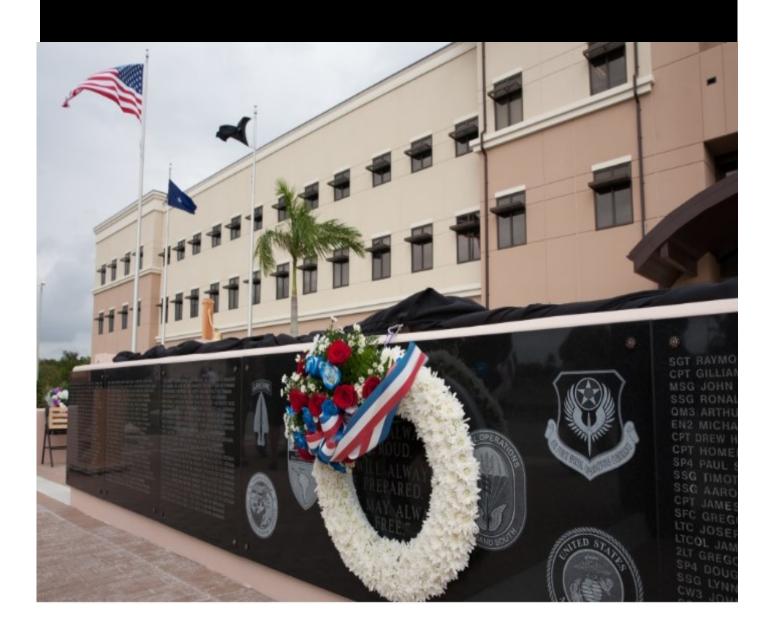
BEST SFA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 05-13 and GOLDEN QUILL 97, 98 & 2012

# SOCSOUTH Fallen Warrior Memorial Dedication Ceremony





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I was reflecting back the other day about those in my past who have really had an impact. Those I considered mentors whose guidance and leadership enriched and expanded my abilities and philosophy. If I have enjoyed any success, I am certain they are largely responsible. Where would we be without the guidance of those whom we respect and admire? Mentors come in many forms and from many walks of life. Do we look for opportunities to mentor others? We are the culmination of our experiences, both good and bad but we learn from them if we choose to look for the lesson. I want to challenge you to look for opportunities to mentor those who would benefit from your experience! Giving back is its own reward!

Brian Wilson

President

# SFA Chapter LX Minutes for 10 March 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 1803 hours by Chapter President Brian Wilson after a special presentation made by the American Legion Officers of Post 139.

Officers present were: President Brian Wilson; Vice President of Operations Pat Rizzi; Treasurer Rich Corson; and Secretary Amy Sitze.

Members present were: Ray Millaway, Wayne Rich, Jerry Hines, Dave Froberg, Bruce Warner, Ed Dottery, Wil Colon, Goose Gossage, Bill Oliva, Ken Nifong, Dave Hulsey, Jim Fagan, Don Cox, Rod Nishimura, Dave Zilka, David Haddock, Brenna Rutland, Mick Cole, Keith Hanley, Andrew Gonzales, Brad Preston, Hans Bush, Gary Weber, Rob Cavin, and Jim McGarrah.

There were a total of 29 Chapter Members present. In addition, guests in attendance: Alex Quade—the Guest of Honor, MSG George Vera, Billy Waugh, Pat Colloton, and Fred Hoffman from El Paso. And present from the American Legion, we had: Ms. Eunice Butts - AL Dept of Florida, Post Development Chair; Tony Morin - Post Commander. AL Dale Mabry Post 139; and Dee Wilson, President, AL Dale Mabry Post 139 Auxiliary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by MSG George Vera and then followed by a moment of silence for our missing and fallen comrades.

# PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.

March's meeting did not begin in typical fashion. President Brian Wilson welcomed everyone and introduced our special guests present. A trailer of "Danger Close," a documentary filmed by Alex Quade, was shown. Immediately following, a special presentation was made by the Leaders of the American Legion to our guest of honor Alex Quade

who presented her with flowers and a certificate. President Wilson then presented the American Leadership with a check for \$250 as a "Thank You for Continued Support to Chapter LX." In addition, a plaque that is now hanging on the wall of the American Legion presented by Chapter LX was unveiled. Following the presentations, the meeting officially began. Thank you Ray Millaway for orchestrating the festivities of the evening and coordination with the Legion.

# **SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

Secretary Sitze spoke of the Annual Membership Drive which was a success based upon current members. Formers members have rejoined the Chapter, and some new ones are now added to our ranks. Please continue to reach out to all members of SF that you know that are eligible and would be interested in joining Chapter LX. Invite them to meetings and Chapter activities to show how we will welcome them. She asked everyone to sign in so that we have correct accountability for meeting attendance. Please update email addresses and contact information to keep our Chapter and National databases updated. Email is the main medium which we get Chapter information out. This also ensures there is no interruption in delivery of the quarterly Drop. Secretary Sitze also briefed a number of upcoming events. Be sure to look at upcoming events for specifics. The calendar is busy this first half of the year, so be sure to read emails and the Newsletter for all specifics and updates.

A motion was made by Jim McGarragh and was seconded by Rob Cavin to accept the Secretary's report. The motion passed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

Due to guests present, no specifics were discussed. Yet, it was confirmed that all bills are paid. 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.

# **OLD BUSINESS.**

It is Spring and the JROTC program is in need of volunteers to help with the award presentations. If anyone is interested in supporting or working with the program, please get in touch with Dave Froberg or Dave Haddock. This is a great way for us to see the talent that will be entering the ranks upon graduation and beyond. 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.

An update was provided on the Team House. We are moving along by working with the city to ensure we are meeting all requirements with the engineers, builders, and architects that will help us get there. We are currently addressing water runoff on the property and a retaining wall which is required as a barrier between our lot and the residential area behind our lot. The Steering Committee is working closely with those that will be able to get this project moving along. We want to be able to break ground as soon as possible.

Three of the five officers currently sitting on the board will be required to step down January of next year: President, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Support. Elections will be held in November with the transition to follow in January 2018. If any one is interested or you would like to nominate someone to the board, please let a current board member know or a member from the Finders Committee. We are taking those nominations now. The Finders Committee made up of Darrell Katz and Dave Zilka will be overseeing the nominations and the vote in November.

SpringFest will be held on 8 April 2017 1100-1500 hours 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. The flyer has been emailed with the details. It is only \$5 per person to offset some of the expense. Please RSVP to Amy Sitze if you plan to attend.

# **NEW BUSINESS**.

# SOFIC Dates are out, 15-18 May.

Please note these are earlier dates than usual this year. Rob Cavin and President Wilson has arranged that the Chapter will have its own table on charity row for the week. Plus, charity proceeds from the golf tournament will be benefiting the chapter. Please mark the dates on your calendar and if you are able to volunteer at the table, please let Rob Cavin, Brian Wilson, or Amy Sitze know as soon as possible.

Chapter LX has been presented with another fundraising opportunity with little or no work from chapter members other than helping us spread the word. Snappers Comedy Club in Oldsmar, FL has arranged for Thursday 4 May 2017 to be our night for fun and fundraising. There will be food, drinks, and of course some hearty laughs. 100% of the ticket sales will go to the Chapter. It is from 1830 to 2100. Bring your friend for a few drinks and a night full of laughs. More will be distributed in future newsletters and via email when available.

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

Jim Bradley came to tell chapter members about 29 April 2017 Rolling Thunder, Inc FL Chapter 11 8th Annual "POW/MIA Awareness" Golf Tournament, 0730, Rocky Point Golf Course, Tampa, FL. For more Info go to: www.RollingThunderFL11.com. Through Rolling Thunder, awareness is made of those 70,000 still unaccounted for since WWI.



Guns for Cause did close out. And the final results are in. We again were able to profit through this means of fundraising, bringing in over \$10,000. And if this was not your lucky raffle in winning. Not to worry. We will have another one in the next quarter.

All American Music came to present a check to the Chapter from the proceeds made during the Valentine's for Veterans event in

February. Chapter LX was presented with a check in the amount of \$16,800. Thank you again, so very much, Arlene and team from All American

Last but not least, Alex Quade was made an Honorary Chapter LX member and was presented with a certificate and a chapter coin.

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 <a href="https://www.armyhistory.org">WWW.armyhistory.org</a> to find out more.

# 50 / 50 Drawing.

Music.

There was \$200.00 in the pot and the drawing was won by Dave Hulsey who donated his half of the winnings to the Team House. Many thanks!

# **Adjournment**:

The meeting adjourned at 1841 following a motion which was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting lasted 38 minutes.

# The Next Membership Meeting:

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, 14 April 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

.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.



# **Team House Update**

### **Chapter LX, Special Forces Association**

6209 S. Dale Mabry Hwy Tampa, Florida 33611



Architect concept drawing

The soil samples have been taken to determine how best to manage storm water runoff! Engineers and architects from the design firm have been in contact with city officials concerning the site plan and we are making steady progress. We will build a six foot barrier wall along the back length of the property to separate our commercially zoned lot from the residential lots behind us as required by the city. We are drawing closer to realizing the vision that is more than a decade in age. Stay tuned for developments!



# "Danger Close"

President Brian Wilson introduced our special guest, Alex Quade. A trailer of "Danger Close", a documentary filmed by Alex Quade was shown at the Chapter LX meeting. Chapter members had the opportunity to view the documentary the evening before.

Following the showing of the trailer, leaders of the American Legion Post 139, Post Commander Tony Morin and Dee Wilson, President of Post 139 Auxiliary presented our guest of honor, Alex Quade with flowers and a Certificate.

President Brian Wilson presented the American leadership with a check for \$250 as a Thank You for continued support to Chapter LX.







Brian Wilson with Alex Quade and MSG George Vera



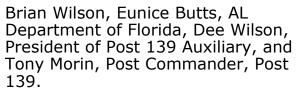


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In appreciation for the continued support of Chapter LX by American Legion Post 139; Chapter President Brian Wilson unveiled a Chapter LX plaque that is now hanging on the wall of American Legion Post 139.

All American Music came to present a check to the Chapter for proceeds from the Valentines for Veterans event in February. Chapter LX was presented with a check in the amount of \$16,800 dollars. Thank you so very much, Arlene and the Team from All American Music.







Thank you Wayne Rich for the beautiful Plague.





# SOCSOUTH Fallen Warrior Memorial Dedication Ceremony

SOCSOUTH honored their Fallen Warriors during a ceremony held on Friday 3 March, 2017 at their Headquarters, at Homestead, ARB, FL. Research for the Memorial has been over three years in the making. Army LTC (RET) Patrick Lenaghan (7th Group) has been instrumental and the driving force in making this Memorial a reality.

The black granite Memorial Wall in front of SOCSOUTH Headquarters is inscribed with the names of 142 SOF Warriors from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and the Air Force.

Four individual stones near the flag pole pay tribute to those SOF Warriors Killed in Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada, El Salvador Civil War, Operation Just Cause, Panama, and Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti.

RADM Collin Green, the presiding officer and SOCSOUTH Commander stated "the memorial commemorates U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force Special Operations Forces members killed during combat operations or while conducting training in the U.S. Southern Command's area of operations. These fallen warriors paid the ultimate sacrifice as they trained for and participated in combat operation during a critical period in our nation's history. A period where we sought to assist nations, and their people, pursue our shared western values of democratically elected governments, personal freedom, and human rights.

We would not be here today if it wasn't for Pat's vision. Thanks Pat and all who contributed in so many ways to make this happen,"

"These great Americans were every bit like you and me," said retired Army Brig. Gen. Hector Pagan, guest speaker at the ceremony and SOCSOUTH's 11th commander. "Heroes as they were, I'm sure they would never acknowledge anything they did as special; but also like you and me, what set them apart was they loved being in Special Operations, they loved our country, and loved the work they did." "To get here, Pat and his volunteers had to plan like you would an operation, do research, design, work, and most important, set up a non-profit and raise the funds for the memorial," said Pagan, More than 30 sponsors raised the funds needed to build the memorial, which was donated to SOCSOUTH's headquarters

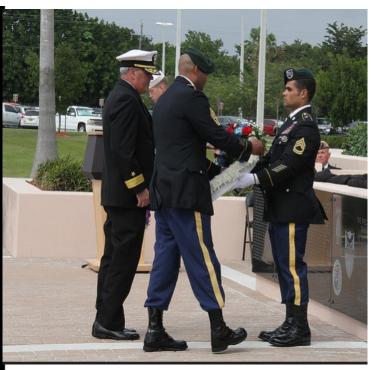
The Memorial Dedication Ceremony continued with the unveiling of the Wall and the laying of the Wreath. Each of the 142 names were read aloud by SOCSOUTH service members representing all four services as a bell was rung for each of the fallen. After the reading of the names, Taps was sounded and Amazing Grace was played.

Chapter LX members Gary and Barbara Weber and Chuck and Susan Jenkins were honored to be invited to this Dedication Ceremony. Chuck made a significant contribution to the Memorial. This was a very moving and poignant moment for us because we have participated in some of these operations and knew some of the warriors on the Wall. The Ceremony was beautifully done; a tribute to those who gave their lives to "Pave the Way."

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RADM Collin Green SOCSOUTH Commander



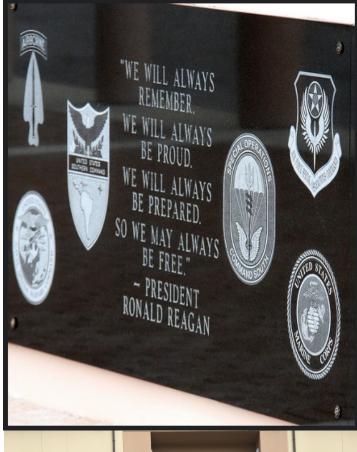
RADM Collin Green and Command Sergeant Major Amil Alvarez



BG (RET) Hector Pagan Guest Speaker



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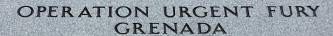
COL (RET) Gary Weber and RADM Collin Green, 1st and 15th SOCSOUTH Commanders





Mary and John Brennen, Gary Weber, Sam Stouffer, and Michael (Mick) Hogan Original Members of SOCSOUTH





23 OCT 1983



21 DEC 1983

# KIA

MMI KENNETH BUTCHER USN SEAL TEAM SIX 24-OCT-83
OMI KEVIN LUNDBERG USN SEAL TEAM SIX 24-OCT-83
HTI STEPHEN MORRIS USN SEAL TEAM SIX 24-OCT-83
ENCS ROBERT SCHAMBERGER USN SEAL TEAM SIX 24-OCT-83
ISTLT JEFFREY SCHARVER USMC 22ND MAU 25-OCT-83
ISTLT JEFFREY SCHARVER USMC 22ND MAU 25-OCT-83
SGT RANDY CLINE USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SF4 MARLIN MAYNARD USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SF4 MARK RADEMACHER USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
PFC RUSSELL ROBINSON USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SF4 MARK YAMANE USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SF4 MARK YAMANE USA IST BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SF7 PHILIP GRENIER USA 2ND BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 25-OCT-83
SGT KEVIN LANNON USA 2ND BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 27-OCT-83
SGT STEPHEN SLATER USA 2ND BN (RANGER) 75 TH IN 27-OCT-83

# EL SALVADOR CIVIL WAR I JANUARY 1984 - I FEBRUARY 1992



# KIA

LCDR ALBERT SCHAUFELBERGER USN USMILGRP. SLV 25-MAR-83

SFC GREGORY FRONIUS USA 3/7TH SFG(A) 31-MAR-87

LTC JOSEPH LUJAN USA USMILGRP. SLV 15-JUL-87

LTCOL JAMES BASILE USAF USMILGRP. SLV 15-JUL-87

2LT GREGORY PAREDES USA USMILGRP. SLV 15-JUL-87

SP4 DOUGLAS ADAMS USA USMILGRP. SLV 15-JUL-87

SSG LYNN KEEN USA 3/7TH SFG(A) 15-JUL-87

CW3 JOHN RAYBON USA 3/7TH SFG(A) 15-JUL-87

LTC DAVID PICKETT USA USMILGRP. SLV 2-JAN-91

CW4 DANIEL SCOTT USA USMILGRP. SLV 2-JAN-91

PFC EARNEST DAWSON JR USA USMILGRP. SLV 2-JAN-91



# OPERATION JUST CAUSE PANAMA 20 DECEMBER 1989 - 31 JANUARY 1990



# KIA

LT JOHN CONNORS USN SEAL TEAM FOUR 20-DEC-89
ENC DONALD MCFAUL USN SEAL TEAM FOUR 20-DEC-89
TM2 ISSAC RODRIGUEZ III USN SEAL TEAM FOUR 20-DEC-89
BMI CHRIS TILGHMAN USN SEAL TEAM FOUR 20-DEC-89
PFC JAMES MARKWELL USA 1/75TH RANGER RGT 20-DEC-89
SP4 PHILLIP LEAR USA 2/75TH RANGER RGT 20-DEC-89
PFC JOHN PRICE USA 2/75TH RANGER RGT 20-DEC-89
PFC ROY BROWN JR USA 3/75TH RANGER RGT 20-DEC-89
ILT JOHN HUNTER USA 1/160TH AVN GRP(A) 20-DEC-89
CW3 WILSON OWENS USA 1/160TH AVN GRP(A) 20-DEC-89
SSG LARRY BARNARD USA 3/75TH RANGER RGT 20-DEC-89









# "Mud"

"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

Psalm 40:2

If there is one thing Infantrymen, Rangers and Special Forces soldiers become familiar with, it is "mud." Whether light (walking) or heavy (mechanized) infantry it seems that sooner, rather than later, mud is omnipresent. Perhaps worse with the heavy infantry, it soon seems to be everywhere. It clumps on boots making it difficult to walk. It cakes the uniform and soon it is all over your hands and streaks your face.

Of course mud is composed of two elements: dirt and water. Dry dirt is just that dirt. But, add in a rain, which always seems to be cold, and you have a miserable experience. The light infantry doesn't wear wet weather gear for the most part. Rain coats are noisy and reflect light. There is no escaping the mess. Caked in mud and soaked to the bone in rain, no respite is possible.

Rain drips from your helmet or field hat into your tray of food or your C-ration or Meal Ready to Eat (MRE). If it ever was hot, it is little more than a cold, soupy slop by the time you get to eat it. Lighting a cigarette becomes an art form. Night time can be even worse. A poncho and nylon poncho liner are your bedding for the night, but where does one bed down? During the monsoon it was not uncommon to sleep – sort of - in a couple inches of standing water.

I once worked for a fine infantry officer, a major, who lost a leg in Vietnam. We were in a mechanized unit at Fort Riley. More than once, the mud was so thick that it broke the seal between his partial

leg and his prosthetic. Down he would go and he could be seen sitting in the mud trying to get his leg reattached ... and cursing up a storm the entire time.

The only thing rain and mud is good for is keeping the enemy down in a "dry" place and dampening the noise of your own movement. Sin is the mud of the life. It creates a mire that grabs us and pulls us down to the depths. It clumps around our feet impeding our forward progress. The mud of sin makes it difficult to stride forward as the Lord would have us do. Soon sin has figuratively covered us and, worse, soaked us to the bone. Worse than mud sin permeates not only the skin but the soul as well.

Unless we cry out for Christ and reach out for him we will remain stuck in the mud. Only He can give us firm standing.

As David wrote, "But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may those who long for Your saving help always say, 'The LORD is great!"

De Oppresso Liber

Bill





# **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

Request members inform Gary Weber, <a href="mailto:glwb310@yahoo.com">glwb310@yahoo.com</a> of those deployed.



# **Veterans Affairs**

Here are 10 ways VA Secretary David Shulkin plans to shake up the massive bureaucracy during his tenure as secretary.

- 1. Firing bad employees At the top of Shulkin's to-do list is improving accountability at VA centers across the country. Most of the VA's 365,000 employees do terrific work every day, he said. But when even a small number deviates from the department's ethics and values, they need to go. "We're going to make sure that the secretary has the authority to make sure that those employees ... are leaving the VA system," Shulkin told the cheering crowd.
- 2. Extending the Choice program The Veterans Choice program created after the wait-time scandals allows VA patients to seek private doctors closer to home, but it's about to expire. Shulkin said he'll ask lawmakers in Washington to extend it beyond its Aug. 7 expiration date. "If Congress doesn't act, we will see a significant amount of resources that are dedicated to caring for veterans be removed," he said. "We can't let that happen."
- 3. Choice 2.0 Beyond the extension, Shulkin said Veterans Choice needs to be simplified. The goal: To make it work better for veterans. Thirtyone percent of VA patients' care is now delivered in their communities, Shulkin said. He wants to continue coordinating with local health care facilities so their systems are further integrated with the VA's. Shulkin also plans to get rid of rules that restrict veterans from seeking care

- outside the VA to only those who face more than a 30-day wait or live more than 40 miles away from a VA facility, Stars and Stripes reported Sunday. "This is not privatization," Shulkin said. "This is actually [getting] the veteran the very best care in the VA and the very best care in the private system and then working to build that into an integrated system of care."
- 4.Improving VA infrastructure During his speech, Shulkin shared slides showing two aging VA facilities: one built in 1895 and another in 1932. "Our buildings are too old," he said. "Many of the facilities frankly should've been remodeled or even torn down and rebuilt." Veterans deserve the best equipment, facilities, and health care professionals, he said, which means "reinvigorating our efforts to rebuild our infrastructure."
- 5. 'World-class' services Some health care requirements are unique to the veteran community, and Shulkin said the VA needs to continue enhancing those services. That includes specialized programs for spinal cord or traumatic brain injuries and treatment for post-traumatic stress. "[These areas] are really important for veterans [and] don't exist in ways that are easily accessible to veterans outside of the VA," he said. "We're going to make sure that we are focusing on having those to be world class."
- 6. Better VA-DoD partnerships VA and Defense Department officials need to examine ways to leverage existing facilities, Shulkin said. "When you take a look at the DoD and VA, we have maps where we know that our facilities are close together," he said. "We could be working closer together."

- 7. Better electronic records Towering stacks of paper medical records clogging up the VA system will be a thing of the past if Shulkin gets his way. The VA has made a lot of progress when it comes to integrating electronic medical records with DoD's system, but there's still work to be done. "We are now focused on modernizing our information technology systems, so you're going to see some new and bold proposals to be able to make sure that VA continues to have high-quality modern IT systems."
- 8. Stopping suicide Too many veterans are taking their own lives, and the VA is on a mission to stop it but they can't do it alone, Shulkin said. "We need everyone's help," he said. "We need to work with the community and we need to get the messages out to get people help." Shulkin said VA officials will release new anti-suicide campaigns in coming weeks, and the VA will be "taking a leadership role in this across the country," he said. "Suicide prevention is our top clinical priority right now," Shulkin said. "It's an area where we are not satisfied."
- 9. Appeals modernization Appealing a VA claim can take years, and it'll require an act of Congress to fix that. "We know the appeals process is broken we can only fix it through legislation," Shulkin said. "We're going to make sure that we work hard to get that done this year." VA officials need to partner with Congress to get many of the department's programs fixed. That can be difficult for Shulkin, who admits he doesn't like to sit around and wait for progress. "I used to always say to my teams when I worked in the private sector, 'What's it going

to take to get this done, an act of Congress?' "he said. "Now, of course, the irony is that everything that I do takes an act of Congress."

10. Internal improvements Despite some of the roadblocks that cause things to move slowly within the VA, Shulkin said there's still room for internal improvements. While veterans' satisfaction in the VA has been on the rise, the secretary said their work is far from done. "We are not satisfied with our performance," he said. "Even though we've made terrific progress on bringing down our backlog, we think we can do a lot better." - See more at: http://www.moaa.org/Content/ Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2017News-Articles/Here-are-10-ways-Shulkin-plans-to-modernizethe-VA6442447237.aspx? utm source=legis&utm medium=emai l&utm campaign=Shulkin10Plan#sth ash.DIUviPPP.dpuf

Note the comment in #9: The Secretary can be only as effective as the Congress permits.



Veterans' Benefits: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Survivors Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly tax-free cash payment for eligible surviving spouses, children, and dependent parents. DIC has been paid in some form (monthly cash payments or insurance benefits) to survivors since the Revolutionary War.

There were modifications after each war until the 1950s, when the federal government mandated a more streamlined process that created the system used currently for survivors of veterans and military servicemen. Several policy issues are associated with DIC, including the DIC offset of Survivor Benefit Plan (military retirement survivor) payments, often referred to as the "widow's tax"; adequacy of the payments for surviving spouses compared with the payments made by retirement systems to surviving spouses; remarriage age of 57; length of time for a totally disabled rating for nonservice-connected deaths to qualify for DIC; and maximum DIC payment for parents based on income levels that have not been adjusted for inflation.

Eligibility Requirements The eligibility for DIC by survivors is based on (1) the eligibility of the veteran, which is determined by the circumstances of the veteran's death and his or her disability compensation rating; and (2) the survivor meeting certain criteria related to either relationship to the veteran, age, or income.

Veteran Eligibility The recipients of DIC must be the survivors of qualifying veterans. By statute, a "veteran" is defined as a "person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable." DIC is paid to eligible survivors for three categories of veterans whose deaths fit one of the following circumstances: 1. Veterans who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training; 2. Veterans who died due to service-connected disabilities; or 3. Veterans who died from non-servicerelated causes not as a result of willful misconduct and were receiving, or eligible to receive, disability compensation from the VA for service-connected disabilities rated at 100% subject to the following stipulations: • The disabilities were rated as 100% disabled for 10 years or more prior to death;

The disabilities were rated as 100% since discharge or release from active duty for at least five years prior to death; or • the veterans were prisoners of war who had service-connected disabilities rated at 100% for at least one year prior to death after September 30, 1999.

Recipient Eligibility The dependents of veterans are not generally entitled to all benefits administered by the VA, but some benefits are available based on the relationship the dependent may have had with the veteran. If the eligibility criteria for DIC related to the veteran's death are met, the survivors also have certain criteria to meet to be eligible for DIC. There are three different groups of recipients: spouses, children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans. Each group has specific eligibility requirements. (children and dependent parents are not discussed here.)

Surviving Spouses A surviving spouse is eligible if he or she • was married to the veteran for at least one year before the veteran's death, or • has a child with the veteran, or • if the veteran left the military due to a service-connected disability, the marriage was within 15 years of the discharge; • co-habited with the veteran for the duration of the marriage unless the couple underwent a period of separation that was not the fault of the surviving spouse; and • has not remarried before reaching the age of 57.

Monthly Benefit Amounts (these rates are adjusted periodically) Surviving Spouses Surviving spouses receive monthly benefits at a current base rate of \$1,254. A higher amount may be provided to the surviving spouse for several reasons: • If the veteran, eight years before death was receiving or entitled to receive disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated at totally disabled (100%);



• If the surviving spouse has dependent children; or • If the surviving spouse has a disability that requires aid and assistance or is permanently housebound.

Application Process You can apply directly to the VA by completing VA form 21P-534EZ but I recommend you use the service of a Veteran's Service Officer. Our Chapter 110 Service Officers can be contacted at 813 331-3871.

The effective date of DIC entitlement is the first day of the month that the death occurred for claims filed within one year of the death. After one year, the DIC entitlement starts on the date the claim is received by the VA.

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



# ARMY ALMANAC MARCH 2017

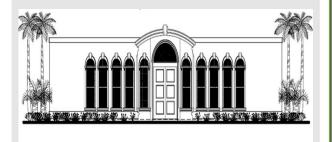
Milestones in Army History

2**15 Years Ago** – 16 March 1802, The U.S. Military Academy is established in West Point, New York.

- **195** Years Ago 21 March 1822, Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor selects a location for a new Army fort in between the Sabine and Red Rivers. The post is named Fort Jesup for Quartermaster General Thomas Jesup and houses four companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry.
- **186 Years Ago** 06 March 1831, **Edgar Allan Poe** is discharged from the U.S. Military Academy for "gross neglect of duty" and "disobeyance of orders".
- **165 Years Ago** 14 March 1852, **Major Pitcairn Morrison** of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry establishes Fort McKavett on the San Saba River in Texas as part of the frontier defense system. It is named after **Captain Henry McKavett** of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, who was killed in the Battle of Monterrey in 1846.

- 141 Years Ago 17 March 1876, Six companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiments, under the command of **Colonel Joseph J. Reynolds**, attack a Northern Cheyenne and Oglala Sioux village on the Powder River in what is now Southeastern Montana.
- **130 Years Ago** 01 March 1887, Congress establishes the Army Hospital Corps.
- **115 Years Ago** 03 March 1902, Heavy Artillery and Light Artillery are combined into a single Corps of Artillery.
- **101 Years Ago** 09 March 1916, Some 500 Mexican revolutionaries under the command of **Pancho Villa** attack Columbus, New Mexico. The 13<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, stationed at nearby Camp Furlong, puts up a stiff resistance and eventually repels the invaders.
- **75 Years Ago** 13 March 1942, The Army establishes its first K-9 units. In the coming months, 20,000 dogs are "recruited" for military use.
- **70 Years Ago** 15 March 1947, **General Lucius D. Clay** is appointed Military Governor of Germany and Commander-in-Chief, Europe (CINCEU).
- **55 Years Ago** 15 March 1962, The Vietnam Advisory Campaign, the first campaign of the Vietnam War begins.
- **45 Years Ago** 10 March 1972, The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division withdraws from Vietnam.
- **44 Years Ago** 29 March 1973, U.S. involvement in Vietnam War ends. **15 Years Ago** 02-18 March 2002, Special Operations forces, Afghan troops, and elements of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division conduct Operation ANA-CONDA, the largest military operation to date in Afghanistan. U.S. and allied forces inflicted heavy casualties on al Qaeda during the operation.
- **14 Years Ago** 19 March 2003, Iraq War begins.
- **11 Years Ago** 16 March 2006, Operation SWARMER, an effort to clear Iraqi insurgents out of an area northeast of Samarra, begins

# CHAPTER LX TEAMHOUSE



# **GOLD BENEFACTORS**

Bill Ball, Don Cox Al Doyle, Guy Mandigo, Ray Millaway, Wayne Rich, Pat Rizzi, Ed Townsend Lee Vannes Toni Vannes (IMO), Brian Wilson, Dave Zilka, Kevin Zilka

### SILVER BENEFACTORS

Bill Bennett, Rich Corson, John Cox, Lee Dunlap, Ken Harrington, Darrell Katz, Tim Kennedy, Jim McGarrah, Rod Nishimura, Bill Peak, John Taylor, Mike Waite,

# **BRONZE BENEFACTORS**

Bob Bailey, Geoff Barker, Paul Cale, Rob Cavin, Alan Childress, Sylvester Detrie, Edwin Dottery, Bill Gilfillan, Craig Hartzell, David Honeycutt, Bob Kvederas, Terry O'Connor, Amy Sitze, Tom Smith, Billy Waugh

### CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

Alakai Systems; Bank of Tampa; BAH; CWU, Inc., Northrop Grumman; Shutts & Bowen, Zilka-Kotab

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Ed Townsend, Mike Waite
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March CONTRIBUTORS
Dave Hulsey

# Heads Up

"Listen up, you knuckleheads.



# Be there. Be Square!'

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

14 April 17—Chapter Meeting, 1730

17-19 April 2017: USSOCOM 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

21 April 2017: AUSA Suncoast Chapter HOOAH Golf Tournament, 1300-1600, MacDill AFB Golf Course, Tampa, FL

This is to raise funds for Gold Star Families and Wounded Warriors to attend the 242<sup>nd</sup> Army Ball on 10 June 2017 in Tampa, FL.

For more info, go to: www.ausa.org/ events/suncoast-chapter-hooah-golfclassic

29 April 2017: Rolling Thunder, Inc FL Chapter 11 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "POW/MIA Awareness" Golf Tournament, 0730, Rocky Point Golf Course, Tampa, FL

For more Info go to: www.RollingThunderFL11.com

12 May 2017: Chapter LX meeting, 1730, American Legion Post 139, Tampa, FL

15 May 2017: SOFIC Golf Tournament, more to follow with additional emails.

16-18 May 2017: SOFIC, Convention Center, Tampa, FL