

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

The "20/20" Flash

President: Ron Lachelts
Lachelts@gmail.com, 952-882-1249
Webmaster: Doug Brown
bftc@hutchtel.net
Chapter Website: www.sfa20.org

May 2019

425 3rd Street West
Winthrop, MN 55396

Treasurer: Matt Mitlyng
Mitlyng@gmail.com, 763-257-9404
Secretary/Editor: Dan Kaiser
kais0063@umn.edu, 507-647-3526
www.facebook.com/sfachapterXX

It is with heavy heart that we inform you that Jerry Huntington, Sr has passed, The funeral was April 24th with interment at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Jerry requested that his pallbearers all be paratroopers. As Ron noted, "Jerry was one of the paratroopers we all wished we could have served with, or been."

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next Chapter meeting is at 7pm, on

Tues, May 7th, 2019,

at the

Cherokee Tavern,

886 Smith Ave S, West St Paul.

Great Environment. Great Food: a full menu with a Tuesday Night Special: incredible hamburgers.

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:

Memorial Day at Fort Snelling

starts at 9 am at the Airborne Circle for our (SF and Airborne) activities followed by a march to the Cemetery Parade activities at

10 am. Our Southeast Asia allies have been the bulk of the group marching and we will march with them. The cemetery parade, speeches, and band last about an hour.

Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade

is Saturday, July 6th. 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.

We talked about getting the word out through Facebook (Matt), a flyer (Dan), and using the MAG (Military Action Group at the State Capital) but I am not sure if we figured out how to do this.

All Airborne Days,

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

Brunch with Babs:

(My label, generated from an email.) Babs Komac sent an email to the Chapter: An Australian friend, Tom Yoe, of Eddy's and mine is coming to Minnesota in September. I would like to have a brunch for him and his wife on September 14th or 15th (Saturday or

Sunday.) I am thinking about using the Cherokee Tavern.

I would like the Chapter to consider coming to the brunch (along with Eddy's VVA Chapter.) I am looking for a count of guys and gals who are interested.

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

Let me know—Babs.

[Editorially: we will be addressing this at the Chapter Business meeting. We will figure out a system to find out who is interested in doing Brunch with Babs.]

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 April 2nd, 2019 Chapter Business Meeting started at 7pm. Members present at the meeting were:

Jim Behr	John Wilcox
Ron Lachelt	Trudell Guerue
Laurie Johnson	Dave Turner
Matt Mitlyng	Scott Walker

Bob Pike Dan Kaiser

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

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

As an AAR, Scott discussed testifying at Minnesota legislature on two pieces of legislation and the Vietnam Veterans Day activities at Fort Snelling on March 29th. The Hmong had their strong showing and Chapter members who were able to attend were Jim Behr and Doug Brown.

For Upcoming Activities we discussed Memorial Day as an upcoming activity. Information is on the previous page. We talked about the Two Harbors Heritage Day Parade. Again, information is listed on the previous page. We talked briefly about All Airborne Days, and, of course, it is listed above.

As an AAR: Trudell talked about the Forest Lake American Legion Vietnam Veterans Day. Trudell, Doug Bekke, and Bob Pike were able to attend. The crowd numbered at 400 people and it was a good program.

On Projects: John Wilcox noted that General Joe Votel, a Saint Paul native, a Ranger, JSOC CG, and Centcom CG, has recently retired and returned to Minnesota. The Chapter, through John, will extend an invitation to the General, for a casual meet and greet, like breakfast with the Rangers at their monthly Perkins breakfast. More information to follow.

Ron noted that he has read Joe Celeski's recent book, *The Green Berets in the Land of a Million Elephants*, and he highly recommends it. This is the book where Joe interviewed John Roy, Bob Pike, and some of the Hmong.

SFA National Raffle Tickets have been mailed. Support the Association, support your chapter.

Chapter 15 of the 173rd has had to move their meeting location, but I lost track

of where they are meeting. But, that's okay, they are also looking at having their meetings at the Cherokee Tavern.

There being no further business, we closed the meeting.

An AAR, From Bob: On Thursday, April 18th, Bob presented the SFA Certificate for Excellence to LT Cha Yang at the Washington Magnet School in ST Paul. LT Yang also received the Tandem Skydiving Jump Certificate, which he can use when he is 18. His jump will take place at the Baldwin Drop Zone when he is ready to redeem it.

Chapter 20 offered this award for the first time last year and when it was announced the entire room gave out a loud cheer. The school principal said we got quite a rise out of the cadets.

Also at the Ceremony were the US Army Reserve and three members of the American Legion. There were several other organizations who presented certificates and awards.

Bob was also asked to present the Purple Heart Award, because he has received one and the presenter is required to have it, in order to present it. There were 129 seniors in the class.

From: Kevin Harry sfchapter68@gmail.com
on the **2019 SFA Convention**
To SFA Chapter Presidents,

I wanted to provide a quick update:

Please get your members to follow our FB Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/414687942607823/> We will be posting updates and key information up to and during the convention. This is the easiest way to receive updated information, especially during the convention.

There are only 58 days until Registration Fees increase to \$150.00. Please encourage your members to register early. This will save them some money and, more importantly, allow Chapter 68 to plan more effectively. We have to approximate numbers early so that we can

order coins, glassware, bottles of wine and other items given away during the convention. Many of these items must be ordered 60 days out to ensure their arrival.

Rooms in the Marriott and Embassy Suites are filling up. If you still need to make reservations, do so in the next 60 days. If you are coming with a larger group, consider staying, as a group, in the Holiday Inn Express. They have the largest block of rooms remaining. It is a nice hotel right across from the Convention Center (Banquet), will have its own Hospitality Suite and there will be shuttle vans available to take you to the other hotels, if needed. It is about a block from the Marriott and two blocks from the Embassy Suites.

Look for updates on what restaurants that are participating in 'The Taste of Charleston' and the menus for each.

If you have any questions, please call (304) 962-8017. Thanks. Kevin Harry

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/sfchapterXX

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 United States Army Special Operations Command History Office has mailed the latest edition of the *Veritas*, the Journal of Army Special Operations History. We will be carrying the few extra copies that we have to meetings and activities and everyone is welcome to pick up the latest edition while we have them.

As noted on the inside cover, the Azimuth, the format of the *Veritas* will be

changing to a “multimedia approach.” I am under the impression that this includes an updated website location on the official USASOC portal.

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.

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: Concordia University’s Buetow Auditorium on Hamline Avenue just south of Interstate 94. Parking is free: Concordia University, 300 Hamline Avenue North, St Paul, MN 55104

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 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.