



TIP OF THE SPEAR

Volume 26, Issue 2

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

2018 TẾT
VÉ MÁY BAY
Tổng đài đặt vé: (028) 625 900 74

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới
HAPPY NEW YEAR
THỊNH MỪNG - ĐẤT TÀI

Join us at the home of Gary and Barbara Weber

16810 Blenheim Dr., Lutz, FL 33549

Saturday, 24 February 2018, 1800 Hours

Bring a covered dish to share. RSVP by 17 February, 813-948-

8317/813-508-0485



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



February 2018

We have added a new section to our newsletter called "Our Thoughts and Prayers." We, and I mean the collective we, have not always done such a good job in keeping track of and caring for our Chapter LX "Brothers."

As almost everyone is aware, we have a number of older members, and that includes me, many of which are suffering from illness and ailments. It is part of the Chapter's charter to support and help each other as a part of the Brotherhood. Bill Bennett and Amy Sitze will be sending out cards, as Bill has done in the past, to those in need. I'm asking any member that receives word that a Brother is in the hospital, homebound, sick, on hospice, or has recently passed, to please let any board member know immediately.

Remember, we are here to help those members and their families in their time of need.

DOL,

Gary Weber

President, Chapter LX



SFA Chapter LX Minutes for 9 February 2018

The meeting was brought to order at 1730 hours by Chapter President Gary Weber. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dave "Zeke" Zilka, followed by a Moment of Silence.

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, John Kiser, Ken Harrington, John Braham, David Hulsey, Ray Millaway, Wayne Rich, Jim McGarrah, Jim Fagan, Mike Monroe, Ken Nifong, Warren Soeldner, Pat Eberhart, Billy Waugh, Jerry Hines, Jesse Johnson, Robert Ryan, Kevin McCaffrey, Pat Rizzi, Bob Bailey, Don Cox, Mike Potter, Ed Dottery, Bill Oliva, Bob Kvederas, Rob Cavin, David Boggs, Nick Baxter, Aaron Seifer, Keith Pecha, Jon Mueller, and joining us for the first time since transferring their membership to Chapter LX are Spike Speicher and Greg Tarancon.

We had a number of visitors and guests join us this month to include: Duke Shienle, who became our newest Chapter LX member at the meeting, Charlie Moritz who transferred his life membership to Chapter LX, and Robert Wunderlich who not only transferred his membership but upgraded to life. We also had the wife and daughter of Bill Oliva with us.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

President Gary Weber began with welcoming all members—including the ones registering just prior to the start of the meeting-- and guests to Chapter LX monthly meeting. He also thanked all that took part in Gasparilla 2018.

This included Ray and the team for all the preparation, the crew that participated in float construction, and all those that participated in the Gasparilla Parade on 27 January. All participants had a fabulous time. And it couldn't have been done without the members help. Congrats on a job well done and a huge Gasparilla success.

President Weber addressed the outrageous behavior of a few Chapter members at the January meeting. Understand that though it is understood of why it happened, that behavior will not be tolerated. Should it happen again, the individuals involved will be asked to leave the meeting and will not be allowed to return till the following month. Again, we are a professional association and this kind of behavior will not be tolerated at any of our meetings or events.

Finally, President Weber asked for assistance from all Chapter members with a particular matter. As almost everyone is aware, we have a number of older members, many of which are suffering from illness and ailments. It is part of the Chapter's charter to support and help each other as a brotherhood does. President Weber is asking that any member that receives word that a Brother is in the hospital, homebound, sick, on hospice, or has recently passed to please let any board member and Secretary Sitze know immediately. This will allow us to notify all the Brothers in the Chapter of the Brother that is in need. Chapter LX members are here to support the individual in need and/or their family with visits, support, cards, prayers, and anything else that we can help with. Chapter LX is here in a time of need.

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 quarterly Drop uninterrupted.

1 October our Annual Membership Drive was opened and closed on 30 January 2018. This year's drive went extremely well. Though the membership drive is closed, does not mean that we are mission complete with recruiting. This is a never-ending initiative that all members can be a part of. If you know of someone that is eligible for membership, bring them as a guest so they can meet us. Guilt those that you work with or go shooting with to become members if they have yet to do so. Or if you know of anyone that was a member but moved away or got too busy, yet now have the time to join us again, please invite them back. Many are learning more about our Team House dream and are interested in becoming a part of that dream. We did have several that did not renew—Alan Hoe because he is living overseas and decided to drop his membership until he is closer to the area again; Daryll O'Sullivan due to not being able to participate because of age and health; and Bob Yuill due to moving out of the area and will join a local chapter in the Williamsburg, VA area. I challenge Chapter LX members that know Daryll or others still living in the local area to keep in touch and keep the Chapter informed of their whereabouts. Daryll and the others may not be an active member, but they are still brothers. Many of you carpool, and if you know of one of the older members that finds it difficult to get about, maybe adding them to

carpool is a possibility. The more the merrier!

All members were notified of a Homeless Veteran found in the Tampa Bus Depot and another in the hospital unresponsive and with no family or friends in the last year. This is happening more and more especially with Vietnam Era Veterans and Secretary Sitze receives many of those notifications which she then shares via email distro. Chapter members have responded by going to the hospital, if available, to sit with, read to, or pray with the veteran in their final hours so that they are not alone. Secretary Sitze will continue to send out emails as she is notified of more veterans with the same circumstances. Chapter LX is doing what they can to ensure that they are not alone in their final hours. In addition, members notify key personnel of their veteran status so that they are honored accordingly. Please help to continue this mission in the future.

Secretary Sitze finished her report with a Calendar scrub of upcoming events both locally and nationally. Please reference the "Heads Up" section. And she made a few announcements on behalf of National and other Chapters. All of which are covered in the various sections of this newsletter.

A motion was made by Dave Zilka and seconded by Kenny Harrington to accept the Secretary's report. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Board members took a moment to clear the room of all guests. Once cleared, the 2017 Budget and the Projected 2018 Budget were discussed at length and in detail. Once discussion was complete and all questions answered, a motion by Ray Millaway was made to pass the 2018 Budget. It was seconded by Brian Wilson and passed unanimously by the general membership.

The monthly treasurer's report overview was provided as guests reentered the room. All bills are confirmed paid to date with the exception of storage and it will be paid in the upcoming week.

If you have any questions concerning the approved 2018 Budget or the monthly budget, please discuss with Rich Corson.

A motion was made by Dave Zilka and seconded by Kenny Harrington to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

QUARTERMASTER REPORT.

Quartermaster, Jim Fagan has a variety of Chapter gear and apparel for sale. He has some legacy apparel left in inventory. Once sold, these items will no longer be available for purchase and will not be reordered. Jim also has shirts for the women available, along with men's Nike Golf and Cotton/Poly Chapter LX shirts. If you need gear or have any questions, get with Jim. For any additional personalizing 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. Jim now has for sale Gasparilla Krewe T-shirts for \$25. These are a must see! And the newest item available is Chapter LX Crests for \$10. They look awesome. They will be perfect to wear on the beret. And are selling fast. Gear is available at all meetings and events Jim is able to attend.

Due to the demand for Chapter gear, Jim is quickly running low on inventory. A motion was made by Rich Corson to allow Jim \$1000 worth of funds to buy more stock. Dave "Zeke" Zilka seconded it and then it passed unanimously. All the money we are providing the Quartermaster is quickly being made back and with profit by the sale of shirts and hats.

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/>.

OLD BUSSINESS.

Gasparilla 2018! Way to go Ray! Ray Millaway received a well-deserved standing ovation for all of his planning and efforts to make Gasparilla the success it was. It is because of Ray doing such a fantastic job working with the committee and doing all the behind scenes that Chapter LX was able to participate in the event. Ray put in a lot of time and covered much of the expense to allow Chapter LX participation in Gasparilla. Our Ye Special Forces Krewe Logo does seem to be a crowd favorite. The crowd loves us and we love them. And of course, we had a great position in the parade. All members, especially Ray, had a wonderful time. This year was one of the largest Gasparilla's the city has ever seen. And Chapter LX grew with it by having our own float this year and increased participation by members and their families. Be sure to watch our Krewe video, <https://youtube/CrBt2MI4kdU>, if you want to see more. Chapter LX has an open invitation to participate in all Gasparilla events. Ideas are already being discussed for Gasparilla 2019. The beads have been passed on to Nick Baxter who has volunteered to be the lead for next year's Gasparilla planning and participation. Nick, you have big shoes to fill, yet, we know you can! If participants have a suggestion or AAR item to be documented, please email Secretary Sitze with the remarks. Again, thank you Ray for all your dedication in planning this event on behalf of the Chapter.

[Ray Millaway presented some members of the "Ye Special Forces Krewe" a Certificate of Appreciation for going above and beyond supporting Gasparilla. Those members included: Rob & Kristi Cavin, Rich Corson, David Boggs, Gary Weber, Bob Bailey, Ed Dottery, Dave Hulsey, Pat Rizzi, Don Cox, Brian Wilson, Amy Sitze, Hans Bush, Mae Lee Rich, Brenna Rutland, Steve & Melissa Grewell and Will Colon. Thank you to each of you for time spent and participation in supporting Gasparilla 2018. And thank you again to Brenna and the Daughters of the Confederacy for allowing Chapter LX use of the float in the parade.](#)



NEW BUSINESS.

President Gary Weber and his wife Barbara will be hosting this year's Tet Party on 24 February. It will be at their residence in Lutz, FL. They are asking everyone attending to please bring a dish to share. And please RSVP. A flyer was sent out by Secretary Sitze with the specifics.

"Nish" shared a personal story of his from 50 years ago when serving in Vietnam. I am sure many more stories will be told at the party. Be sure to come and enjoy a night of stories, food, and friends that has become a Chapter tradition.

VP Reed is now planning the annual Chapter LX SpringFest. He is scoping out various locations to find the best for all who attend to enjoy themselves—adults and kids, alike. This year, anticipate it being a more family friendly event with specific attractions / games to entertain the kids. It is tentatively schedule for Saturday 14 April 2018. Details will follow once finalized. In the meantime, save the date. The last few years, we have had perfect weather for a day to be enjoyed outside with friends and family. A great social event for the Chapter members and their families.

Jim McGarrah made an announcement on behalf of Dave Haddock—Sporting Clay Shoot Chair—who was unable to attend. Chapter LX still has a shotgun sitting in the safe at CWU under the care of Chuck Jenkins. The decision was made not to raffle it off during the Shoot last November. However, now it is time to decide what we should do with it. Raffle it off? If so when and where, etc.? 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. It was decided that the board would take it for further discussion.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Nick Baxter asked if Chapter LX is interested in being part of and/or participating in the Starlight Cruise that is

an event that takes place during SOFIC in May. He believes there is an opportunity possible for the Chapter at the event. Interest by board and members was expressed for further information. Nick is taking it for action to learn more details and if, indeed, the Chapter would be able and/or invited to attend the event.

Rob Cavin announced that the 1978 Shovelhead Harley Raffle is going well and that we are still in the early stages of the raffle. We have utilized an online raffle website that has shown a lot of benefit for using. This allows us to do better than we could on our own, locally. We have paper tickets, as well, that are available to sell by members. Please get with Rob to buy tickets or to grab a handful to sell. I am sure you have friends and family that would like to purchase tickets. The drawing will be 14 July 2018. The bike will be displayed at a number of events and expos between now and the raffle. Emails will be sent out as the calendar is set. We will request volunteers to sit with the bike and sell tickets at the various events. If you are able to help, please inform a board member.

Member Brenna Rutland has spoken with Life member Harry Bowers who is one of our oldest members. He is unable to get out and do things much, yet he loves visitors. And Harry has invited any Chapter member who would like to go out and visit him anytime. He lives out in the country and one can shoot out there, visit, or merely get away from city life for a bit. Please talk with Brenna or Secretary Sitze for more info.

JFKSWCS accepts nominations for Distinguished/Honorary Members of the First Special Forces Regiment throughout the year. If you know of someone that you believe is an eligible candidate for the honor, please let a board member know. Secretary Sitze has the specifics of eligibility and process for nominations that she can email upon request. Please note that Secretary Sitze will not be the one that writes or submits the nomination packages. We ask that the



individual nominating a candidate work with VP of Ops Brian Wilson to put the package together. The next Induction Ceremony will be on 4 May 2018 with another following in the fall. Chapter LX members already inducted, include: SGM (Ret) William "Billy" Waugh, LTC (Ret) Geoffrey Barker, COL (Ret) Jerry King, COL (Ret) Darrell Katz, MAJ (Ret) Richard J. Meadows, COL (Ret) Warner Farr, MG (Ret) Geoffery Lambert, and COL (Ret) John "Jack" Braham in the Psychological Operations Regiment.

For those of you that may be interested, here is a deal for you. For members of SFA, a deal is being offered. For just \$50, you can purchase a Swiss Army Knife. Please contact joe at Jtraurig@verizon.net for information. If you would like to see the item for purchase, contact Secretary Sitze for the flyer.

50 / 50 Drawing.

There was \$110.00 in the pot. Arlene Oliva was the lucky winner for the night and donated it to the Scholarship Fund. Many thanks, Arlene. Glad you were able to join us for the evening.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1840 following a motion made by Rod Nishimura and seconded, then it passed unanimously. The meeting lasted 70 minutes.

The Next Membership Meeting:

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, 9 March 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

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 place 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. 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>.



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 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

The Virginia War Museum is developing a temporary exhibit to commemorate the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1969. They have already amassed information, artifacts, and photos to give an overview of the time period. However, they are lacking a reflection of the experiences of men and women who served during this period. They are inviting those that might be interested to tell their story, especially those that live in Virginia. To help with this aspect of the exhibit, a personal story can be relayed via an interview or a loan of copies of personal papers and photos. In addition, if you know of anyone else that is interested in helping with the endeavor, refer them to the museum. For more, please contact David Bennett, Curator, Virginia War Museum at (757)247-8523 or dbennett@nnva.gov.

Delegations from National League of POW/MIA Families and SOA/SFA visited Southeast Asia. They traveled to Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand. They met with US Ambassadors and Embassy officials, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach specialists and DPAA Detachment personnel. They also had an opportunity to speak with the Secretary Mattis who was also in the region at the time. The intent behind their visit is to discuss topics of mutual interest to advance the accounting mission.

All participants hold the view that difficult as such missions are, this was well worth the effort. If you would like to know more or donate to the efforts of finding lost service members in Southeast Asia, please go to www.pow-miafamilies.org to learn more.

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 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.



"Tip of the Beret " to the Ye Special Forces Krewe of Tampa Bay construction crew.



Colonel Andrew L. Irzyk (Ret) Special Forces

Colonel Andrew L. Irzyk (D-L-0963), loving husband of his wife Isa, spent more than 20 years with Special Forces and was a member of Chapter 60. He served with the 7th SFGA from 1960-1964, the 2nd SFGA from 1964 through 1965; the 10th SFGA in 1975 and again from 1977 through 1980; 5th SFGA from 1966 to 1967; the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center from 1982 through 1986; Special Projects, SHAPE from 1986 through 1989 and his final assignment was with the U.S. Special Operations Command in 1989. He fought a courageous battle with lung cancer until he passed in hospice on 12 January. He will be sorely missed.



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.



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 of those deployed.



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

Wings of Eagles

Bill Bennett

wcbenn47@verizon.net

"God in the Army"

*"Help us, Lord our God, ... in your name
we have come against this vast army.
Lord, you are our God; do not let mere
mortals prevail against you."*

[2 Chronicles 14:11](#)

Yesterday I was musing about my experiences with God in the Army. Actually, I mean religion in the Army. I recall going to Chapel once or twice during Basic Training. I attended because the chapel was an oasis from the havoc in the company area. I don't recall any chaplain nor did I ever see a chaplain in our company or training areas.

At West Point Chapel was mandatory. You were either Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish. As a Protestant I attended the large, neogothic chapel on the hill above the barracks and parade ground. Services in that chapel always seemed cold and impersonal to me. The interior was dark and medieval, a long sanctuary with a raised dais near the altar at the front completed the ambience. The chaplain was a civilian. Again, I never saw a chaplain in the barracks, classrooms, or training areas.

In my first company, Co. B, 75th Rangers, we had a close relationship with our chapel. On at least two occasions, I recall the unit "sponsored" a service. The company commander directed a mandatory unit formation in the company area on Sunday morning. At the appointed time, the company formed up. Those not wishing to attend the service were dismissed and the rest of us marched as a company to the chapel. Dependents met us at the chapel, but it seems we sat together as a unit. After service we all returned to the company mess hall where the cooks presented a veritable feast.

One of the NCOs had a few ponies and children were given pony rides while the adults enjoyed their meal and ... beer. It was an enjoyable, morale building event.

I recall our chaplain in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. I would see him when we circled back through Camp Eagle, our major firebase. He was personable and harassed me because of my camouflage fatigues. I would have liked to see more of him.

The best chaplain, I had was in the 1st Infantry Division. Bruce would stop by my office from time to time to discuss "things." He often visited our local training areas or stopped by the motor pool to see how the boys were doing. Often I would get a sense of brewing situations from Bruce. I know he counseled several soldiers as well.

Chaplains are appointed by their denomination to be in the military. Many chaplains have prior service. My neighbor had been awarded a Silver Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge prior to becoming a chaplain. On active duty, most have dual responsibilities. They pastor a chapel, often a shared responsibility, and they minister to a unit. Chaplains do a great service to the men and to the leaders of any combat unit. God Bless them!

De Oppresso Liber

Bill





Veterans Affairs

VA Facilities Now Offer Same-day Care for Urgent Primary and Mental Health-care Needs WASHINGTON —

Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a major milestone, that 100 percent of its more than 1,000 medical facilities across the country now offer same-day services for urgent primary and mental health-care needs.

Same-day services means a Veteran with an urgent need for primary care and mental health-care receives services that may include: a face-to-face visit with a clinician; advice provided during a call with a nurse; a telehealth or video care visit; an appointment made with a specialist; or a prescription filled the same day, depending upon what best meets the needs of the Veteran.

"We made a commitment to our nation's Veterans that we would work to reduce wait times and improve access, and we are doing it," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "We were able to meet this goal, in large part, because of the concerted focus of our staff who care for our Veterans in facilities across the country."

Since 2014, VA has concentrated its efforts on improving access and meeting the urgent health-care needs of Veterans. In 2016, all of VA's medical centers offered same-day services for primary and mental health services.

In addition to offering same-day services, VA has reduced patient wait times. VA also implemented a new process to ensure timely follow-up appointments for time-sensitive medical needs. More than 100,000 such appointments have been completed.

In 2017, Veterans completed over 57.5 million appointments and VA clinicians saw almost 6 million patients.

To view access information about each facility nationwide, visit <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/>. The information provided at this link is not offered by any major national hospital organization in the country.



There are four classifications of service connected disabilities

There are a number of ways veterans can get Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability compensation: 1.) Presumptive, 2.) Secondary, 3.) Aggravation and 4.) Direct. Let's take a look at the distinction between the four types of service-connected disabilities as defined by the VA. Presumptive: Service-connection is given for disabilities that were not diagnosed on active duty, but are "presumed" to have begun in service. For certain select disabilities, if they manifest to a compensable degree (warrants at least a 10 percent rating) within one year of leaving active duty, a veteran can still get service-connection for them. The one-year presumptive conditions include hypertension, arthritis and diabetes, among several others, all listed in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 38, 3.309. There are also a few disabilities with longer presumptive periods, such as multiple sclerosis, which is seven years. There are also presumptive disabilities that will be granted if a veteran gets them anytime in his life, such as those exposed to herbicides in Vietnam (and in some cases, Thailand, Laos or Korea), as well as for radiation-exposed veterans, tropical diseases, diseases specific to former POWs and Gulf War illnesses, with various criteria needing to be met in order to be granted service-connection.



Any veteran of any service period who gets amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, will also be granted service-connected disability for this condition.

Secondary: When a veteran's service-connected disability causes a separate disability at any time in his lifetime, he/she can claim the new condition as secondary to the service-connected disability. For example, if a veteran is service-connected for lumbar spine degenerative disc disease and then develops radiculopathy (pain, numbness and/or tingling in one or both lower extremities from the lumbar disks pressing on a nerve), he/she can claim this new disability by stating it is secondary to the service-connected lumbar spine and providing medical evidence that he has been diagnosed/treated for the new, chronic condition.

Aggravation: If a veteran enters service with a documented, chronic disability such as flat feet or hearing loss, he/she can still get service-connected for the disability, but only if the condition was "aggravated" while in military service, meaning it got measurably worse during active duty, unless the worsening is a "natural" progression of the condition.

Direct: Service-connection is granted on a direct basis for a disease or disability that was first diagnosed as a chronic condition on active duty that the veteran will continue to have throughout his/her lifetime. The condition must be chronic and not "acute or transitory," such as a one-time sprained ankle that heals with no residual problems. Generally, there must be evidence in military service medical records of a diagnosis. Notes of only pain or other symptoms are not the same as an official diagnosis supported by such things as medical evaluations, scans or X-rays, as determined by a medical professional. It's never too late to file a claim for direct service-connection, as long as the service medical records show the diagnosis and the

veteran provides current medical evidence that he/she still has, or is being treated for, the same condition.

For the purpose of the VA, disability compensation is granted only for conditions that arise during active duty. If someone serves only in the National Guard or Reserves and never has a period of being called to active duty, the only disabilities he/she can claim would be injuries that occurred during weekend drills or annual training. To claim such an injury, one must provide a Line of Duty report of the injury, along with a diagnosis of the chronic disability, and medical records from military medical professionals.

This is a good summary from: <http://www.veteranprograms.com/index.html> dtd Jan 4, 2018 You need to understand these classifications when establishing service connection.



VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military ser-



vice, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

"The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services."

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on "Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card" on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account. Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.



VA CLINIC PLANNED

On Tuesday, February 20, three executives from the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa will outline the services to be offered at the new VA Clinic in Riverview at a public meeting at the Trinity Baptist Church on Del Webb Blvd West from 2 to 4 PM.

The new 50,000 square foot South Hillsborough VA Clinic will be about six miles from Sun City Center; a shuttle bus will be in service from Sun City Center to the new clinic. Primary care services, women's primary care, home-based primary care, mental health, audiology, radiology (MRI, CT, ultrasound, x-ray), specialty care, physical therapy and a pharmacy lab will be described.

There will be information about in-home and nursing care for Veterans and spouses, and about existing federal and state Veteran benefits. Mental health services and spouse benefits will be outlined at this meeting. It is all sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the South County Coalition on Mental Health and Aging.

There will be an open question/answer period.



All Veterans articles come from:

Department of Florida Disabled

American Veterans, Sun City Chapter 110, except for VA Clinic Planned article.



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February CONTRIBUTORS



Heads Up!

*"Listen
up, you
knuckleheads.*



Be there. Be Square!"

**24 February 2018— TET Party,
1800, The Weber Hooch. Bring a
covered dish to share. RSVP.**

**9 March 2018—Chapter LX
meeting, 1730, ALP 139, Tampa,
FL.**

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

**14 April 2018—SpringFest,
Tentative, Details to follow.**

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

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

**12-16 June 2018—National SFA
Conference, El Paso, TX. [http://
sfa2018el Paso.blogspot.com/201
7/05/sfa-2018-national
convention.html](http://sfa2018el Paso.blogspot.com/2017/05/sfa-2018-national-convention.html)**