

The Special Forces Association
Chapter XX
The Kenneth Worthley Memorial Chapter Newsletter

The "20/20" Flash

July 2014

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From Col. Khao: Dear Brother in Arms,
On behalf of the United Royal Lao Armed Forces veterans & Special Guerrilla Units of the Vietnam War, I am writing to you to request your support and to ask you to write to your Senators and Representative to ask them to support benefits for Lao veterans of the Vietnam War who now live in the United States as naturalized citizens or resident aliens.

I would like to ask you to write to your district congressmen or congresswomen and US senators to support the House Resolution authored by Cong. Jim Costa of CA and the Senate Resolution authored by Senator Lisa Murkowski of AK. [The House bill is H.R.3369, Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act and you can get information at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d113:4:./temp/~bdEITe:./bss/> Minnesota Representative Colin Peterson has already signed on as a co-sponsor.]

Also, It would be very helpful if you write to the House Committee on Veterans

Affairs and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

America's wars have always been fought by the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the U.S. armed forces, however, once in American history the citizens of another country were asked to go into combat as surrogates for American soldiers and airmen. At the very beginnings of the Vietnam War, as early as 1961, the President of the United States wanted to thwart North Vietnamese military activities in Laos but decided he did not want to do so using American combat units.

President John F. Kennedy determined that it would be politically inadvisable to widen the allies' war effort in Vietnam through overt American military intervention against the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) in Laos, and that any allied military action to that effect would need to be implemented by clandestinely using non-American surrogates.

The American Ambassador to Laos and officers of the Central Intelligence

Agency were directed to recruit, train, equip, direct, resupply and pay Lao citizens, organized into special guerrilla units (SGU), to fight the NVA in Laos. Lao citizens fought in Laos until 1975, so that Americans would not have to fight there, and suffered more than 50,000 killed in action, a number almost equal to U.S. KIA. At the end of the war, subsequent to the communist takeover of Laos, the communists sent an estimated 36,000 Lao veterans to reeducation camps that were, in reality, prisoner of war camps. Many died in captivity, but some escaped and made their way out of Laos and eventually to the United States, with the help of the 1975 Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act.

Subsequently, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000, that included Lao and Lao Theung as well as Hmong veterans, provided a path to naturalization for Lao veterans.

I hope you agree that American veterans owe a great debt of honor to their fellow brothers in combat: to assist them in any way you can to gain recognition for the blood they shed on behalf of the U.S. government; and for all the American lives they saved on the battlefield by giving up their lives to keep the North Vietnamese Army in Laos, fighting the Lao instead of going to South Vietnam to fight and kill Americans. I hope you will strive to support the Lao by helping them receive this small benefit.

I respectfully ask that you write a letter of support for a law to grant interment privileges in national cemeteries to individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era and send the letter to your Senators and Representative.

I strongly hope you will support us. Highest Regards, Khao Insixiangmay, Former SGU Col. GM 33 Commander (Please visit our website: www.royallao.org.)

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, June 3rd, 2014.

The Glockenspiel is near downtown St. Paul, (605 7th St W) and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. <http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com/>

Some folks show up early for dinner, about 6:15. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting. Come on down.

Upcoming Activities:

“Jumping With The Best.”

at the Skydive Twin Cities Drop Zone near Baldwin, Wisconsin is scheduled for

Saturday, 7 June.

See the enclosed Flyer for information.

People interested in tandem jumping were suppose to contact Dan Thorsen at [612-423-4868](tel:612-423-4868) or email gigpit@prodigy.net

by 25 May.

If you are still interested in trying to get on this tandem jump, give Dan a call and see what comes of it.

Either way, you are still invited to the Baldwin Drop Zone to watch the activities, enjoy lunch, and share a story or two.

Also on June 7th, The Monthly Ranger Breakfast: The first Saturday of every month, there is a monthly Ranger Breakfast for Rangers from all eras for fellowship, bonding, story telling, and eating! The Breakfast is at the Perkins, in Bloomington, 8324 Lyndale Ave.,

If you have questions you can contact Jill at iambenkoppsmother@gmail.com

Two Harbors Two Harbors