret) Miguel (Mike) de la Pena went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sep. 16, 2012. He is now at peace next to his beloved Ruby who died in 2005. Miguel, an American warrior and U. S. Army Special Forces (S.F.) soldier, was born on Feb. 17, 1919 in San Antonio, TX and was very proud of his heritage and country. After spending his childhood in Mexico, Milwaukee, Peoria, and San Antonio he grew up speaking only Spanish until the 5th grade. “My heritage and my family, I’m proud of them, but I’m an American!” Mike fought in 3 wars, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam and was awarded the coveted and prestigious Combat Infantry Badge three different times, a true feat and honor for any soldier. Speaking about combat Miguel said “I can’t describe it, you know that you’re in danger but you can’t be terrified because then you will be helpless.” Having completed jump school as a 36 year old Capt. and veteran of Normandy to Czechoslovakia and Korea, Mike was one of the first Hispanic officers to join S.F. in 1954. He was initially assigned to the 77th S. F. Group for Training and Qualification. Upon completion of the S.F. course, was reassigned as a detachment Commander with the 10th S.F. Grp. in Europe. Returning to Ft. Bragg in 1956, Miguel was assigned as Co. Commander with the 77th S.F. Group and later with the newly formed 7th S.F. Group. He was selected as an element leader for the “White Star” project where he commanded the weapons and demolition Training center at Pak Se, Laos in 1959-60. Then Major de la Pena served as the Grp. Intelligence Officer, 1st S.F. Group in Okinawa, Japan. He later took command of the Korean Resident “B” detachment and in that capacity served as the Senior Advisor to the Commander of the Korean Special Forces. Then he volunteered for duty in Vietnam and was assigned as Cmdr. of a “C” detachment of the 5th S.F. Group in 1964-65. Miguel was foremost in the organization and concept of the first operational deployment of the “Mike Force” which bore his name! Lt. Col. Miguel de la Pena served his country with distinction and honor until his retirement in 1967. Following his retirement, he joined the U. S. Tank and Automotive Command where as a weapons delivery Specialist, was instrumental in the delivery of special weapons to many foreign governments. Upon returning home to San Antonio, TX, he and Ruby bought a house near Ft. Sam Houston. Miguel joined the S.F.A. Ch. XV (The Alamo Chapter) and together they hosted the Chapter’s Veteran’s Day and Memorial activities for 20 years. Miguel provided guidance and leadership to the Chapter and to the S.F. community. Throughout his career Miguel truly embodied the spirit, dignity, and sacrifice to his Country and the United States Army. Miguel and Ruby Anne had a fairy tale adventure and were married for over 60 years. Miguel was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, mother and father, three brothers, three sisters, and four children. Miguel is survived by his older brother Jim de la Pena and his wife Virginia, and daughter Mary Wenzel, sons Edward and Aaron, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors.

The Special Forces Chapter XV Educational Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Educational Grant is designed to provide a one time monetary educational grant. The number of grants and the amounts will be determined by the chapter Scholarship Committee and with the approval of the chapter president. Recipient (s) will normally be announced at the Annual Installation of Officers Banquet in December.

Eligibility

- 1. Applicants must be an SFA member in good standing, a legal dependant of such a member or a grandchild.**
- 2. A high school graduate or a student anticipating graduation during the year of application.**
- 3. The grant must be used to attend an accredited college, university, or a vocational institution.**

Application Procedures: Eligible applicants must submit the following information to the chapter president in person or P.O. Box 33782 San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782 * no later than November 1 of any year.

- a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's educational plans, career aspirations and planned use of the grant.**
- b. Copies of the most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements.**
- c. A letter of reference from a teacher, school counselor or a principal.**
- d. A summary of extra-curricular activities, non-academic achievements and/or hobbies**



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2012 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u> 07 Board Meeting 1300 12 Membership Meeting 1900 meal: 1800	<u>FEBRUARY</u> 04 Board Meeting 1300 10 Drop Input Due 09 Membership Meeting 1900 meal:1800 HAPPY VALENTINES'S DAY	<u>MARCH</u> 03 Board Meeting 1300 08 Membership Meeting 19:00 meal 18:00 9-11 Cotulla wild hog cook-off
<u>APRIL</u> 07 Board Meeting 1300 12 Membership Meeting 1900 meal:1800 10 Fund Raiser at the Cove 14 Memorial for chapter fallen brothers/spouses, FSH Cemetery, 11:00	<u>MAY</u> 12 Board Meeting 13:00 18-20 Jack Hogue Picnic, Canyon Lake 28 Memorial Day Ceremony, FSH * DROP input due <u>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u>	<u>JUNE</u> 02 Board Meeting 1300 07 Membership Meeting 1900 meal: 1800 National Convention: June 11- 17 FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.
<u>JULY</u> 07 Board Meeting 13:00 12 Membership Meeting 1900 meal: 1800 Parade: TBA ?? HAPPY 4TH of July!	<u>AUGUST</u> 04 Board Meeting 1300 09 Membership Meeting 1900 meal: 1800 Scholarship Grant Applications Accepted	<u>SEPTEMBER</u> 01 Board Meeting 1300 08 OKTOBER FEST VFW, 1200-?, Educational Grant Applications, Nominations for chapter officers accepted
<u>OCTOBER</u> 06 Board Meeting 1300 11 Membership Meeting 1900, meal:18:00 ** fund raiser at Dick's ?? TBA Scholarship Applications Accepted Nominations for Chapter Officers	<u>NOVEMBER</u> 03 Board Meeting 1300 06 fund raiser at Dick's 08 Membership Meeting 1900 meal:1800 10 Drop Input Due 11 Veterans Ceremony FSH Election and Scholarship results	<u>DECEMBER</u> 01 Board Meeting 1300 15 Installation of Officers and Christmas Banquet, venue:TBA EL TROPICANO HOTEL ON RIVERWALK MERRY CHRISTMAS *No Membership Meeting

All Chapter Meetings unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings are held at 19:00 on the 2nd Thursday of each month. A meal will be served at 18:00 prior to each Membership Meeting. Board meetings are held the Saturday before the Membership Meeting at 1300. Changes TBA.



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. M. 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



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and Iced Cold Beer

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"Helping Others Today for Their Tomorrows"



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331 Peacedale Court
Houston, Texas 77015



Attention: Juan Moya



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Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide us with numerous photographs of Chapter XV events: David Benavides, Henry Jimenez, Marti and Ben Scott, and Chapter XV chronicler John Edmiston. Selecting which ones to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone possible.

The Editor

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 Editor Mike Maloy at Chinook501@aol.com, or mail them to Chapter President Mando Canales at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.



"Carry on!"

