



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

SPECIAL EDITION

December 2024

President: Jeff Dahlby
Vice-President: Tom Tannahill
Secretary: Fred Solis
Asst. Secretary: Sergio Venegas
Treasurer: Merrill Hall
Asst. Treasurer: Bill Neuiszer
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Chaplain: Steve Rindahl

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www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

Nominations: Chuck Rose
Membership: Sergio Venegas
JROTC Awards: John Lopez
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Christmas Banquet: Fred Solis
Budget Committee: Merrill Hall
Chapter Memorial Svc: Jeff Dahlby
Fiesta Medals: Gordon Lee
Fundraising: Harold McBride
Cotulla: Mike Brown
Picnic: Mark Goode

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



December 14 SFA Chapter XV Christmas Banquet

(NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!)

January 7 Fundraiser @ Fish City Grill
 7010 West Loop 1604 N, Unit 111
 San Antonio, TX 78254
 1100-2100 hours



DON'T FORGET



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Happy Holidays SFA Chapter XV members, family and friends:

November officially marks the start of the Holiday Season and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. At our November Chapter meeting Vice President Tom Tannahill provided a \$1500 check to VFW Post 8541 Commander Shawn Lawson and Quartermaster Amando Munoz and a \$500 check to Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment Commander Manny Mendoza for their support to Chapter activities throughout the year.



Bobby Walker and I provided a plaque to General Sales Manager Reagan Hicks at North Park Lincoln in early December for their generous donation to the Chapter.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Banquet this year which will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, 611 Northwest Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78216 from 5:00 to 11:00 pm on 14 December. MG Alfred Valenzuela will be the guest speaker and we will announce the winner of the Chapter pistol raffle. Tickets for the banquet can still be purchased at <https://www.sfa-xv.org/event-details-registration/sfa-chapter-xv-annual-christmas-banquet-1>. There are also a few tickets for the raffle still available through the website.

Albeit the cheer the holiday season brings, we lost two of America's heroes in November.

Chapter member Master Sergeant Edgar Morales, a decorated veteran, U.S. Marshall, town Sheriff and dedicated public servant, passed away on November 22, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 86 years old. Edgar was buried on 5 December at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with a celebration of life at VFW Post 8541 following the interment.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT Dr. (COL) Warner D. Farr passed away on November 20, 2024, in Tampa Florida and will be buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on 20 December with a celebration of life at Longtab Brewing Co following the interment.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 11 January 2025 at 1300 hours at VFW Post 8541 located at 2222 Austin Highway, San Antonio. A business meeting will be held at 1100 hours for Chapter Board members and lunch will be available at 1200.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Dahlby
President SFA Chapter XV

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES — 11/09/24

CALL TO ORDER

1. Board members present:

Vice President Tom Tannahill
Secretary Fred Solis
Treasurer Merrill Hall
Assistant Treasurer Bill Neuiszer

2. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tom Tannahill at 1300 hrs. followed by V.P. Tom Tannahill leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Chaplain's invocation led by Harold McBride. V.P. Tannahill led a moment of silence for our fallen.
3. In addition to the usual chapter members present, V.P. Tannahill welcomed and recognized new members, guests, visitors and wives present. Thanks were given to Mike Brown for the noon meal and to the wives for their support.
4. MEMBER'S SICK OR IN DISTRESS
 - a. Edgar Morales is in room 212 of the Remington Transitional care facility until at least 14 November after a lengthy and serious medical condition. Fred Solis asked for volunteers to move him and his wife Rita into an assisted living facility (date TBD). Several chapter members volunteered.
 - b. Daniel Bell continues to recover from his stroke on 30 June.
 - c. Raul De La Garza successfully had two surgeries on his back.
 - d. Jeff attended the funeral for David Troutman, an 18D from 1st Group who committed suicide while attending the PA school at JBSA. He left a wife and 10 month old daughter.

MEETING AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

1. TREASURER'S UPDATE: Treasurer Hall read the September/October 2024 reports which was approved as presented.
2. MINUTES APPROVAL: September/October 2024 meeting minutes which were published in the newsletter were approved as written.
3. Asst Secretary & Membership Chair Sergio Venegas was traveling but provided an updated roster with 249 members.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES — CONTINUED

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: McBride/Coleman/Solis/Walker/Goode/Armezzani.

- a. Status of Raffle Ticket sales: Try to sell the remaining tickets prior to the banquet but if not, bring extra tickets to banquet.
- b. Our donors will be recognized at the Christmas banquet with plaques and certificates based on donation level.

B. CHRISTMAS BANQUET: Fred Solis (Chair), Tom Tannahill, Chuck Rose, Sergio Sanchez, Sim Trombitas.

- a. Fred updated the membership stating that the hotel venue coordination is complete with final details to be confirmed on site by the members of the banquet committee. A meeting date at the hotel with the committee members TBA.

C. PICNIC: Mark Goode (Chair), John Armezzani, Art Medina, Chuck Rose, Jim Stafford, Paul Coleman.

- a. The committee continues to review and confirm venue selection.

D. SFA CRUISE 19-24 October report (Merrill and/or others attending).

- a. The cruise was overall enjoyable with various issues noted by various attendees such as the condition of the ship and events scheduling.

5. Fred provided a format for member bios which will be available on a website link due to confidentiality. Remember it is voluntary and will be kept confidential.

6. The voting results of the National Bylaws amendments were reported as Chapter XV approving the proposed amendments mirrored by the national vote.

7. The Purple Heart ceremony honoring CPT(R) Richard Harvey and SFC(R) Robert Carey was well attended with over 100 in attendance. Chapter XV was very well represented as well as a large contingent from the Purple Heart Association led by Tony Roman. A big thanks to Michael Lynd building owner and corporate planner Megan Stavinoha and chef husband Carlos. Sally and Richard made a \$2500 donation to the chapter. Marcie Friedman was presented with an Honorary Chapter member certificate at the end of the Purple Heart Ceremony.

10-minute break

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES — CONTINUED

NEW BUSINESS

1. V.P. Tom Tannahill presented a check to \$1500 check to VFW Post 8541 Commander Shawn Lawson and Quartermaster Amando Munoz.
2. V.P. Tannahill also presented a \$500 check to Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment Commander Manny Mendoza for their support to Chapter activities throughout the year.
3. A discussion was held regarding support to SLC for medical field at JBSA. John Dominguez provided background information. Funds are to be provided by outside organizations.

CALENDAR

- 11 November Veterans Day
 - 28 November Thanksgiving Day
 - 14 December SFA Chapter XV Christmas Party (Tickets are on sale via our website or provide check to Merrill.) A formal December meeting will not be held.
4. OPEN DISCUSSION: Nothing further.
 5. 50/50 Raffle (Raul).
 6. A motion to close the meeting was made and seconded at 1435 hrs.

Respectfully submitted:
Fred Solis
Chapter Secretary



A Christmas Truce



During WWI, in the days before Christmas of 1914, the various Soldiers of the opposing sides called an impromptu truce. Depending on where along the front lines you found yourself, the truce lasted from a day to weeks. Soldiers, who had been only days earlier shooting at each other, firing artillery at each other, and floating clouds of poison gas at each other – when the winds were “right,” were now mingling in No Man’s Land. They exchanged items from Christmas care packages – giving each other a “taste from home.” They sang Christmas Carols together, each in their native languages. They played sports against each other, where the “weapon” of the day was only the ball in play rather than the bayonet. In certain sectors, they even attended the Christmas Mass together – an accomplishment made easier when the universal language of the Church was still Latin – where the birth of the Prince of Peace was celebrated. They learned their enemy was not really an enemy, and with effort the hostility and antagonism they felt could be overcome – peace is possible.

Too many people, especially veterans, have found enemies within themselves. Unfortunately, those enemies like to surface around holidays – Christmas being one. When they do, we each have a choice. The first is to fight the perceived enemy, during which it might just win and the unseen wounds of war gets to claim another victim. The other is to stop, see the enemy for who and what it is – a bad memory, the grief of loss, the brain still trying to make sense of the sensory explosion called warfare, among many others. You can make peace with each of these. They are not really enemies. They are wounds and wounds can heal. You can control how you respond to these wounds and push that healing along. Behavioral health professionals can help you. Chaplains and other members of clergy can help you. People – friends and family – who have learned how to make this inner peace before you, can help you. The Prince of Peace born on the first Christmas will help all those who ask. If you have not done so already – this year give yourself the greatest gift by calling a Christmas Truce within yourself.

Buen Camino,
Fr Steve

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

A note from Chris & Susan Marshall



Happy Holidays!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!

This year has brought many changes for the Marshall family. Chris graduated from Duke's Physician Assistant program in August and will start a fellowship at Duke Urgent Care in February. In the meantime, I'm on sabbatical from my work as a psychiatric PA, giving us the chance to travel and catch up with family and friends. We're especially excited for our big trip to Thailand for a month!

In addition, we are welcoming our third grandchild in April. We couldn't be more excited. Chris has to start thinking about another nickname for the new addition.

In other news, we've bought a new townhouse in N. E. Raleigh. Moving is certainly a workout when you do it all yourself!

We miss all of you and hope to visit soon if we haven't already.

Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Love from the Marshall's

New address: 6906 Woodland Stream Place, Raleigh, NC 27616

Photos



Above: SFA Chapter XV Vice President Tom Tannahill and Fort Sam Houston Memorial Service Detachment Commander Manny Mendoza.



Above: SFA Chapter President Jeff Dahlby providing plaque to North Park Lincoln General Sales Manager Reagan Hicks for their generous donation to the Chapter.



Above: SFA Chapter XV Vice President Tom Tannahill and VFW Post 8541 Commander Shawn Lawson and Quartermaster Amando Munoz.

MSG Edgar Morales

May 17, 1938 - November 22, 2024



Master Sergeant (R) Edgar Morales, a decorated veteran and dedicated public servant, passed away on November 22, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 86 years old. Born on May 17, 1938, in Guatemala City, Edgar was the beloved son of Judith A. Rodriguez Lopez and Jose Alberto Morales. His life was marked by extraordinary dedication to his country and family, leaving an indelible legacy in both military and civilian service. Edgar's military career was nothing short of distinguished. He proudly served in the United States Army, earning the Special Forces Green Beret. Three combat tours in Vietnam began in 1966 with the 101st Airborne Division. He served his second tour in 1967 with the 5th Special Forces Group, Project Delta (B-52) assigned to RECON. He returned for a third tour in 1969 serving with the Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group (MAC V SOG), and Command and Control Central (CCC), RECON Company assigned to Recon Team New Hampshire. Edgar also served with the 8th and 7th Special Forces Groups, and as Senior Instructor in the Senior ROTC Program at San Jose State University, San Jose, California.

After retiring from the Army, Edgar transitioned to a civilian career in public service and retired from the U.S. Marshall's Service after serving 20 years, then as Police Chief of Litchfield, Maine, as a Parole Commissioner on the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles and continued as a private security and business consultant. Throughout his military and public service, he demonstrated unwavering commitment, bravery, and leadership, earning numerous commendations and honors to include the Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with V device, the Air Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and numerous other medals. During his Army service, he met and married Rita A. Lebel Morales, a fellow soldier and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Army Nurse. Together, they shared a life of mutual respect, love, and dedication to their respective missions.

Ed founded the Alamo Pachyderm Club in 2005 and served on the Board of Directors until his passing. President Emeritus Morales also served as Regional Director of the Grand Order of Pachyderm Clubs, was elected as a Precinct Chairman in Bexar County and was an elected Delegate for the Bexar County Republican Party. He will be missed as he is well known throughout the Republican Party. He was an active member of civic, political, military, religious organizations and active in his church.

Edgar is survived by his loving wife, Rita A. Morales; his brother, Jose Alberto Morales, Jr.; and numerous extended family members and dear friends who will forever cherish his memory. His bravery, kindness, and unwavering devotion to both his country and his loved ones will be remembered by all who knew him.

MSG Edgar Morales Funeral Service



Above: Flag Presentation to the Morales Family



Pallbearer's

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2025 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
7 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill 11 Board Meeting 1100 11 Membership Meeting 1300	8 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Valentines Day 15 Drop Input Due 26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)	1 Scholarship Apps Open 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 17 St. Patrick's Day 19 Presidents Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
12 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000 12 Board Meeting 1100 12 Membership Meeting 1300 18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024 30 Scholarship Apps Close	2-4 Annual SFA Chapter Picnic 11 Mothers' Day 15 Drop Input Due 27 Memorial Day	14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday 16 Fathers' Day
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 12 Board Meeting 1100 12 Membership Meeting 1300	9 Board Meeting 1100 9 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Drop Input Due	2 Labor Day 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 20 POW/MIA Day
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
11 Board Meeting 1100 11 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Columbus Day 31 Halloween TBD Oktoberfest at FSH	8 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due 28 Thanksgiving	NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7 Pearl Harbor Day 14 Annual Christmas Banquet 25 Christmas

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hours prior to each Meeting.



**This page is dedicated to
our brothers, who paid
the ultimate sacrifice
& their families.**



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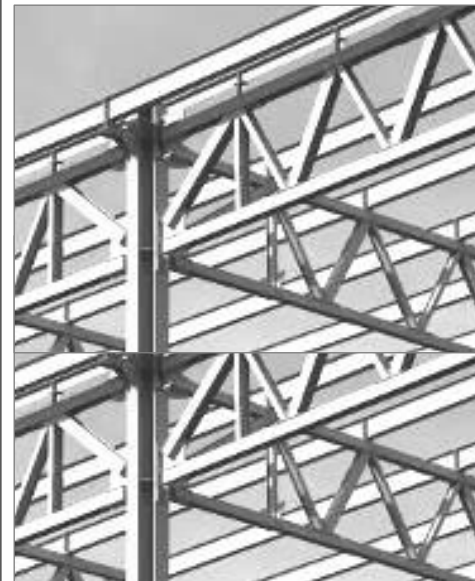
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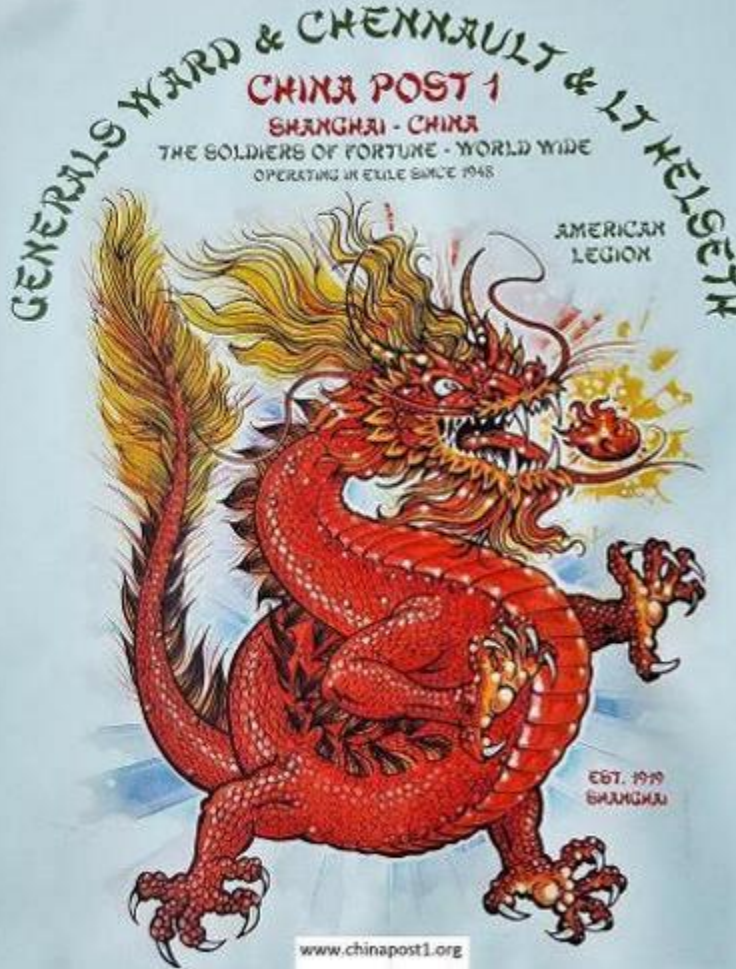
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Terrazas and Associates, Inc.



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

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Jeffrey D. Dahlby


President, SFA Chapter XV
San Antonio TX

www.president@sfa-xv.org

D-4167



Friends of Chapter XV





De oppresso liber
Motto of the United States Army Special Forces
Green Beret Motto: "De Oppresso Liber"

Translated from Latin, this motto means "To Free the Oppressed".


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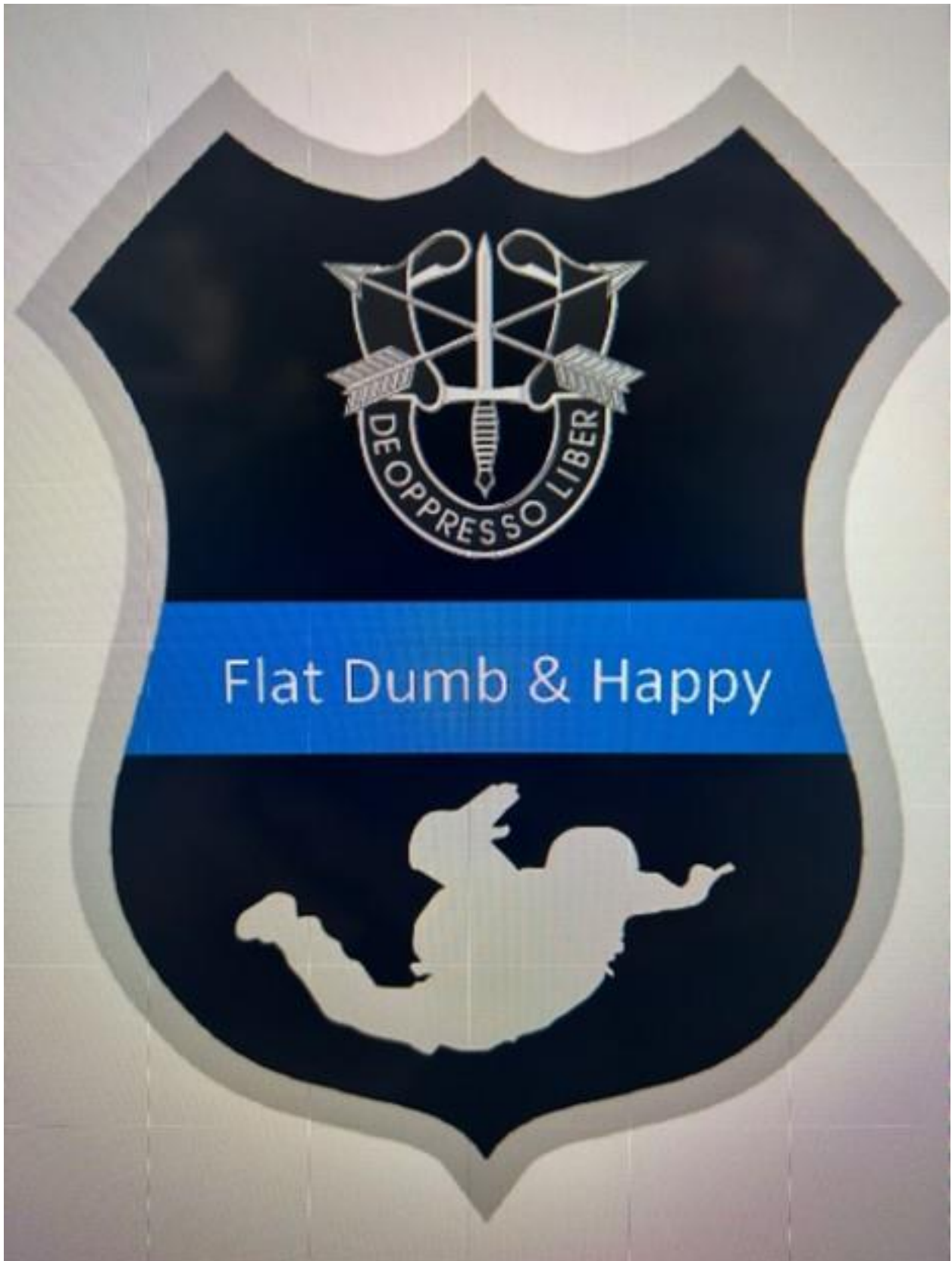
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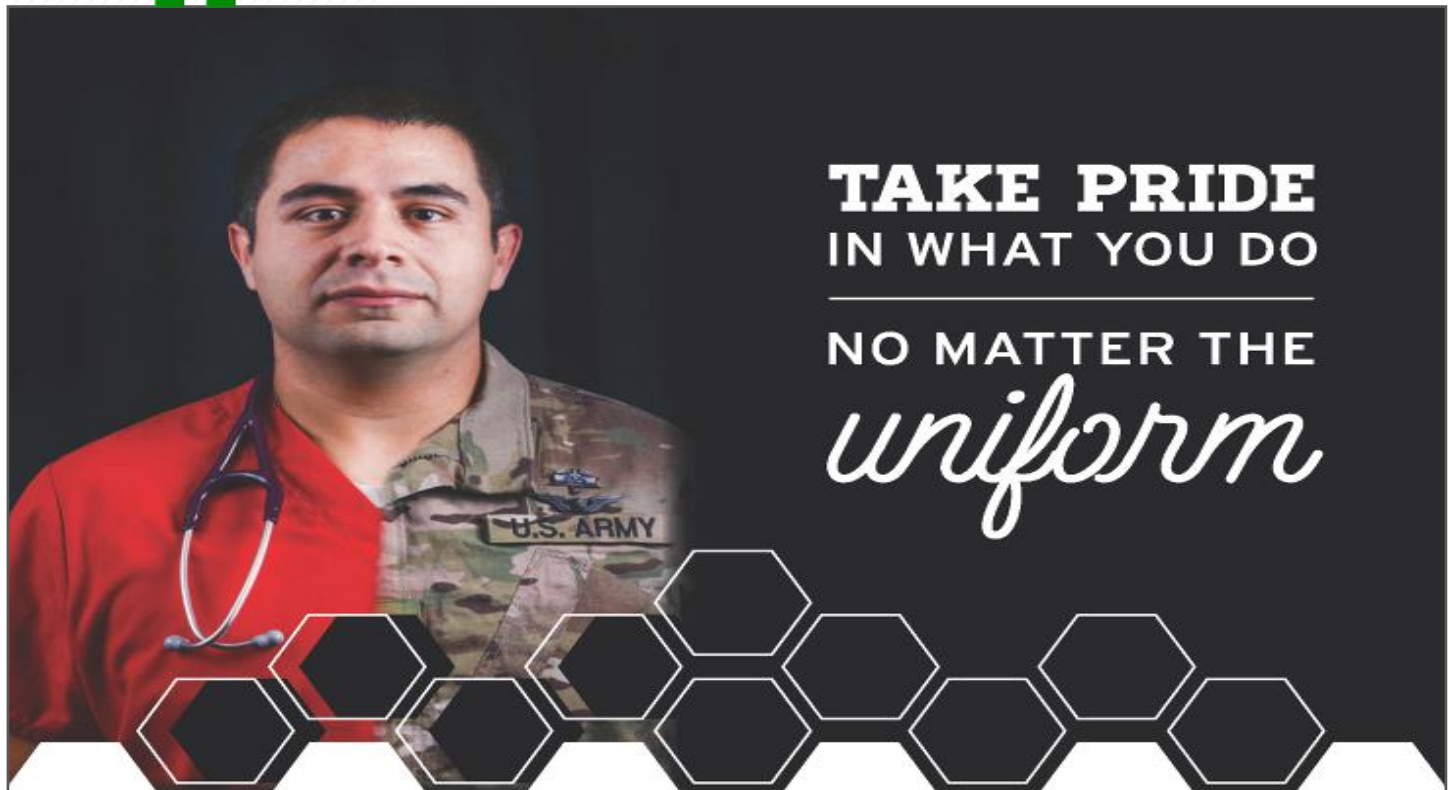


\$\$\$ Dollars and Cents



Treasurer's Input—Not Received

Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.



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IN WHAT YOU DO**

**NO MATTER THE
*uniform***

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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.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*

Thank you to Jeff Dahlby 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 for the newsletter to editor@sfa-xv.org, or mail them to Chapter President at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio TX 78265.

**John and Amy Lopez
The Editors**

Helpful Links:

[Chapter XV Website](#)

[SFA National Website](#)



“Carry on!”