

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

The "20/20" Flash

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July 2018

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The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at 7pm at the
**Richfield American Legion,
Tues, Jul 3rd, 2018**

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.

Upcoming Activities:

June 30th and July 1st, Veterans & Military Personnel Ride Free on the Stars & Stripes Special of the Mid-Continent Railway Museum,
midcontinent.org@mail79.atl71.mcdlv.net,
on behalf of Mid-Continent Railway Museum
<webmaster@midcontinent.org>

Laurie Johnson sent the email, "Hi, My father worked for the railroad and I took him once. I thought you might like to know about this event."

The Museum is located in North Freedom, Wisconsin, near Baraboo, northeast of Madison. Trains Depart 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Enjoy our 55-minute ride through Wisconsin countryside in our restored vintage cars. Our friendly crew looks forward to seeing you!

Coach Fares: Veterans/military personnel: Free; Adults – \$20, Seniors – \$18, Students – \$15, Children – \$10, 2 and Under

– Free. Tickets available online at www.midcontinent.org or daily in our restored 1894 depot. Please bring proof of veteran or military status when redeeming free ticket. Free ticket valid for Coach seating only.

July 7th, the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade: With two Chapter members from Two Harbors, and a small handful from Duluth to Silver Bay, the Chapter has been going up and marching in their Parade for as long as I can remember. Come on up and join us. For the fun. For the camaraderie. You don't have to march in the parade, just come up and enjoy yourself. See the flyer.

Jumping With the Best: is set for July 28th or 29th with a weather back-up on August 4th or 5th. More information to follow.

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 invited all interested 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.

After Action Reviews: Meeting Minutes:

The May 1st Business Meeting: Present at

the meeting were: Sevieng Suparat
Jim Behr Jerry Carlson
Tim Kirk Jack Running
Matt Mitlyng Scott Walker
Bob Pike Dan Kaiser

Matt made a motion to accept the March Meeting Minutes, as published in the April Newsletter. Jim seconded the motion and it was carried.

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

Tim Kirk gave a verbal report on the trip he made to Tennessee for a Tailwind/SOG Presentation at the TN Museum of Aviation back on Saturday, 28 Apr 18. Tim's report had more color and detail than the report back in the May Newsletter.

Bob reported on the Chapter Award of Excellence to the JROTC Cadet from the Washington Magnate School in St. Paul. It was a great time and the young cadet has a year to do his tandem freefall jump at the Baldwin Drop Zone in Wisconsin.

We discussed the Vietnam Veteran's Day on March 29th.

Scott Walker discussed the Fort Snelling National Cemetery Monument Project to our Allies' service in the Vietnam War. Several concepts are on the table. A coalition of Laos, Hmong, Cambodians, US, and Canadian veterans groups is developing as a 501-C3 organization. While they only have conceptual drawings right now, it is okay because they don't have any money or a legal status.

By mutual consent the Chapter's position was defined as supporting the initial concepts and idea, being part of a group covered by the umbrella of the operation while not being a lead element. Ron was asked to contact SFA National to inform them of the project and our position.

We have made Christmas Dinner reservations at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus Hall for December. More information to follow.

Under new business, we discussed the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade, Saturday, July 7th. See the attached flyer and come on out—just for the fun of it.

Bob talked about this year's "Jumping With The Best" at the Baldwin Drop Zone in Wisconsin. Grant Applications are in with a handful of different organizations and we will see what comes of them. We are looking at July 28th or 29th, with a weather back-up of August 5th or 6th.

The Midwest All Airborne Alliance will be working on their August Picnic. More information to follow.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

The June 5th Business Meeting: Present at the meeting were:

Jim Behr Trudell Guerue
Ron Lachelt Noel Johnson
Matt Mitlyng Dave Turner
Bob Pike Scott Walker
Jerry Carlson Dan Kaiser

Dan noted that he was not able to get the May Meeting Minutes done in time for the Chapter Newsletter. He promised the Minutes for the Next Newsletter.

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

We discussed the upcoming activities, starting with the Hasting's American Legion "Hastings Five" Room Dedication. Bob made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the American Legion to help defray the costs of the dedication.

Then we talked about the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade on July 7th, covering the flags, the flyer, RSVP's, Friday's dinner at the Larsons, breakfast on Saturday, and the parade.

We talked about the "Jumping With The Best" at the Baldwin Drop Zone in Wisconsin.

Scott Walker thanked everyone for their support on Memorial Day at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Scott then noted that the General John Vessey Day (June 29th) legislation has passed and will be signed by the governor soon. Plans will be made for some form of an activity.

Scott also noted that the Hmong Burial Bill was passed in March 2018.

Noel Johnson talked about the Vietnam Moving Wall in Minnesota on June 22nd and the 173rd/Midwest All Airborne Posting the National Colors at the "Back to the 50's" Car Show at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds on June 23rd.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

An AAR on the Hastings Five Room:

Laurie Johnson or her sister Cindy Hofeld said that they contacted the First Special Service Force Association to see if they knew of any other group of five Forcemen who came from one town. They did not.

On June 9th, with standing room only, the Hastings American Legion dedicated a room to the "Hastings Five," a group of five young men who ended up in the same brigade-sized unit that was the First Special Service Force.

A retired general, from Hastings, was the emcee. Relatives spoke of their ancestors who are the Hastings Five. The Hastings mayor spoke. He was followed by the military staff member for one of our US Representatives. (I just can't remember who that representative is.)

After the speechifying, an impressive plaque, with five pictures, was unveiled. Discussion then described a wall in the bar area that will be a display to the five men.

When you are in Hastings, stop by the American Legion, the food is good, the view is impressive, and the folks are great.

Update On the General John Vessey Day

from Scott Walker: Hello All, I have an update on the Gen. John Vessey Day, June 29th. I have been made aware that the legislation that establishes the day does not come into effect until August 1, 2018. This is of course after this years date of June 29, therefore the Dept of Military Affairs is going to try to get a ceremonial signing by the Governor this June 29th at the Capitol, but the inaugural Day will not take place until next year June 29, 2019.

This will let us prepare for a more celebratory event next year, while commemorating the Day by a signing ceremony this year. As soon as I get word from the State I will send it forward to you.

Forwarded by SFA National HQ's, from:

B3 <b3hanrahan@comcast.net>

Subject: 11th SFG Bi-Annual Reunion

Date: Saturday, 11 August 2018 from

1200hrs to 1730hrs **rain or shine**

Note: No food served after 4pm.

Location: Burba Lake Cottage Area at Ft Meade, MD

Cost: \$30.00 per person (a portion will go to one or more Special Operations charities)

Menu: Barbeque pork and chicken and assorted sides.

Drinks: Beer, soda, wine.

The Reunion also raises money for the very worthy Special Operations charities. As in the past, money will be raised at the reunion event or you can make a donation when you mail in your registration. The charities will be announced at the reunion.

The Reunion Committee notes the recent passing of long time 11th SF'er and Reunion Committee member, SGM Herb Shapiro. RIP, SGM.

Please be aware that Ft Meade has new security requirements to enter the base that are changes from the previous

reunion. Refer to the attached flier for details.

See the flier and registration form at <http://www.sfa26.org/vb4/attachment.php?attachmentid=110>

And: Any Vietnam vets out there, who had time to film themselves, this production sounds legit. Cliff Newman, Executive Director, SFA

Original Message From: Kevin Sninsky <asst.creative@louredaproductions.com>

To: sfahq <sfahq@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 2:38 pm

Subject: Vietnam Footage Call

Dear Cliff,

My name is Scott L. Reda and since 1983 my company, Lou Reda Productions, has worked hard to preserve and share America's military history through film. Lou Reda has been a longtime collaborator with History Channel and National Geographic, producing shows such as *Vietnam in HD* and *Brothers in War (Boys of 67)*. Included in the email is an interview with Vietnam Magazine that details our goals and history. We are continually looking for footage to continue to help preserve and show our nation's history. Even if you personally don't have any footage, we hope to share our call with as many veterans as possible. If you are able to share the following message in any way possible it would be a great help.

We are looking for 8mm and 16mm film of the Vietnam War and the American homefront. Upon receipt of your footage, we will clean and digitize to high definition, and return your original footage with a DVD copy. You will also be asked to sign a release form to allow use of in the future. For more information, please contact me directly at scott@louredaproductions.com. We greatly hope you will assist us in sharing America's past through film and preserving it for the future.

The link below is the Vietnam Magazine interview.

<http://www.redafilms.com/vietnam-magazine.pdf>

Scott L. Reda, Lou Reda Productions, 646.620.6181, www.redafilms.com

From Tim: Subject: YouTube-interview Nick Brokhausen. Nice interview with Minnesota homeboy from Glenwood, MN. Nick describes some of his reasons for writing his book and mentions his sequel and answers a few questions about today's SF.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=I2UIDGM_I90#fauxfullscreen

(The first few minutes are a blank screen. Fast forward to Nick's talk.)



Forwarded by Dave Nordan: SAINTE-MERE-EGLISE, France — Tracing the same route over the English Channel and over the fields and dense hedgerows of coastal Normandy, hundreds of NATO paratroopers paid tribute to jumps by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions on the “Day of Days,” June 6th, 1944.

Starting from an airfield near Cherbourg, France, 575 soldiers from the U.S., France, Germany, the Netherlands and Romania jumped out over the course of about half an hour in chocks of twelve from C-130s and C-160s on a nearly-cloudless day near the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, just where U.S. paratroopers landed 74 years ago.

“It was pure emotion – we were about 300 feet off of the water, we could look out and see fishing trawlers,” Brig. Gen. Robert Cooley, commander of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, an airborne unit that supports operations in Europe and Africa. “Everyone has their own story, everyone was in their own thoughts, really trying to understand what it meant to them.”

Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, was present to see his plan replicated in the gentle pasture-land of Normandy. "It's a really iconic spot for all sorts of reasons," she said. "Because of the heroism of the people who landed here, but also for the beginning of an important alliance between the U.S., Great Britain and France and other countries who participated here today, so it had real geopolitical significance and human and historical importance."

Thousands of spectators were gathered to watch the jump, which was also punctuated with a low flyover by a pair of A-10 Warthogs from the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing.

It was Spc. Jesslayn Fuentes' first jump in Normandy. The paratrooper from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, said it was a bit of a change from the unit's normal jumps.

"Usually the way we jump is (mass tactical) into combat so this is my first "Hollywood" jump since airborne school," she said. "I was in the fourth pass, sixth jumper, but once I knew it was coming up, it was a wrap, there was no hesitating."

2018's jump marked the first time Romanian soldiers participated. In World War II, Romania fought alongside Germany until it was overrun by Soviet forces in 1944. But the country is now a NATO member on the alliance's eastern flank.

"I think the thing that's most significant about it is we're getting more players on the team," said U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Abernethy. "You look around here and see all the different uniforms of all our allied partners coming together, it's tremendous."

Abernethy said he was thinking of a mentor, Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Kenneth

"Rock" Merritt, who fought with the 82nd Airborne in Normandy, as he prepared to leave the plane.

Following the massive airborne operation, paratroopers and guests attended a ceremony at Normandy's famous "Iron Mike" statue, commemorating the battle for the La Fiere bridgehead from June 6-9, 1944.

"Anywhere, anytime, all the way - that's the airborne creed," said Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

"On La Fièrè causeway, these paratroopers did not fail. Today, let us not fail them. Let us honor their valor, their sacrifices."

Sunday's jump, Iron Mike ceremony and parade through the streets of Sainte-Mere-Eglise marked the high point for the 74th anniversary commemorations. Next year's event, marking the 75th anniversary, should be even larger.

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.