

THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER XX
THE KENNETH WORTHLEY MEMORIAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The "20/20" Flash

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The January Chapter Business Meeting has been

Cancelled.

Our Monthly Business Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, which, in this case, is January 1st.

Happy New Year.

But: we could not see trying to hold the meeting on January 1st and, I think, we (which means me) did not plan far enough ahead to go for the second Tuesday of the month. So, we hope to see you at...

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at 7pm at the

Richfield American Legion, Tues, Feb 5th, 2019.

The Richfield American Legion is at 6501 Portland Avenue South. I plan to be there early for dinner, about 6:15. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting.

Annual Dues: If you have to pay annual dues, and you have not done it yet, it is that time again. If you have the annual membership, we ask that you renew your membership and we need to get the paperwork to SFA National HQ's by the end of January, so please plan accordingly.

You can go to the SFA website and pay your dues with a credit card. Or, we have included the SFA Membership Form and the SFA Membership Renewal form with this Newsletter. Please mail your Forms to:

Matt Mitlyng
3759 Tower Pond Road
Anoka, MN 55303-8308

Whether you are an SFA member, or not, we will keep you on the mail list until you ask to be removed from the mail list.

New Members: We have added Jim Schreifels to the mailing list. He was in the 8th Group in 1966/1967 and is now a retired dairy farmer in Watkins. His daughter Jenny is Airborne and Psyops, and lives in Minneapolis with her husband, also Airborne and Psyops.

Let us also welcome back into the area John Wilcox. John has retired for the second time, first as a colonel and then a civilian staff guy at the United States Special Operations Command in Florida. John moved back because his wife calls Minnesota home.

Of course, between the retirement and the move, John hiked the Appalachian Trail, going north to south. He did say that he did it at a casual pace and in chunks.

Upcoming Activities:

Monthly Activities: 1st Tuesday of the Month: Chapter XX, SF Association Meeting.

1st Saturday of the Month: **Ranger**
Breakfast at the Perkins on Lyndale in
Bloomington, at 10 am. An informal
gathering and all are invited.

3rd Wednesday of the Month:
Chapter XV, 173rd Airborne Brigade
Association at the Hearthside Pizza, 1640
Rice Street, St. Paul.

3rd Thursday of the Month: **Midwest**
All Airborne Alliance at the Richfield
American Legion, 6501 Portland Avenue
South, Richfield.

In support of Minnesota's Airborne
and Veterans Groups, we invite all interest-
ed folks to receive a copy of this Newsletter.
To support those Airborne folks, we do
include information from those groups in this
letter. Remember Red Green's line "We're
all in this together." If you have a group, or
information, to add to this list, just let me
know: Dan, at 507-647-3526.

Forwarded by SFA National HQ's: Chapter
68 has been working hard to get everything
in place for the 2019 SFA International
Convention in Charleston, WV from 13-18
August, 2019. We are pleased to announce
that online and mail-in registration is open,
as well as, reservation codes for all the
hotels. Kevin I. Harry, President, Chapter 68
Registration: <https://www.sfanationalconvention.com>

[Editorially: More information to follow.]

After Action Reports:

Meeting Minutes: The December 4th

Business Meeting: Present at the meeting
were:

Doug Bekke	Sevieng Suparat
Ron Lachelt	Jerry Carlson
Matt Mitlyng	Noel Johnson
John Wilcox	Jack Running
	Dan Kaiser

Matt made a motion to accept the
November Meeting Minutes, as published in
the December Newsletter. Ron seconded
the motion and it was carried.

Ron made a motion to accept the
financial Report, as given by Matt. Dan
seconded the motion and it was carried.

We did an AAR on the Christmas
Dinner, and you can read the separate
report below. We did agree that the next
Christmas Dinner should be on Saturday,
December 7th. So, you can add that date to
your schedule.

Doug Bekke talked about the Vietnam
War Roundtable, discussed below, and he
said the attendance numbers are growing.

Sevieng brought pictures of the SGU
Memorial Dedication in Middletown, Connecti-
cut, and noted that it is on facebook.

There being no further business, we
adjourned the meeting.

The Chapter Christmas Dinner: Man, can
you believe the weather. Another snow-
storm? By my calculations, we average a
snowstorm on three out of five Christmas
Dinners. Seriously, it seems that we have a
snowstorm on the day of the Christmas
Dinner more often than not.

Wait a minute. December? Christ-
mas Dinner? Snow? Part of me thinks:
buck up sissy pants, quit being a Grinch.
But, to be fair, a bigger part thinks: what the
heck? Again? (Expletive deleted.)

The Dinner was another great time:
great food and great company. Rather than
the long rectangular tables, we got to use
oval tables that made the conversations
much easier to hold. Ron Lachelt gave a
great briefing on Chapter and Airborne
activities, thanking participants and workers
for each of the activities.

On the bad side, we talked for a while
on the low numbers of folks who were in
attendance. While the weather, and the
natural ebb and flow to the numbers, were
problems, I always question whether we did
a good job getting the word out to folks.
(Which means: I wonder what I could have
done better.)

Alas, we had no concrete solutions.
We talked about a different location. When
we had the dinner at the Fort Snelling
Officers Club, it had a classy atmosphere to
it and we wondered if we have reached that
level of style since they closed the O'Club.

The topic also included a more central location, but we had no ideas on where.

Someone noted that the Silent Auction may have been a big draw and that we need to keep it worthwhile. Someone else mentioned that we need to have a draw for the wives. But again, no ideas.

Another person noted that we have had great speakers for the last couple of years. John mentioned a possibility in the three Minnesotans who are General Officers in the Army. But again: no concrete action.

We talked about what motivates different folks to attend activities. We talked about how to get the word out better. But, we made no real decisions.

(When I look in the mirror, I think we need to find someone who is at least okay at planning a party. I look at the guy in the mirror, and he may be good at a lot of things, but planning parties is not one of them.)

As always: on the next DROP Input: If you have pictures or news for Chapter section of The Drop, please email the info and/or pictures to Ron Lachelt at Lachelts@gmail.com.

The Chapter Facebook page: is located at www.facebook.com/sfachapterXX

While Jim H. set up the Facebook account, Matt has been added as an administrator. I hope this means something to you. I presume: if you spot a problem or have a suggestion, then you can contact either guy. Of course, I am only presuming.

Okay, now, I am going back to the Twentieth Century.

For The History Buff:

The Dr. Harold C. Duetsch World War II History Round Table is committed to preserving the factual history of World War II. With the input of historians, first-hand accounts from individuals, and [travel](#) we seek to promote the study of this influential era. Check out their website at: <http://www.mn-ww2roundtable.org/>

The Harold C Deutsch World War Two Round Table is the oldest and largest ongoing

WWII lecture series in the United States and it is now in its 31st year presenting programs. The program starts at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of every month from September through May in the [History Center](#) at Historic Fort Snelling, unless otherwise noted in the [Schedule](#). Seating is limited and it is recommended that you arrive by 6:30.

A \$5.00 [donation](#) is requested to help defray costs. Students and Vets are admitted free.

January 10, 2019; *What made the Nazi Military Work*, Geoffrey Megargee, Author of *Inside Hitler's High Command*, and German Veterans will discuss the functioning of the German Military at Headquarters and in the Field.

February 14, 2019; *Not All the Struggles for Victory were on the Battlefield*, James Lacey, Author of *The Washington War* and *Keep from All Thoughtful Men*, will discuss the struggle between FDR's advisors and the efforts to pay for the costs of the war.

March 14, 2019; *Intelligence from the Skies*, Rob Ehlers, Author of *Targeting the Third Reich*, and Veterans of the Air War in Europe will discuss the use of intelligence in targeting and damage assessment.

March 28, 2019; *The Contributions of Women in Air War*, Sarah Byrn Rickman, Author of *WASP: of the Ferry Command*, will present the many and varied contributions of Women Pilots in training and operations of the Air Force.

April 11, 2019; *The Chief of Logistics in the European Theater – LTG J.C.H. Lee*, Hank Cox, Author of *The General Who Wore SIX Stars*, and Veterans of logistical operations in support of offensive operations will tell the value of support of supply.

May 9, 2019; *Remembering the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings*, Stephen Alan Bourque, Author of *Beyond the Beach*, and Veterans of the June 6th Landings on D-Day will discuss the struggle that ended with the liberation of Europe.

<https://www.mnvietnam.org/roundtable/>

The Vietnam War Roundtable 2018-2019 is a new series at Concordia University. This is an opportunity for veterans, students, and those interested in the war and its legacy to gather the third Monday of each month to honor, remember and understand this tumultuous time.

Directions: Join us at the Concordia University's Buetow Auditorium on Hamline Avenue just south of Interstate 94. Parking is free.

Concordia University, St Paul
300 Hamline Avenue North
St Paul, MN 55104

January 21, 7PM, Navy Destroyer Operations off the coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea and in the wider Cold War in the Pacific. A Navy Chaplain, a sailor working below decks in the engine room, and a sailor manning one of the destroyer's guns and others will discuss their entry into the navy, their training and their service on destroyers. Topics will include day-to-day running of the ships and life on the ships, providing Naval gunfire support to ground troops during the Easter Offensive, supporting aircraft carrier operations, tracking Soviet submarines across the Pacific, and ministering to the spiritual needs of the crews of multiple ships. One sailor will discuss his experiences with a CBS News team that was imbedded on his ship and produced a documentary based on their time on the ship. Veterans will discuss their return to the civilian world and subsequent lives and attitudes.

February 18, 7PM, Vietnam War 360. Drawing upon speakers with very different experiences, the remarks by special guests – veteran, refugee, activist, conscientious objector, gold star family member – explore the war from many sides and expands on last year's Ken Burns and Lynn Novick Vietnam War documentary.

March 18, 7PM, Women Nurses in the Vietnam. Approximately nine thousand U.S. military nurses served in Vietnam during the U.S.- Vietnam war. Though women did not serve in combat, nurses encountered the consequences of war on a daily basis as they cared for its casualties — military and civilian, American and Vietnamese. Like so many other Vietnam veterans, they struggled with their wartime experiences once they returned home. The fact that they were

women veterans added another layer of difficulty to their readjustment, however. The assumption was that all veterans were men. In Minnesota, a handful of nurses who had served in Vietnam banded together as sister veterans and offered each other the help, support, and recognition that no one else had. Join Dr. Kim Heikkila for a discussion of nurses' experiences during and after the war, with a special focus on this unique group from Minnesota.

April 15, 7PM, Reporting on the War – Impact of the News Media. Don Shelby, a Vietnam War veteran who went on to become prominent news anchor in the Twin Cities, will reflect on his experiences and take a broader look at the news media's impact on public opinion at home and the feelings of service men and women overseas.

May 20, 7PM, The Minnesota Connection to the Battle of Soui Tre. In 1966 a significant number of Minnesota men entered the army together, trained together, deployed to Vietnam together, were assigned together in units of the 25th and 4th Infantry Divisions, and found themselves fighting together in the bloody Battle of Soui Tre in March of 1967. The Fire Support Base at Soui Tre was commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel Jack Vessey, a Minnesotan, who received the nation's second highest award for valor at Soui Tre and went on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest ranking military officer during the Reagan Administration. Major General Rick Nash, the recently retired Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, will give a brief overview of his extensive knowledge of General Vessey's leadership skills. Retired Army Chaplain Colonel John Morris will give an overview of the battle based on his research for the book he is writing on General Vessey, and numerous veterans of Soui Tre will discuss their varied participation in the battle.