



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

SPECIAL EDITION

February 2025

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/Steve Damon
Fundraising: Harold McBride/Bob Walker/John Armezzani/Paul Coleman
Cotulla: Mike Brown
Picnic: Mark Goode

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8 — Chapter XV Monthly Meeting

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

- 1100 — Board Meeting
- 1200 — Lunch
- 1300 — Membership Meeting



February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 17— Presidents Day

DON'T FORGET



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

Howdy SFA Chapter XV members, family and friends:

I trust everyone is staying warm after freezing temperatures recorded in San Antonio over the last month...

Our general meeting in January was well attended with many new and old members coming out to enjoy the lunch and the camaraderie that abounds among our fellow SF brethren. Numerous Chapter website donors and sponsors were recognized at the meeting and throughout the month of January. Welcome to Dave Whitting and Roland Ramirez who transferred to the Chapter as we continue to grow in membership.

LTC (R) Rita Andrea Morales was laid to rest on 27 January 2025 with Chapter XV members Mark Goode, John Lopez, Harold McBride, Joel Ornelas, Santiago Sanchez, and Fred Solis serving as pallbearers along with her nephew Anthony LeBel and Brother-in-law Al Morales. May she rest in eternal peace alongside her loving husband MSG (R) Edgar Morales and may they be reunited in heaven. A heartfelt thanks to all of the individuals who donated in memory of these two proud Americans and others who donated in memory of Rocky Farr to include LongTab Brewing Co who provided a check to the Chapter for Rocky Farr commemorative beers sold during the event.

A fundraiser was set up by Bob Walker at Fish City Grill Alamo Heights on 4 February 2025 following the 7 January fundraiser at Fish City Grill Culebra. Thanks to all those who braved the cold to join us for these events. A special thanks to the Purple Heart Association of San Antonio who continues to support our fundraisers.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 8 February 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.

As we prepare for upcoming events to include our annual memorial recognizing Chapter members who have passed and place a rose on their graves at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery, the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff, and the Jack Hogue Memorial Picnic; I hope to see members come out and enjoy themselves among their fellow SFA and family members.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Dahlby
President SFA Chapter XV



JANUARY MEETING MINUTES - 01/11/25

Special Forces Association Meeting Chapter XV
January 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

1. Board members present:
 - a. President Jeff Dahlby
 - b. Vice President Tom Tannahill
 - c. Secretary Fred Solis
 - d. Treasurer Merrill Hall
 - e. Assistant Treasurer Bill Neuiszer

2. The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Dahlby at 1300 hrs. followed by V.P. Tom Tannahill leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Chaplain's invocation led by Chaplain Steve Rindahl and led a moment of silence for our fallen. Pete Lee, Dave Witting, George Valdez, Joel Ornelas, Jose Manuel Pluguez, and Charlie Davis. Dave and Jose Manuel plan to join the Chapter. Thanks to Monica Dahlby for the noon meal of El Salvadoran tamales and to the wives for their support. Fred bought a cake for MG Valenzuela who could not attend the meeting. However, the Chapter was able to enjoy the cake and sing Happy Birthday to VP Tom Tannahill who turned 69 on the same day.

3. MEMBER'S SICK OR IN DISTRESS
 - Ester Valenzuela is doing better after some health problems around Christmas. MG Valenzuela continues with back problems.
 - President Dahlby underwent back surgery and MG Sim Trombitas is scheduled for surgery on 14 January.
 - Sharon Rodriguez, who used to cook the Chapter's noon meal, passed on 6 December 2024.
 - Rita Morales passed on December 26, 2024 from medical complications. On 27 January 2025 visitation will take place one hour prior to a procession to a funeral mass, followed by a procession to Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Rita served and retired as a U.S. Army Nurse and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mike Brown, Joel Ornelas, Dave Marshall, Harold McBride and Santiago Sanchez volunteered to be pallbearers for Rita's funeral. Fred Solis will be the POC as President Dahlby will be out of town.
 - Chaplain Rindahl provided an update after speaking with Renny regarding Rudy Johnson who is suffering from dementia. Upon his passing, the service will be held in Comfort, TX vice Ft Sam Houston. The MSD, Ft Sam Houston does not travel to other cemeteries, but a bugler may be available. President Dahlby will contact VFW 8569 in Comfort to see if they can assist.
 - JW Martin successfully underwent surgery.
 - Arnulfo Vasquez's wife Maria is in the hospital.
 - Bill Neuiszer's wife Shari is still recovering from cancer treatment.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES - PAGE 2

MEETING AGENDA

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. TREASURER'S UPDATE: Treasurer Hall read the November/December 2024 reports which was approved as presented. The 2025 Budget was discussed and the Chapter Board decided to put an additional \$15K in an offsetting CD from the other CD with each one maturing approximately every 3.5 months. All approved as presented.
2. MINUTES APPROVAL: The November/December 2025 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 251 members.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- a. Raffle Ticket sales. The donated pistol was won by Mike Gaida. The winning ticket was sold by Steve Damon. Discussed a future raffle of a pistol or a knife possibly donated by Spartan Knives through John Armezzani.
- b. 50/50 raffle at Christmas banquet raised a total of \$670. Joe Finger had the winning ticket and donated the money to the ROTC program.
- c. Bob Walker provided an update on the Fish City Grill (Culebra) fundraiser on 7 January and another scheduled for Fish City Grill (Alamo Heights) for 4 February. I noted that Purple Heart President Tony Roman and others along with Bob Dillon attended and Bob invited residents of the retirement community where he resides.
- d. Golf Tournament (Harold). If we are going to hold it this year, we need to firm up a date.
- e. In-memory-of donations: \$1750 Edgar and Rita Morales, \$362 from Longtab and a \$100 donation in memory of Rocky Farr. Jim Dematteo \$100 donation.
- f. Jeremy & Jessica Calvert were thanked for their \$2500 donation to the scholarship fund.

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

President Dahlby thanked everyone who helped set up and tear down. A date of 6 December, 2025 was set for this year's event. Fred reminded the members that we need to ensure we police up our own given we are serving alcohol and would incur liability.

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

A date and place still need to be established.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES - PAGE 3

D. SCHOLARSHIP: Pat Connolly informed the members that the Chapter will fund two \$2,500 scholarships with two families expressing interest for a total of three applications.

B. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Lunch donors for 2025:

January – Jeff Dahlby

February – Fred Solis & Tom Tannahill

April – Steve Damon & Bill Smith

June – Dave Marshall

September – Harold McBride & Santiago Sanchez

October – Bill Neuiszer

July, August, and November – Open

(2) Need to coordinate the Rodela room with VFW Post Commander for future meetings given the difficulty in hearing due to noise in the canteen area. It is 8-9 times a year and we give them a generous yearly donation to use the facility for a few hours. Still need to purchase sound system.

(3) T-Shirts and hats. Convention/Events. Jeremy Calvert provided information on “Printful.com” for the Chapter to sell merchandise. This will be a time, money and storage savings for the Chapter.

(4) President Dahlby presented plaques to website donors Santiago Sanchez, Jimmy Garza, Fred Solis, Harold McBride and Tom Tannahill.

(5) Presented a pin flag from the golf tournament and a certificate to Mam’s Cigar Shop owner Marshall Matney.

(6) Fred Solis brought in some books and a Vietnam 50th anniversary shirt from Edgar Morales to give away for a small donation and auctioned a MACVSOG book which Johnnie Terrazas paid \$200.

C. CALENDAR

Note: will add 3rd, 7th and 10th group reunions to calendar once information is available.

18 January (3rd Saturday of the month) SF & Ranger Brunch @ Rock and Brews near 1604 and I-10 from 1100-1300. SFBMC 1900-2300.

20 January 2025 MLK Birthday

2 February 2025 Ground Hog Day

8 February 2025 Next Meeting

14 February 2025 Valentines Day

19 February 2025 Presidents Day

8 March 2025 Chapter Meeting

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES - PAGE 4

C. CALENDAR continued

16 March 2025 American Legion Birthday

17 March 2025 St. Patrick's Day

18-22 August 1st SFG Reunion in Helena, MT

20-27 September 5th SFG 64th Reunion in Clarksville, TN

14-17 October SFA National Convention in Las Vegas, NV

OPEN DISCUSSION:

A jump will take place in Florida, details forthcoming.

50/50 Raffle (Raul) won by Bill Smith and donated to the Scholarship fund.

A motion to close the meeting was made and seconded at 1445 hrs.

Respectfully submitted:

Fred Solis

Fred Solis, Chapter Secretary

Chapter Photos from January



Fish City Grill (Culebra) fundraiser 7 January 2025 L-R Bob Walker, Linda Tannahill, Monica & Jeff Dahlby, Diane & Bob Dillon, Tony Roman, Don Fe Gonzalez, Sandy "Sam" Samuelson, and Charlotte & JW Martin.

Chapter Photos from January



John Armezzani presenting plaques to Four9Cigars COO Emmanuel Baniing (Left) and Mike Halloran from Texas Drones (Right) for their support to the 1st Annual Golf Tournament.

Chapter Photos from January



Left: LongTab donation from beer sales following Rocky Farr celebration of life L-R Owner Dave Holland, Jeff Dahlby, head brewer Mike Brown.



Above: Chapter President Jeff Dahlby presenting plaques to Harold McBride (Left) and Santiago Sanchez (Right) for their donations to upgrade the Chapter website.

Chapter Photos from January



Above: Jeff Dahlby presenting plaques to Ray Rodriguez owner of 1 Insurance Agency (Left) and Levi Rodgers owner of Levi Rodgers Real Estate Group (Middle), and a certificate and golf hole flag to Marshall Matney owner of MAM's Cigar Shop (Right) for their support to the 1st Annual Chapter XV Golf Tournament.



Jeff Dahlby presenting plaques to Jimmy Garza (Left) and Fred Solis (Right) for their support to the Chapter Website upgrade. A special mention to Fred who continues to provide support to many of the Chapter initiatives.

Chapter Photos from January



Final salute to LTC (R) Rita Morales at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery
L-R Anthony LeBel, Fred Solis, Mark Goode, Mike Brown, Harold McBride, John Lopez, and Santiago Sanchez.

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 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	8 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300 14 Valentines Day 15 Drop Input Due 17 President's Day 26 Chapter Anniversary (1977)	1 Scholarship Apps Open 7-9 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 16 American Legion Birthday 17 St. Patrick's Day * No Chapter Meeting
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
12 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000 12 Board Meeting 1100 12 Membership Meeting 1300 24 to May 4 Fiesta Festival 2025 30 Scholarship Apps Close	11 Mothers' Day 15 Drop Input Due TBD Annual SFA Chapter Picnic 26 Memorial Day * No Chapter Meeting	14 Board Meeting 1100 14 Membership Meeting 1300 15 Flag Day & Army Birthday 15 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 9 Drop Input Due 18-22 1 st SFG Reunion in Helena, MT	1 Labor Day 13 Board Meeting 1100 13 Membership Meeting 1300 19 POW/MIA Day 20-27 5th SFG 64th Reunion Clarksville, TN
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
11 Board Meeting 1100 11 Membership Meeting 1300 13 Columbus Day 14-17 SFA National Convention Las Vegas, NV 31 Halloween	8 Board Meeting 1100 8 Membership Meeting 1300 11 Veterans Day 15 Drop Input Due 27 Thanksgiving	6 Christmas Banquet 7 Pearl Harbor Day 25 Christmas * No Chapter Meeting

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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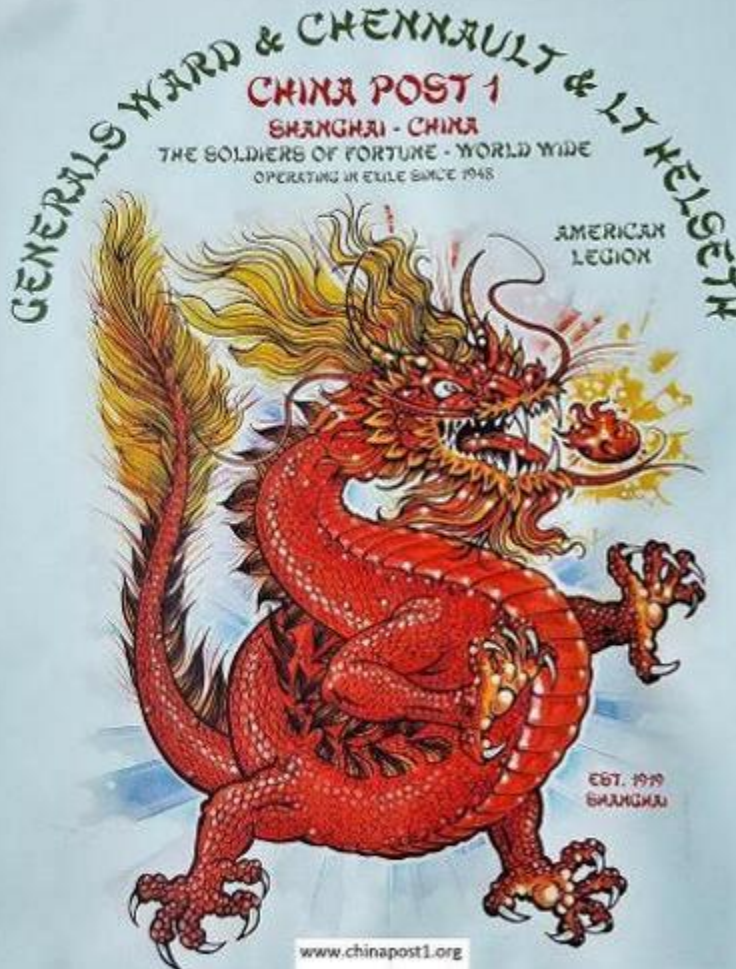
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Jeffrey D. Dahlby

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San Antonio TX

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D-4167L



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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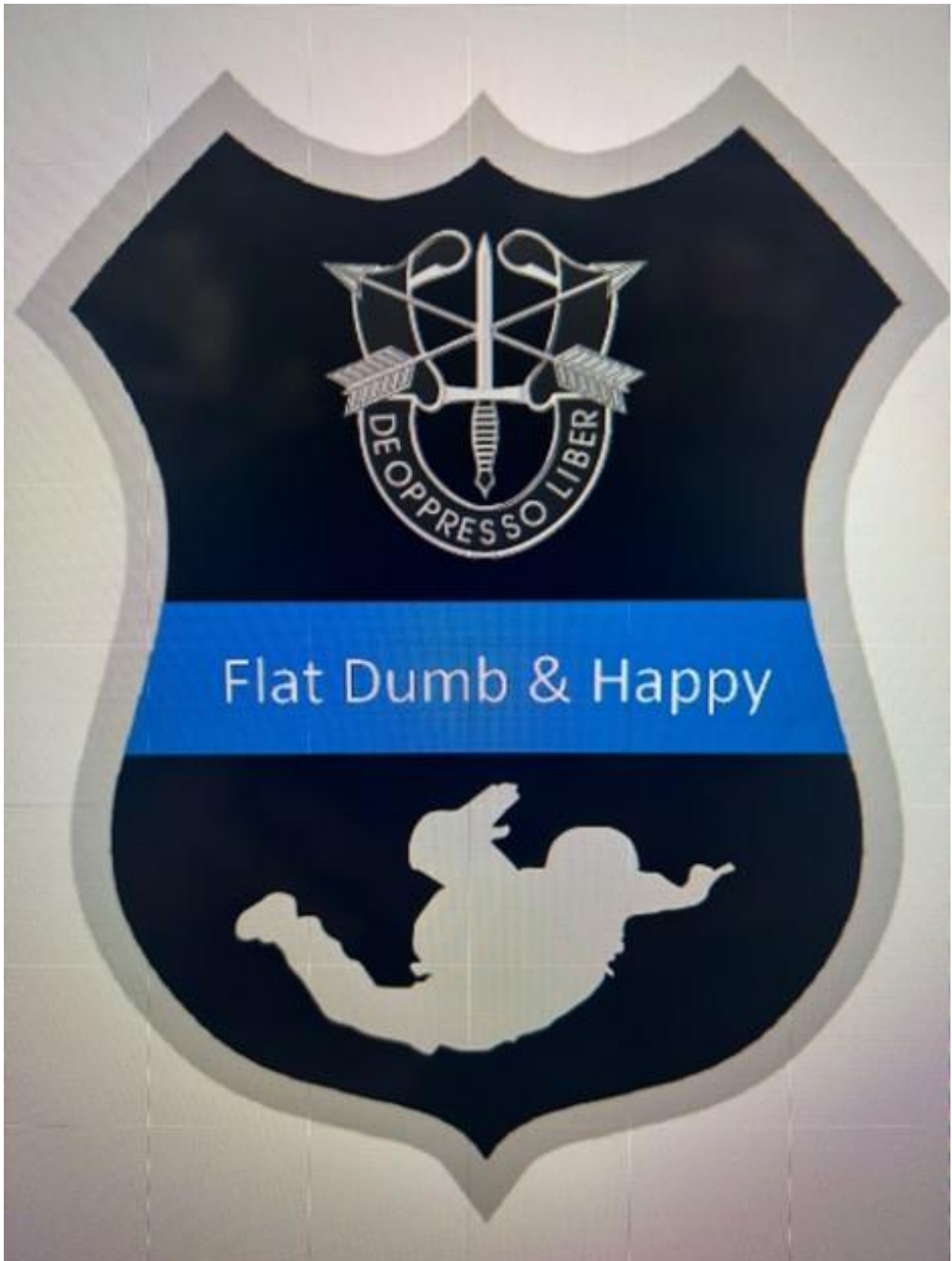


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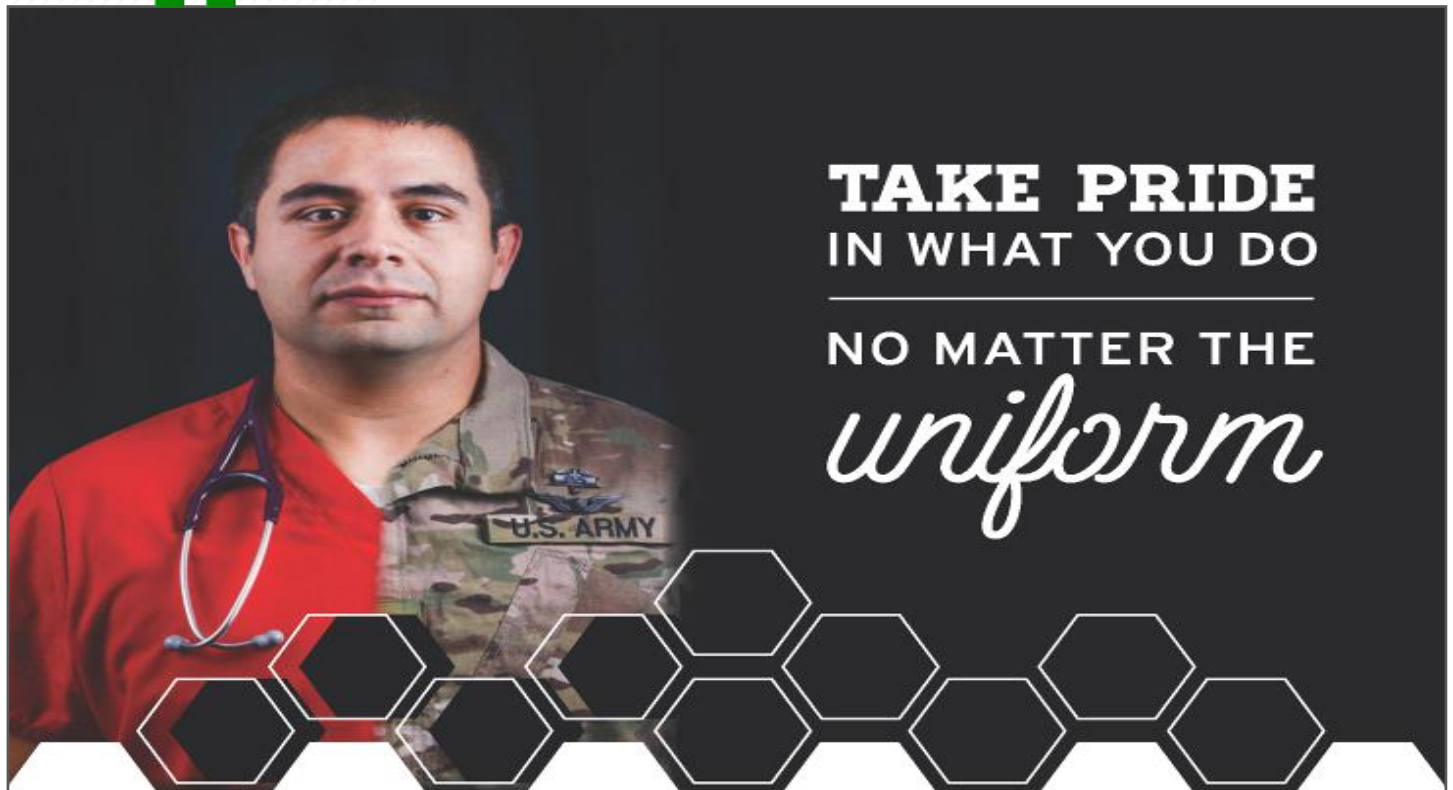


\$\$\$ Dollars and Cents



Treasurer's Input—Not Received

Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.



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**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

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[SFA National Website](#)



“Carry on!”