



# TIP OF THE SPEAR

Volume 26, Issue 3

March 2018

BEST SFA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 05-13 and GOLDEN QUILL 97, 98 & 2012

## 2018 Chapter LX Tet Party





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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### March 2018

We had thirty-two Chapter members at our Tet Celebration. I want to thank everyone who brought food and helped out in the preparation of the party. The food was outstanding and there was plenty to go around.

We also had 3 raffles featuring two lightning game tickets and a parking pass, plus white and red wine gift baskets. Proceeds went to the Team House in the amount of \$120. Thanks to everyone!

The winner of the Lightning Game tickets was Jerry and Joy Hines. Congratulations!

Our next event is Springfest on 14 April from 1100 to 1500, at American Legion Post 138. This year we've added games to the venue to make it more family friendly. The address is 5535 W. Prescott St. Tampa, FL 33616. See you all there!

Finally, you don't want to miss the April Chapter meeting. The Team House Committee will be giving a comprehensive briefing with the latest renderings of the building.

DOL,

Gary Weber

President, Chapter LX





## SFA Chapter LX Minutes for 9 March 2018

The meeting was brought to order at 1731 hours by Chapter President Gary Weber. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited followed by a Moment of Silence and prayer by Bill Bennett.

Officers present were: President Gary Weber; Vice President of Operations Brian Wilson; Vice President of Support Todd Reed; Treasurer Rich Corson; and Secretary Amy Sitze.

We had another full house this month to include: Dave Zilka, Rod Nishimura, Brett Blankenship, Ken Harrington, Dave Haddock, Ben Morris, Ray Millaway, Wayne Rich, Jim McGarrah, Steve Grewell, Jim Fagan, Alex Rogers, Wil Colon, Bill Bennett, John Migone, Kevin McCaffrey, Rob Cavin, David Boggs, Nick Baxter, Aaron Seifer, Keith Pecha, Hans Bush, John Greer, Duke Shienle, Spike Speicher and newest member Jon Peaman.

Our visitors and guests included: Members being accompanied by their lovely wives were Budvar Townsend with Linda, Spike Speicher with Kaki and Steve Grewell with Melissa. We also had visiting us for the first time: Rich Green and Jacques Decaire. A repeat offender with us was Bob Walther. And Sean Arnts from the Green Beret Foundation was our special guest for the evening.

### **PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.**

President Gary Weber began with welcoming all members and guests to the Chapter LX monthly meeting. Then he immediately thanked all those that attended and brought dishes to share to the Annual Tet Party.

It is that time of year again when JROTC and ROTC Cadets all throughout the area are being awarded annual awards and scholarships. SFA has a special award that is presented to one chosen

one at each school in which we present them with at the Awards Ceremony. Help is needed to ensure we are able to be at all ceremonies to present the award to the honored cadet. If you are able to attend any of the ceremonies to present the award, please see Dave Haddock who has a list of ceremonies to participate in. These ceremonies are spread throughout all the Tampa Bay area and beyond. In order to make them all, we need your help.

At the April Monthly Meeting, Chapter LX board members will be presenting an update on the current status of the Team House. Please plan to attend. Any questions you have on the Team House, this will be a good time to ask.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

Secretary Sitze requested all, including visitors, to sign the attendance roster. This is a great tracker for Secretary Sitze that helps her keep National informed of Chapter participation. Also, anyone needing to update their information can do so on the sign in roster. In addition, any information updates can be emailed as well and will be updated upon receipt. Please be sure that any time an email address, phone number or mailing address changes to notify Secretary Sitze. Secretary Sitze does work directly with National to ensure the membership database stays current with the most up to date information of members. Keeping the most current records, not only ensures that you stay connected with Chapter LX events and news, but also means you continue to receive your edition of the Drop quarterly uninterrupted.

Secretary Sitze welcomed the two latest Chapter LX transfers COL Sean Corrigan and BG (Ret) Hector Pagan.

Be sure to read the Monthly Newsletter for all news and updates. And you can reference the upcoming events both locally and nationally. In addition, Secretary Sitze receives the National receives the National Museum newsletter, the POW/MIA newsletter,



and Chapter 41 Newsletter monthly. I will not send these out to Chapter Members by email unless specifically requested at which it will sent to the individual directly. If you are interested in receiving one or all of these newsletters, please inform Secretary Sitze of your request.

A motion was made by Bill Bennett and seconded by Rod Nishimura to accept the Secretary's report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The monthly treasurer's report overview was provided, however, avoided specifics due to guests present. All bills are confirmed paid and to date. We are doing especially well with the sales coming in from the Quartermaster. If you have any questions concerning the approved 2018 Budget or the monthly budget, please discuss with Rich Corson.

A motion was made by Ray Millaway and seconded to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **QUARTERMASTER REPORT.**

Quartermaster Mr. Jim Fagan has a variety of Chapter gear and apparel for sale, to include legacy apparel, women's shirts, along with men's Nike Golf and Cotton/Poly Chapter LX shirts. He is currently waiting on Chapter Coins to arrive and has already ordered more Crest Pins. Jim still has some Gasparrilla shirts left but it is a limited supply. If you need gear or have any questions, get with Jim. Gear is available all meetings and events Jim is able to attend. And he thanks all for the continued support.

For any additional personalization you would like to have on your shirt, Name Tape on Dale Mabry provides those services and is a friend of the Chapter. Please note that each item embroidered is \$10 a piece, with a \$20 minimum. An additional place to have embroidery done is "South Shore Boutique", 102W.Shell Point Road,

Ruskin, 813-469-8603. They are reasonably price and have done a great job for some of our members already.

If you can't find what you are looking for and need other SF gear and memorabilia, go to the following links: <http://www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfa-merchandise-order-form/> or <https://www.jfkwebstore.com/store/>. National also recommends a website, "blazerboutique" for the green blazers. They have offered SFA a discount that runs through 31 July. Enters SFA5 at checkout under discounts. <https://www.bazerboutique.com/product/hunter-green-mens-blazer/> for the men's blazer or <https://www.blazerboutique.com/product/hunter-green-womens-blazer/> for the ladies that would like one.

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

SpringFest is quickly approaching. It is confirmed for 14 April at American Legion Post 138, the one in South Tampa right on the water. Festivities will begin at 1100 and go to approximately 1500. Save the date and don't forget to tell your families. We are adding a few extras so that young and old alike can come have fun. Bring the family for games, BBQ, drinks, and a gathering of friends. It is a great day to come together.

Rob Cavin informed the membership that the Motorcycle Raffle is going well and on track. We have already raised approximately \$5000 in raffle tickets. Having the raffle online is helping to spread the word and increasing ticket sales. Raffle is scheduled for July, so there is still plenty of time to sell tickets. To support, you can sell the paper tickets available and spread the word by sharing the flyer with all. All proceeds will go to the Team House fund. Don't forget, if interested in seeing the bike first hand, keep a look out for all locations that it will be displayed.



### **NEW BUSINESS.**

If you would like to nominate anyone for Member of the Year or Associate Member of the Year, board members are now taking nominations. Please have all nominees in NLT April meeting.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Sean Arnts, Liaison Officer for the Green Beret Foundation (GBF). He explained that Special Forces has suffered over half the KIA and WIA incurred by Army Special Operations Forces since 9/11. He was happy to announce that the GBF has assisted 2,515 families since October 2009 investing \$8.9 million in programs and services. \$1,815,577 in support of the wounded, ill, and injured Green Beret Community. This is an organization that Chapter LX hopes to work more closely with in the future. In the future, we will have Sean and his wife visit us again to explain more about what the Steel Magnolias, an organization for the spouses of Green Berets.

Due to recent coordination and a new partnership, Chapter LX will now be participating in SOFIC 2018. We will be sharing a booth with Stay-in-Step and expect to have a lot of foot traffic come and go. The event is taking place 22-24 May at the Tampa Convention Center. Please let a board member or Rob Cavin know if you will be able to work the booth during the event. Don't forget we kick off the event with the Golf Tournament on Monday 21 May, 1100, at the MacDill AFB Golf Course. We are also asking for volunteers to support this event as well. In addition, we are looking for raffle items for the golf tournament. We have nice humidors that were donated to the Chapter that will be raffled off, but we are always looking for more. The better the items the more tickets we can sell. All proceeds made support Chapter LX.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER.**

Thank you from member John Markham. He wanted to pass on to the Chapter his thanks and following message: "Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your

prayers and thoughts and the bereavement card for the loss of my mother. Your condolences are very much appreciated and will not be forgotten." With sincere gratitude, John & Cindy Markham.

Jim McGarrah made an announcement in the February meeting about a shotgun sitting in the safe at CWU under the care of Chuck Jenkins. Jim made the recommendation that we raffle off a certain number of tickets with the intent to make a specific amount on the raffle. The shotgun is worth approximately \$2000. The board has it for action to make a decision on the COA which we will take.

The 243<sup>rd</sup> Army Birthday Ball is now approaching. The Ball will be 9 June 2018, 1800, at the Hilton Tampa Downtown. Early registration is now opens and goes through 1 April. If you plan to attend, now is the best time to register. Please register at the link provided under "Upcoming Events" section below. Be sure to tell them that you are a member of Chapter LX in the notes so that we can all sit together. More details will follow as we get closer to the event.

7<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) is having their reunion 8-12 May at their compound. A Memorial Dedication is scheduled for 12 May.

The Annual Sporting Clay event needs a new Lead. Dave Haddock who has had it a number of years is not stepping down. If you are interested becoming the lead of this annual event, please let Dave Haddock or any board member know. Please keep in mind, now is the time to start planning this event though the planning has already begun.

Tampa International Airport does provide parking for Disable Veterans. Please note that this is only for 100% disable veterans that have a DV license plate. Thanks Rod for the update on information.

Brenna Rutland asked about the 2018 Annual Chapter Christmas Party Planning efforts. No place is booked or confirmed yet, however, she suggest the Pebble Country Club. Todd Reed, VP of Support



has this for action.

### **Team House Benefactor Challenge.**

At the April 2017 meeting Chapter LX member and past President Rob Cavin donated \$1,000 to the Team House Fund and issued a challenge to all members:

*"Donate \$1,000 to the Team House Fund and become a Chapter LX Benefactor."*

For a number of months the challenge was accepted receiving donations of a \$1000 or more from members. THANK YOU to all of you who donated! Who will start up the challenge in 2018? Send your check to Chapter LX, SFA, PO Box 6515, MacDill AFB, FL 33608. De Oppresso Liber!

### **50 / 50 Drawing.**

There was \$130.00 in the pot. Dave Driver was the lucky winner for the night and donated it to the Team House. Many thanks, Dave!

### **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 1821 following a motion made by Rod Nishimura and seconded, then it passed unanimously. The meeting lasted 51 minutes.

### **The Next Membership Meeting.**

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, 13 April 2018, at 1730hrs, at American Legion Post 139, 3818 West Bay Vista Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611. Telephone (813) 839-6740.

### **Getting in Touch.**

Chapter LX Web-Site: <https://specialforces.org>. TGBA website: <http://www.tampagreenberets.com/>. Many thanks to Don Cox for your efforts in keeping us on line.

Chapter Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SFACHAP60>. Please "like" us on FB if you haven't already. Thanks to Jon Mueller for running this outstanding site.



### **From National and Around the Chapters.**

For those of you who know MG (R) Michael Healy, he is currently in the hospital in Jacksonville, FL. I am sorry, but no other specifics are provided at this time. If you would like to send him well wishes and a speedy recovery, please send cards to Iron Mike Healy at 12968 Night Heron Court, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

The National Special Forces Green Beret Memorial. This is a memorial to honor the elite Special Forces "Green Beret" of every era and the legacy of the Special Forces Regiment with a historic memorial park. It is planned to be a premier park with public access and viewed as a tourist destination near Ft Bragg, NC. Money is being raised for the project and all donations are tax deductible. For more information, please go to [www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org](http://www.specialforcesgreenberetmemorial.org) or speak with Chapter member Geoff Barker as he is on the committee.

The National SFA Convention is quickly approaching—12-16 June 2018. Register now if you plan to attend. Chapter 9 out of El Paso, TX is hosting. Please note that the original Convention hotel advertised in the Drop has changed. If you had already reserved a room at the original hotel, you will be contacted by the new hotel. Go to the website for further information and registration, <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com/2017/05/sfa-2018-national-convention.html>. In addition, you have probably received raffle tickets from National. These are for the raffle that takes place during the convention. All tickets sold will not only help National but a percentage of the proceeds also comes back to the Chapter each year. So, sell your tickets, the more our members sell the higher the percentage we receive.

Chapter 1-18 is holding a 52-gun raffle to raise funds for a new team house as theirs was flooded during Hurricane Matthew. That's one weapon a week for an entire year.





Each ticket is good for all 52 drawings, meaning winners are re-inserted into the mix, giving multiple opportunities to win. Drawings will take place each Thursday of 2018 beginning 4 Jan. Each ticket is \$200 and again good for all 52 drawings (or how every many are left after drawings start and ticket purchased). To see a list of the weapons being raffled and to buy tickets, go to [www.SFA1-18.com](http://www.SFA1-18.com)

Task Force Dagger is hosting a 3 gun meet 8-10 June in Clinton, SC. Please go to <https://www.tfd3g.com/> for more details.

Attention all 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 (not commitment at this time), please reply in the comment section: "YES" or "NO" at the following link: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/MikeForceAssociation/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/MikeForceAssociation/posts/?ref=page_internal). From David Lucier, President- AZ Veterans & Military Leadership Alliance.

For those interested in a Knife Combat Multi-tool, here is the deal for you. Joe Traurig Government Sales Agency is offering one for \$95.00 plus shipping. List price is \$230. Email Joe at [jtraurig@verizon.net](mailto:jtraurig@verizon.net) if interested in learning more. Let him know you are a member of SFA Chapter LX.

Homemade Wood Flags made by a Disabled Veteran which is his way to support his family. His name is Shane Johnson and he can be reached at 919-628-9787 if interested in commissioning him for his work. The flags are all wood and can have a variety of crests added to them. Sorry no website to browse, however, if you are interested in seeing pictures of some of his work, please contact Secretary Sitze and she will forward the samples of his work.

The National Museum of the United States Army is opening in 2019 at Ft. Belvoir, VA. They are asking for all those that have served over the years in the Army to register in their database. If you are interested in registering, donating, or learning more about the museum, go to [WWW.armyhistory.org](http://WWW.armyhistory.org) to find out more. Secretary Sitze also receives the Newsletter from the Museum. She has them available at the monthly meetings if you are interested in reading more on what is happening with the museum.

The 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade is having a reunion. 23-27 May 2018 ending with a ball in Washington D.C. Register at [SKYSOLDIER.net](http://SKYSOLDIER.net) if you plan to attend.



## Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Lee Vannes**—recently released from hospital.

**Banzai Brantley**—Suffering from Congestive Heart Failure—recently released from the hospital.

**Mike Iten**—Currently homebound due to balance problems.

**Raymond (Ray) Morris**— I had kidney cancer surgery a few years ago and recently found out I have cancer of the Thyroid.

**Rick Lencioni**—Intestinal disorder.



## Chapter Tet Party

This year's Tet celebration was hosted by Gary and Barbara Weber. We had thirty-two Chapter members in attendance. Thanks to all those who brought food and helped out in the preparation of the party. The food was outstanding and there was plenty to go around.

We also had 3 raffles for two lightning game tickets and a parking pass, plus white and red wine gift baskets. Proceeds went to the Team House in the amount of \$120. Thanks to everyone!

The winner of the Lightning Game tickets was Jerry and Joy Hines. Congratulations!















**WHO:** SFA CH 60 MEMBERS AND FAMILY

**WHAT:** ANNUAL SPRINGFEST PARTY

**WHERE:** AMERICAN LEGION Post 138 AT 5535 W PRESCOTT ST, TAMPA,  
FL 33616

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, 14 APRIL FROM 1100 TILL 1500

**WHY:** TO ENJOY THE COMPANY AND CELEBRATE ANOTHER YEAR WITH GAMES  
AND DRINKING





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)  
Reunion and Memorial Wall Dedication**



**Located in the Red Empire Center and Group Headquarters**

**All Former and current 7th Group members and family  
are invited**

**Reunion is from 1300-1800 at the Red Empire Center**

**Wall dedication at 1400 at Group Headquarters**

**Food and drinks will be available**

**Presented by SFA7**

**Register at:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RedEmpireWeek2018>**





## UPCOMING EVENTS for 2018:

29 March 2018: Vietnam Veterans Day, all day, Vietnam Vets receive a free BBQ sandwich, any Mission BBQ Location

13 April 2018: Chapter LX meeting, 1730, American Legion Post 139, Tampa, FL

14 April 2018: SpringFest, 1100-1500, American Legion Post 138, Tampa, FL, See Flyer for details

13-15 April 2018: Chapter VI sponsoring The Mackall Competition, <https://www.facebook.com/TheMackallCompetition/>

8-12 May 2018: 7<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) Reunion and Celebration, more details to follow as they come in

21 May 2018: SOFIC Golf Tournament, 1100 Lunch and Registration, 1330 Tee Time, Bay Palms Golf Course, MacDill AFB, FL

22-24 May 2018: SOFIC Week, Convention Center, Tampa, FL

23-27 May 2018: 173<sup>rd</sup> Reunion, Washington DC, SKYSOLDIER.NET

9 June 2018: Army Ball, 1800, Hilton Tampa Downtown, <https://www.ausasuncoast.org/news/243rd-army-ball-birthday-celebration/>; don't forget to include that you are a member of Chapter LX

12-16 June 2018: National SFA Conference, El Paso, TX, <http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com/2017/05/sfa-2018-national-convention.html>

8-12 August 2018: USASMA / CSM / SGM Reunion, San Antonio, TX, email [Michael.anthony.marshall@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.anthony.marshall@gmail.com) for more information

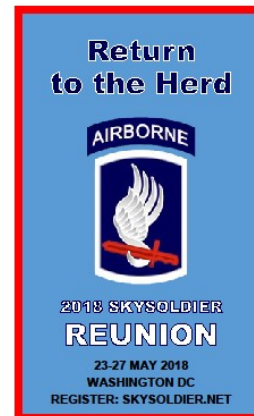


## Hand Salute

Chapter LX has members deployed overseas in support of the War on Terror. Some of these men are still on active duty; others are on the retired rolls. When the call to arms sounded, each stepped forward. We members of the Chapter LX salute them for their service.

Dreher Kinney, Panama

Request members inform Gary Weber, [glwb310@yahoo.com](mailto:glwb310@yahoo.com) of those deployed.





*They Shall Mount Up With  
Wings as Eagles ...  
Isaiah 40:31*

## *Wings of Eagles*

**Bill Bennett**

[wcbenn47@verizon.net](mailto:wcbenn47@verizon.net)

### *Command Group*

*"Doctrine of the Trinity: The belief that God is one in being and three in person.*

*Being: The quality or essence that makes something what it is.*

*Person: The quality or essence that makes something who he is."*

Nabeel Qurashi<sup>1</sup>

A stumbling block instrumental in my flight from Christianity was the doctrine of the Trinity. Many people from other religions have trouble comprehending the concept and so did I.

I recently read a book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Qureshi. Qureshi had been a very devout Muslim and chronicles his journey from Islam to Christianity. He was fortunate to have a Christian friend who was well versed in Biblical theology and history. Still, in their discussions, the concept of the Trinity eluded Qureshi.

As a pre-medical student, Qureshi had to take Organic Chemistry. In one of the classes, the instructor stated, "Technically, a molecule is every one of its structures at every point in time, yet no single of its structures at any one point in time."<sup>1</sup> [Huh?] Qureshi was thunderstruck with the concept. As he phrased it, "One molecule of nitrate is all three resonance structures all the time and never just one of them. The three are separate but all the same, and they are one. They are three in one."<sup>2</sup>

Not having excelled at organic chemistry - though I enjoyed making odiferous concoctions in the laboratory - I started trying to find a simpler, more comprehensible example of the Trinity.

Since I am merely a simple soldier, I wanted to find something that related to my profession. Though an imperfect example, my thoughts led me to the organization of an infantry company. An infantry company is organized with three infantry platoons, a heavy weapons platoon, a headquarters section with anti-armor, supply, mess, and maintenance capabilities. The company is led by a command group.

The command group consists of the Company Commander, the Company Executive Officer, and the First Sergeant.

Though an organizational construct, the command group can be considered a "being" and is composed of three "persons." What is it? It is a command group. Who is it? It is the Company Commander, Executive Officer, and First Sergeant. In this imperfect exemplar, the Company Commander could be compared to the Father, the Executive Officer to the Son, and the First Sergeant to the Holy Spirit. The Command Group is one in being and three in persons.

There is no denying the reality of the Trinity. Christ, Himself, cited the Trinity after His resurrection, He gave us the Great Commission. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," (Matthew 28:19)

Being able to answer questions from doubters, skeptics, and unbelievers is a critical duty for believers. I was nearly lost over the concept of the Trinity. How many others have we turned away from salvation because of our inability to explain our basic beliefs?

De Oppresso Liber

Bill

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., location 3012 of 5798

-30-

<sup>1</sup>Qureshi, Nabeel, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Former Muslim Investigates the Evidence for Islam and Christianity*, Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 19546, Kindle edition, location 3047 of 5798, 2016





## Veterans Affairs

Should You Get the New Veteran ID Card?

**HOW DO YOU GET THE VETERANS ID CARD?** Getting the card is actually pretty easy, at least as easy as dealing with the VA can be. It took me about 15 minutes to log on to VETS.GOV, create an account, enter my service data, and upload a selfie that I took with my phone. Of course, I did this back in November when the program started and had several issues with the website freezing up. According to the VA, those problems have been fixed.

Although I applied in three months ago I still haven't gotten my card, but the website will let you download and print out a paper copy of the card if you want to.

**WHY GET THE VA ID CARD?** Let's face it, most of us never got a ticker-tape parade when we came home and we didn't get told "thank you for your service" on a regular basis, in fact many of us were looked down upon by our fellow citizens. This card helps to fix that problem. Historically there hasn't been a better time to be a veteran. If you want a discount at the store, a free meal, a special parking space, special benefits from the state or local government this is the time for you.

Now, before you harrumph and say that those benefits are pretty worthless and tacky for all you did, let me just say that most of us didn't join the military to get heaped in praise by our fellow citizens. Most of us got 3 hots and a cot and paid every 2 weeks, and that is all we asked for.

**WHAT WILL THE VA ID CARD DO FOR ME?** While the card won't necessarily get you any new federal or state benefits it will possibly get you some special little perks like free meals on veterans day, parking spots closer to the door, and discounts at many retailers.

If big companies want to give me a parking spot close to the grocery store entrance, a free meal every now and then, a discount when I buy furnace filters, or a few thousand bucks off a new car I'll take it. Heck I'm even going to make sure my new bright shiny veteran card is right under my driver's license so if I get pulled over for speeding the nice officer can see I'm a veteran, it never hurts to try.

Having this veterans ID card ready to show anybody who gives me a sideways look when I park right next to the handicapped and expectant mothers spots makes me feel good (especially when it is cold or raining). It kind of makes up for all those late night watches and dress formations. I feel like I'm finally getting a little respect for my service, and I get it every day - not once a year. My advice, get the card. It never hurts to accept a little bit of gratitude when it is offered, you never know when it will come again.



### **Vets May Be Able To Get Higher Disability Ratings For Service-Connected Injuries**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims issued a decision last month that could make it easier for veterans with injuries to the back, neck, and joints to obtain higher disability ratings, even in cases where veterans are already receiving disability benefits for such injuries.

The recent case, called Sharp v. Shulkin, reviewed the Department of Veterans Affairs' current system for assessing the origin and extent of a veteran's disability and clarified the responsibilities of Compensation and Pension examiners and the Board of Veterans Appeals when it comes to giving an opinion on pain flare-ups caused by musculoskeletal disabilities.



The court ultimately ruled that the system was inadequate, because not all C&P examiners consider flare-ups and pain when determining what disability rating a veteran should receive.

Bobby P. Sharp, an Army Korean War veteran who suffers from numerous musculoskeletal injuries, argued that VA medical examinations he received were inadequate because the examiner failed to “ascertain adequate information — i.e., frequency, duration, characteristics, severity, or functional loss — regarding his flares by alternative means,” according to court documents. Sharp contended that the 10% disability rating he received for his injuries was insufficient because his “September 2015 evaluation was inadequate for evaluation purposes and the Board’s finding to the contrary was clearly erroneous.” In September 2017, the claims court agreed. The court’s decision means that the VA must now enact measures to ensure that C&P examiners do not overlook flare-ups and pain when assessing a disabled veteran.



### **DAV response to Washington DC VA IG report posted on March 7, 2018**

DAV is disappointed and concerned by the findings brought to light by today’s VA Inspector General report, regarding sanitary measures, equipment shortages, chronic understaffing and other deficiencies at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center. While the report marks noted improvements since last April, including major changes to the facility’s leadership, we know veterans deserve better and they have earned better. These findings highlight the critical need for sensible reform throughout the entire department, and for a clear path forward to providing veterans the high-quality health care they need.

We applaud VA Secretary David Shulkin’s proactive decision to implement immediate reforms throughout VA facilities, the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and VA’s central office in an effort to prevent the kinds of problems this report and others have detailed. As part of this effort, we look forward to the May 1 release of a plan to restructure VA’s central office in Washington and encourage Secretary Shulkin to continue to engage with veteran service organizations to identify opportunities in which we can work together towards reorganization of the department in a manner which best serves and safeguards our nation’s veterans,

All Veterans articles come from:

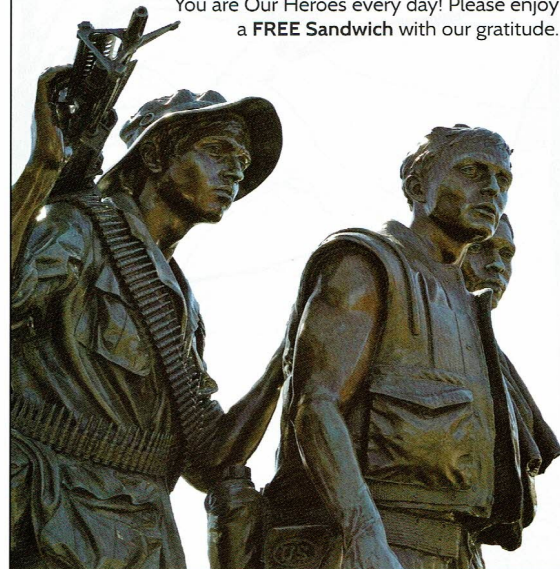
Department of Florida Disabled

American Veterans, Sun City Chapter

## **FREE CHOW FOR VIETNAM VETS**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29

Thanks For Your Service, Vietnam Veterans.  
When your country called, you answered.  
You are Our Heroes every day! Please enjoy  
a **FREE** Sandwich with our gratitude.



Know a Vietnam Veteran? Bring them for a FREE sandwich on us. We'd like to say "Thanks" in person!







**Welcome Home  
Vietnam Veterans Day  
March 24, 2018, 1000 Hours  
Veterans Memorial Park and Rear Admiral  
Leroy Collins Jr., Veterans Museum  
3602 Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL 33619**





Transport Workers Union of America  
 LOCAL 514, ATD, AFL-CIO  
 11945 East Pine Street  
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74116-2026

LINE STATIONS  
 Tulsa, OK  
 Memphis, TN  
 El Paso, TX  
 San Antonio, TX  
 Oklahoma City, OK

## DD 214 Increased Social Security Benefits for Vets

**DD FORM 214 – Extra Social Security Benefit** for those with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001

See the website & notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefits.

**DD Form 214 – Social Security Benefit** Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this:

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001. (The program was done away with 1 January 2002.) Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application, which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Social Security website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

FYI – this benefit is not automatic; you must ask for it! We've all been on active duty between 1957 and 2001 or know someone who has.

Passing on good information for all you military folks when you apply for social security. I know this may be too early for some of you to think about social security, but keep living and you will get there.

Regional Resource Coordinator  
 Maryland's Committee to Veterans Project State of Maryland – Southern  
 Region Human Services Partnership Building La Plata, Maryland 2064







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Gary Weber, Brian Wilson, Dave Zilka

### March CONTRIBUTORS

Dave Driver



*Heads Up!*

*"Listen  
up, you  
knuckleheads.*



*Be there. Be Square!"*

**13 April 2018—Chapter LX  
meeting, 1730, ALP 139,  
Tampa, FL.**

**14 April 2018—SpringFest,  
1100-1500 hours, ALP 138, Tam-  
pa FL.**

**8-12 May 2018— 7th SFG(A)  
Reunion and Celebration.**

**11 May 2018— Chapter LX  
meeting, 1730, ALP 139, Tampa,  
FL.**

**12-16 June 2018—National SFA  
Conference, El Paso, TX. [http://  
sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com/201  
7/05/sfa-2018-national  
convention.html](http://sfa2018elpaso.blogspot.com/2017/05/sfa-2018-national-convention.html)**

**9 June 2018—243rd Army Ball,  
1800, Hilton Hotel, downtown  
Tampa, FL.**