

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

The "20/20" Flash

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The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next Chapter meeting is at 7pm, on

Tues, July 2nd, 2019

at the

Cherokee Tavern,

886 Smith Ave S, West St Paul.

They have a great environment and atmosphere with a full menu, complimented with a Tuesday Night Special— an incredible variety of hamburgers.

Parking can be a problem, but look behind the Cherokee Tavern. While the alley is usually filled, after 5pm you can park in the Cherokee Dental parking lot.

I plan to be there early for dinner, about 6 pm. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting. Either way, come on out and enjoy the evening.

Upcoming Activities:

The correct date for the

**Two Harbors Heritage
Days Parade**

is **Saturday, July 13th.**

We will begin with a barbecue on Friday afternoon, with a pancake breakfast Saturday morning at the Volunteer Fire Department. We will move to the parade

rally point at about 11:30 and the parade begins at 1 pm. You don't have to RSVP, but if you could, RSVP to Keith 218-391-4243 (Cell)

All Airborne Days,

some time in August, will be a very informal activity. More information to follow

Brunch with Babs:

Babs Komac will have an Australian friend of her's and Eddy's, Tom Yoe, coming to Minnesota in September. Babs will be having a brunch for them on September 14th or 15th (Saturday or Sunday.)

Babs has invited the Chapter to the brunch (along with Eddy's VVA Chapter) and she is looking for a headcount of guys and gals who are interested.

(We have asked Ron to be the Chapter point of contact with Babs. While you can call Babs direct, and I believe that she would love to talk to you, we are trying to streamline the whole RSVP process. So, if you can make it, call Ron at 952-882-1249 or email him at Lachelts@gmail.com.

Babs said Eddy went to see Tom in Australia three times, including one time marching in the ANZAC Parade, and that this would be so special for Tom, giving him a chance to meet you guys and trade war stories.

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** is held somewhere, they had to change meeting locations. Just drive around for a while—you will find it. They might be moving their meetings to the Cherokee Tavern. More info to follow.

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 interested folks to receive a copy of this Newsletter. To support those Airborne folks, we do include information from those groups in this letter.

After Action Reports: Meeting Minutes:

The May 7th, 2019 Chapter Business Meeting started at 7pm. Members present at the meeting were:

Jim Behr	John Wilcox
Ron Lachelt	Dave Turner
Matt Mitlyng	Scott Walker
Bob Pike	Dan Kaiser

Jim made a motion to accept the April and May meeting minutes, as published in the May and June Newsletter, respectively. Bob seconded the motion and it was carried.

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

Jim made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial. Matt seconded the motion and it was carried. Bob was asked to coordinate with Tiffany Kovaleski for delivering the check.

We discussed the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade. Ron noted that Dave Maurer is expected at the activities. Dave is a St. Cloud native, a friend of Tim and

Keith's from SOG, and the author of *The Dying Place*. Ron will be coordinating for the necessary flags. We hope to see you there.

There being no further business that we could remember, like, oh maybe approving minutes from the last meeting—for example, we adjourned the meeting

An AAR email from Ron: the Thomas Briggs May 16th presentation: Nice presentation tonight at the Richfield American Legion by Thomas Briggs, former CIA case officer in Laos and author of Cash On Delivery which records his experiences as a CIA case officer on a Roadwatch team in Laos during the "Secret War". The presentation was entitled "The Ho Chi Minh Trail" and was attended by Southeast Asia veterans of the war from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hmong and our favorite Canadian, Bob Pike.

Mr. Briggs gave an overall view of the war, which he pointed out should be called "The Second Indochina War", rather than just the Vietnam War, due to the extent of fighting in Laos and unrest in Cambodia. He emphasized that there were many aspects to the War. Most soldiers only knew their small part of it, and it is only by sharing everyone's experiences that we can begin to understand the entirety of the war and understand the lessons to be learned.

Introducing Mr. Briggs was Scott Walker who also emphasized the importance of all of the allied veterans groups working together to achieve recognition for their sacrifices and to educate the public about the role Laos played during the Second Indochina War.

Both Scott and Tom Briggs have been working all week at the Minnesota Legislature on the language of the bill authorizing a day of remembrance for all of the SE Asians who fought in Laos. Both Scott and Tom are members of the CAVVW or Coalition of Allied Vietnam WAR Veterans the work for recognition of the contributions of the SE Asian veterans.

After the presentation, there was time for discussion by members attending.

Bob Pike, Jim Behr, Bill Rouleau (also a Laos veteran) and Ron Lachelt represented Chapter XX. From the Midwest All Airborne Association: Trudell Guerue, Dave Turner, Art Kirby, Al Porter, Brad Nichols and Noel Johnson.

Forwarded by Scott Walker: Minneapolis (WCCO) – A new state holiday expected to take effect in 2020 will recognize Hmong veterans who served alongside U.S. troops in the Vietnam War. The Special Guerrilla Unit was part of the Secret War in Laos in the 1960s and 70s. Tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers were part of the CIA-led mission. An estimated 35,000 of them died.

Among the fighters who lived was Capt. Shoua Xiong. He is the late grandfather of freshman DFL Rep. Tou Xiong. “He fought so that I didn’t have to fight,” said Rep. Xiong, who represents Maplewood. “I’m so very fortunate and proud of my grandfather personally, and all the Hmong veterans.”

The Twin Cities has the highest concentration of Hmong Americans at roughly 65,000 people. Their stories are embedded in Minnesota culture, but the people behind that history are starting to go.

Xiong’s incentive for a Hmong Special Guerrilla Units Remembrance Day was the idea that a generation of soldiers should not go unnoticed. “Getting this to law allows them to get recognition that their service is being recognized and the war they fought was something meaningful,” Xiong said.

May 14, 2020, will be the first day of remembrance, marking 45 years since the last day of the operation. Xiong hopes schools will use it to teach students about the Secret War.

From Ron: President Donald Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Law honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from *November 1, 1955 to May 15,*

1975, regardless of location. You can google www.vietnamwar50th.com. (I tried for a hyperlink, but I could not get it to work.)

From the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs June email, Veterans Career Fair,

MNDVA@public.govdelivery.com

Minnesota Veterans Employment Services invites all Veterans, active military members, and their spouses to this 13th annual event Wednesday, July 24, 2019. Over 100 employers will be on-site. In addition, the event will include providers who offer services for Veterans. This no-cost event for job seekers brings together:

- Employers, who can provide company information, speak with you about current job openings and interview you for open positions on site.
- Service providers who can assist with your employment-related needs, as well as provide information and referrals to non-work related services for Veterans.
- Resource area staffed by HR professionals to assist with resume critique and job search advice.
- Professional photographer available to take pictures for LinkedIn profile.

[More information and registration >>](#)

From Loren: (Veracity unknown) Little Known Tidbit of Naval History

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men.

This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. Freshwater distillers). However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 Oct,

she took on Eight hundred twenty-six pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there on 12 November 1798. She provisioned with 550 pounds of Beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November 1798, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days, she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January 1799, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 Feb 1799, with no cannon shot, little food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey, and 38,600 gallons of water.

Also From Ron: I hope this e-mail gives your day a smile. Enjoy and have a nice day.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If G-d wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Forwarded by SFA HQ's: 1ST SPECIAL FORCES GROUP REUNION, 13 – 17 October, 2019, Las Vegas, NV.

- Plaza Hotel & Casino, 1 Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101, Tel: 800-6634-6575, Group Code: SPECFOR,

- Reservation cut-off date is 01 September, 2019, Cost: Room for 2 @ \$35/night (extra fee for additional guests) Resort Fee @ \$15/night, Tax @ 13%
- Amenities include: self/valet parking; pool admission; fitness facilities; 2 bottles of water; local calls; and boarding pass printing (designated kiosks only).
- For reservations via the internet (because current dates only go through Aug 2019, please follow the following instructions) go to the Plaza Hotel Casino Home Page @ <https://www.plazahotelcasino.com>
- For reservations via telephone: 800-6634-6575 - Tell the agent your code is SPECFOR.

EVENT REGISTRATION: Full Registration is \$145.00 before 14 August, 2019. After this date, the cost will be \$175.00. Partial Registration is by event – see registration form.

For questions, contact:

Reunion Chairman – Phil Grounds @ (740) 409-6720 // steppingwild@gmail.com
Registration – Rick Upton @ (618) 713-2986 // chiefrick194@hotmail.com

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.