



TIP OF THE SPEAR

Volume 25, Issue 2

February 2017

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





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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



February 2017

As I mentioned last month this is going to be a year for the ages in SFA Chapter LX. We are very likely going to break ground on our property this year and that means each member is going to have to step up and do his part! We have formed a Design and Steering Committee derived from those members who have invested the most! I want to appeal to each of you to examine your situation and decide what you are going to do! We put out a call for pledge commitments for the building project and precious few responded! Frankly, EVERY member will take advantage of the Team House when it is built but which of you will help in the building? It is time to step up and do your part, each of you! Together, this heavy load is very bearable. This is the Richard J. Meadows Chapter and it is time each of us exemplify the sense of duty that RJM did!

DOL,

Brian Wilson

President



SFA Chapter LX Minutes for 10 February 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 1732 hours by Chapter President Brian Wilson.

Officers present were: President Brian Wilson; Vice President of Operations Pat Rizzi; Vice President of Support Kevin McCaffrey; and Secretary Amy Sitze.

Members present were: Bill Oliva, Ray Millaway, Wayne Rich, Ken Harrington, Chris Mulhall, Hans Bush, Jim McGarrah, Terry O'Connor, Darrell Katz, Gary Weber, Dave Haddock, Bruce Warner, Lee Vanness, Rob Cavin, Jim Fagan, David Boggs, Jerry Hines, Rod Nishimura, Lee Daws, Brent Epperson, Jerry King, Raul Rivera, John Kiser, Brenna Rutland, James Peters, Brad Preston, and Andrew Gonzales.

There were a total of 23 Chapter Members present. In addition, guests in attendance: Fred Hoffman from El Paso; COL Patrick Colton invited by Dave Haddock; Richard "Rick" Blevins guest of Andrew Gonzales; and members of the Special Forces Brotherhood MacDill Chapter (SFBMC) to include their President Jim Purcell, Rick Comerford (also a member of Chapter XXI), Curt Harig, and Gerry Demarzo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Boggs and then followed by a moment of silence for our missing and fallen comrades.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.

President Brian Wilson welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce their guests present. He asked that we remember the latest SOF Operator we recently lost. He then gave the members present from the SFBMC the opportunity to present Ray Millaway with a Glock 19 he won in a raffle they sponsored. In addition, Certificates for Member of the Year (MOY) to Bill Oliva and Jerry Hines and Associate Member of

the Year (AMOY) to Ray Millaway were presented. These individuals have made countless contributions to Chapter LX efforts over the last year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Secretary Sitze informed the Members of a successful Annual Renewal Membership Drive. She asked everyone to sign in so that we have correct accountability for meeting attendance. She also informed members that if emails are not being received from her, to please update email address. Email is the main medium which we get Chapter information out. Secretary Sitze also briefed a number of upcoming events. Be sure to look at upcoming events for specifics.

A motion was made by Gary Weber and was seconded by Ken Harrington to accept the Secretary's report. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

VP Pat Rizzi took the lead of providing the specifics of the projected 2017 Budget in the absence of Treasurer Corson. Once discussed, two corrections were made and agreed upon, and then voted on with approval. No specifics can be provided via the Newsletter, however, if you have any questions concerning the approved 2017 Budget, please get with Rich Corson to discuss.

A motion was made by Ray Millaway and was seconded by Hans Bush to accept the Treasurer's Report.

QUARTERMASTER REPORT. This position is currently open. If you are interested in filling it, please let a board member know.

OLD BUSINESS.

The JROTC program is ready for a new lead. If anyone is interested in supporting or working with the program, please get in touch with Dave Froberg.



This is an important reach out program for those that have begun thinking about and working towards their military careers. We are always looking for individuals who are able to go to the various area schools to present certificates to the kids already showing promise.

GASPARILLA took place on 28 January 2017. We marched in the parade along with members of Post 9/11 Veterans alongside a Humvee. The 3.2 mile parade route took us along Bayshore and into Downtown. We were met with cheering crowds chanting "USA, USA, USA." Ray Millaway did such a great job planning the specifics that he was able to relax during the parade till we made it to the end where he picked us up. Thanks Ray!! This was a great community outreach mechanism to show who we are and what we provide to the community. Members who participated had fun and the crowd received us well. We do intend to participate again in future events. **Thanks again, Ray, for planning such a great event!**

Valentines for Vets Gala on Sat 4 February 2017 in Ybor City. To see pictures and the video from the event look at the Chapter FB page or go to ALLAMERICANMUSICEVENTS.COM. Guest speaker Admiral Eric Olson former Commander of SOCOM had wonderful words to share. It was definitely a fun evening of entertainment, dinner, and dancing. The Chapter LX will receive all funds raised by this event both from ticket sales and the silent auction. And donations are still coming in. This was an event that truly helps out the Chapter and all the initiatives we accomplish through the year. **Arlene, we are truly humbled by all your efforts to help us. Thank you!**

Guns for Cause did close out. We are still waiting the final results and numbers from this fundraiser. But we will be sure to let you know once we hear more. And if this was not your lucky raffle in winning. Not to worry. We will have another one in the next quarter.

More on the Team House. A team of individuals are working diligently with all those that need to be involved in making our Team House become a reality. Thus far, the survey has been completed which found that due to the property being at sea level, run off water is something that needs to be addressed before moving on. The next step in this process is to meet with city members so that we can address that. Once the city sets up the meeting, then members will know which direction to go. All members are working to meet all the requirements in a cost efficient manner. As updates are available, board members will provide information to all Chapter members.

NEW BUSINESS.

Three of the five officers currently sitting on the board will be required to step down Jan of next year. President. Vice President of Operations. Vice President of Support. Elections will held in November with the transition to follow in January 2018. If any of you are interested or you would like to nominate someone to the board, please let a current board member know.

Be on the lookout for activities that Chapter members may want to participate in during Memorial Day weekend. We will also be talking with SOCOM to see what festivities they may intent to plan.

SpringFest will be held on 8 April 2017 at the American Legion Post 138 (the one on the water). This is the same location as last year and we are currently planning similar events. Please save the date. And once we have finalized results, they will be announced and emailed out to all.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Eric Wooten who founded Other Side of the Dunes is looking for a Ranger to donate his specialized wheelchair to. If you know of anyone in need, please get with a board member.



Lee Vanness's daughter recently was awarded a Small Business Contract with USSOCOM. This is an Equal Opportunity Business that will have six opening in the local area. She is reaching out to Chapter members to see if any of you might be interested. If you are, go to <http://estsi.com/careers/jobs/> for details.

50 / 50 Drawing.

There was \$176.00 in the pot and the drawing was won by Guest Rick Comerford from SFBMC who donated his winnings to the Gasparilla Fund. Many thanks!

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1845 following a motion by Dave Haddock which was seconded by Rob Cavin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting lasted 73 minutes.

The Next Membership Meeting.

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, 10 March 2017, 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: <http://www.tampagreenberets.com/>. Many thanks to Don Cox for your efforts in getting us back on line.

Chapter Facebook Page: Here is the link to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SFACHAP60>. Please go to that link and "like" us. Thanks to Jon Mueller for running this outstanding site.



Condolences to John Wiegner and Family

It is with great sadness that I pass on to you that Chapter member John Wiegner's daughter lost her battle to cancer on 13 February. She died at Tampa General Hospital surrounded by her immediate family. **Rest in Peace Melissa Stephanie Wiegner.** Please keep John and his family in your prayers.



Save the Date

On Thurs 9 March 2017 at 1700, a premier showing of "Danger Close" will be held at the Tampa Theater located at 711 N Franklin St, Downtown Tampa. All Chapter members have been invited to this showing. In addition, the family of SSG Rob Pirelli, 10th SFG(A) ODA 072 KIA in Iraq 2007, will be present. This premier is the first showing of the movie which is scheduled to be released end of April.

If you are interested in attending the premier, please RSVP to me via email. I will keep a list and provide to the coordinators of the event. They do need to know who will be attending.





Chapter LX

Members of the Year



Jerry Hines



Bill Oliva

Chapter LX

Associate Member of the Year



Ray Millaway

Jerry, Bill and Ray have made countless contributions to Chapter LX over this last year. Well Done Gentlemen!

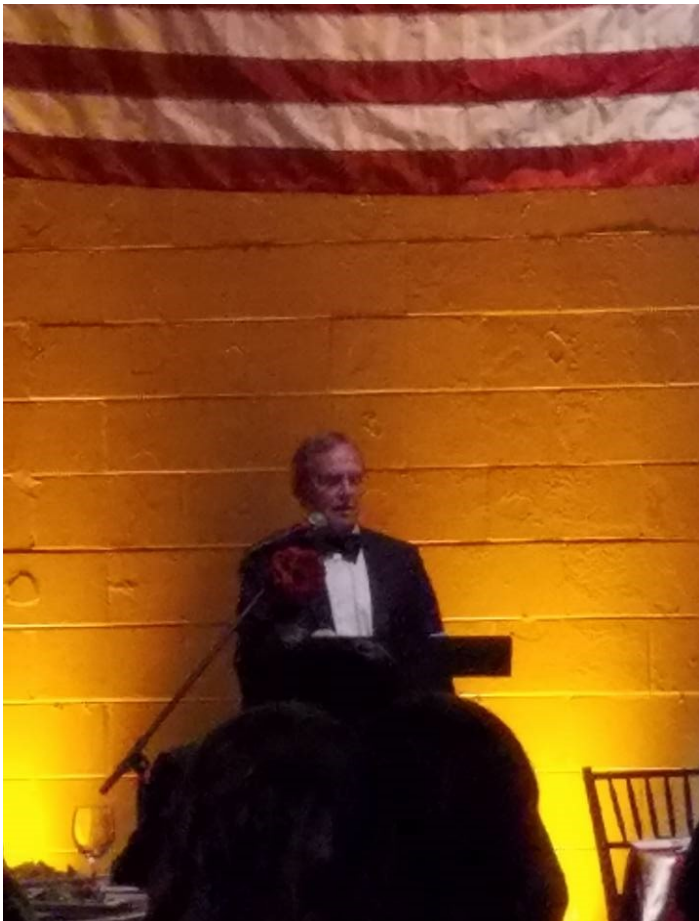




Valentine's for Veterans Benefit Gala

The Valentines for Vets Gala was held on Sat 4 February 2017 in Ybor City. To see pictures and the video from the event look at the Chapter FB page or go to ALLAMERICANMSICEVENTS.COM.

Guest speaker Admiral Eric Olson, former Commander of SOCOM had wonderful words to share. It was definitely a fun evening of entertainment, dinner, and dancing. Chapter LX will receive all funds raised by this event both from ticket sales and the silent auction. And donations are still coming in. This was an event that truly helps out the Chapter and all the initiatives we accomplish through the year. **Arlene, we are truly humbled by all your efforts to help us. Thank you!**





Ye Special Forces Krewe Of Tampa





Wings of Eagles

Bill Bennett

wcbenn47@verizon.net

"B.I.S.S."

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 20:20

As a young Army captain I commanded a heavy infantry company at Ft. Riley, KS. We were required to pass an annual Operational Readiness Test (ORT). An ORT was a tactical exercise to test our warfighting capabilities at the company and battalion level. Normally, members of other companies and staffs acted as evaluators. However, for my first ORT majors were imported from the Command and General Staff College as evaluators.

A fellow company commander had an excellent company. On the first day of the ORT as the evaluator hovered over his shoulder, he directed his company to conduct a tactical maneuver. As his troops made their movement, the evaluator asked my friend, "Do you have an SOP?" Of course, a standing operating procedure (SOP) dictates what and how a unit conducts certain maneuvers. My fellow commander answered, "No, I have a B.I.S.S." The evaluator sagely nodded and they continued the attack.

The same question was asked and the same answer delivered several times over the next two days. Finally, the exasperated evaluator asked, "What the heck is a B.I.S.S.?" My comrade forcefully responded, "Because I said so!"

My comrade's B.I.S.S. has some parallel with Christ's approach. First, my friend spent considerable time teaching his subordinate leaders and men on how to react in given situations. Members of his company understood the unwritten procedures of the unit.

Christ spent considerable time teaching not only people who came to hear him preach, but his apostles. Many times, he had to provide them with a private explanation of the parables he had used.

For example, in His parable of the sower, Christ taught of seeds that were sown onto a path, rocky ground, some among thorns, and some onto good ground. Subsequently, he taught his disciples that the seed along the path was soon taken away by Satan, the seed sown in rocky places could develop no roots and, so, would soon die. Other seed sown with the thorns were soon overcome by worries of this life which choked the word making it unfruitful. Finally, seed sown in good soil yielded a great crop of believers.

After teaching these and other lessons, Christ ordered his disciples to spread the gospel. Mark 6:7 tells us that he sent them into the countryside two by two for that purpose.

Christ gave his final orders after his resurrection when He said, *"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28-19-20)

The Apostles had no SOP to follow. Neither did the Apostles have a B.I.S.S. They did have three years of Christ's teaching and His example to follow, and they had a B.H.S.S. – Because He Said So – to follow. All the Apostles, save one, followed it to the death.

De Oppresso Liber

Bill





Ray Millaway wins Glock 19



**Members of the SFBMC
present to Ray Millaway a
Glock 19 he won in a raffle
the SFBMC sponsored**



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.

Anthony Pellengill, Jordan
Patrick Eberhart, Iraq
Dreher Kinney, Columbia

Re-

Rats

Throughout the world, places that have been involved in war and /or civil strife often have large minefields that still need clearing. In 2013, it was estimated that there was a global average of nine mine-related deaths every day. The situation is especially dire in Africa. Typically, clearing a minefield involves men in body armor walking in very precise lines with metal detectors. Anything from a rusty nail to an old ammo cartridge that sets off the detectors must be investigated before moving on. A new method of bomb detection using rats, however is flipping this process on its head. A Belgian NGO called APOPO has developed a way to train African pouched rats to sniff out bombs quickly and safely.

They used this rat because it has an incredibly fine-tuned sense of smell and a long lifespan (8-9 years) to yield returns on the nine months of training they undergo.

The average mine requires roughly 11 pounds of weight to trigger an explosion. The biggest rat weighs around 3.1 pounds.





They are trained to sniff out explosives exclusively. They can effectively search 200 square meters in less than 20 minutes. A team of humans would need around 25 hours to do the same job. After about 4-5 years on the job, they are allowed to retire.

Rachel A. Becker, National Geographic



S.H.I.T.

An interesting fact about Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything for export had to be transported by ship. It was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. Since the stuff was stored below decks in bundles - you can see what could (and did) happen.

Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction ' Stow high in transit ' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this "volatile" cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term ' S.H.I.T ' : (Stow. High. In. Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.



Quote of the Day from the Los Angeles Times:

Frankly, I don't know what it is about California, but we seem to have a strange urge to elect really obnoxious women to high office. I'm not bragging, you understand, but no other state, including Maine, even comes close. When it comes to sending left-wing dingbats to Washington, we're Number One. There's no getting around the fact that the last time anyone saw the likes of Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Maxine Waters, and Nancy Pelosi, they were stirring a cauldron when the curtain went up on 'Macbeth '. The four of them are like jackasses who happen to possess the gift of blab. You don't know if you should condemn them for their stupidity or simply marvel at their ability to form words."

Columnist Burt Prelutsky, Los Angeles Times





Veterans Affairs

SBP Offset

Current law imposes a severe financial penalty of up to \$15,000 a year on the surviving spouse of an active duty or retired member who dies of a service-caused condition. That's because the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable for the service-caused death is deducted from their servicemember-purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity.

This is known as the "widows tax." Recognizing the inequity, Congress authorized a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) in 2008 as partial recompense for the SBP-DIC offset. Then-House Armed Service Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), expressed the intent to continue increasing SSIA and ultimately phase out the widows tax.

SSIA is currently \$310 per month but authority to pay it expires October 1, 2017. So unless Congress acts this year, survivors will lose over \$3,700 per year.

The House Armed Services Committee found only enough mandatory spending offsets to extend the SSIA one more year in the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill. But military widows deserve more substantive relief.



VA will not be privatized "under my watch," says nominee Shulkin Feb 03, 2017.

VA will not be privatized "under my watch," says nominee Shulkin. Dr. David Shulkin testifies before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday. Shulkin has been nominated to serve as the next VA secretary.

The president's pick to run the VA has plans to majorly reform the department if he's confirmed for the job, but that won't include a move toward privatized care. Dr. David Shulkin said during his nomination hearing Wednesday, Feb. 1, that he and President Donald Trump agree that the U.S. has "to do a lot better for our veterans. "There will be far greater accountability, dramatically improved access, responsiveness, and expanded care options," Shulkin told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. "If confirmed, I intend to build a system that puts veterans first and allows them to get the best possible health care wherever it may be - in VA or with community care. "While Trump has hinted at plans to privatize the massive department that serves millions of veterans each year, Shulkin said that won't happen "under my watch." He also said he made no promises to Trump about how he'd lead the VA. "What I told him is that I'm a strong advocate for the VA, that the services available in VA are not available in the private sector," he said. "My view of where VA needs to go is an integrated system of care - taking the best of VA and the best of the community, and that's what I would work toward." - See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/novaprivatization/#sthash.d2F0EY4k.dpuf>





So, what is VA compensation?

It's money, obviously. But there's more to it than that. People often say it's their "monthly check," their "service-connected payment," "their disability payment," or even simply their "benefits." These are actual words I often see, but even they don't effectively describe what compensation is, nor do they accurately portray which specific benefit—among dozens VBA administers—they're referring to.

There are several types of VA compensation, but I've learned that most people are most often referring to disability compensation. When referring to disability compensation, people most often say "my claim," "my money," "my benefits," or "my check." Sometimes they even say "my pension," which is, itself, an entirely different and unrelated VA benefit.

Alright, I've dragged you along long enough, What IS VA compensation?

First of all, it's taxpayer money. Every year, VA makes a budget request for the following year. In simple terms for just VBA, we look at what we're currently paying to administer VA benefits, including how much we're paying in compensation to the millions of Veterans on the rolls, then we analyze how much more we'll need based on many factors, mostly that there are more Veterans now accessing and receiving and applying to more VA benefits. However, VA's budget does not limit what we can pay in benefits. □ Secondly, to safeguard taxpayer money, disability compensation is a process. There are federal laws that govern how we, the VBA, can administer it. This is a protection to the taxpayer to prevent abuse and fraud.

Next, maybe most importantly—and the part you care about most: VA disability compensation is a tax-free, monthly payment to eligible Veterans for the injuries and medical conditions they incurred/acquired/caught/received or aggravated while in active military service. □ But VA compensation is also an acknowledgement. An acknowledgement implies acceptance from the federal government that what happened to you in service can or may affect you after service. And that's a broad, vague statement. Thus, VA compensation makes up for the potential loss of civilian wages or civilian working time you'd miss as a result of, or for tending to (appointments, etc.), your injuries/medical conditions. It's basically the government saying, "Hey, thanks for your service. You sacrificed your health for America, so we accept that your reduced health may impact your ability to live as comfortably as you would had you not gotten hurt/sick." □ Lastly, VA compensation is not income. I'm going to say that again: VA compensation is not income. It is not a replacement or substitution for civilian employment, and it is not a military retirement. Except in uncommon situations, VA does not pay you to not find or hold civilian employment. Compensation makes up for; it doesn't replace. Those are the basics. That's what it is. In my next blog, I'm going to lay it straight for the questions that would logically follow: Who is eligible, How does it work, and What do I need to do? If you like this approach and you want to see more blogs like it, shoot me some suggestions in the comments below, or hit me up on the VBA Facebook page where I chat with Veterans everyday.



The Risk of Identity Theft is Real Subscribe to Commissioner Adam H. Putnam's Email

Identity theft is a continuous problem, with many of its victims unaware that their identity has been stolen until they are denied credit or sent a bill for purchases they did not make. This time of year, there is an increase in tax identity theft, which occurs when an individual's Social Security number is stolen for the purpose of filing a tax return and claiming a fraudulent refund. This crime does not discriminate based on age. Criminals are increasingly targeting the SSN of minors due to their clean credit histories. The potential impact on a child's future is significant, affecting their ability to gain approval on student loans, obtain employment, or secure a place to live. You can help protect yourself and your family from identity theft, tax related or not, by knowing the warning signs and taking steps to prevent identity theft.

Warning Signs

- o You receive collection calls or bills for products you or your family did not receive.
- o You are denied credit.
- o You or a member of your family is denied government benefits because the benefits are being paid to another account using your or your family member's SSN.
- o You are notified by the Internal Revenue Service that more than one tax return using your SSN has been filed within one year.
- o You owe additional tax, refund offset, or had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return.

Steps to Prevent Identity Theft

- o Safeguard your information. Shred financial documents and paperwork, protect your SSN, never click on links sent in unsolicited emails, and keep your personal information in a safe place.
- o Don't share your child's SSN unless you know and trust the other party. Ask why it's necessary and how it will be protected. Ask if you can use a different identifier, or use only the last four digits of your child's SSN.

- o Watch for suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial account and billing statements for any questionable transactions. In addition, order a free annual credit report from each of the major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) at AnnualCreditReport.com. Check whether your child has a credit report if you think your child's information is at risk.
- o Respond against identity theft as soon as a problem is suspected. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion), close any accounts that have been compromised or opened fraudulently, file a police report, and file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at IdentityTheft.gov.
- o Respond immediately to any IRS notice; call the number provided or, if instructed, go to IDVerify.irs.gov.
- o Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, if your e-filed return is rejected because of a duplicate filing under your SSN or you are instructed to do so.
- o Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.
- o If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, call 1-800-908-4490. They have specialized teams that can assist with tax-related identity theft.

For additional information, contact the department at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)

All Veterans articles come from: Department of Florida Disabled Americans Veterans, Sun City Chapter 110.





CHAPTER LX TEAMHOUSE



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Brian Wilson, Dave Zilka, Kevin Zilka

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Bob Kvederas, Terry O'Connor,
Amy Sitze, Tom Smith, Billy Waugh

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BAH; CWU, Inc., Northrop Grumman;
Shutts & Bowen, Zilka-Kotab

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Leroy Mitchell, Rod Nishimura,
Bill Peak, Leon Sonnenburg,
Ed Townsend, Mike Waite
Brian Wilson, Gary Weber,
February CONTRIBUTORS

Chapter LX Coins Presented to Teamhouse Benefactors



Heads Up!

*"Listen
up, you
knuckleheads."*



"Be there. Be Square!"

**2-3 March 17—SOCSOUTH Fallen
Warrior Memorial Dedication,
Homestead ARB, FL**

**9 March 17— Premier of "Danger
Close" in Tampa, FL Details to
follow**

**10 March 17— Chapter Meeting,
1730**

**25 March 17— Grand Opening of
Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay,
1100-2000, Gas Light Square, St
Petersburg, FL**

**8 April 17— Springfest, 1100-
1500, American Legion Post 138,
Tampa, FL**