



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 02-18

February 2018

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Juan Lopez
Secretary:
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: Buddy Gee
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

Visit us at our Home Page:

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

February 1 — Board Meeting

1400 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

February 3 — Regular Meeting

0930 — SF/Ranger Breakfast

1100 — SFA Membership Meeting



DON'T FORGET



- Ham 'n' Eggs at this month's SF/Ranger Breakfast. Yum, yum ... Y'all come!
- Annual dues are due by Jan. 31, and the DUES HAVE INCREASED TO \$40.
- More volunteers are needed to help present JROTC awards at local high schools. See Juan's update on Page 5.
- Coming up: Get your folks ready for the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff March 9-11 at the Cotulla Fairgrounds. See Mike Brown's briefing on Page 5.
- Sick Call at VFW 8541 every Sunday, 1300-1500 hours. POC is Bill Beall.
- Valentine's Day is Feb. 14. Don't forget something sweet for your Sweetie!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone had a great start to their New Year. Our Board meeting is set for the 1st of February at 1400 hrs. The Membership meeting is on the 3rd of February starting at 0930 with breakfast and the SF meeting will be at 1100 hrs. I cannot thank our members enough for all the hard work over the last year. I want to also thank Bill Beall, Mike, Juan and Kim for the outstanding S.O.S and eggs at our last breakfast. Ham and eggs are on the menu for next time.

At the last meeting Juan Lopez was appointed to Vice-president, Mike Pagel to Assistant Treasurer. It was an honor to work with Barry Archer and I learned a lot from him. Please keep Iris in your prayers and they will be missed for now, but I know they will be back soon. Barry served many positions on the Chapter XV Board and did an outstanding job.

Cotulla Hog Cook-off is coming up quickly. It is the second weekend in March —the 9th, 10th and 11th of March. We will discuss the 5 W's at the next meeting. I know Mike and Steve are ready to cook and win this year. If you have not been to this event, it is an awesome time and a lot to do there with the family.

10 February the VFW is having a Mardi Gras themed party and a band to follow the dinner. I will send out a flyer on the party. I am a big believer in supporting our local VFW for obvious reasons.

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have mailed out applications for scholarships. This will be a VFW 8541 Scholarship. The Post is awarding two \$2,000 scholarships to members of VFW 8541 or their immediate family. This also includes members of VFW 8541 Auxiliary. (Details on Page 9.)

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, January 2018

Your loyal, hardworking Chapter Treasurer got a real workout during January. Presented the Treasurer Reports for November and December, the year-end budget status and a short brief on the 2018 budget —all approved by the membership (Thanks!)

Donations from Margaret Tippy, Richard Harvey, Steve Schoenicke and Larry Dollarhide were received and much appreciated. Raul and Gordon took in \$150 in door prize ticket sales and sold \$42 on the merchandise table. Margaret Tippy and Bob Walker signed up and paid for two meals, and Chuck Rose and Fred Solis have pledged \$125 each for future meals. We need six more donors to be covered for the year. Other income included 13 membership applications and renewals.

Bob Walker renewed his full-page ad and complained about being broke as he was leaving the meeting. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is in the process of renewing their ad as well. We still have space for various ads from business card size to full page. (See rate chart at the back of this newsletter.) The Chapter newsletter is distributed to our membership, spouses of all deceased members, approximately 50 friends of the Chapter and 13 other SF chapters. Additionally, the newsletters are posted on the Chapter website at www.sfa-xv.org. Advertising with us is a good deal for you and for the Chapter. For more information or to advertise, contact Buddy Gee (sgmgee@aol.com).

Chapter expenses for January were \$1,935. We donated \$1,000 to charity; paid \$625 to SFA National for member dues; \$200 to reserve our space at the La Salle County Fair Wild Hog Cookoff; \$45 for shipping plaques to scholarship recipients, and a \$40 fee for the web domain name registration. We paid dues of \$25 for Chapter membership in the Joint Veterans of San Antonio. The Chapter finances are sound and the board is operating within the approved budget.

Buddy Gee

Chapter XV Treasurer sgmgee@aol.com

Minutes of January Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 06 January 2018

The meeting was called to order by President **William Smith** at 1100 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain **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: **Alex Simich, Merrill G. Hall.**

Members Sick or In Distress:

Iris Archer (recovering from surgery complications)

JR Garza (sick/ill)

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Budget & Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the November and December monthly reports; they were approved as read.
- b. **Membership Report:** **Marti Scott** stated that we currently have 188 members. **Raul de la Garza** and **JW Martin** are now life members.
- c. **Veterans Affairs:** **JR Garza** was not present due to illness.
- d. **Cotulla Wild Hog Cook-off:** **Mike Brown & Steve Hermann**, will take place 9-11 March 2018.
- e. **Cruise:** **Karen Hermann**, will take place 15-22 April

2018.

- f. **Canyon Lake Picnic:** **Raul De la Garza**, will be held 18-20 May, 2018.
- g. **SFA National Convention:** Will be held in El Paso, TX 12-18 June 2018.
- h. **Christmas Banquet:** Set for Saturday, 8 December 2018 at El Tropicano Hotel.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Update to board member positions:** Vice president: **Juan Lopez**, Secretary: **Toby Todd**, Assistant Treasurer: **Mike Pagel**.
- b. **Donations:** SFA Ch XV donated \$1,000 to VFW Post 8541, and \$125 was donated for SF/Ranger breakfast.
- b. **Scholarships:** VFW Post 8541 will be giving out 3 \$2,000 scholarships in April 2018.
- c. **Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser:** **Fred Solis**, planning on meeting with new manager soon.
- d. **Open Discussion:** Ch XV door prize drawing was conducted by **Raul de la Garza**.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Toby Todd, D-3991-L
SFA Chapter XV Secretary



Left: Swearing in new officers Juan, Mike, Toby. Center: Raul draws for door prize. Above right, Karen explains to Vito about upcoming Chapter XV cruise. Below, Ron, Bobby, Steve, Chuck and Marlys solve world problems.



Special Event



LOCAL GREEN BERETS PREVIEW '12 STRONG'

Levi Rodgers, a life member of Chapter XV and principal of Levi Rodgers Real Estate Group in San Antonio, hosted Green Berets from all over town for a private viewing of "12 Strong," the true story of the first American soldiers sent into Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. The film depicts the bravery of "the horse soldiers," 5th Special Forces Group's ODA 595, as they complete their dangerous mission.

Levi reserved a whole theater at the Santikos Palladium Imax at The Rim on Jan. 20 and filled it with 130 people, mostly Green Berets and Special Forces veterans. Before the movie, he introduced Jose Luis Sanchez, who lost a leg in Afghanistan but rebounded to run marathons and start the non-profit fitness organization Rise Above Hardship. Levi and Jose are shown in photo at left.

Below, part of the crowd that filled the theater, including (at right) Gordon and Dana Lee of Chapter XV enjoying their popcorn. Bottom photo is an after-movie gathering at a nearby restaurant with members of 19th Special Forces Group: (from left) Matthew Braun, Tommy Pratt, Mike Williams, Miles Odzewalla and Pat Mynes. At right, Levi mixes it up with 19th Group soldiers.



Chapter News



From Mike Brown

The annual Wild Hog Cookoff will take place on Saturday 10MAR18 at the La Salle County Fairgrounds 0900-1700. The Alamo Chapter BBQ team will be submitting at least two plates for competition. We will have limited tickets for free entry and they will be given out on a first-come basis. Normal entry cost is about \$5 but 2018 entry prices have yet to be announced. We will have limited chairs and a shade tent set up for everyone's use. Please bring an extra camp chair just in case needed. We will provide chow and beer. If you have specific drink or diet needs bring them with you. If you have additional questions or would like to participate with the BBQ Team, contact Mike Brown.

Editor's Note: Cotulla is a 1-1/2 hour drive from San Antonio and makes for an easy day trip. Those who want to stay overnight can find many hotel rooms and suites available at very reasonable prices. A favorite is Eagle's Den Suites, 1-bedroom apartments with full kitchens and a picnic area for \$75 plus tax. 638 North Baylor, Cotulla, TX 78014. 1-830-483-5080



From Karen Hermann

The fundraiser cruise (April 15-22) is going great and we are sold out of our space, but you can still book a cabin at the prevailing rate and be put in the group. We will have a conference call that everyone on the cruise will be invited to later in February (TBA) and we'll also have the info on our private, exclusive excursion.

For all the details, see group Web page at sgreen.dreamvacationsgroups.com/#/groups/8877821

Contact Karen Hermann, khermann@wth.com
Or Sheri Green & Associates, Austin, TX Phone (512) 796-8428



From Juan Lopez

I have made contact with 24 of the 29 high schools we presented JROTC awards to last year. I will keep working on the other five — I just want to make sure we have enough volunteers to present the awards. I also would like to purchase the medals and certificate frames next month so I can get ahead and start working on them. I think 35 will be fine; if we have any left we can use them for next year. I really do not see us presenting more than 30 awards this year but it does not hurt to have a few extra medals on hand for those last-minute schools that call up late. Please contact me if you can make a presentation at one or more schools.

Personally ...

From Toby Todd

Linda & I will be taking a trip to the Big Island of Hawai'i late March to almost mid April for several reasons: 1) My aunt will be celebrating her 90th birthday on the Big Island & my brothers & sisters & cousins are doing a surprise party for her. 2) I want to visit my Mom & Dad's graves—they're buried at Alea Cemetery in a beautiful spot that overlooks Hilo Bay. 3) And finally, Linda's never been there!! We'll be staying at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) in a 2-bedroom cottage; KMC is across the street (literally) from the Kilauea Volcano Museum & the Kilauea Crater itself!

So The Good Lord willin' & the crick don't rise, that's our plans for the coming Spring!

From Arturo de la Cerda

I am enclosing my dues for 2018. I wish to remain a member although it is difficult for me to attend the meetings/activities due to my wife's health issues and other family commitments. However, I stay informed by reading the emails from the chapter. Best wishes to all SFA Chapter XV members and their families.



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.



For more information,
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www.kindredhospice.com



Kindred Healthcare, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Español (Spanish) – ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-546-4831.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) – CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-546-4831.

VFW 8541 Now Official 'Watering Hole'



Chapter XV member Ron Burkett, Commander of the American Legion's China Post 1, presents banner to Bill Smith, Commander of VFW Post 8541. The banner designates Post 8541 as an official Watering Hole of CP1, which has members in all corners of the world. To create a way for these people to gather and meet each other, they have designated Watering Holes across the globe — from Jack's Tora Bora Café in Kabul to Shakespeare's Pub in Guatemala City. Ron hosted the first gathering of local China Post 1 members on Jan. 20.



Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association

36th Annual Anniversary Ball

Saturday, February 17, 2018

V.F.W. Post 8541

2222 Austin Hwy. • San Antonio, TX 78218

Cash Bar Opens at 5: p.m. • Opening Ceremonies at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner Served 6:30-7:30 p.m. • Dance 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight

Music by Magic Band

\$25.00 per person/ \$50.00 per couple

Non-Refundable

For info:
Cmdr Val Martinez
(210) 867-4325

Guest Speaker:
M GEN. (Ret) Simeon Trombitas



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 !! cant wait for the next book in the series. I enjoyed the detail on each aspect of this rangers journey. Along with what must have been hours of research describing the multitude of equipment and new environments your correaer encounters. RLW !! I look forward to the next one.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/15202272995>

2/18



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(806) 743-2730 or kyle.chapman@ttuhsc.edu

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1/18



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

James B Sprague Memorial Post 8541
2222 Austin Highway
San Antonio, Texas 78218
Post Phone: (210) 655-2944
Post Email: Post8541@satx.rr.com

The VFW Post 8541 Educational Scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance through two annual scholarships of \$2,000 each. Recipients will be announced on 15 April each year.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing of VFW Post 8541, its Auxiliary, or an immediate family member of such VFW/Auxiliary member.
2. Qualified applicants must be:
 - A. A high school senior anticipating graduation during the current school year; or
 - B. Attending or accepted by an accredited college, university, or vocational education institution.
 - C. Applicant must have a 2.5 GPA or better at the time of application.

Procedure: Eligible applicants must submit the following:

- a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's affiliation with VFW Post 8541, education plans, career aspirations and name of school they plan to attend.
- b. Contact name of the recipient institution's financial office to receive funds on behalf of the student.
- c. Copies of applicant's most recent academic transcripts or, if awaiting high school graduation, SAT/ACT scores, along with transcripts.
- d. Two letters of reference from a professor, instructor, teacher or administrator from current or former educational institution.
- e. A summary of scholastic achievements, non-academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and organizational memberships.

Applications must be received by VFW Post 8541 no later than 31 March 2018. Send to

Commander William Smith, VFW Post 8541
Attn: Scholarship Committee
2222 Austin Highway – San Antonio TX 78218


- *Packets that are not complete will not be considered for the scholarship.*
- *If selected, applicant should be prepared to submit a photo for use in the Post newsletter and other publications.*

Friends of Chapter XV

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2/2/18



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Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

Pax et Bonum
www.StFrancis.Church



8/4/18

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2018 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9-11 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Chapter Memorial Service 7 Membership Meeting 1100 15-22 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD JROTC Presentations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MAY</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 1400 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 18-20 Canyon Lake Picnic 28 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 31 June Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 1100 12-18 National SFA Conference TBD JROTC Presentations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 1100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>2 Board Meeting 1400 4 Membership Meeting 1100 15 Drop Input Due</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Membership Meeting 1100 TBD Budget Committee meeting Scholarship Applications</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Membership Meeting 1100 TBD Motorcycle Ride</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 1100 9 Budget Approval 11 Veterans Day Cerem 1000 15 Drop Input Due 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>6 Board Meeting 1400 8 Christmas Banquet 2018 9 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1100 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A breakfast meal will be served from 0930 to 1100 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held 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:

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

- 12-18 JUNE 2018 Special Forces Association International Conference 2018
Wyndham Airport Hotel, El Paso, TX
POC: <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com>
- 19-22 SEPT 2018 57th annual Fifth Group Reunion
Country Inn & Suites, Clarksville, TN
(931) 645-1400 or cx_clrk@countryinns.com

Thanks to Ron Burkett 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!”