

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

The "20/20" Flash

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Congratulations to Doug Bekke and his family on the arrival of his first grandchild. But, since the grandchild was born in New Hampshire, we were not able to get details on the baby. Apparently he cries with a New England accent, what ever that might sound like.

We have (finally) added John Roy's daughter Dalelynn Means to our mailing list. Sorry about taking so long to get it done.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at 7pm at the

**Richfield American Legion,
Tues, April 3rd, 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.

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: 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 Association at the Hearthside Pizza, 1640 Rice Street, St. Paul.

3rd Thursday of the Month: **Midwest All Airborne Alliance** at the Richfield American Legion, 6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield.

If you have a group to add to this list, just let me know, Dan at 507-647-3526.

After Action Reviews: Meeting Minutes:
The March 6th Business Meeting: Present at the meeting were:

Trudell Guerue
Col Khao
Matt Mitlyng
Bob Pike
Dave Turner
Scott Walker
Dan Kaiser

Bob mad a motion to accept the December and January Meeting Minutes, as published in the February 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.

Under Old Business, we discussed the Royal Lao Day Celebration on March 24th. All were encouraged to spread the word and attend the celebration.

We talked about the Washington Magnet School JROTC Award.

Scott Walker talked about Minnesota public television TPT using U.S. veterans to promote a Ken Burns film. Debates had revolved around whether to accept or turn down an invitation to other projects extending from the film. Trying to do right, by as many people as possible, has to be balanced against all of the information omitted from the film, such as the war being called the communist war of aggression by the indigenous people of the area, who now reside here in Minnesota, as US citizens.

Ron noted that he had watched the first three episodes of the Burns film, but then lost interest. The problem is Burns' reputation being used to accept one side of the war as "history" and ignoring the other side.

Scott Walker then talked about the work on a General Vessey Memorial. The first sticking point is the Minnesota Historical Society's requirement that an individual be deceased for 10 years before a monument can be erected. Discussions will be held on erecting a monument at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

We talked briefly on the next Jump at the Baldwin Drop Zone in Baldwin, Wisconsin. More information to follow.

Next, on the next Christmas dinner, Ron has confirmed the Bloomington Knights of Columbus Hall for Saturday, December 1st, 2018. Bob made a motion to pay the required deposit to the Hall. Dan seconded the motion and it was carried.

There being no further business, Ron made a motion to close. Bob seconded the motion and we closed the meeting.

Forwarded by SFA National: Forward from The OSS Society, Inc., <oss@ossociety.org>

The snow storm that hit Washington last Wednesday could not stop the presentation of the OSS Congressional Gold Medal. Nice try, Mother Nature. Thanks to everyone who helped make this historic event happen.

It has come to our attention that people attending our receptions may have been approached by charities, museums and United States government employees seeking to acquire OSS artifacts and/or recruit OSS veterans to participate in their events for fundraising purposes. We would advise you to be very wary of anyone who approaches you for any of these purposes. Please let us know if anyone contacts you or your family members.

If anyone inquires about your OSS artifacts, we hope you will inform them they are intended for the museum being built by The OSS Society: [The National Museum of Intelligence and Special Operations](#). The museum's purpose will be to honor Americans who have served at the "tip of the spear" since World War II and to inspire future generations to serve their country.

We hope you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to The OSS Society. Donations can be made online by clicking [here](#) and on the "donate" button or by sending a check made payable to The OSS Society, Inc. to the address below. Your generosity will enable The OSS Society to continue its mission of honoring the OSS, its successor organizations, and educating the American public about the importance of strategic intelligence and special operations to the preservation of freedom.

The OSS Society can be found at: <http://www.ossociety.org/>

In forwarding the above, Cliff Newman noted that he was invited to attend the ceremony, but the worst snow storm in years was hitting DC, so he aborted. "I was sorry to miss the ceremony but honored to have been invited."

And: We have been recommending a web site, "blazerboutique," for purchasing green blazers. They certainly appreciate our business and have made an offer that will run through 31 July. They even offer one for any ladies who may want a blazer. Go to the following links and at check out enter the code SFA5. They will give you a \$5.00

discount. I had to get one last year when mine shrunk around the waist and found this company. I was pleased with the one I got.

<https://www.blazerboutique.com/product/unter-green-mens-blazer/>
<https://www.blazerboutique.com/product/unter-green-womens-blazer/>

Cliff Newman, Executive Director

And: forward from David Lucier,
davidflucier@gmail.com

ATTN: Mike Force Troopers

The conversation has started to have a gathering (and a special luncheon) of all Mike Force troopers during the 2018 Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) to take place at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas from October 15th to 19th. If you are interested (no commitment at this time), please reply in the comment section: "YES" or "NO". Here's the link for your convenience: https://www.facebook.com/pg/MikeForceAssociation/posts/?ref=page_internal

Thanks, David F. Lucier

From Ron: Bob Pike, Dave Turner and I recently attended a funeral at Ft. Snelling Cemetery for Ed Haider, an 82nd trooper and POW from WWII. He wrote a book about his 2 years imprisonment and long walk from Sicily to Germany. The book is titled Blood in our Boots. It is available on Amazon in new and used condition. 96 years old! What a guy. Thanks again to Bob and Dave for being out on a cold day!

And: 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. More information is at <http://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/index.jsp?id=1066-326198>

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 Deusch 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.

April 12, 2018 The Greatest Field Commander – Lucian Truscott. Harvey Ferguson, Author of The Last Cavalryman, and Veterans that served in his Commands will reveal the experiences of what happened in Italy and France by a Commander who has been rated as the Greatest Field Commander of WWII

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.



Forwarded by Dave Nordan,

From the Fayetteville Observer: The 82nd Airborne Division plans to honor the heroes of

its past this year with a new All American Hall of Fame.

An introductory class will be unveiled during the division's annual All American Week in May, according to spokesman Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino. The class will be announced April 17. Buccino said the first class will include 10 to 20 veterans. They will be enshrined at the division's Hall of Heroes on May 23, the same day of the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial.

Officials have already announced some of the honorees, which will include two former division commanders — Lt. Gen. James "Jumpin' Jim" Gavin and Gen. Matthew Ridgway — and all seven of the division's Medal of Honor recipients.

Gavin made four combat jumps during the war. He took command of the 82nd Airborne Division in August 1944, before Operation Market Garden. After the war, he was instrumental in the division becoming the first integrated infantry division in the Army when he welcomed the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, better known as the Triple Nickles, into the All Americans.

In the future, each brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division will be able to nominate three veterans to be honored, Buccino said. But no more than five will be selected from across the division. A panel that includes division leaders will make the final selections.

And: from an unit newsletter: All Americans never stop being Paratroopers

"I jumped out of my first airplane in April of 1995," said Master Sgt. Travis Cooke, the 1st Battalion, 73rd Cavalry Regiment battalion sergeant major of operations. "Back then we graduated on Fryar Drop Zone. "My wife and one-year-old son came down to watch my last jump, and the wing pinning ceremony," he added.

Little did Cooke know that 22 years later, the same son that watched him graduate Airborne School, would be jumping out of an airplane with his father. The jump that carried both father and son would be a millstone for the pair. For Travis, it would be his first jump with his son. For Cpl. Michael Cooke, an Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment

team leader, it would be his fifth jump and qualify him as a paratrooper.

While visiting the Airborne School, Travis was able to jump not once, but twice with his son. "I was able to jump twice with my son," said Travis. "Mirroring our family experience, his two-year-old daughter was running around Fryar Drop Zone, and watched her daddy jump for the fifth time."

For Michael, the contrast in attitudes between his classmates and father when preparing to exit the aircraft spoke volumes.

"Anybody that's been to Airborne School knows that there's terrified faces all on that plane," said Michael. "Everybody is fricking scared; it's their first time jumping out, their first couple of times.

"You look past all those terrified faces, you just see my dad happy as hell, just smiling ear to ear, loves what he does and that was a pretty big turning point for me; (that's) when I realized that jumping out of an airplane can be fun. It doesn't have to be just scary," Michael added.

Travis was able to share another pivotal moment for paratroopers when he was able to pin the coveted silver wings up Michael's chest. "But it gets even better; Airborne School allows 2nd and 3d generation Paratroopers to be pinned by their predecessors, so I got to go up and put his airborne wings on his chest," said Travis.

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.

