

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

The "20/20" Flash

President: Ron Lachelt
Lachelts@gmail.com
Webmaster: Doug Brown
bftc@hutchtel.net

July 2014

425 3rd Street West
Winthrop, MN 55396
Chapter Website: www.sfa20.org

Treasurer: Matt Mitlyng
Mitlyng@gmail.com, 763-208-6487
Secretary/Editor: Dan Kaiser
kais0063@umn.edu, (507) 647-3526

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. Senators Franken and Klobuchar have co-sponsored Senate Bill S.2337, Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act.

[Further, in a separate e-mail on a meeting with a "Staff Director, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs," they recommended focusing on republican representatives because the House and Senate Bills co-sponsors are a majority of democratic members.]

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 US 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 Insixiengmay, Former SGU Col. GM 33 Commander (Please visit our website: www.royallao.org.)

New Members: We have added **Rod Knight** to the Newsletter mailing list. John Roy was at the Twin Cities VA hospital and he had on some SF patch. Rod introduced himself to John and they talked for a while. Rod does live in northwestern Wisconsin and he was in 7th Special Forces Group.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at the

**Glockenspiel Restaurant
Tues, July 1st, 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:

**Happy Birthdays, June 28th, 2 pm
Winona Guerue, Jerry Huntington, Sr,
and a WWII Veteran**

whose name I failed to write down

Trudell invited everyone to a Birthday Party, with burgers, brats and other refreshments, at 2 pm on 28 June at his house, for his daughter Winona, the vaunted Korean War 187th vet Jerry Huntington, Sr, and our mysterious WWII paratrooper.

Trudell was okay with an open invitation to everyone on our mail lists. Apparently Trudell expects every paratrooper in the five state region, and all of their family members and friends, to show up for this incredible birthday party. For directions, please call Trudell or Ellen at 651-329-8360.

On July 5th, The Monthly Ranger Break-

fast: The first Saturday of every month, there is a 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 Saturday, July 12th

Come on up for the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade and activities. Attend what events you can, and have a great time being there.

If you can make it, the weekend begins Friday afternoon at Keith and Jean's place with a dinner of, typically, fresh-caught lake trout. You can google 1796 WALDO

RD, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616; or call Keith for directions, 218-834-4600.

Saturday Morning starts with the Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. We normally get there by 9:00 am. After breakfast we get ready for the Parade and link up at the corner of 7th Avenue and 7th Street. We form up for the parade at 12:30; with a Parade start time of 1pm.

We are the fourth entry in the Parade and it is a rain or shine parade. Any member wishing to ride in the Parade truck, instead of marching, can do so.

After the parade we R&R at the American Legion and watch as a few of the bands from the parade play in the Legion Hall. We typically have the best seats in the house...it is great fun

Afterward, dinner is back at the Larson house and then we just play out the rest of the day.

This is a large parade with usually 90 to 100 entries.

Camping is always available and, if weather turns bad, shelter. Keith & Jean's phone # is 218 834-4600. You can jump on a computer and usually find a Two Harbor website for more info.

**The Nineteenth Annual
All Airborne Days
are Saturday, August 23rd
from Noon to 6 pm
at the Fort Snelling Contact Club**

See the enclosed flyer for detailed information. Make your reservations early and your name will be put on the access list at the Fort Snelling Gate. If you are not on the access list at the Gate, come to the picnic anyway. The Midwest All Airborne folks have conditioned the Gate SP's to give a call to the picnic, the group then sends a person to vouch for the unannounced guests.

Benefit Fundraiser for the Green Beret Foundation: the Grizzly Rock Ranch, in partnership with Tactical Solutions International, Inc, will be holding their 4th Annual Benefit Fundraiser for the Green Beret Foundation 22-24 August near Crowheart, Wyoming. Doug Brown was able to attend last year and he had a great time. Go to the Chapter website for more information: <http://www.sfa20.org/>

Annual Chapter Picnic: has been set for September 20. More information to follow.

After Action Report: Meeting Minutes: The March Business Meeting was on 4 March and started at 7 pm. Present were
Jeff Arnold Bob Pike
Doug Bekke John Roy
Col. Khao Bouachan Sinouthasy
Ron Lachelt Jerry Carlson
Mike McIlheny Jack Running
Gary Pennebaker Dan Kaiser
Steve Aflveby and Wendy
Trudell and Ellen Guerue

The Secretary introduced the newest guests. Steve made a motion to accept February Meeting Minutes, as published in the March Newsletter. John Seconded the motion and it was carried.

There was no Financial Report.

We discussed the Lao Veterans' trip to Wisconsin, the All Airborne Dayz at the Baldwin DZ, and a possible Facebook page. Doug Bekke talked about the 2015 Exhibit on the Vietnam War: Through the Words and Pictures of Minnesota Vets.

Mike McIlheny talked about the upcoming (March 17) Veterans on the Hill. He noted that you, the faithful reader, can always google "MDVA," hit the "About" tab, and find the legislative update link on actions pertinent to Veterans.

Trudell discussed the Corrigedor Dinner on 19 April.

John made a motion to close the meeting. Ron seconded the motion and it was carried.

The April Business Meeting was on 1 April and started at 7 pm. Present were

Jeff Arnold	John Roy
Doug Bekke	Bouachan Sinouthasy
Col. Khao	Jerry Carlson
Ed Komac	Trudell Guerue
Ron Lachelt	Jack Running
Bob Pike	Dan Kaiser

The Secretary noted that he did not have the March Meeting Minutes available. There was no Financial Report.

Col. Khao talked about the Lao Vets trip to Wisconsin. Jack Running noted that it was the best trip yet, thanking Col Khao and Bouachan for all of their hard work.

In talking about the upcoming activities, Trudell talked about the upcoming Corrigedor/Junction City/Mosul Dinner on 19 April at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club.

On the All Airborne Dayz: Ed made a motion that Ron Lachelt be authorized to buy hamburgers, brats, chips, sodas, water, etc, to support the All Airborne Dayz. John seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Secretary mentioned that the Washington Technology Magnet School had contacted the Chapter about possibly awarding the SFA JROTC Award to some deserving young cadet. After a little discussion, and Bob Pike volunteering to present the award, the Chapter agreed to proceed with the award idea.

Trudell talked about the next Memorial Stones in the Airborne Circle at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. The Midwest All Airborne will hopefully be dedicating two Memorial Stones at the Fort Snelling Cemetery late in the summer or in the early fall. The first stone is for the 551st Airborne and the costs have been covered. A second memorial stone is being planned and donations are being accepted. Ed made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the second memorial stone. Jeff seconded the motion and it was carried.

Trudell noted that individual contributions can be sent to the Twin Cities Monument company. Contact Trudell for details.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The May Business Meeting was on 6 May and started at 7 pm. Present were

Jeff Arnold	Bob Pike
Ed Komac	John Roy
Ron Lachelt	Trudell Guerue
Matt Mitlyng	Jack Running
Gary Pennebaker	Dan Kaiser

The Secretary noted that he did not have the March or April Meeting Minutes available. Ron made a motion to accept the Financial Report, as given by Matt. John seconded the motion and it was carried.

As an AAR, Trudell spoke on the Corrigedor/Junction City/Mosul Dinner. It was a great turn out with two Airborne speakers, one, a Staff Sergeant who jumped into Mosul, Iraq, and the other, a Chief Warrant Officer attached to 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters in Iraq. Discussions also covered the Honor Flights, assisting WWII veterans in getting to the WWII Monument in Washington, DC.

Bob Pike discussed the SFA JROTC Award for the Navy JROTC program at Washington Technology Magnet School: everything was set for 8 May.

On All Airborne Dayz: First, the name was changed to "Jumping with the Best," and then details and arrangements were confirmed and coordinated.

The All Airborne Days in August were discussed. The Secretary asked for ideas to get more Chapter Folks to attend, but no one had any ideas.

There being no further business, John made a motion to close. Ed seconded the motion and it was carried.

The June Business Meeting was on 3 June and started at 7 pm. Present were

Jeff Arnold	Matt Mitlyng	Bob Pike
John Roy	Doug Bekke	Col. Khao
Ed Komac	Ron Lachelt	Jerry Carlson
Nate Anderson		Trudell Guerue
Bouachan Sinouthasy		Jack Running

The Secretary noted that he still did not have the March, April, or May Meeting Minutes available. (To which, three people jumped complaining about the terrible job the Secretary was doing with the minutes and the Newsletter and that they would do a better job. A fistfight broke out for the job and it lasted 27 seconds. The fight was only resolved by.... No. No. No. No. Wait. That was only my imagination. Again.)

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

As an AAR: Bob Pike discussed the SFA JROTC Award presentation at the Washington Technology Magnet School. The ceremony went well and we discussed continuing to do it next year.

On Upcoming Activities: Jumping with the Best, at the Baldwin DZ on 7 June was discussed. Except for the weather, everything else was sent and ready to go.

Trudell invited everyone to a Birthday Party, with burgers, brats and other refreshments, at 2 pm on 28 June at his house, for his daughter Winona, the vaunted Korean War 187th vet Jerry Huntington, Sr, and our mysterious WWII paratrooper.

When asked if the information should be included in the Newsletter, as an open broadcast for everyone to attend, he was surprised that we even had to ask. Apparently Trudell expects every paratrooper in the five state region, and all of their family members and friends, to show up for this incredible birthday party.

We discussed the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade on 12 July: Except carrying the flags up to Two Harbors, every other planning detail is on Keith Larson. So...we should be good-to-go.

We covered the All Airborne Days, noon on 23 August at the Fort Snelling Officer Club, and the Memorial Stone

Dedication at the Fort Snelling Cemetery, with the time and day still to be determined.

Col. Khao discussed the Lao Vets work on getting recognition for their service getting extended to include burial in US National Cemeteries. The discussion on the first page of the Newsletter covers this area.

Doug Bekke discussed the Minnesota Military Museum's Exhibit for year 2015; the Vietnam War: Through the Words and Pictures of Minnesota Vets. For more information, see the sheet at the end of Newsletter.

Ed made a motion to close. Matt seconded the motion and it was carried.

Jumping With The Best at the Skydive Twin Cities Drop Zone near Baldwin, Wisconsin was on Saturday, 7 June, and Sunday, June 8th. The Saturday jumps were cancelled because of weather. We hope you got the call. On Sunday's jump:

From Ron Lachelt: We had beautiful weather and everyone was smiling. Harold Roy, "straphung" on a flight and got to watch the jumpers exit the aircraft. I wonder what he was thinking about compared to Normandy 70 years ago?

Check out the chapter website. Doug has done a nice job putting together a slide show of the jump on Sunday.

From Ron, on the Veritas Magazine: I just received the new issue and it is great! Those wanting to subscribe to the quarterly issues (Free!) should use the contact below. This is one of the last of the "good deals"! USASOC

ATTN: ADHS Veritas (Dr. Tracy)
E-2929 Desert Storm Drive
Ft. Bragg, NC 28310
or email Dr. Tracy at jared.tracy@soc.mil.

Include a link to Army Special Operations or list any applicable military service. If you email and do not get a response, it is because of the spam filters and you should assume you didn't get through.