

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

## *The "20/20" Flash*

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**New Folks:** We have recently added Jeff Wildes, Troy Nelson, and Jim Zehner to the Chapter mailing list. Jeff was in 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group from 2005 to 2012 and he now lives in St. Louis Park with his wife and toddler. (I can't remember how old or whether the child is a boy or girl.) He tracked us down by the Chapter website and came to the September Chapter Business meeting.

Troy Nelson is a young Ranger who was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion. We met Troy at the Twin Cities Skydive at the Baldwin, Wisconsin drop zone where he jumps and takes other folks on the tandem skydives.

We also met Jim Zehner at the Baldwin Drop Zone. Jim saw the "Jumping With The Best" flyer and he came out to the drop zone. Jim told us which unit he was in, in the early 60's, but I don't remember now what he said. Jim started skydiving in the early 60's. He took a job in Texas, learned to fly a plane, and on retirement returned to live in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Gentlemen, welcome to the Chapter.

[Editorially: other folks have joined the Chapter and the mail lists but I have done a terrible job adding your basic information to the Newsletter. If you have been added to the mail lists and I failed to list your information in this Newsletter, send me your information and let's get it in the Newsletter. The Goals: make you feel welcome to the

Chapter and let the other Chapter members know who you are and about you.]

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

The next meeting is at 7pm at the  
**Richfield American Legion,  
Tues, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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:**

**All Airborne Days:** The Midwest All Airborne Association will be holding this year's All Airborne Days Picnic on

## **Saturday, 29 September.**

The day begins with a remembrance of our brothers who were involved with the Midwest All Airborne Alliance. The Remembrance will be at the Airborne Circle in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, starting at 1030 hrs.

The Picnic is at the Richfield American Legion, Post 435, and starts around 1200 hrs, with lunch served at 1300 hrs. Lunch is buffet style, at \$8.00.

The Airborne Circle is in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery (just southeast of the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.) Some maps have the Airborne Circle printed on them, some maps don't.

The Airborne Circle is on Kraus Avenue, just east of Gate 3. If you have not seen the Airborne Circle, you should go by and see it, either for this activity or some other time.

The Richfield American Legion is in the northeast corner of Portland Avenue and East 66<sup>th</sup> Street (just northwest of the Airport) at 6501 Portland Avenue South.

**Veterans Day:** the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month;

## **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be at the Vietnam Memorial on the St. Paul Capitol grounds. Raise the US Colors at 6:30; followed by breakfast at the Keys' Restaurant, set-up at about 9:30, ceremony at 11:00. More info to follow.

**Christmas Dinner:** December. See the attached flyer.

**Monthly Activities:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month: Chapter XX, SF Association Meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month: **Ranger**

Breakfast at the Perkins on Lyndale in Bloomington, at 10 am. An informal gathering and all are invited.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month:

**Chapter XV, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade**

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 invited 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. Remember Red Green's line "We're all in this together." If you have a group, or information, to add to this list, just let me know: Dan, at 507-647-3526.

**After Action Reviews: Meeting Minutes:**  
**The August 7<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting:** Present at the meeting were:

Jim Behr

Jeff Wildes

Ron Lachelt  
Laurie Johnson  
Bob Pike

Jerry Carlson  
Noel Johnson  
Dan Kaiser

Bob made a motion to accept the August Minutes, as published in the September Newsletter. Jim seconded the motion and it was carried.

We talked about the upcoming All Airborne Days, Veterans Day, the Christmas Dinner, getting folks to come to events, how to get our information to Airborne folks in the area, Lao/Hmong legislation in California, and the Southeast Asia Allied Forces Veterans Memorial Monument at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

All Airborne Days, Veterans Day, and the Christmas Dinner information is put in appropriate sections of this Newsletter. Getting folks to come to events and how to get our information to Airborne folks in the area was a continuation of earlier conversations.

Col Khoa recently talked to Ron about legislation in California. While the legislation is a very good step forward, my notes are not now clear to me and I can not provide you a good or accurate report at this time. (Hell, my notes are so bad, I can't give you can't give you a bad report or even any reliable information. Sorry.)

Bob talked about the proposal on the Southeast Asia Allied Forces Veterans Memorial Monument at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. The location for the monuments has been shifted to near the "Urn Monuments" in the south central part of the Cemetery.

[Another editorial: I googled what is the name for places where urns are put in cemetery. The answer: an urn monument.]

There being no other business, Bob made a motion to close. Jim seconded the motion and we closed.

**From SFA HQ:** As of Wednesday, Sep 19, toward the end of the hurricane, we are still standing. Last night was touch and go. The Cape Fear River crested during the night. This morning water had reached the well pump house about 20 feet from the HQ

building but stopped. The pond and Rockfish creek looked to be receding. All I have to do is find a way to get to work. All roads from Spring Lake south to Fayetteville are closed from flooding. Tomorrow if none are open I'm going out to Southern Pines and come in the back way. About 120 miles, but what the hell. If not by Friday we'll be back up and running Monday. All I have to do is get the phones working.

Thanks to all for your continued support and well wishes.

Thursday: We are back up and running. No damage to the building and only three trees down on the grounds. Rockfish creek is up to the banks, but starting to recede. Thanks to all for your concerns

DOL, Cliff Newman, Executive Director, Special Forces Association

**From the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs:** Vietnam War Roundtable 2018-2019 Schedule. This new series at Concordia University is an opportunity for Veterans (and those interested in the war and its legacy) to gather on a monthly basis to honor, remember and understand this tumultuous time. Upcoming Events:

Native American Veterans and the Vietnam War, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

Stories from Veteran Voices Award Recipients, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

Marine Reconnaissance Units, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

**And:** Heroes & History, Oct. 14. Sitting high above the Mississippi River, the Minneapolis Veterans Home has provided care and respite for our state's Veterans since the 1880s. Produced by TPT with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Heroes & History introduces viewers to Veterans and staff and learn how this historic site has changed to meet the needs of its Residents

**From Steve Anderson:** Jan is a WW2 Historian who lives in Nijmegen, Holland. While visiting Nijmegen, Bob Gagne and I had the pleasure of meeting Jan in 2000. Bob Gagne was a high school classmate of

mine and has remained a close friend. Bob's father, Camille, was KIA on Sept 19, 1944, while making an assault with E Company, 505<sup>th</sup>, on the Bridge at Nijmegen. Jan was able, through the records recorded by a priest (who's name escapes me now), where every man was killed during their time in Nijmegen. Through those records he found the exact location where Camille Gagne died. Jan produced a small glass vile and spoon and filled the vile with soil from that exact location and handed it to Bob. I can't remember a more solemn moment in my life. Jan also maintains one of our soldiers grave in the American Cemetery in Margraten, Holland.

Jan, Thank you I wish Peace to you and yours. Steve Anderson

Original Message From: Jan Bos,  
Subject: 18 September 1944-2018,

Dear friends,

Today 74 years ago the 82nd Airborne Division received her artillery units, vehicles, the much needed ammunition and miscellaneous glider troops. The men and material were flown over in CG4A-Waco gliders, towed by the C-47 from the Troop Carrier Command. It was a welcome resupply for the 50 gliders which landed on 17 September 1944 on the fields of Klein America. On board of the gliders were 57mm anti tank guns of the 80th AA-AT Battalion. The 101st Airborne Division in the Eindhoven area and the British 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem also received reinforcements.

Now the C-47s towed the 450 gliders to drop/landing zone N and T at Groesbeek. The paratroopers had managed to capture their targets, only the big bridge across the Waal River at Nijmegen could not be captured. The 508th paratroopers were close to the bridge but were called back to recapture the drop/landing zone T on the Wylerbaan at Groesbeek, where the gliders would land. Shortly before the gliders landed, the landing zone was captured.

The IXth Troop Carrier Command lost eighteen C-47s and six gliders were shot down and crashed near the landing zones.

Many of the aircrew members were killed, wounded or captured or were able to jump from the burning airplanes.

Jan Bos

**Forwarded by SFA HQ's, [Extracts]** From the Army News Service, September 20, 2018: Green Berets finally together in Arlington after decades-long search, By Sean Kimmons.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. -- Holding back tears, Judi Boyer-Bouchard gently rubbed her fingers across her brother's name etched into a white marble headstone.

With two bundles of flowers in her other hand, she leaned over and placed one against the headstone. It was the first time she had seen the solemn marker for Sgt. 1st Class Alan Boyer, a 22-year-old Special Forces Soldier who disappeared in 1968 during a covert mission in Laos.

Decades later, Boyer's remains would be recovered by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, and later buried with full military honors here. Judi visited the cemetery in late June to mark the second anniversary of his funeral, or what she called his homecoming.

Five rows directly behind it, another headstone with a dark gold inscription -- signifying a Medal of Honor recipient --- drew her closer to the back of the cemetery's Section 28. There, she laid the rest of the flowers for 1st Lt. Doug Hagen, her brother's best friend who joined the Army on a sole mission to find his friend.

Boyer and Hagen, who was posthumously awarded the medal for his actions in the Vietnam War, were inseparable after they first met in high school in Decatur, Illinois.

Both were outgoing and leaders of their peers. In their senior year, Doug served as the class president and Boyer as the vice president.

Once Hagen heard Boyer had gone missing during his secretive mission, which was

to install a wiretap along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos, he left college and signed up for the Army.

Judi later learned Hagen had joined in hopes of discovering what had happened to her brother.

While in, Hagen was able to get assigned to the same unit as Boyer, called the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Studies and Observations Group, or MACV-SOG. The special operations unit conducted unconventional warfare missions behind enemy lines.

In the early morning of Aug. 7, 1971, his team came under a fierce enemy attack while on a mission in northern South Vietnam near the former U.S. Marine Corps base at Khe Sanh, for which he was awarded his Medal of Honor and in his desperate attempt to save others, he was fatally wounded.

Hagen's remains were subsequently returned to the U.S. and buried in Arlington. His close friend, however, was still unaccounted for.

Boyer's remains were located and returned with his funeral and burial on June 22, 2016, five rows from his friend, Doug Hagen.

Read the whole story at:

<https://www.army.mil/article/207798>

**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).

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