

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

## *The "20/20" Flash*

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**May 2018**

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We have added Jeff Wildes to the Chapter roster. Jeff was with 3<sup>rd</sup> Group and made two deployments to Afghanistan. He now lives in St. Louis Park with his wife and eleven week old daughter.

We have also added Mark Johnson to the Chapter roster. Mark is the nephew of John Hankes, of the First Special Service Force. Mark got to know some of Ted Johnson's daughters through Ted's and John's being in the FSSF Association, and then, by extension, he learned of Chapter XX, and here we are.

Gentlemen, welcome to the Chapter.

### **The Next Chapter Business Meeting:**

The next meeting is at 7pm at the

## **Richfield American Legion, Tues, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

We did cancel April's meeting. That snowstorm was the one with blizzard conditions out here on the prairie. Between my being 'hesitant' (afraid to drive in a blizzard, geez, what a wimp) and complications for a few other people, we decided to cancel the meeting. We tried to call everyone who we thought might try to make it to the meeting.

We hope the cancellation did not cause too many problems for you.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

**May:** Bob will be presenting SFA Chapter Award of Excellence Medal to a JROTC cadet at the Washington High Magnet School in St. Paul. The Chapter is also sponsoring the cadet, after they are 18 years old, to a free jump at Baldwin Drop Zone.

**Monthly Activities:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month: Chapter XX, SF Association Meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month: **Ranger**

Breakfast at the Perkins on Lyndale in Bloomington, at 10 am. An informal gathering and all are invited.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month:

**Chapter XV, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade** Association at the Hearthside Pizza, 1640 Rice Street, St. Paul.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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. "We're all in this together," Red Green. 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 March 6<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting Minutes**

were in the last Newsletter, and, as noted above, we did not have the April business meeting.

**From Bob:** News from the field. The Vietnam Veterans Day gathering was held at Fort Snelling Cemetery and is an annual event performed near Airborne Circle. A wreath was set for the event by a Green Beret and Vietnamese Special Force member. In attendance were veterans of the Lao, Cambodian, and Hmong veterans groups.

Next year it is hoped that more members will attend considering that many of the Vietnam Veterans in our Chapter are retired and work isn't an excuse like it used to be.

After the ceremony a meeting was held at the cemetery offices. It included members of Allied Forces, Vietnam vets, and a couple of civilians. The focus of the meeting was how to erect a monument that would honor General John Vessey, a Minnesotan who served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After discussions with John Knapp, the new cemetery director, it was suggested that we also honor Allied force members who served with SF during the war.

It was recommended, that in order to get approval, the group should focus on a battle or location and who was involved. This triggered several sideline thoughts that revolved around the battle (LAM SON 719) which General Vessey played a key roll. Because it was a Vietnamese operation, with US assistance, Special Forces, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, the Lao, Hmong, and Cambodian SGU's would all be included.

It was also proposed that all IV Corps be honored with the same formula for honoring the forces within the battle areas. Again, SF was there.

Subsequently, the monument effort would be greatly received by the VA if SFA would put its name forward as sponsor. Funding for the project will be from donations that are raised by the group.

[We had planned on Scott Walker discussing the topic at the last meeting, which was cancelled. Hopefully Scott may be at the Chapter's May Business meeting.] Scott is a leading figure in the Vessey Memorial Project and he will be fielding questions, if available.

At this time the idea is just being bounced around. But Chapter 20 may be expected to play a pivotal roll in the accomplishment of these memorials. A volunteer from the Chapter will provide assistance and feed back to the Chapter on the progress of the movement.

It would be advantageous for all members of Chapter 20 to make an effort to attend this meeting, or following meetings, to provide input and direction.

**From Ron:** Tim Kirk is off to Tennessee for a Tailwind/SOG Presentation at the TN Museum of Aviation. This year will be centered around an OLAA based Airshow on Saturday, 28 Apr 18. One of the special planned aspects of this reunion will be the appearance of the Colorado based A-1E #132683. Like the Museum #665 "Lt. America" Spad, this is another of the three flying USAF Vietnam War A-1's and it is painted in VNAF colors. Invited participants and guests will also meet during Museum hours on Friday to participate in various sessions and briefings regarding a number of subjects related to Spads, MACVSOG (with primarily an Operation Tailwind focus), and other matters still in the works. No admission charges will be applied to the invited participants and guests on either day.

**And:** Bob has been submitting grant requests to some big companies to support the "Jumping With the Best" tandem freefall jumps in Baldwin, WI, and the next Christmas Dinner. Thanks for all of your hard work.

**From Scott Walker:** Wed, Apr 4, 2018  
Progress!! I received this article from MN Minority leader Hortman's office today. I am

pursuing more details. Congratulations on your lobbying efforts, it has achieved great success.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/congress-passes-law-allowing-national-cemetery-burials-secret-war-veterans-n862346>

Scott Walker, Coalition Director,  
Coalition of Allied Vietnam War Veterans,  
[www.cavvw.org](http://www.cavvw.org), PO Box 40595, Saint Paul,  
Minnesota 55104, 651-775-7560 |  
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**Historic Fort Snelling - Free Tours for Veterans, May 19, 2018.** Special opportunity for Veterans' groups! Bring your group to Historic Fort Snelling for a free 45-minute, step-on bus tour highlighting many of the important military events that took place there. The tour will be followed by refreshments and conversation about the upcoming revitalization of this important historic site in 2020. Tours will begin at 10 am, and will run throughout the day.

To reserve a time slot for your group, or to learn about opportunities to support the Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization Project, please contact Caitlin McGowan at [caitlin.mcgowan@mnhs.org](mailto:caitlin.mcgowan@mnhs.org). More information is at <http://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/index.jsp?id=1066-326198>

**From the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Friday Digest: April 27, 2018:**

Coffee Talk Scheduled, April 28.

St. Cloud, Minn: VA health care enrollment provides valuable benefits to Veterans and their families. Non-enrolled Veterans, Veterans new to the VA health care system, and enrolled Veterans who want to learn how to most effectively use VA systems of care are encouraged to attend a Coffee Talk at the Montevideo VA Clinic, located at 1025 N.13th St., in Montevideo on April 28 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Coffee Talks are informal conversations intended to provide Veterans an opportunity to have their questions about VA health care answered.

Enrollment opportunities will also be available. No pre-registration is required

**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 30th 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.

**May 10, 2018 To Save the Victory After Defeat.** Benn Steil, Author of The Marshall Plan, and Veterans of the Occupation, will highlight the great success that sealed the Victory in Europe and led to the State of Peace that resulted in the establishment of NATO and European Union.



**From Bob:** ALL THE WAY AIRBORNE. If you've been here for All American Week in the past, you know how awesome this week will be. If you've never had the chance to attend, here is your chance. Please join our Veterans as we celebrate with the 82d Airborne Division. There will be events throughout the week including numerous active duty sporting events. Registration is \$100 per person and includes the Association Social which will be held on Thursday, 24 May at the Iron Mike Conference Center. The Fayetteville Chapter Picnic will be held on Mon, 21 May at the Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse and the Fayetteville Chapter Dinner will be held

on Wed, 23 May at Moon Hall. Beer, soda, water and snacks will be provided nightly in the hospitality room.

Please be sure to register for the Association events at the link provided and make your hotel reservations at IHG Army Inn (Moon and Hardy Hall) at 910-853-7624 POC Monica Wells (Code AMW for Moon Hall and AAW for Hardy Hall). PLEASE be sure to use the hotel codes when making reservations!!

One of the greatest men alive. PFC Clinton Riddle is one of the last surviving glider infantrymen that dropped into Normandy. On June 6, 1944, Riddle and his mates landed in a field near Chef du Pont, Normandy. He then spent 33 days in combat. He also participated in the Netherlands and Rhine drops. If that isn't enough, Riddle also fought near Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Please join me in thanking PFC Riddle for his service and our freedom. Share his story so we can see how many folks will honor this American treasure

Command Sergeant Major (R) Jeff Mellinger is the guest speaker. The Liberty Jump Team will be executing a WWII themed Airborne Operation on Fryar DZ to honor fallen veterans of all wars, followed by a re-naming ceremony, BBQ and beer! The event will also include the traditional hospitality suite, awards banquet and airborne graduation.

DEC 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

A heartwarming homecoming for a small group of Paratroopers of the Devil Brigade today. As they landed at Pope Air Field, families and friends waited with anticipation at Green Ramp to see the faces of their loved ones returning from Afghanistan. Over the next few months, we will be able to witness countless more happy faces of our returning Paratroopers.

**From Jeff Thielen, Executive Director, Minnesota Military Museum on the Veterans Registry:** The Veterans Registry was established to help preserve Minnesota Veterans Stories as told in their own words or the words of their family and friends.

The Registry is a way for Veterans to document and share their military story

with family and friends and preserve a record of their service. Please go to <http://www.mnmilitarymuseum.org/veterans/registry/>

to record your personal story and please help promote this FREE service for Minnesota Veterans. Thank You.

**From Ron Lachelt:** WWII History. Fascinating history! A great read!!

Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British & Canadian Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began

mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, France or where ever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!

Many of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

#### **Forwarded by SFA National:**

Dear Current and Former Members of Special Forces and Friends:

The purpose of this letter is to update you of the work that The Vietnam Fund is doing for

the Montagnards in Vietnam - The Forgotten Warriors who fought alongside us in Vietnam. Much of the work of The Vietnam Fund has been funded by donations from members of the SF family.

In 2017, with our support, The Vietnam Fund installed 8 water systems and purchased many books, computers and other educational materials for schools in remote villages around Kontum. You can learn more about the Vietnam Fund on their website:

<http://www.vietnamemifund.org>.

In 2018, we want to do even more, so we are reaching out again to the SF family - former SF troopers, SFA Chapters and other friends in the SF community to ask for your support. Any contribution will help!! In addition to trying to reach the broad SF community, our goal this year is to have every SFA Chapter make a donation to The Vietnam Fund. We keep a list of those SFA Chapters who have donated here:

<http://vietnamemifund.org/donate.html#SFlogo>.

Help us so we can continue to help the Montagnards still in Vietnam. Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

The Vietnam Fund  
PO Box 1351  
Woodland, CA 95776

Please note on the check that your donation is from the Special Forces effort by putting SF on the bottom left hand corner of your check. Remember - many of us would not be here today were it not for the Yards!!!

Thank you in advance for your support, Dave Moley, SFA#4141, Tom Turney, SFA#14394, and Sam Wheeler, SFA#93811

And: Forwarded: From: James Shields <[JIMSHIELDS315@msn.com](mailto:JIMSHIELDS315@msn.com)>, Apr 24, 2018, Subject: SGM Jon R. Cavaini (MOH) Scholarship Fund, Livingston High School, Livingston CA.

This year will be the third year in a row that our Special Forces Association Chapter XXIII, in Honor of SGM Jon R. Cavaini (MOH), is offering college scholarships to students at the high school from which Special Forces Medal of Honor recipient, prisoner of war, and good personal

friend, Sergeant Major Jon R. Cavaiani, graduated.

After Jon's passing from a rare cancer, believed to have been associated with his service in Vietnam, our chapter initiated a special Jon Cavaiani Scholarship Fund for selected seniors at his former high school in Livingston CA.

There are two methods to donate to the scholarship fund: If you wish all your donation to be placed in the fund, you may directly donate via PayPal:

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=BLYKHUMEGZ5N4](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=BLYKHUMEGZ5N4)

If you wish to purchase wine, the best deal is to order a case (mixed or matched). Cases are shipped free, while individual bottles will incur a shipping charge, depending on the distance shipped. The cost, to the chapter, for each case of wine is \$240. The sale price is \$300, thus ensuring \$60 per case going to the scholarship fund. Each bottle costs the chapter \$20 apiece and are sold for \$25 apiece (plus postage if applicable), thus assuring \$5 per bottle being placed in the scholarship fund. Wine can be ordered by using the wine order form on the attached PDF.

Please keep in mind that the Special Forces Association, and your donation, is an IRS approved charitable contribution. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [djames@mlode.com](mailto:djames@mlode.com). SLURP SENDS, aka Dick James!

**And**, Forwarded: From: Chapter President <[sfachapter100@gmail.com](mailto:sfachapter100@gmail.com)>, Thu, Apr 26,

2018; Subject: Limited Time, Quiet Professionals T-Shirt

Chapter 100 has partnered with Nine Line Apparel to come up with the design for this T-shirt:

<https://www.ninelineapparel.com/categories/shop-apparel/by-category/limited-time-designs/veteran-inspired/the-quiet-professionals.html>

Proceeds from all sales of these t shirts will come back to Chapter 100 and our efforts to support SF here on Bragg. Can you help us out and spread the word to all our SFA Brothers. The T shirts will only be on sale for the next 6 days, then they are gone.

Thanks, Mark

[Nine Line Apparel is a veteran owned company that was featured on Fox and Friends.]

**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](mailto:Lachelts@gmail.com).

**The Chapter Facebook page:** is located at [www.facebook.com/sfachapterXX](http://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.