

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

# *The "20/20" Flash*

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

The next meeting is at the

**Richfield American Legion,  
Tues, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

The Richfield American Legion is at 6501 Portland Avenue south.

You can use the Crosstown Freeway, Highway 62, and the Portland Ave exit and go south, to just-short-of 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Or you can use Highway 77 and the 66<sup>th</sup> Street exit and go west to Portland Avenue. The Richfield American Legion is in the northeast corner of the Portland Avenue and 66<sup>th</sup> Street intersection.

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. If we have a meeting, it will start at 7pm.

## **Dues Dues Dues Dues**

It is that time of year again. You were expected to pay 2016 Dues by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not paid your dues yet, you can still pay the noted prices on the renewal forms by January 31<sup>st</sup>. After January 31<sup>st</sup> there is an additional charge to get you loaded back into the SFA computer.

If you are a member, we are asking you to re-new your membership. If you qualify for membership and you are not

currently a member, we are asking you to consider becoming a member of the Special Forces Association.

(Of course, if you qualify but do not want to become a member, or if you are a friend of the Chapter, I will keep sending you the Newsletter until you ask me to stop.)

You can download the forms from the Chapter website, [www.sfa20.org](http://www.sfa20.org), or the SFA website,

<http://www.specialforcesassociation.org/about/membership/>

And, if you go to the SFA website, you can for renew your membership on the website, by credit card.

If you use the traditional paper forms to join, or re-new, please mail the forms to:

Chapter XX, SFA  
C/O Matt Mitlyng  
3759 Tower Pond Road  
Anoka, MN 55303-8308

**After Action Reviews: Meeting Minutes:**  
**The December Business Meeting** was on December 1<sup>st</sup> and started at 7 pm. Present for the meeting:

Doug Bekke	Bob Pike
Laurie Johnson	John Roy
Ron Lachelt	Jack Running
Matt Mitlyng	Dan Kaiser

Ron made a motion to accept the November Meeting Minutes, as published in the December Newsletter. Matt seconded

the motion and it was carried.

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

We noted that the move to the Richfield American Legion was made necessary by the closing of the Fort Snelling Officers' Club. Which led to quite a bit of speculation on why it was closed and what would become of the property.

We discussed the last Veterans Day activities at the Minnesota Vietnam Memorial. Ron made a motion to donate \$300.00 to Chapter 15 of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Society, to help cover the costs of the event. Bob seconded the motion and it was carried.

We covered the Christmas Dinner, talking about all the points of coordination, and then we mentioned SFA dues.

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

**Christmas Dinner:** The Christmas Dinner was on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington. It was a great time. We had Harold Roy bring a group of eight to the dinner. The Color Guard had familiar faces from Christmas's past, with a sprinkling of new members. The Silent Auction was another fantastic spread of donations. During the toasts, speaking for Ed, Babs Komac made the toast the Airborne. Doug Bekke spoke on World War I and linked it to today's soldiers. Ron Lachelt spoke as the Chapter President.

During Ron's comments, he did thank the following folks for all of their activities:

"Matt Mityng, our Chapter Treasurer, for organizing the meals, nametags, and keeping track of the expenses for the chapter.

"Jeff Arnold for contacting this venue, getting the cake, and ensuring that everything is set up for this evening.

"Dan Kaiser, our Chapter Secretary, who is also our emcee this evening. Dan organized and put together the evening's programs you see before you and coordinated the silent auction.

"Doug Brown, our chapter webmaster, deserves a big thank you for keeping Chapter XX up to date on the internet. Check the website for the latest news about the chapter.

"Thank you Jim Hecimovich. Jim has established a Facebook page for the chapter. Check it out for corresponding with other SF members.

"And, thank you, once again, to the recruiters from the U.S. Army Recruiting Station from Apple Valley for being the Color Guard."

Ron also noted that "Our chapter has had an eventful year and I would like to highlight some of our activities and acknowledge the efforts of those that made these things happen.

"Earlier in the year, we attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Lao Army. A number of our chapter members were able to attend and celebrate with our Lao friends. We were able to partake in great food, Lao Circle dancing, and share the evening with retired General Vessey and a number of other dignitaries and advisors from the Vietnam War.

"Later in July, Col. Khao invited us to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the immigration of the Lao to the United States. Thank you Col. Khao, and all of the Royal Lao for their kindness and friendship through the years.

"Each year, the Special Forces Association allows each chapter to award a leadership medal to Junior ROTC students. Bob Pike has made the presentation for the past two years to a deserving student.

"In addition, Bob coordinated the parachute jump in August with Skydive Twin Cities. Bob is always one of the first to volunteer to help out and, rain or shine, he always has a smile and "Can-do" attitude. Thank you Bob.

"A thank-you goes out to Bill Rouleau for working with the recruiters that form our Color Guard tonight. In addition, Bill works with the Tee-it-up-for-the-Troops golf fundraiser and has involved our Chapter for the past few years. The money raised is used to help disabled veterans and other assistance programs.

"In July, we made our annual trip to Two Harbors and marched in the Heritage Days parade. Keith and Jean Larson once again opened their home to us for the weekend. One of

the best things about this weekend is the patriotism and kindness you see in Two Harbors, whether it is at the Saturday morning pancake breakfast at the Fire Hall, or, as we are marching in the parade, the residents appreciate and welcome veterans. Once again, a big thank-you to Keith and Jean, and the people of Two Harbors, for allowing us to become a part of their community for the weekend. Try to stop by next summer, you will find it to be enjoyable.

“Doug Bekke, a Vietnam veteran, and a military historian and curator from the Ft. Ripley Military Museum, has worked for over two years with his staff to complete the Minnesota Voices of the Vietnam War exhibit. A number of our members attended the opening of the exhibit this past summer. The exhibit is still open and features a number of Chapter members during their younger years. Thank you Doug for all you do for our chapter and Minnesota’s veterans.

“Each year, airborne chapters from the Midwest All-Airborne Alliance hold a Veteran’s Day Memorial ceremony at the state capital. Thanks to Trudell Guerue, Doug Bekke, Tom Eckoff, Jack Running, Troy Lindstrand, the Royal Lao Veterans and many other veterans help to set up the venue with two hundred chairs. The St. Paul Central High School band played several patriotic songs and the Honor Guard salutes were held at the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam memorials. Open to the public, we have a large turnout.

“Every time we have an activity, the man to contact for flags or other memorial items is Jack Running. Whether it is a funeral at Ft. Snelling or at another location, you can be sure that the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Angel will be there with everything needed. Thank you Jack!

“A big thank-you from the Chapter to the individuals who each year provides items for the auction and the Chapter XX pens and calendars. We deeply appreciate your contributions.”

Ron concluded with, “Lastly, I wish you would keep chapter member Ed Komac in your thoughts and prayers. Ed is battling cancer and is facing a tough time, but with a courage and grace that is extraordinary and beyond admirable. If you can email or call Ed and talk to him or his wife, Babs it would be appreciated.

“Thank you all for attending tonight, have a great evening, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Airborne!”

### **Other Information:**

**On House Resolution 210:** H. Res. 210 affirms and recognizes the Khmer, Laotian, Hmong, and Montagnard Freedom Fighters and the people of Cambodia and Laos for their support and defense of the United States Armed Forces and freedom in South East Asia.

From an earlier email: My brothers in Arms, I ask your immediate support by calling these Representatives to support the H. Res. 210:

1. Rep. Timothy Walz      Tel: [202-225-2472](tel:202-225-2472)
2. Eric Paulsen            Tel: [202-225-2871](tel:202-225-2871)
3. Collin Peterson        Tel: [202-225-2165](tel:202-225-2165)
4. Rick Nolan              Tel: [202-225-6211](tel:202-225-6211)

Appreciate your help, Khao

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

(Editorially, since I have gotten way better at adding photos to the newsletter, please include me in the “cc” line for any pictures that you email to Ron.)

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

**From <http://www.quotationspage.com>:**

“After two years in Washington, I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood.”

Actor turned Senator, Fred Thompson, *Speech before the Commonwealth Club of California*

“Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.”

George Washington (1732 - 1799)

