

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

The "20/20" Flash

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

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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/sfchapterXX

It is with heavy heart that we report the passing of John Staads. John served with 5th Group and the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was a member of the both of those Associations. He was active with the Hmong/Lao community serving as an instructor with the Mike Force program in St. Paul.

John was a generous guy and I remember the gathering we had at his house after 9/11 and buffalo steaks over an open fire. John had gone to the recruiter right after 9/11 telling him he was ready to go anywhere, anytime for our country. Unfortunately, we all exceeded the age requirements. Nevertheless, he was ready to serve when our country needed soldiers.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Pass this on to anyone that knew John.

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at 7pm at the

**Richfield American Legion,
Tues, Aug 1st, 2017**

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:

Midwest All Airborne Days: Starts at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery on **Saturday, Aug 19th, 2017.**

Skydive for Vets: is scheduled for **Saturday, Sep 9th, 2017** with a weather back-up day of Sunday, September 10th.

We will be using the Skydive Twin Cities Drop Zone in Baldwin, Wisconsin (about 30 minutes into Wisconsin on I-94.)

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: As noted in the last Newsletter, we did not hold a **July Business Meeting**, so we have no Meeting Minutes.

The Two Harbors Heritage Day Parade:

What a wonderful time again at the Two Harbors Heritage Days Festival. Staying at Keith and Jean Larson's and renewing acquaintances is always satisfying. We have made it through another year! Friday night spent at Keith's Teamhouse (the man cave garage) and reviewing what we had each been up to all year was fun.

Bob Pike, Gary Hedin, Dan Kaiser, Ron Lachelt, and Tim Kirk and the Marine charter boat captain that cut his leg with the chain saw made up the crew. Missing this year was Mike Erkel and his wife who had previous commitment. Conversations centered around Ranger Roy being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, and the book Route 9 Problem by Dave Stockwell.

Keith and Jean Larson and Ron Lachelt attended the Ranger Hall Of Fame ceremony at Ft. Benning for John Roy. It was a hot day, but cool in the new Airborne and Ranger Training Command building that is sited where the old Infantry OCS building used to sit. The jump towers are still there and all of the training now occurs near the towers. It used to be located at a couple of other sites for Ground Week. Remember the sawdust pits in the summer?

I picked up a copy of the *Route 9 Problem* book at the SFA conference earlier this summer. It deals with the "problem on Route 9" going to Khe Sanh that the NVA had with Lang Vei Special Forces camp. The author interviewed as many participants as possible to write the book. Tim Kirk spent some time with the author describing his team's roll in attacking the camp after the NVA had taken over the camp. Pretty hairy stuff!

Up in the morning and getting ready for breakfast at the Two Harbors Fire Station, we arrived just before the rush. Ken Larson, Keith's twin brother, (82nd Abn) arrived and joined our party. Bob Pike had trailed up his M37 vehicle and drove the kids, young and old to the fire station and back. After a short time, we left for the parade, we rendezvoused at the watering hole across

from the corner bar we used to go to. Jim Hovda showed up. Good to see him again!

Little bit of problem with the M37 getting started but we were on our way down the parade route at 1300 hrs sharp. Warm day, but great crowd that really show their appreciation for veteran's. Marty's Goldenaires, the great drum and bugle corps from Bessemer, MI, weren't able to attend this year due to a prior commitment. We finally got them trained to play the "Ballad of the Green Berets" for us! They will be back next year though. They really put on a show for all the vets and families at the American Legion after the parade. They are worth the trip alone!

Great buffet dinner at Keith and Jean's at the end of the day! A big tip of the Beret to Keith and Jean for allowing us to join them and their community for their celebration. Keith put Bob in touch with a neighbor, Mark, who does military vehicle restoration and between them, they were able to diagnose the problem with the M37 and Bob was able to pick up a tailgate. That is what is great about these types of gatherings, you get to meet people that have connections to things, ideas or other people that help to enrich our lives.

Next year, when our Marine buddy's leg is healed we are looking at chartering his boat for some fishing on Lake Superior before the weekend for some fun!

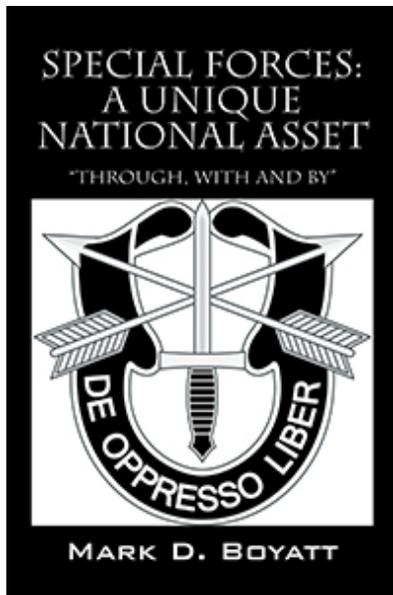
From Dan Thorson: For an article on John Roy's induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame:

<https://www.armytimes.com/articles/meet-the-newest-members-of-the-armys-ranger-hall-of-fame>

From SFA HQ's: Please note the link below to a book that was written by the wife of an A/5/19 18D who just got back from deployment entitled "My Dad is a Green Beret." It is written through the eyes of a child who's father is deployed. I think it is something the Family Readiness Groups

may be interested in providing for families with young children. Please check it out. www.blurb.com/b/7984160-my-dad-is-a-green-beret

Cliff Newman, Executive Director



Special Forces: A Unique National Asset, "through, with and by" by Colonel (Retired) Mark D. Boyatt

Outskirts Press releases a new book by Mark D. Boyatt, U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel (Retired): *Special Forces—A Unique National Asset: "Through, With and By"*. Colonel Boyatt's new book is an insider's guide to the U.S. military's Green Berets, the Special Forces—who they are, what they do, and what their role is in unconventional warfare.

There are plenty of Special Operations Forces and plenty of elements that claim to be Special or Special Operations Forces, but there is only one organization that is Special Forces—the Green Berets. The term "special forces" is often misused by well-meaning, but ill-informed, people; including the news media, pundits, and even those in the military. The Army's Green Berets are the only Special Forces in the United States military and represent the most adaptable and specialized organization in the nation's arsenal. And their exploits hold a special fascination for the American public.

This book also defines "unconventional warfare." Boyatt makes the case that unconventional warfare is the prime mission of Special Forces and may be a U.S.-supported and conceivably inspired insurgency or revolution. UW is total warfare for the indigenous population, who must use every means at their disposal to effect regime change, whether they are a tyrannical government or an occupying power. The Green Berets' motto, "*De Oppresso Liber*," Latin for "to free the oppressed," is a call to duty unique to this elite military force.

Available as a paperback, \$22.95; or as a hardback w/ jacket, \$32.95; or as an ebook. Available at:

www.outskirtspress.com/specialforces;

Receive up to 25% off at:

www.outskirtspress.com/bookstore.

From Oly Olson: On the Vietnam Wall The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site. Go to <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm> and click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

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. You can also drop off your pictures or news at the next Chapter meeting. Thanks! Ron

The Chapter Facebook page: is located at www.facebook.com/sfchapterXX

