



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 0-17

October 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: Steve Stone, Ch. 38
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

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www.sfa-xv.org**



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Juan Lopez
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

October 5 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

October 7 — Membership Meeting

1200 - Meal served

1300-Business Meeting

October 28 — SFA Combat Skills Motorcycle Run



DON'T FORGET

- **Applications** for scholarship grants are being accepted until 15 November. See scholarship guidelines on Page 11.
- **Prizes and volunteers** are needed for the Oct. 28 Chapter Motorcycle Challenge. POC is Gordon Lee. See details on Page 8.
- **There's still time** to sign up for Chapter XV's → spring Caribbean Cruise. See Page 12.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Our Membership meeting is set for Saturday, 7 October, at the VFW. The board meeting will be at 1400 on Thursday 5 October.

I hope everyone is having a good month. It has been busy this past month and I want to thank Fred for another successful Dick's Last Resort fundraiser. We did very well and it was a good turnout. During the event, we were pleased to induct Dick's manager Ryan Wood as an Honorary Member of Chapter XV. I know the early timing this year may have impacted the attendance, but it was a great time. For everyone who donated items for the auction, I would like to thank you. There were some great items and we did well fundraising with them. I look forward to this fundraiser again next year, but at their new location on the River Walk.

Our Christmas Banquet is set for 9 December and I still have tickets remaining. If you would like to buy your tickets now please see me at the meeting. If you are planning on sitting together as a group, let me know in advance. I will set aside the table for your group.

We will continue with the election nominations this month. Also, the budget will be forthcoming for approval of our 2018 budget. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and volunteering to make our chapter a success.

Until the Membership 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, September 2017

Your treasurer has been slacking this month and did not keep on top of the Chapter's finances. I missed the biggest fund raising event of the year — Dick's Last Resort — and have only a vague idea of the proceeds. Hopefully that will be sorted out soon with the aid of the money handlers at Dick's.

Revenue for September was fairly good. Ticket sales for the door prize drawing and merchandise sales were brisk and Steve Rindahl renewed his half- page newsletter ad. Thanks once again to Raul and Gordon for creating some very attractive gift baskets and another great job of selling.

Expenses for the month were not too bad. The Chapter contributed toward the memorial reception for Ed Fernandez and presented his widow, Hope, with the Special Forces plaque. JR Garza was recognized with a plaque for his outstanding service as our veteran's benefits advisor and coordinator for the past several years.

The budget committee has been formed and will present the 2018 operating budget to the membership for approval at the November meeting. If you have good ideas or moans and groans about how the chapter manages (spends) your money, please see and discuss your concerns with one of the committee members: Buddy Gee (chairman,) Toby Todd, Barry Archer, Chuck Rose and David Marshall. President Bill Smith is an ad hoc member of this and all committees IAW Chapter Bylaws.

Buddy Gee, Chapter XV Treasurer

Minutes of September Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 09 September 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. **Steven Rindahl** 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: **Gen Alfred Valenzuela, Gen Simeon Trombitas, Don Iverson, Rosalinda Garza.**

Members Sick or In Distress: **Fred Solis's** in-laws, **Joseph Haro's** sister, **Ed Fernandez's** widow in hospital, **Iris Archer** soon to undergo back surgery .

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly & annual budget reports to Ch XV members and they were accepted as read.
- b) **August meeting Minutes** were accepted as read.
- c) **Membership Report:** presented by **Marti Scott**, is currently at 187 members.
- d) **Veterans Affairs:** **JR Garza** talked about possibility of individual unemployability benefits being taken away from veterans once they reach 65 yrs of age. **Mr Garza** was also presented a plaque for his support to SFA Ch XV on VA issues.
- e) **September election nominations:** President, **Bill Smith** (accepted); Vice President, **Barry Archer** (accepted); Treasurer, **Buddy Gee** (accepted); Asst Treasurer, **Toby Todd** (accepted); Secretary, **Juan Lopez** (accepted); Asst Secretary, **Dave Marshall** (accepted), **Henry Jimenez** (not present); Sgt at Arms, **Raul De La Garza** (accepted); Asst Sgt at Arms, **Gordon Lee**. Nominations will continue until November.
- f) **Christmas Banquet:** Saturday, 9 December 2017, \$55 per ticket, El Tropicano Hotel.
- g) **Dicks Last Resort:** **Fred Solis**, Thursday, 21 September 2017, 6pm-9pm, \$30 per ticket.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Scholarships:** **Pat Conolly**, we are giving out (4) \$500 scholarships; however, no applications have been turned in as of now.



VETERANS AFFAIRS representative **JR Garza** accepts appreciation award from Chapter President **Bill Smith**.

- b) **Ch XV April 2018 Cruise:** Registration has been extended to 15 Oct 2017.
- c) **Motorcycle Ride:** **Gordon Lee**, Saturday 28 October 2017.
- d) **5th Group Reunion:** 20-23 September 2017 at Ft Campbell, KY.
- e) **SFA National Convention:** 12-18 June, Ft Bliss, TX.
- f) **JROTC awards:** **Juan Lopez**, awards start coming out January 2018.
- g) **Walking event:** **Chaplain Rindahl** put out information on a spiritual healing walking event being held in Santiago, Spain in September 2018.
- h) **VFW helping VFW:** **Bill Smith** thanked members of CH XV who went to Aransas Pass, TX to help VFW's that were damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

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

ENJOYING chicken 'n dumplings before the meeting are (l to r) Fred Valenzuela, Bob Walker, Sim Trombitas, Ben Scott, J.W. Martin.





Serving those who served America.

America's veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country, and we believe it is never too late to acknowledge their heroic service. That's why our hospice is taking part in the We Honor Veterans program, a collaboration between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are prepared to help veterans and their families meet the challenges they may face at the end of life. Our staff and volunteers understand the unique issues veterans face and can assist in making sure they get the support and resources they need.

We have embraced our mission to serve America's veterans. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices they have made in serving us.



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Chapter Fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort



Sept. 21, 2017



GOOD TIMES. Above, 'Auctioneers' Bill Smith and Fred Solis push up price for the Smith & Wesson 40 pistol, which sold for \$500. At left, Top bidder Levi Rogers bought the V42 knife and also donated Spurs tickets for the auction. Right, Bob Walker explains new Chinese auction to a customer. Below: Live music with volunteer band; Silent auction table; Chapter 'first ladies' Kelly Trombitas and Tanya Van.



October 2017

Chapter Motorcycle Challenge

This year's motorcycle event is set for **October 28**. It will have a very different format than any other civilian motorcycle event anywhere.

The events are an attempt to show civilians some of the experiences and challenges faced by our soldiers that engage in combat.

This year, we will incorporate weapons with live fire on two of the stops. One for firing full-size, combat style pistols and one for firing a modern military style .556 long gun with scope. There will also be an extended



"point walk" experience with booby traps as well as targets low and high, of course with non-lethal weapons. We will still incorporate the grenade toss and there will be a surprise event thrown into the mix.

We continue to seek contributors for donations, prizes or sponsorship. Any help on this will be greatly appreciated.

Flyers will be available at the next meeting for distribution. This will be the best one yet!

—Gordon Lee, Chairman

Fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort (cont.)

Sept. 21, 2017



From the Election Committee

Nominations Still Open

The election for the 2018-2020 slate of chapter officers is currently under way. Nominations for officers are open, and will remain open, through the October Membership Meeting on October 7th.

Anyone wanting to nominate someone for the office of Chapter President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, or Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms can do so by contacting the Election Committee (Chuck Rose or Bobby Walker).



Before nominating someone, make sure they are willing to accept the position.

A final ballot with the Slate of Nominees will be included in the Chapter's November Newsletter. Those unable to vote prior to the November meeting will have the opportunity to vote during the meeting.

All votes will be tabulated and the election results announced at the end of the November meeting.

—Chuck Rose, Chairman

Warriors on the Way



Steve Rindahl, a Chapter XV member and retired Army chaplain, is organizing a pilgrimage for a dozen combat veterans to walk the Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) in Spain next year. "Warriors on the Way," a 180-mile trek along the famous trail in northern Spain, will run from Sept. 14 to Sept. 30, 2018.

After 15 years of U.S. involvement in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Steve says the levels of PTSD and "moral injury" among veterans are rising rapidly. Outdoor activity, especially hiking, is well known to help with processing wartime experiences, he says. And research shows that intentional spiritual practices can reduce tension, depression, anger, fatigue and confusion (all commonly found in those diagnosed with PTSD.) Steve also notes that a pilgrimage ties in with the "ruck march" experience common to all veterans.

Warriors on the Way will capitalize on this unique dynamic "which allows for time to oneself while always being part of the larger team," he says.

Steve is an experienced pilgrim, having made several pilgrimages based on veteran healing. He served 15 months as a chaplain in Iraq. He has used these experiences, plus what he learned completing his doctorate in responding to combat



trauma, to design the 2018 trip.

Steve is seeking support for the pilgrimage in two ways. First, if you know a veteran diagnosed with PTSD who may benefit from this program, please refer him to Steve. Second, he hopes to raise \$45,000 to finance the complete trip (transportation, food, equipment, lodging) for 12 veterans to be selected.

"Whether you can send enough to cover the cost of a single meal or the \$3,750 that it will take to fully sponsor one veteran -- or anywhere in between -- you can make a difference," he says. Tax-deductible donations can be made to SSA Memorial and marked to support the Veterans Pilgrimage.

SSA Memorial (A 501c3 Veterans Organization)
450 Naumann Rd
Seguin, TX 78155

<https://www.ssamemorial.com/>

The Rev'd Dr Steven G. Rindahl
WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com
warriorsontheway.org



Remembering Danny

DANIEL KLING



MSG (R) Daniel James Kling, 83, passed away quietly on September 12, 2017 with all of his family at his side in Plano, Texas.

Very early in his life he joined the Army and found himself on the battlefield in Korea, assigned to the 45 Infantry Division. Upon his return home, he was assigned to the 7th Cavalry and stationed in Japan. Shortly after, he volunteered for the Special Forces where, upon completion of some rigorous training was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group at Ft. Bragg, NC.

He served several tours in Vietnam where he was awarded 2 Bronze Stars, The Purple Heart, Silver Star, Combat Infantry Badge (2nd Award) and various other awards. He retired in 1975 after serving in the Army for 28 years.

Upon separation from the Army, went on to become a successful salesman predominantly in the telecommunications industry. He was a Life Member of the Special Forces Association (D-392) and active member of the San Antonio Special Forces Chapter XV. He feared God, loved his County and adored his Family.

He is survived by his wife MaElena, son Armando and his wife Nayeli, daughter Claudia and husband Jeff, daughter Erica and husband Dustin, daughter Kelly and husband Terry. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Isabel, Natali, Mackenzie, Corbin, Dylan, Lincoln, Olivia and his faithful dog CINCO. His ashes will be buried at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.



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 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 corector encounters. RLW !! Look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

2/18



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7/7/18



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8/4/18

Scholarship Applications Due

Pat Connolly, Scholarship Committee Chairman, reminds that applications are being accepted from now until 15 November. Here are the scholarship 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

CHAPTER XV CRUISE (Deadline extended to Oct. 15)



EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Hermann advises that the deadline to sign up for our spring cruise has been extended to Oct. 15. So, if you haven't booked your cabin yet — or you've booked and have friends who want to join us — spread the word! This will be great fun and a Chapter fundraiser to boot!



Special Forces Association Chapter XV

Fellowship and FUN-d raising Cruise



7 NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN

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Departing Sunday, April 15-22, 2018

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* donation amount average based on outside cabin, double occupancy

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Karen Hermann TEL: 210-372-5122

khermann@wth.com

Agency- Sheri Green & Associates, Austin, TX

Agency Phone: (512) 796-8428



Terms & Conditions: Prices are shown in U.S. Dollars. Prices are per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy, specified stateroom category. In USD include non-commissionable fares and are subject to availability. Governmental departure taxes and fees are included. Certain restrictions may apply. Prices and promotional offers apply to new individual bookings and vary by departure date and city, sailing, ship, and stateroom category and are subject to availability, may change without notice, are capacity controlled, may not be combinable with other offers, and may be changed or withdrawn at any time. All reservations must be made in U.S. dollars and restrictions may apply for non-U.S. residents. Cancellation penalties, blackout dates, and other restrictions may also apply. Best Price Guarantee: restrictions and instructions apply; see our Best Price Guarantee Policy. Ships Registry: Greece, Norway, Bahamas, Liberia, Panama, Marshall Islands, Great Britain, Bermuda, Wallis & Futuna, Malta, the Netherlands and Italy. CA 2008278-40, FLST 35829, IA 856, WA 801696884, NV 2005-0073. © Dream Vacations 2017

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 15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1300 4 Membership Meeting 1300 10-12 Cotulla Hog Cook-off 30 Apr 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 15 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
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 6 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300	3 Board Meeting 1100 5 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due	7 Board Meeting 1400 9 Membership Meeting 1300 (Nomination of Officers & Scholarship Applications) 21 Dick's Fund Raiser
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
5 Oct Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1300 28 Motorcycle Ride	2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1300 (Election) 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 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.

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:

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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

12-16 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018
Hotel Paseo del Norte, El Paso, TX
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>

Thanks to Ben Scott, Juan Lopez and Bill Smith 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, or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.

The Editors



“Carry on!”