



# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## The Alamo Chapter

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

SPECIAL EDITION

November 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

**Visit us at our Home Page:**

[www.sfa-xv.org](http://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

November 9

Chapter XV Monthly Meeting

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

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



November 11 Veterans Day

November 28 Thanksgiving Day

## DON'T FORGET



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

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Sends:

Greetings SFA Chapter XV members, family and friends:

October has been a busy month with the Chapter conducting a Purple Heart Ceremony to honor two of America's heroes, which replaced our monthly meeting, and attendance of the 2024 Special Forces Association Convention Cruise to the Bahamas.

On 12 October, CPT(R) Richard Harvey and SFC(R) Robert Carey received one and two Purple Heart's for wounds received in Vietnam and Afghanistan respectively. The standing room only event, was followed by a catered lunch. During the ceremony, both individuals were also recognized and presented with handmade quilts by Barb and Jack Steers from Quilts of Valor and received a Purple Heart coin from local Purple Heart Chapter 1836 Commander Tony Roman.

A tip of the beret to building owner Michael Lynd and corporate event planner Megan Stavinoha and her chef husband Carlos for all of their support to this event. Also, to Chapter member John Dominguez for his coordination efforts for the event. Echo Hills Gold Star Camp owner Marcie Friedman was also presented with an honorary membership certificate to Chapter XV. Thanks to all who attended this important ceremony.

The SFA cruise was attended by over a dozen Chapter members. Along with ports of call in Freeport and Nassau, SF group photos, and interesting guest speakers and presentations; the event was a resounding success. Please provide your comments to me ASAP so the Chapter can send a combined AAR to National.

According to National's presentation during the general assembly, the requested audit is underway, the results of voting on bylaw changes were announced, and a study of how to produce/disseminate *The Drop* more economically is a current priority. A study is also being conducted to rebuild the National headquarters building following the flooding and other bylaw changes/additions are being discussed.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 9 November 2024 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

P.S.

Raffle tickets are on sale via the website or from Chapter members for a pistol donated to the chapter by VP Tom Tannahill. Additional details are available on the website. The winner will be announced at our Christmas Banquet in December.

The 14 December SFA Chapter XV Christmas Party tickets are on sale on the website. Hope to see you there!



November is the month of Veterans' Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> when we take time to honor all those, living and dead, who have ever served in the United States Armed Forces – those heroes who are known and those whose faithful service is forgotten to history. Within the Church there is the Feast of All Saints on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, when we take time to recognize all the faithful – known and unknown through the ages understanding that there are many more unrecognized saints than those who we know by name. Throughout the history of the Church there have always been exponentially more people getting the work of God done than the few who are up front preaching and providing the sacraments. Likewise, militaries have always been rather long “from tooth to tail,” when it comes to the level of support required for mission success. In both settings those who quietly get the work done are rarely noticed – while simultaneously being an essential part of total mission effort.

Both of those examples serve well to reflect the truth of daily living. Every day we see those who gain recognition, rise to levels of leadership, wield great influence, and more. At the same time, there are thousands of people who call and check on their friends and family, help their neighbor, get work done that others cannot or will not do – and do so without receiving any official or public recognition. We live among many unnamed heroes and saints within our communities. As we approach the new year and the many commitments and resolutions that are made at New Year's – commit to being one of your community's quiet heroes. You will never know for how many people you become a saint.

Buen Camino,  
Fr Steve

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



# PURPLE HEART CEREMONY



Above: SFC(R) Robert Carey receiving two Purple Hearts from former Chapter XV President Bill Smith



Right: Buddy Gee congratulating CPT(R) Richard Harvey after pinning on his Purple Heart

Special Forces Association Convention—19-24 October



Alice and Joe Dawson



John and Amy Lopez



L-R Marsha and Ben Scott and Charlotte and JW Martin

## Special Forces Association Convention—19-24 October

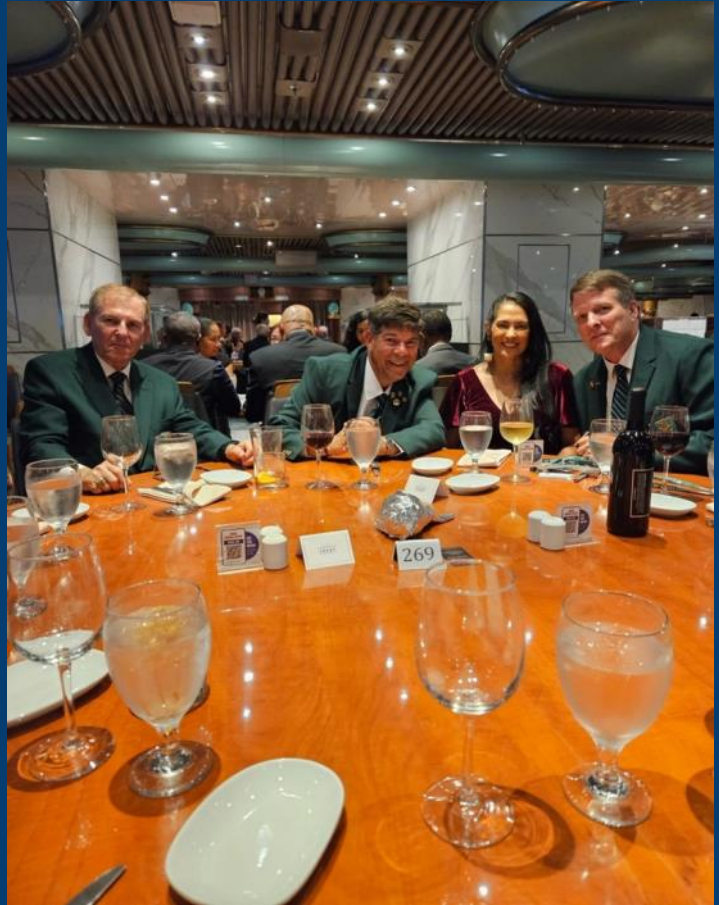


L-R Rick Quichocho, Ben and Marsha Scott, JW and Charlotte Martin, Harold and Ana McBride, Mary Jane and Santiago Sanchez, Wanda and Barry Archer, and Jeff Dahlby

Special Forces Association Convention—19-24 October



L-R Mandy and Johnnie Terrazas



L-R Merrill Hall, David Jenkins, and Monica and Jeff Dahlby



Irena and Nate Dial



John and Amy Lopez

# Special Forces Association Convention—19-24 October





# GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

## 2024 CALENDAR

| <u>JANUARY</u>   | <u>FEBRUARY</u>  | <u>MARCH</u>   |
|--|--|--|
| 2 Fund Raiser Fish City Grill<br>13 Board Meeting 1100<br>13 Membership Meeting 1300   | 10 Board Meeting 1100<br>10 Membership Meeting 1300<br>14 Valentines Day<br>15 Drop Input Due<br>26 Chapter Anniversary (1977) | 1 Scholarship Apps Open<br>8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff<br>9 Board Meeting 1100<br>9 Membership Meeting 1300<br>17 St. Patrick's Day<br>19 Presidents Day |
| <u>APRIL</u>   | <u>MAY</u>   | <u>JUNE</u>  |
| 13 Chapter Memorial Svc 1000<br>13 Board Meeting 1100<br>13 Membership Meeting 1300<br>18-28 Fiesta Festival 2024<br>30 Scholarship Apps Close | 12 Mothers' Day<br>15 Drop Input Due<br>17-19 Annual SFA Chapter Event<br>(Formerly Canyon Lake)<br>27 Memorial Day            | 14 Board Meeting 1100<br>14 Membership Meeting 1300<br>14 Flag Day & Army Birthday<br>16 Fathers' Day  |
| <u>JULY</u>  | <u>AUGUST</u>  | <u>SEPTEMBER</u>   |
| 4 Independence Day<br>13 Board Meeting 1100<br>13 Membership Meeting 1300  | 13 Board Meeting 1100<br>13 Membership Meeting 1300<br>15 Drop Input Due   | 2 Labor Day<br>14 Board Meeting 1100<br>14 Membership Meeting 1300<br>20 POW/MIA Day<br>17-22 5th SFG 63rd Reunion<br>Clarksville, TN                      |
| <u>OCTOBER</u>   | <u>NOVEMBER</u>  | <u>DECEMBER</u>  |
| 12 Purple Heart Ceremony<br>14 Columbus Day<br>19-24 SFA Nat'l Convention<br>Cruise from Tampa, FL<br>31 Halloween<br>TBD Oktoberfest at FSH   | 9 Board Meeting 1100<br>9 Membership Meeting 1300<br>11 Veterans Day<br>15 Drop Input Due<br>28 Thanksgiving                   | <b>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b><br>7 Pearl Harbor Day<br>14 Annual Christmas Banquet<br>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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Armandina (Mandy) Terrazas  
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MandyTerrazas@gmail.com

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We are  
EXPERTS!

We are  
EXPLORING!

# Friends of Chapter XV

**Johnnie A. Terrazas, PE**

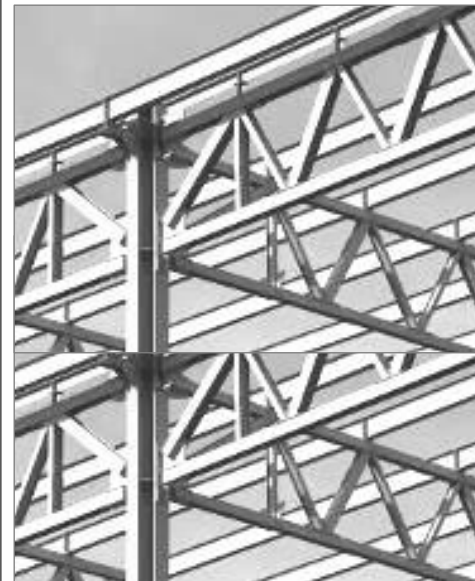
Chief Engineer-CEO



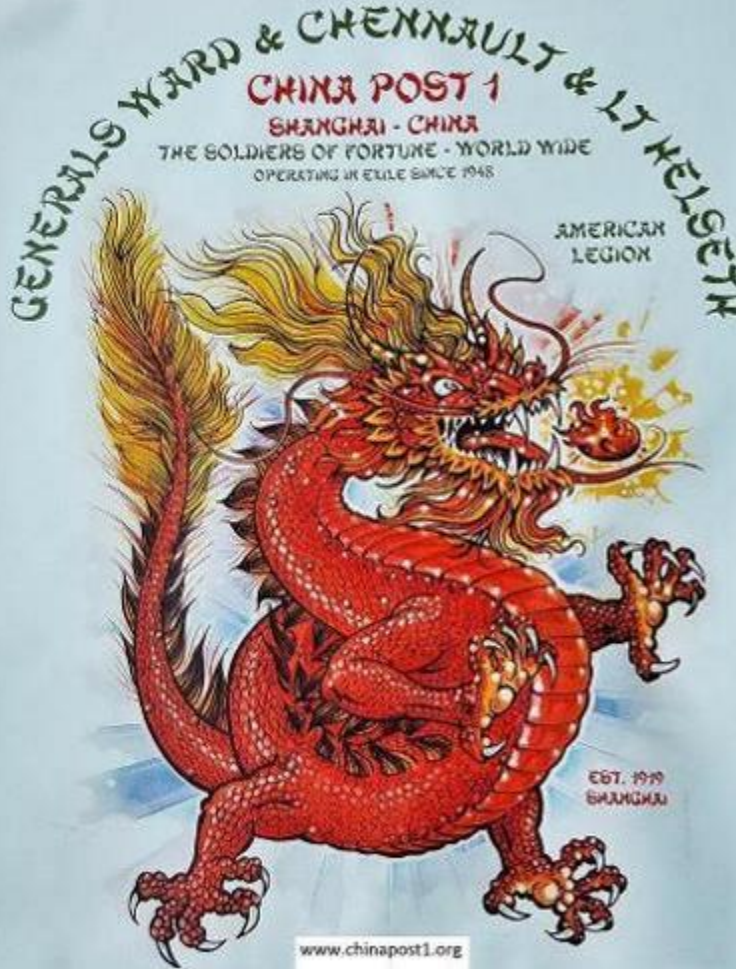
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**Terrazas and Associates, Inc.**



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San Antonio TX

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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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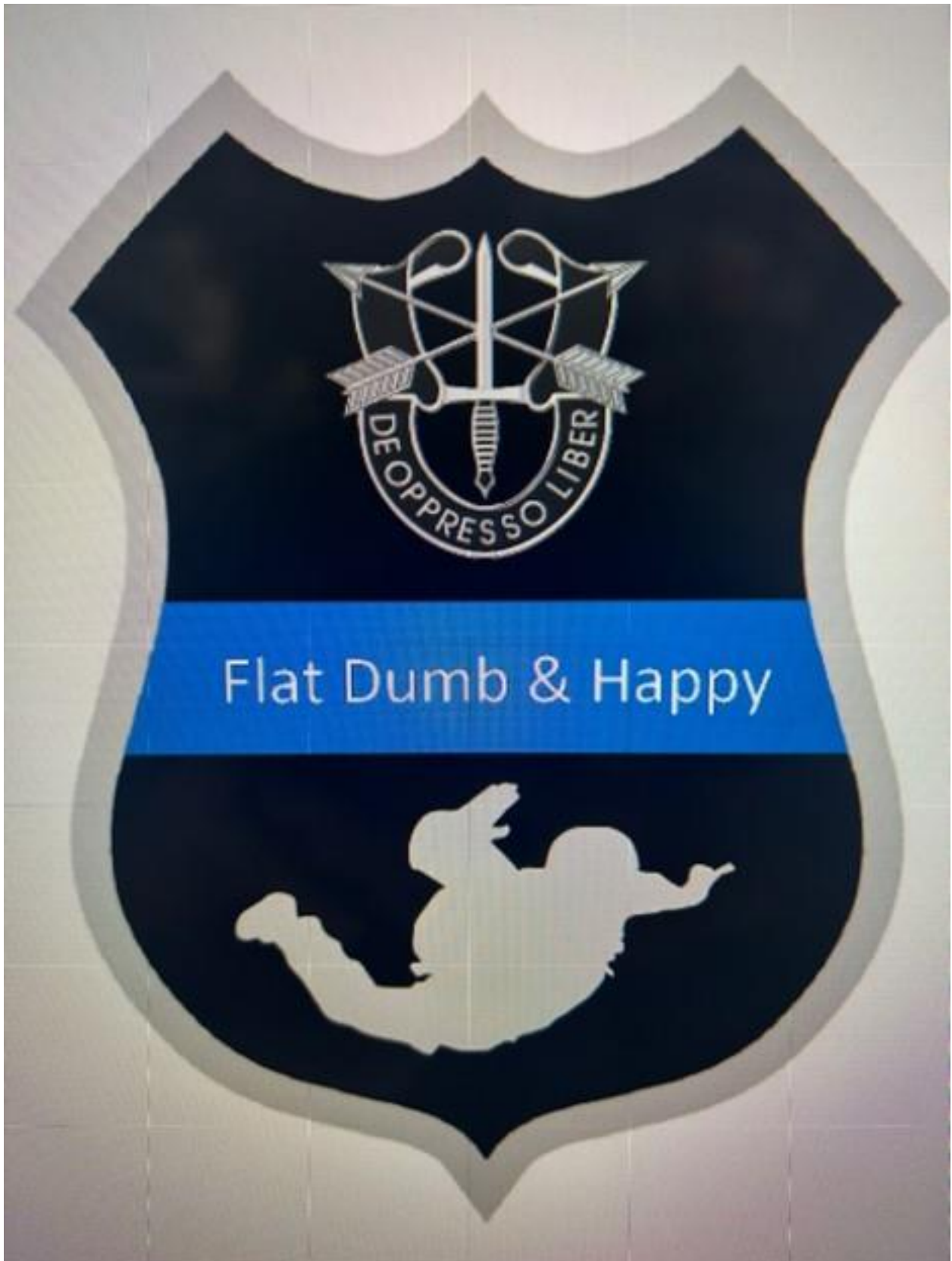
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# Friends of Chapter XV



## \$\$\$ Dollars and Cents

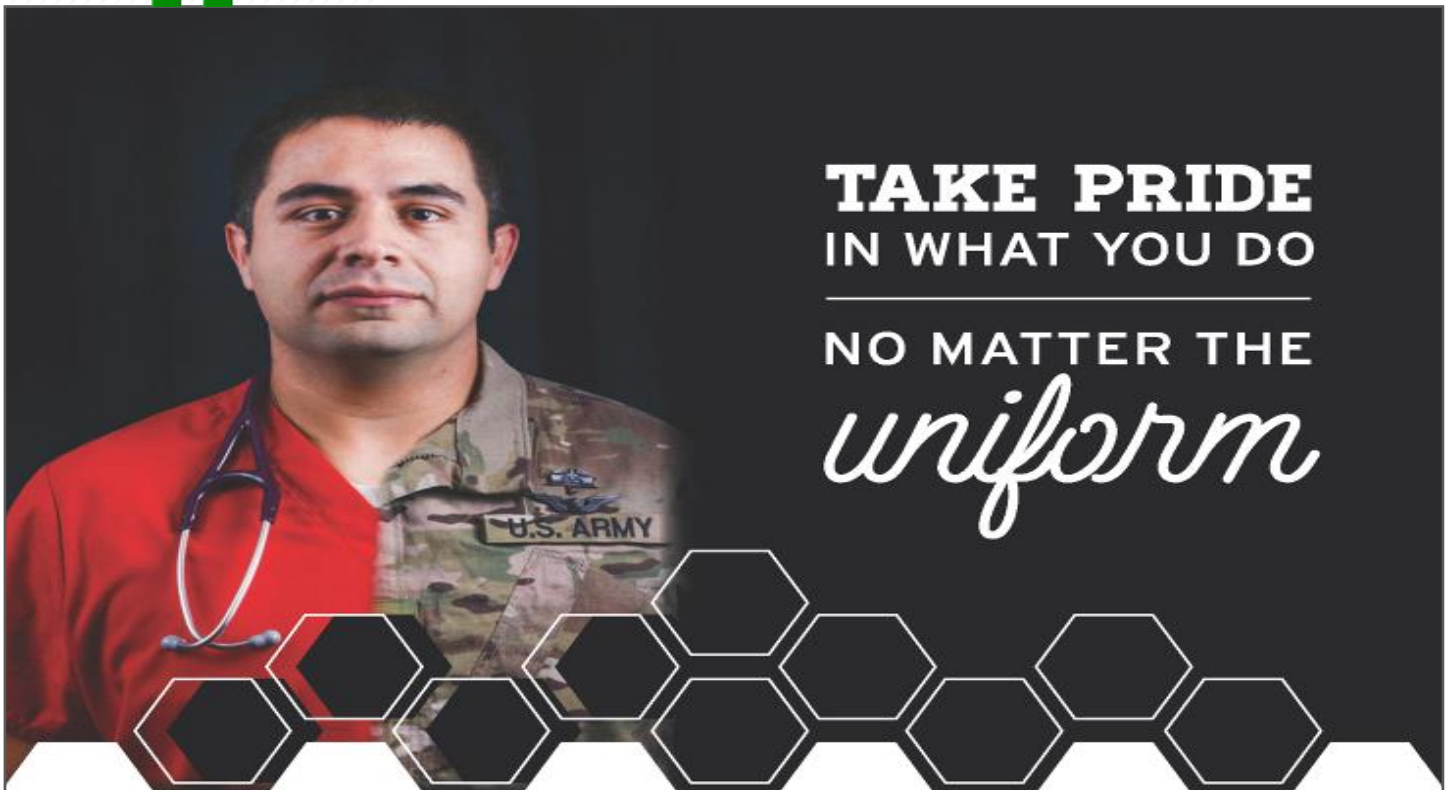


Treasurer's Input—Not Received

Update will be given at the upcoming meeting.

**TAKE PRIDE  
IN WHAT YOU DO**

**NO MATTER THE  
*uniform***



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[www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/nursing/undergrad/veteran-to-bsn/default.aspx)



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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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*

## Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

14 December 2024 SFA Christmas Banquet



**Thanks to all who sent in photos for 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](mailto: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!"**