



SFA CHAPTER LXXXIX (89)
SFC ALLEN C. JOHNSON MEMORIAL CHAPTER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

President John E. Cleckner Sr.
VP Jack Bowles
Asst. VP Jim Wipf
Asst. VP Larry Griffin
Secretary Mike Walker
Treasurer Bob Maraviov
Chaplain Don Mangrum
Sgt at Arms Scott Masterson

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

SFA Chapter 89 Members,

Chapter 89 would like to extend a warm Special Forces welcome to our new SFA Chapter 89 members, **Jan and Jim Sorensen** from McKinleyville CA. Jim you will be receiving monthly emails concerning Veterans Affairs and in particular, Health Care, Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, Chapter Newsletters each quarter and a copy of the SFA DROP on their publication dates, Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter of each year. If you have anything you want to put in these SFA publications please contact the Chapter President. The Chapter would like to have pictures of you and your spouse to be included in our Chapter Web Site and our next Newsletter. And again, to all Chapter members, please send pictures of you and your family, pictures in deployment areas, etc so we can personalize our new Web Site, Newsletters and DROP Input. "A" Team pictures, Special Operations Teams, etc are always a plus because they show other SF active duty members.

Chapter 89 also welcomes **Gary Maraviov** as our newest Chapter Associate Member. Gary has been active in Chapter affairs, activities and programs since the Chapter started. We asked and he accepted this responsibility and all of us are honored that he is now a member of our Chapter.

The Chapter is sorry to lose members **Jim Harris** (Moved to Gilbert, AZ) and **Bull Navarro** from its roles. Jim went "At Large" and Bull is stationed at Homestead FL, where the SF guys down there have just started a new SFA Chapter, SFA Chapter 94, and joined them to help them get started with the 15 guys required to start up an SFA Chapter. Congratulations 94 and welcome to the SFA Chapter Brotherhood. Bull, a Redding resident, has asked our Chapter to keep sending our emails to him though. I am sure when Bull retires he will come back to us. The Chapter also lost **Wayne Spring** and **Richard Ramos** when they did not renew.

Chapter member, **Captain John Cleckner II**, just returned from a successful deployment to the Philippines. He was involved with a number of dramatic lifesaving efforts and as a consequence I have been told that he is pending an award for his meritorious achievements. I will keep you posted on this.

Stew Carnes was in contact with the Chapter while he was on leave in the US. Stew returned to the Mid East on July 1st.

TAPS:

It is with profound sorrow that I inform the Membership that Charter Chapter member **Everett L. "SAM" Houston** died on the 18th of June in Redding CA.

Everett L. "Sam" Houston (M-10596) age 62, a member of Chapter 89 (Northern California), passed away June 18th, at his home in Redding California with Susan, John and Matt by his side. Sam died of multiple Cancers, but primarily from Multiple Myeloma. Sam was born in Berkeley CA in 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and served with Air America in Laos. Sam's SF Assignments include SFTG, and the 5th Special Forces Group (B-55 Mike Force and SOG-CCN) He was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Parachute Wings, Combat Infantryman's Badge, NDSM, VCM and the VSM. In RVN Sam was a Chase Medic and Recon Team member with SOG and then spent two years with Air America in Laos. He was also a Smoke Jumper for 7 years in Idaho and Alaska. Sam has been a Nurse Practitioner for the past 30 years and has cared for thousands of local patients. His patient load at one time was more than 5000 individuals. Sam leaves his wife Susan and two sons, John and Matt. Everett L. "Sam" Houston will be interred in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery with full Military Honors. No date has been established for this ceremony. Sam's son, John Houston, is a fire fighter and is committed to fighting the current North State fires that are devastating our North State. John will be fighting these fires for the foreseeable future.

Chapter 89 has sent the Houston Family their most sincere condolences. Susan is being assisted by our Chapter regarding all issues the family needs to address with burial and VA claims. SFA National has sent the Widow's Plaque to Chapter 89 for presentation in their name at some future date. This plaque will be presented at the September meeting if the Memorial burial has not occurred. Susan has expressed a desire to be involved as much as possible with the Chapter in the future.

Recognition of Chapter Members this Quarter:

It is truly a blessing to have the dedicated team members we have in Chapter 89. This is not a complete list, but it demonstrates the level of involvement in Chapter programs and

events that we have and the time and financial effort given to our Chapter by its members.

Larry Trimble and his team (and this was a lot of people too numerous to mention) again put on an incredible Memorial Service on May 24th. Larry has worked on this event since the Chapter started. Many Chapter members anonymously gave financially to support this very important event.

Jim Wipf has put together an outstanding JR ROTC awards program. This was our first year and we participated in 13 High School JR ROTC Awards programs in 2008. **Steve Stevenson** assisted Jim in the Reno area.

Jenny Johnson with her associates, especially **Chasity Eaton**, did an incredible job raising money for the Chapter Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Committee also worked very hard and gave out three Scholarships in its first year. **Sam and Susan Houston** gave an enormous amount of items to Jenny for the Yard Sale. **Jack and Becky Bowles**, and **Rodney Dean** have also contributed heavily to this effort.

Ken Delfino graciously and with his usual generosity made beautiful plaques and name tags for the Chapter at no cost. Ken also gave generously to our Administrative needs.

Cliff Neill donated \$100.00 to our Chapter Scholarship Program.

Brad Trimble continues to raise money for the Chapter and manages our Raffles and Sales Items. Recently, Brad presented appreciation awards to RCs for its support for our Picnic after the May Memorial Services.

Bob and Mike are always there and involved with all of our Chapter activities.

Larry Voorhees donated much needed stamps for our Administrative needs.

Scott Masterson built great target structures for the Chapter shoot. This made the shoot an incredible enjoyment.

Doris Cleckner continues to document our Chapter and its activities through pictures and tapes.

Mike & Carrie Walker gave away hundreds of dollars worth of cherries to Chapter members.

Reverend Mangrum has been our spiritual leader and assisted many of our Members through very difficult times.

Chapter Web Site:

To access our web site go to – sfachapter89.com, note that it is still under construction. There is also an email access at that web site and that is sfachapter89@gmail.com. To communicate with the administrative part of the Chapter the email is usasf@charter.net. **Mike Walker** and **Bryan Furman** are continuing to work on this. If anyone has any suggestions on additions to the Site, please contact Mike or Bryan. Mike has also asked the Chapter to list information on the Chapter pictures that have been taken over the years so when we put them on the web site or in our publications we know who is in the picture and what the circumstance or event was. Doris Cleckner currently has these pictures and is trying to complete this effort. There may be some pictures at the September meeting that will need identifying.

Meeting dates and other Chapter events:

Chapter 89 meetings, social events and special events for the balance of the year are still as listed on the 2008 SFA Chapter 89 Schedule. I have confirmed all of our business meetings (Sept – Dec) with the Shasta Lake AM Legion. Meetings will start at 1300 hours. **Bob Maraviov** has confirmed our entry into this years' Veterans Day Parade in Shasta Lake, CA. **Gary Woolery**, with his Orange 1938 Chevy Cab Over, will be our Parade Vehicle again this year. We still need to confirm the dates on this event and our Chapter Business meeting in November. Our Christmas Party may be at another location this year. This will all be on the agenda at the September meeting and resolved that day.

2008 AAR on Chapter activities and events :

All of the following Chapter activities will continue through 2009.

On May 17th, Armed Forces Day, the Chapter participated in the second annual World Wide Echo Taps Program at the Northern CA Veterans Cemetery at Igo CA.

Our Memorial Day Service honoring SFC Allen C. Johnson on May 24th at the Los Molinos Cemetery was an enormous success due to Larry Trimble and his “team”. This event and the picnic following the services will be changed next year to include an informal gathering at the Cemetery by Chapter Members and the Johnson Family and friends followed by a dinner or picnic. The details of this event will be completed by years end at our Chapter business meetings.

The Shasta County Annual Memorial Day services were held at both the Northern CA Veterans Cemetery in Igo CA. and at the Redding Veterans Memorial Grove in Redding CA. on May 26th and 30th respectively. Chapter 89 attended both events and laid a wreath at the Redding service.

The HS JR ROTC program was an enormous success due to the efforts of our Chapter Chairman, Jim Wipf. This important Youth program will be an annual event on our Chapter Calendar of events.

June 10th found our Chapter very well represented at the First Annual **Allen C. Johnson** Memorial Scholarship program at Los Molinos HS. Three awards were given out this year to very deserving students. Each Student received a \$300.00 award.

On June 14th the Chapter had its annual picnic at Jenny Johnson's house. There was tons of great food and many Chapter members and their wives. The War Stories were flying fast and furious. It was a great day and the Chapter thanks Jenny for her great hospitality.

The Federal Government and the State of California are building a new Veterans Home in Redding CA. Chapter member **John Cleckner Sr.** met with State Officials and was informed that Ground Breaking will occur in late February or early March 2009 with completion in February 2010. John is the Consultant to the Veteran Home Committee.

The "Missing In America Project" (MIAP) held a mass burial at the No. CA Veterans Cemetery on 30 June. During Monday's ceremony, twelve (12) Veteran Remains were buried. Each of the 12 veterans who were buried was escorted from the Memorial Services to the burial site by a Combat Veteran (Cleckner represented Chapter 89.) and a member of the MIAP carrying an American Flag. Chapter Officers, Maraviov and Walker were in attendance.

Chapter 89 needs donations for the Business Meeting Raffles. Please bring an item of at least \$10 in value to the meeting in September.

Sick or In Distress: As of this date of publication I don't have any knowledge of any of our Members or their families in distress. Please contact Reverend Mangrum, John Cleckner or Mike Walker if you are in need of assistance or are ill.

One last request to all members is to get out and beat the bushes in our geographical area and find new qualified members for our Chapter roles.

God Bless you all and God Bless and protect our Warriors around the World.

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Mike Walker
Secretary, SFA Chapter 89