



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue #06-21

June 2021

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Asst. Treasurer: Joel Dawson
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Asst. Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
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Nominations: Chuck Rose
JROTC Awards: John 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: John Lopez
Budget Committee: Merrill Hall
Chapter Memorial Svc: Pat Meffert
Chapter Annual Cruise: Karen Hermann

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



June 12— XV Board Meeting 1130

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

Membership Meeting

1200— Noon Meal Served

1300— Business Meeting

June 14— U.S. Army's 246th Birthday

June 14— Flag Day

June 20— Father's Day



DON'T FORGET



Swordbearer's Chapel service with Fr. Steve Rindahl has resumed at VFW 8541, 1100 hrs. every Sunday in the Rodela Room. All are welcome.

Sick call at 1300 hrs. every Sunday at VFW Post 8541. POC is Bill Beall.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

First off, I would like to wish all the father's out there in the chapter a happy Father's Day for the month of June. A toast to the fathers! Cheers.

I would like to thank all those who attended the chapter's picnic we had last month at the Meffert's. We got a little rain, but we were under cover, and I feel we had a great time. Thank you, Steve Hermann, for grilling our meal. Thank you, Raul De La Garza, for bringing out the canopy which allowed for more space for us and kept us out of the rain. Thank you, Merrill Hall, for pulling our beautiful trailer out to the event. Of course, all this would not have been possible if it were not for Pat and Mary Meffert who invited the chapter over for the day. Thank you, Pat and Mary, we had a great time!

We do not have any chapter events scheduled for this month. As you all are all aware, it is getting hot outside. It's going to get hotter. Make sure you stay hydrated. Drinking alcohol does not count! I know we like to believe that, but there are some 18 Ds out there that will beg to differ. So here is your safety briefing for the Summer: enjoy your beverages, but drink a bottle of water after each two or three of them, and watch out for each other; stay in the shade when possible; If not, put on that sunblock with a respectable SPF rating.

Effective September 1, 2021, Texas DV license plate recipients will have to place the ADA placard in the their vehicle in order to park in ADA parking spaces.

Effective Dec 1, 2021, the DMV will require every recipient to get the ADA placard application signed by their doctors, and DMV will no longer issue it automatically.

Speaking about the summer, we may have to reconsider going back to Mexico this summer for our chapter vacation, because it was recently reported that the governor of the state of Quintana Roo expressed ongoing concern for the high rate of COVID-19 cases in the region. The region is home to

Cancun, Riviera Maya, Tulum, Cozumel, and Playa de Carmen, and is in danger of returning to red status as a result of an increase in COVID-19 cases. We may want to look at alternate locations, even here in the States would be great to hang out with chapter members.

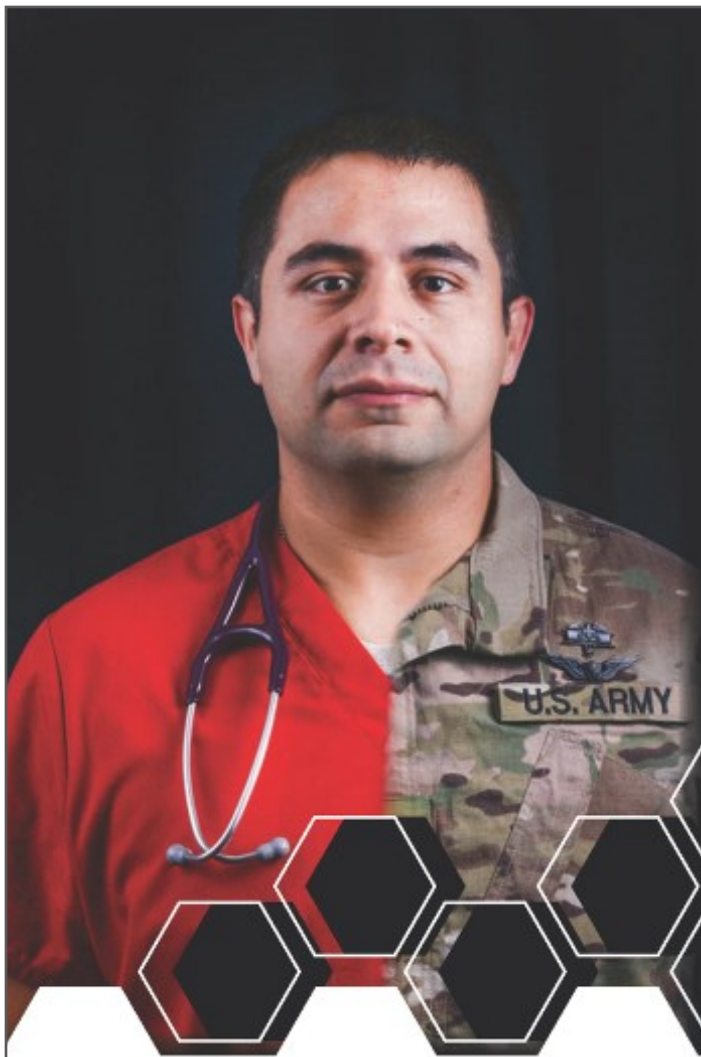
Holidays and dates of interest this month: The Army's 246th birthday and Flag Day is Monday, June 14th. Father's Day and the first day of Summer is Sunday, June, 20th.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 12th. Our board meeting will start at 11:30am. Lunch will begin at noon. Our membership meeting will start at 1pm. Hope to see you there and stay safe!

John A. Lopez
President, SFA Chapter XV

president@sfa-XV.org





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*uniform***

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\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, June 2021:

The Jack Hogue Picnic was held on 15 May and came under budget.

I would like to thank Fred Solis for \$2000.00 donation for next years Scholarship fund.

I also want to thank John Rodden and George Garcia for their monthly donations.

Merrill Hall, Treasurer
treasurer@sfa-XV.org

Contacting Chapter XV Members

From time to time, a Chapter member may need to contact other Chapter members but may not have their contact information. There is a way to work around it and get the information.

BACKGROUND: Many of our members have or have had sensitive positions that could put them in harm's way if their contact information is made public. For security reasons, the chapter roster remains guarded.

If you want to contact one or a few Chapter members and do not have access to the roster, you should contact the membership chairman or a board member and request the information. If you need something emailed to the Chapter or to a large number of members (mass mail), you should send a request to the Chapter president and he can have your message emailed to members. Board member email addresses are as follows:

President, John Lopez
president@sfa-xv.org

Membership Chair, Sergio Venegas
membership@sfa-xv.org

Vice President, Pat Meffert
vp@sfa-xv.org

Secretary, Mike Brown
secretary@sfa-xv.org

Editor, Daniel Bell
editor@sfa-xv.org

Treasurer, Merrill Hall
treasurer@sfa-xv.org

In Photos

Chapter Picnic



Steve Hermann



Smithson Valley JROTC



L-R: Pat Meffert, Merrill Hall, Mike Brown, Raul De La Garza, and John Lopez

Awardee, Cadet Joshua Wood with Chptr. VP Pat Meffert.



Pat Connolly

Dawson's Farewell at Longtab

L-R: Arnulfo Vasquez, Bobby Walker, Raul De La Garza, Joe Dawson, and Chptr. Pres. John Lopez



L-R: Pete Martinez, Raul De La Garza, and Chptr. Pres. John Lopez



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SFA Chapter XV Education Grants

In conjunction with the General Valenzuela Scholarship Fund, and Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant. I'm proud to announce the following grants:

Madison Blue, Granddaughter of Donald Blue. General Valenzuela Scholarship Fund \$500 and SFA Fund \$1000, attending Texas A&M.

Seth London, Stepson of David Marshall. General Valenzuela Scholarship Fund \$500 and SFA Fund \$1000, attending Texas A&M.

Alyssa Meffert, Daughter of Richard Patrick Meffert. General Valenzuela Fund \$500 and SFA Fund \$1000, attending Texas A&M.

Helen Beck, Daughter of Chris Marshall. General Valenzuela Fund \$500 and SFA Fund \$1000, attending the University of North Carolina.

Harlan Cook, Stepson of John Dominguez. SFA Fund \$1000, attending Rice University.

Jaqueline Halldorsson, Stepdaughter of William Smith. SFA Fund \$1000, attending Chapman University.

Jessica Rose, Granddaughter of Chuck Rose. SFA Fund \$1000, attending California State University.

Jordyn Hopgood, Granddaughter of Daniel Hopgood. SFA Fund \$1000, attending Grand Valley University.

Pat Connolly,
Scholarship Committee Chairman

Volunteer Help Wanted

The first Gold Star Family Children's camping session is scheduled for June 21-30 at Echo Hill Ranch. About 40 kids from around the country have registered. The camp needs volunteers for the following areas:

- A carpenter to make minor repairs, such as adding a board safety rail to the bunkbeds, repair/replace a handrail and other minor issues.
- A medical technician to manage the camp infirmary and treat minor illnesses and injuries. A medical doctor is on call but will not be on site. Serious injuries or illnesses would be referred for medical care at the closest medical facilities.
- Someone knowledgeable of boating safety to oversee the kayaking program.

A volunteer orientation will be conducted June 19-20. A cabin and food will be provided to volunteers and spouses. Also, volunteers with RVs may set up on the property.

Echo Hill Ranch is located at 965 Echo Hill Road, Medina, TX which is about 1.5 hours northwest of San Antonio. To inquire and/or volunteer, contact Marcie Friedman, telephone 1-830 589-2520; email: marciefriedman@echohill.org



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3/2022



What is Your Standard?

It is June, and the "official" start to summer is just around the corner. Before the Summer Solstice; however, we have two other days of importance that occur on the same date. The US Army Birthday is 14 June. Also occurring on 14 June is Flag Day. While the two being on the same day was not, as far as I know, an intentional act – it does seem to be a natural connection. The flag represents our country, and the Army being the eldest service defending all the good the flag represents. Soldiers have since 1775 entered the Army. First to defend the Colonies and later the United States, represented by the flag designed by Betsy Ross and adapted over the years as the number of states in the United States grew to its current number. The ideals of the United States, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, is certainly a standard worth standing up to defend.

The interesting thing about the word "standard" – it can be defined as what is expected or the "rule of being" something. Standard can also mean the primary flag – that which is positioned to indicate which side you are on and fighting for. In the days of medieval battles between knights, the kings' standards would be planted on either side of the battlefield, while the knights fought for victory in the middle. St Ignatius of Loyola, himself a Soldier who was wounded in battle (a cannonball broke both of his legs), developed a tool from

growing your faith called the *Spiritual Exercises*. One of the exercises is to imagine a giant battlefield with a standard planted on each end. One represents the enemy of our souls, the other the Kingdom of Heaven. He points out that in our day-to-day lives, we rarely pay attention to the standards and, without intent to do so, line up under the standard of the enemy. We have all lined up under the standard of the United States – Soldiers defending the greatest standards any country can hold. Now the question is under which standard will you align your life. May it be that which brings you the blessings of God.



Chapel Every Sunday. If you do not have a regular place of worship but are looking for one (or just a visit), please join us. Each Sunday at 1100, we have a chapel service in the Rodela room of VFW 8541. Chapel is open to everybody (VFW members and non-members).

Buen Camino,
Fr Steve

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



Warriors on the Way

www.WarriorsOnTheWay.org

Combat Veterans on the Camino de Santiago
Warriors on the Way
 (a 501(c)(3) Veterans' organization)
 is a Veterans Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Spain) designed to put Warriors with PTSD and Moral Injury on the Way to Healing.

**IN 2019, WE INVESTED \$2,136,586
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FAMILY SUPPORT: \$925,469

A GREEN BERET'S FAMILY IS HIS FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORT, AND SO IT'S CRITICAL THAT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION PROVIDES ADVOCACY AND SERVICES TO MEET THE ENTIRE FAMILY'S NEEDS. THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL FORCES FAMILIES AS THEY NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING, DEPLOYMENTS, AND LIFE AFTER THE MILITARY.

EXTENDED SUPPORT: \$755,156

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT FOR GREEN BERETS AS THEY MANAGE WOUNDS, INJURIES, AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ACUTE AND POST-ACUTE CARE. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS ENSURING THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE TREATMENTS AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO THRIVE IN LIFE BEYOND THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

NEXT RIDGELINE[®] TRANSITION SUPPORT: \$179,886

WE KNOW THAT A GREEN BERET'S TRANSITION OUT OF THE MILITARY IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL TIME PERIODS IN HIS LIFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONNECT GREEN BERETS WITH THE MENTORS, PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES NEEDED TO MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE A SUCCESS. THIS PROGRAM ENSURES THAT GREEN BERETS ARE PREPARED AND EMPOWERED TO LIVE A FULL AND IMPACTFUL LIFE AFTER TAKING OFF THE MILITARY UNIFORM.

GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILIES SUPPORT: \$150,316

OUR MOST SACRED DUTY AT THE GREEN BERET FOUNDATION IS TO SERVE THE FAMILIES OF OUR GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. NO MATTER IF THE GREEN BERET WAS KILLED IN COMBAT OR IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE-RELATED INJURY, SUICIDE OR DISEASE, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE FAMILY NAVIGATE THEIR DIFFICULT JOURNEY, EMPOWERING THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE.

CASUALTY SUPPORT: \$125,759

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO GREEN BERETS UPON SUSTAINING A WOUND OR INJURY, INCLUDING RECEIVING A CHECK FOR \$2500 AND A GORUCK GR1 RUCKBACK OF ESSENTIAL GEAR. BY PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT, WE HELP SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT: BEING TOGETHER AND HEALING.

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WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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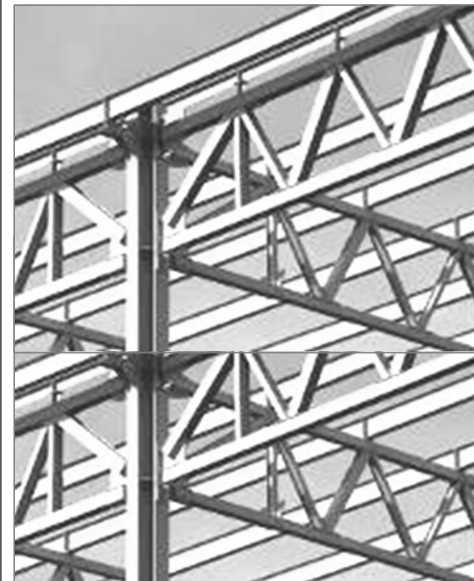
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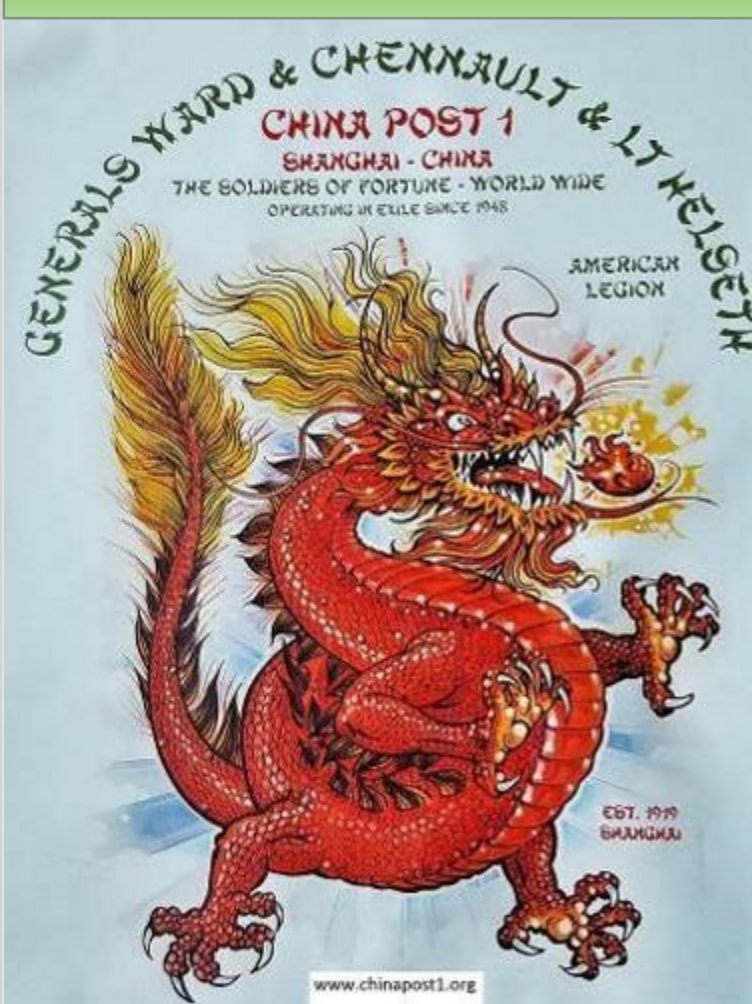
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Terrazas and Associates, Inc.



Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA A-663 (Life)

WarriorsOnTheWay@gmail.com



Longtab Brewing: We are very proud to announce our fourth Longtab beer dedication, brewed in honor of GREEN BERET and Medal of Honor Recipient MSG Roy P. Benavidez. This beer is an American Pils and will be named TANGO MIKE MIKE which was his radio callsign. It was released Nov. 28.

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2021 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>08 Board Meeting 1000hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>13 Board Meeting 1000hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due 26 CH XV 44th Anniversary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>06 Board Meeting 1100hrs 06 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 Daylight Savings 17 Saint Patrick's Day 21 GBF Blues, Brews, & Bugs 25 CMOH Day 28 Palm Sunday</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>03 Crawfish Boil - Longtab 1400hrs 10 Board Meeting 1130hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>08 Joe Dawson Farwell @Longtab 09 Mother's Day NO BOARD MEETING NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Chapter Picnic @the Meffert's 15 Drop Input Due 31 Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 1130hrs 12 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 14 U.S. Army Birthday 14 Flag Day 20 Father's Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>04 Independence Day 10 Board Meeting 1100hrs 10 Membership Meeting 1300hrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>14 Board Meeting 1100hrs 14 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>06 Labor Day 11 Board Meeting 1100hrs 11 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 17 POW/MIA Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>09 Board Meeting 1100hrs 09 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 11 Columbus Day 14 or 21 DLR's Fundraiser 16 JBSA Octoberfest 18-22 SOAR Reunion 22-25 SFAIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>11 Veterans Day 13 Board Meeting 1100hrs 13 Membership Meeting 1300hrs 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>07 Pearl Harbor Day 11 Board Meeting 1100hrs NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11 Christmas Banquet</p>

Annual Membership Dues are now past due. Pay \$40 plus a \$5 reinstatement fee for dues online at Chapter website, in person at Chapter meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782.

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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: Juan E. "John" Lopez

president@sfa-xv.org



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

18-22 SEPT 2021 5th Group Reunion
Clarksville, TN

18-22 OCT 2021 Special Operations Association Reunion
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

22-25 OCT 2021 Special Forces Association Convention
The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Thank you to John Lopez and Buddy Gee for the photos in this month's newsletter.

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 Daniel Bell at editor@sfa-xv.org, or mail them to Chapter President John Lopez at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

The Editors



"Carry on!"