

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

The "20/20" Flash

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An SF Brother in distress: We got word through the SF Brothers Facebook page that Chapter member Tim Guth was having some trouble.

Tim made contact with the Chapter almost ten years ago, when he returned to Minnesota. Living in southeastern Minnesota he was not able to attend any activities or meetings, but he stayed in contact.

Following is the email that Ron Lachelt received and it started with the SF Brother Facebook page. (While I question the appropriateness of including the whole email, trimming it down detracted too much from the information.)

"Bill, Thank you so much for both finding us and for your concern for Tim. We were completely unaware of your group and the wonderful support you collectively offer to each other. Simply amazing!

"A bit of history on Tim and his condition. Approximately 2 1/2 years ago, Tim began to slur his speech and his personality began to dull a bit. We (his family) and his primary doctor attributed this to stress/anxiety and suggested he take time from work and rest for a month or two. Subsequently, he awoke one morning and could not speak at all. His fiancé took him to Emergency and they initially felt he had a stroke. Tim did not have a stroke and months of tests and doctors and neurologists finally determined (through ruling out many neuro-

logical conditions) that Tim had ALS and Front Temporal Dementia. FTD affects all of your executive reasoning skills - speech, cognitive ability, judgment and decision making. ALS is a fatal muscle deterioration disease. Tim got a double whammy.

"In the last year or so - Tim closed his law practice, lost his fiancé, rescued a dog, got his affairs in order and had taken some memorable trips with his family.

"Today, he is losing his battle. His hands have lost most strength, terribly thin, unable to speak or type, and has lost most of reading capability. He is struggling terribly to swallow, breathing will be next. And so it progresses.

"Tim has moved to his childhood home and is being cared for by his family and support from the VA. Fifty percent (yes 50%) of all diagnosed ALS patients are military veterans. There is some belief that these veterans were exposed to a chemical(s) that causes this disease.

"Please share this information with all of Tim's Guardian network. I am certain he will be overwhelmed and happy to hear this brotherhood, and certainly their prayers are welcome for a miracle and/or peaceful journey. So many friends have walked away. Watching someone die isn't for the faint of heart. Tim may be reached with cards and letters at: Tim Guth, 624 East Grove Street, Caledonia, MN 55921

“God speed and blessings to you all.”
Contacts are Eric Guth, (H) 608-304-4217,
or Cathi Guth, 612-817-6584. They welcome
visitors, but please call to arrange a visit.

Courtesy: Bill Ole Sen, SF Brothers

Gary Huffman and Jim Hecimovich,
from the Rochester area were able to see
him a few Sundays morning and they had a
great visit.

I am asking that you try to send a
card to Tim at the address above. If you are
going to be in the area, consider trying to
contact Eric or Cathy for a visit. Dan

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next Chapter meeting is at 7pm, on

Tues, Sep 3rd, 2019

at the

Cherokee Tavern,

886 Smith Ave S, West St Paul.

They have a great environment and
atmosphere with a full menu, complimented
with a Tuesday Night Special— an incredible
variety of hamburgers.

Parking can be a problem, but look
behind the Cherokee Tavern. While the
alley is usually filled, after 5pm you can park
in the Cherokee Dental parking lot.

I plan to be there early for dinner,
about 6 pm. Some folks show up early and
socialize until the meeting. Some folks just
come to the meeting. Either way, come on
out and enjoy the evening.

Upcoming Activities:

You're Invited

Brunch with Babs

Saturday, September 14th

11 am, Cherokee Tavern

Come on out and enjoy a nice Saturday
Morning with Babs Komac and her's and
Eddy's Australian friends Tom Yoe and his
wife. They are coming to Minnesota and

Babs has invited the Chapter to the brunch
(along with Eddy's VVA Chapter.)

Babs said Eddy went to see Tom in
Australia three times, including one time
marching in the ANZAC Parade, and that
this would be so special for Tom, giving him
a chance to meet you guys.

If you have even the slight interest,
come on out. Treat your wife to a relaxing
morning. You could still RSVP to Ron
Lachelt at 952-882-1249 or email him at
Lachelts@gmail.com. Or you could just
show up. And I support crashing any party.

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, 7:30
pm: **Chapter XV, 173rd Airborne Brigade**
is still held Hearthside Pizza, 1641 Rice St,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55117, [\(651\) 488-0549](tel:6514880549)

3rd 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 invite all interest-
ed folks to receive a copy of this Newsletter.
To support those Airborne folks, we do
include information from those groups, when
provided, in this letter.

After Action Reports: Meeting Minutes:

The Aug 6th, 2019 Chapter Business
Meeting started at 7pm. Members present
at the meeting were:

Jim Behr	John Wilcox
Ron Lachelt	Jerry Carlson
Mike McIlheny	Tiffany Koveliski
Bob Pike	Dave Turner
Bill Rouleau	Dan Kaiser

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

Jerry Carlson made a presentation on behalf of PAD, an organization that trains dogs as support animals for service members. We decided to wait for Matt so that we could match last year's donation.

Ron Lachelt made the official donation from the Chapter to the Minnesota Medal Of Honor Memorial. Tiffany received the check and thanked the Chapter for its support.

We discussed Tim Guth's condition and decided we would contact members in the area for a visit. [And thank you Jim and Gary for your visit with the Guths.]

We found out that Jim Behr and his wife are moving to Florida. They are moving into an area just south of the Tampa Bay. Jim has scoped out the SFA chapters and folks in the area. Jim said the community where they are going to live already has five SFA members in the neighborhood.

We discussed the upcoming activities. On the Brunch with Babs, after some discussion, Mike made a motion that the Chapter covers the costs of the Brunch. Bill seconded the motion and it was carried.

We had no information on the All Airborne Days. We will be working with the restaurant on the Christmas Dinner.

Bob mentioned that his ¾ ton truck has found a new home at Keith and Jean's place up in Two Harbors.

Bill had read Joe Celeski's book *Green Berets in the Land of One Million Elephants* and Thomas Bigg's book *Cash On Delivery*. He highly recommends both books.

There being no further business, we adjourned the meeting

From Doug: Last May and June I had the pleasure of spending a few weeks in France, with the middle period spent in Normandy for the 75th anniversary of the 1944 D-Day landings. I have been to Normandy many times and normally would not plan to be there on an anniversary period. The crowds and traffic are a real problem and many areas are difficult or impossible to access, or are

so congested that you don't even want to try. I was able to keep very busy visiting fascinating areas (mostly out of the way airborne objectives, German artillery batteries and bunkers etc.) usually bi-passed by the crowds and tour busses. Months before the event it was advertised that every room in Normandy was booked. I was lucky to be able to stay with French friends.

I visited Omaha Beach on 31 May and on 7 June. On 6 June Omaha Beach, and the area 20 miles around it, were closed off unless you had a special pass. I was at Utah Beach at 6:30 am on the 6th and the French had an emotional ceremony on the beach. There was a much larger ceremony there later in the morning with bleachers set up for thousands of spectators and participation by militaries from many nations including the Bundeswehr. While the big beach ceremonies were happening I was at St Marie du Mont as 12 WWII C-47 Aircraft flew over in four, three plane V formations, to buzz all 5 invasion beaches and the official ceremonies. This kind of collection of historic aircraft will probably never be seen again.

It seemed as though half the vehicles used in WWII were back in Normandy. From all over Europe, and even a few from the US, restored vehicles, from motorcycles to Sherman tanks were everywhere.

As always has been the case when I visit Normandy, but especially on an anniversary event, French, American, British, and Canadian flags are everywhere. Commemorative ceremonies are held in towns and villages all over Normandy. Many French friends told me stories of how emotional their parents remain 75 years after the liberation and how their parent's attitudes continue to influence the attitudes of their descendants.

Since my first trip to Normandy in 1973, and on all subsequent trips to Normandy and other places all over France, I have always found the French to be kind, friendly, and welcoming. If you haven't had the chance to visit Normandy, I highly recommend it. During the first half of May or

the second half of September there are no crowds, prices are lower, there is plenty of hotel space, and in my experience the weather is usually great.

[Editorially: The following note by Doug is a continuation of conversations during and after Chapter Meetings. Doug typed up a few notes and I felt obliged to include them.]

We seem to be in a period when groups suffer from a lack of membership participation. A few years ago I had a conversation with the 34th ID CSM about the lack of a 34th Division Veteran's Association in Minnesota, despite the long and proud history of many 34th Division units from the Civil War to the current conflicts in the Middle East. With the passing of the WWII generation, which fueled the organizations for many decades, many younger veterans just aren't stepping up to join or participate in the organization. In the words of the CSM, they prefer to sit home on their computers.

Chapter XX seems to be suffering from a similar problem. When I joined almost 20 years ago there was a good number of SF veteran members whose service started in the 40's 50's or early 60's. Monthly meetings at the Glockenspiel were fun, interesting, and generally well attended. Sadly many of these members are no longer with us. Because of work conflicts I missed many meetings for a few years.

Now that I have time to attend again, it seems that there are usually only four or five SFA veterans at the monthly meetings. Sometimes our non-SFA friends attending the meeting outnumber the SFA veterans attending. Indeed the chapter survives because of the work of only a very few people.

What will it take to increase participation and build the chapter? With what type of activities does the membership want to see the chapter involved? What would increase member participation, both at the monthly meeting and at the annual Chapter XX sponsored Airborne Christmas party?

Forwarded by SFA HQ's: 1ST SPECIAL FORCES GROUP REUNION, 13 – 17 October, 2019, Las Vegas, NV.

- Plaza Hotel & Casino, 1 Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101, Tel: 800-6634-6575, Group Code: SPECFOR,
- Reservation cut-off date is 01September, 2019, Cost: Room for 2 @ \$35/night (extra fee for additional guests) Resort Fee @ \$15/night, Tax @ 13%
- Amenities include: self/valet parking; pool admission; fitness facilities; 2 bottles of water; local calls; and boarding pass printing (designated kiosks only).
- For reservations via the internet (because current dates only go through Aug 2019, please follow the following instructions) go to the Plaza Hotel Casino Home Page @ <https://www.plazahotelcasino.com>
- For reservations by phone 800-6634-6575 - Tell the agent your code is SPECFOR.

EVENT REGISTRATION: Full Registration is \$145.00 before 14 Aug, 2019. After, the cost will be \$175.00. Partial Registration is by event – see registration form.

For questions, contact: Reunion Chairman – Phil Grounds @ (740) 409-6720 // steppingwild@gmail.com
Registration – Rick Upton @ (618) 713-2986 // chiefrick194@hotmail.com

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.