



Special Forces Association

SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter – LXXXIX (89)

Northern California • Southwestern Oregon • Northwestern Nevada

www.sfachapter89.com

Spring Newsletter–2010

This Chapter is dedicated and named in honor of Sergeant First Class Allen C. Johnson from Los Molinos, California, his wife, two children and parents. Allen was an SF Medic serving with the 7th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan, when he gave "The Last Full Measure of Devotion" on 23 April 2005. SFC Johnson was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for Valor for his heroic actions on that date.

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Chapter President's Corner

I first want to commend the CHAPTER Members on their dedication and involvement in making SFA Chapter 89 one of the best of the best Chapters in our organization. We do and accomplish so many positive things for our Communities and its Youth, Patriotism and for our Disabled and elderly Veterans.

I can't tell you all how proud I am of you all from Iowa to North Carolina, to Alabama & Florida, to Texas and New Mexico, to Oregon and North Western Nevada, to California and especially Northern California where our Chapter members have done incredible feats for our Living and Dead Heroes.

Next I want to encourage all of our Members to PLEASE Vote in the National Election.

Take a couple of minutes and fill out the Ballot, put it in an envelope and send it to National with the ATTN: Line to the "Teller Committee" and mark the outside of the envelope "Official Ballot". Thank you in advance for doing this.

Since last year's National Convention I have been the Region 8 Representative. This is a new concept to get the word out and to make sure that this Region is well represented at National. With the new proposed makeover of SFA this program will be greatly enhanced and organized.

For some time now I have been a member of the "Working Group" to advise the President and the

Board of Directors of SFA and the Shelli Bischoff-Turner Conservation Impact Group (Special Forces Development Plan) on my ideas for reorganizing SFA and bringing it into the 21st Century.



A Chapter tribute to Allen Johnson by Bob Maraviov.

The "Plan" has been briefed to the National Board of Officers and the Regional Representatives and Chapter Presidents that could attend the meeting on 1 April 2010.

This will be briefed again at the National Convention. I believe that this is the right path for SFA to take to survive and become what it was intended to be.

DE OPPRESSO LIBER
John E. Cleckner Sr.

Spotlight on Sponsors:

This, the third in the Chapter's "Spotlight on Sponsors" series, wishes to both recognize and thank "Greco's Embroidery & Silkscreen, Inc." of Redding, California for their support of this SFA Chapter. The Chapter further thanks Rick Greco, the company's

owner, not only for their tremendous and invaluable support, but, for also providing and sharing the following insight into this family owned business

"In 1982 my Father, Al Greco, a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, was employed as a truck driver in Redding California. My mother, Merry Greco, owned a small gift shop in Palo Cedro, California.

Together they provided a modest living for our family of five. Both my parents have always been self-motivated and have owned several businesses throughout the years. As my father continued to witness a continuing and obvious need for a local t-shirt silk screening service through my mother's gift shop he set out to research and explore the silk screening trade. After a few trips to the local library and a week of study, and purchasing a few needed supplies, my father was ready to attempt his hand at screen printing. With my father's extensive experience as a machinist in the '60s building parts for the Apollo Space Rockets it didn't take him long to fabricate and build his first silkscreen press which was a success. The first shirts were produced within the home garage. A true garage based business. From there, the start of "Greco's Embroidery & Silkscreen Inc." was born over 28 years ago!! I, being the only son of three children, have since taken over the family business about six years ago. Previously, by trade, I had worked in the construction industry as a heavy equipment operator and underground pipe layer for most of my life but I had always worked with and around the silkscreen shop helping and learning with my parents. The opportunity was always available for me to earn money during long and wet winters when the construction trade was slow to start. With that opportunity I was able to gain the needed experience necessary to eventually take over and run the business.

Today, Greco's Embroidery & Silkscreen Inc. has been reconstructed into a more modern based shop with upgraded equipment and more exciting graphics. We have redirected our target clientele from basic retail stores to the Racing industry, Car Shows, Car Clubs, Top Fuel Dragsters and the Nation's leading Top Fuel Hydro Drag Boats! We have also recently applied for have been granted certification as a licensed GSA government vendor as we are currently targeting all of our U.S. military branches for their screen-printing needs hoping to design and print their special units logo's of all our military bases.

Following in my parent's footsteps as a business entrepreneur, I have also started a second business that is currently operating out the same building as the silkscreen shop. Greco's Hunting & Camping

Gear is my second business where I have a valid FFL license and participate in retail firearms sales along with specialty hunting and camping supplies. Greco's Hunting & Camping Gear shares the overhead with "Greco's Silkscreen Inc." helping to make both businesses more profitable.

But, as I was taught from both my father and mother, customer service and producing a quality product within a timely manner comes second to none at our shop. This rule alone, plus standing firm as a Christian based business, has been the driving force that has guaranteed our success even during tough economic times. We have experienced both lucrative years of wealth and growth, but have also endured years of hardships and cutbacks.

Through it all we have remained Redding's oldest family owned silkscreen shop and we intend to stay here. We enjoy our area in which we do business and are grateful to be able to both provide a service for others and provide a living for ourselves. My own daughter and only child, JaiCie Greco, is now an adult who has grown up in and around the silkscreen shop just as I did. It will be here for her to take over when her turn comes around if she so chooses. Funny, it never was my intention to take over the shop, but I sure am glad that I did."

Rick Greco



Chapter sponsor Rick Greco and daughter JaiCie.

In Memory and Remembrance

May is historically the period (Memorial Day) in which a grateful nation, both military and civilian, traditionally remember and honor their warriors, friends and family members who are no longer, but in spirit, with us. With that truism in mind and with the concurrence of the family members (Jenny Johnson & Susan Houston), we have chosen to remember two very special SFA Chapter 89 members in this edition of the Chapter Newsletter... **Allen C. Johnson** and **Everett "Sam" Houston**.

Allen C. Johnson:

None of us in the Chapter, excepting Jenny and Vanessa Johnson, had the opportunity to have personally known Allen C. Johnson. However, his essence and spirit is certainly an integral element of the character of the Chapter. This Chapter chose to become, and remains, a Memorial Chapter in Allen's name. Our very Chapter identification and the annual scholarships presented in his memory keep Allen exceptionally relevant and meaningful to the Chapter membership as well as the local community. Unfortunately, Allen did not become known to most of us until after he had given that "Last Full Measure of Devotion", whose meaning is so patently clear and poignant to those of us of the warrior caste. However, I have discovered that Allen was well known and well respected by the sons of some of our members and various other active duty warriors with whom I have come in contact since joining the Chapter. Never the less, we are proud to "know" Allen... if only by the event and consequences of his sacrifice and the ongoing association with his mother, Jenny and wife, Vanessa... Both of whom are Chapter members.



Allen C. Johnson, the Chapter's namesake remembered.

Everett "Sam" Houston:

Sam was known personally to many within the Chapter. He was a very close and dear friend to those Chapter members who had the opportunity to know him. In fact, some Chapter members shared an association and friendship with Sam going all the way back to the "Back in the Day" period. The spirit of Sam continues to live within the Chapter because of the active participation of Susan, Matt and John in the Chapter family...notwithstanding, the repetition of that often quoted philosophy and belief of Sam... "There's never too many tomatoes!! A Memorial Award, in Sam's name, is presented annually to a deserving cadet at Enterprise High School Navy JROTC.



Sam Houston and Bob & Kathy Maraviov in happier times.

Thus, during this annual period of national remembrance (Memorial Day) when old warriors, special and dear friends and beloved family members are traditionally remembered, memorialized and mourned. The Chapter takes this opportunity to publicly remember both Allen and Sam in this Newsletter. Later in May the Chapter will be gathering privately with family and friends to remember and honor these two warrior brothers. We will join with other friends and family members who, by custom and tradition, are caused to openly revisit and remember during this national period of memorial observance. The Chapter is both appreciative of, and thanks **Jenny, Vanessa, Susan, John** and **Matt** for continuing to be an important and integral part of the SFA Chapter 89 family and for allowing us the opportunity to continue as a part of your families. We of the Chapter 89 family remember and share your loss... it is our loss as well. But, we also share in the pride and in the celebration of the memory of these two very special, Special Forces family members and our very real honor to continue to be associated with them.

Yard Sale Fund Raiser

Neither Rain-Snow-Sleet nor Hail, as the saying goes, could deter **Jenny Johnson** from conducting her annual scholarship fund raising campaign. However, Wind did come very close!



Before the storm- Jenny's Yard Sale.

After weeks of preparation involving sorting, pricing and displaying donations Jenny began the first phase of her sales campaign on 1 April. The first phase was scheduled to run 1-3 April. However, 2 April was literally, first blown and then almost washed away. After a couple of hours of fighting the elements and staking and re-staking the shade/rain covers the activities on Friday were canceled. Saturday proved to be more accommodating and the sale continued. The second phase of the sales campaign was conducted the following weekend.



Bob, Kathy & Jenny making scholarships.

Although a final official accounting was not available at publication time, it has been reported that Jenny's efforts with the yard sale for

the Allen C. Johnson's Scholarships Program was a success... in spite of the challenging weather.

Prominently displayed at the yard sale site was a very lengthy roster of all who gave of their time and possessions to make the event another success. There were way too many helpers to list in the limited space of this newsletter. A full detailed accounting and reporting will no doubt require an after action report. However, high on the list of helpers/supporter's were Jenny's neighbors **Tye Lakey** and **Cyndi Lincke**.

Chapter members singled out for recognition and appreciation for their donations were: **Kathy & Bob Maraviov**; **Gary & Bonnie Maraviov**; **Jan & Jim Sorensen**; **Wes Fowler**; **Jack & Beck Bowles**; **Scott Masterson**; **John & Doris Cleckner**; **Max Hemping & son**; **Doug & Manuela Davenport**; **Don Mangrum** and **Jim and Marlie**.



Bob, Kathy, Jenny & Marlie hard at 'work'.

Special note was also made of the following assistance over and above the donation of items:

Set up & take down: **Scott, Bob, John, Max, and Max's son.**

Provision of saw horses: **Scott Masterson**

Sales day help: **Susan, Matt, Bob, Kathy, John, Doris, Marlie and Jim.**

Hauling away of remaining items: **Don Mangrum**

NOTE: Any mistakes, errors or omissions in the information reported above regarding other Chapter supporters not mentioned herein are solely the responsibility of Wipf. He'll take better notes next year... or be replaced!



Kathy finally gets to sit in "her" car.



Grandma Doris and "Punkin Puss".

Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Event

On the 28th of March, Chapter President **John Cleckner** and **Doris** represented the Chapter at the recently instituted event (local/state) created to recognize, honor and assist Viet Nam Era Veterans. Setting up and manning an 8'X4' table displaying many personal and Chapter Viet Nam era articles and memorabilia, John took full advantage of the opportunity to publicize the Chapter and hand out the new Chapter brochures.

In addition to representation by most of the local Veteran's organizations, John reported that the federal, state and local government agencies had tables and representatives available to

assist the Veteran attendees. John further reported that the event was truly extraordinary. It was very effectively organized to include food, entertainment as well as invaluable information and resources for the Veteran. He further stated that this event was one of the best times that he had personally had in a long time. He reports that Doris has taken lots of pictures and has a tape.

John also shared that Chapter member **Ken Delfino** was also in attendance. Ken had set up and manned a display table both publicizing and honoring the "Brown Water" Navy's exploits in Southeast Asia. No doubt, it was a first class presentation.

Chapter Challenge Coins

New Chapter Challenge Coins should soon be available to the Chapter membership. In fact, there is a very good possibility that they could be available as early as the May 8th meeting in Montague. Chapter member and Sergeant-at Arms **Jim Sorensen**, after having volunteered to take over the coin project for the Chapter, has stepped up, expanded and refined the research and ordered new coins for the Chapter.

The most significant changes and/or improvements to the earlier Chapter coin will be the removal/deletion of the earlier unpopular Latin motto with the more appropriate Special Forces motto, De Oppresso Liber. Additionally, the knife near the corner of the

California flag has been removed. The new coins, which are die-struck as opposed to being cast, are expected to be a marked improvement over the earlier coins with respect to quality. It is amazing and gratifying to observe the improvements and progress that can be realized with experience and sufficient monies in the Chapter coffers.

Expanding upon the previous research, Jim was also able to locate and make a deal with a coin company with a Special Forces connection: **MILITARY PRESENTS** of De Land, Florida. The company is owned by a former Special Forces trooper **Dave Soucie**, his son and daughter in law.

Chapter Sweatshirts

Thanks to the foresight and extra effort of **Bob Maraviov** and the excellent skills and product of **Greco's**, a number of discerning Chapter members can now don and sport the Chapter's new sweatshirts. At last report, at least 28 sweatshirts had been ordered... with or without hoods... with or without zippers. It doesn't get much better than that! And Bob, do not pay any attention to Ken's "whining"

about color options. IF...we had wanted Navy Blue we would have had that as an option. BTW-when are you going to clue us in as to who ordered the pink sweatshirt? Thanks again to Bob and Greco's for the opportunity to expand our Chapter wardrobe. A very comfortable option for late spring and/or early fall attire.



The "Gang"- February Chapter meeting.



Bob standing TALL with Scott and Jim S.



Secretary Jim labors diligently while president John eats.



Scott, Jim W. and Jim S. in their semi-serious mode.



Bob after sacrificing his hair.

Upcoming Chapter Calendar Events (continued):

SFA National Convention:

This annual event will run 7-13 June 2010 at Fayetteville, North Carolina. As of this writing, John & Doris Cleckner, John & Louis Nieland and Jack & Becky Bowles will be representing SFA Chapter

89. No doubt a visit to and reunion with LTC Rich Navarro and family will be on the agenda. This presupposes, of course, that "the Bull" will not be otherwise employed or deployed.

SFA/ROTC "Awards Of Excellence" Program:

Medal and certificate presentations will commence and conclude during the month of May. Mark King, Brad Hines and Jim Wipf will make the presentations in Northern Nevada. The presentation at Enterprise High School in Redding, California will be handled by John Cleckner and his "merry band" of helpers. An indicator of the Chapter's success and influence in this very worthwhile program is the number of times that the Chapter has been contacted this past

year seeking either sponsorship or support for other JROTC units. Unfortunately, those units have been out of our area. They have been referred to other possible sponsors. Having been a Senior Army Instructor in JROTC myself for eighteen years, I can vouch first hand just how important and appreciated this type of recognition and support is for the JROTC cadets... tomorrow's leaders.

Allen C. Johnson Annual Memorial Gathering:

This important annual event remains as scheduled without change. Assemble at the Los Molinos cemetery at 1200. After a short but appropriate ceremony, those in attendance will reassemble at Jenny

Johnson's home for lunch and remembrance. Chapter Chaplain Don Mangrum, health and other obligations permitting, is scheduled to preside over the ceremony.



Bob, Max & Jim in a serious pondering mode.

Upcoming Chapter Calendar Events (continued):

Chapter Annual Fund Raiser:

Plans are still in the exploratory and developmental stages for this very necessary annual event which funds the annual Chapter activities, obligations and expenses. Plans should be finalized and publicized by the first of July. If... adequate Chapter support can be garnered for this important event it will "kick off" at the September GM&B meeting. It will conclude at the annual Chapter Christmas gathering. Thanks to those who have already pledged raffle items: The Bowles

have pledged a custom quarter beef package; **The Walker's** have contributed a beautiful hand carved chest; **SKAGEN, Inc** (via Mark King) has pledged two watches; and **Jim & Marlie** have pledged a raffle gift. Others have tentatively pledged items. As is no doubt clear, the primary support issue is not the provision of the raffle prizes, but rather a commitment by the Chapter membership to sell the raffle tickets... More to follow.

Scholarship Award Program:

The committee meeting previously scheduled for the selection of the scholarship recipients has had to be postponed. The scholarship recipient selection meeting is now scheduled for the 29th of May 2010. It will be held at Jenny's home in Los Molinos after the Memorial Ceremony for Allen.

As of this writing, the exact number and amounts of the scholarships to be presented are uncertain. Although, Jenny's fund raiser certainly raised sufficient funds for the expected scholarships, the chapter is awaiting a contribution from V.E.T.S. An additional \$1000.00

has been pledged, however, not received as of this date. With or without the V.E.T.S contribution, this will remain another very positive year for the Los Molinos students.

The scholarship presentation ceremony is scheduled for 8 June 2010 (1900) at Los Molinos High School. As the Chapter president will be attending the SFA National in Fayetteville, **Bob Maraviov** has "volunteered" to represent the Chapter. **Jenny Johnson**, the creator and soul of this program, will also be in attendance for this very special Chapter event.



Scott & Bob, baffled, bored or dazzled?



Jim Sorensen trying to seem convinced.

Upcoming Chapter Calendar Events (continued):

May Chapter GM&B Meeting:

The next Chapter meeting will be held in Montague, California on the 8th May 2010 at the home of Chapter Vice-President **Scott Masterson**. Chapter members making the trek will first gather at Scott's house about 1100 hours. Those wishing to participate in a trap shooting outing will then travel to a site previously scouted by Scott. After returning to "base camp", what has been promised to

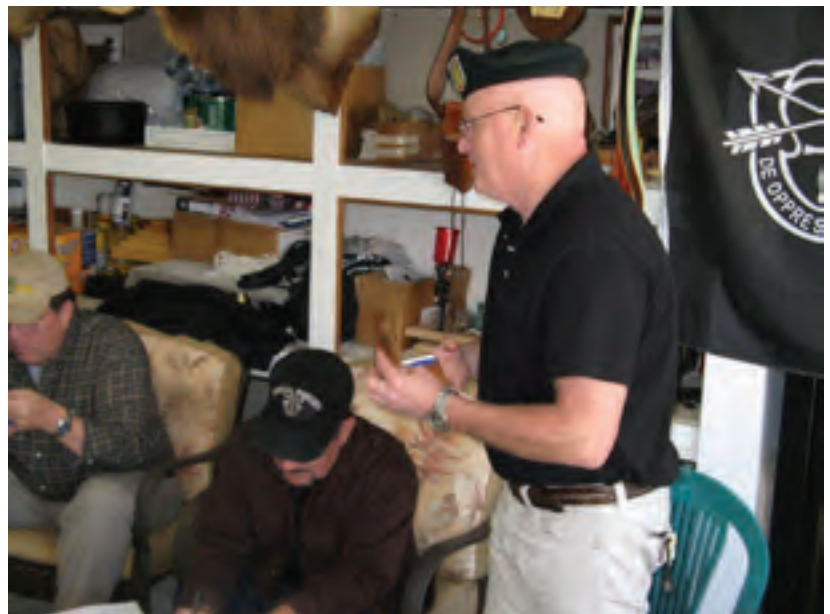
be a short business meeting will be conducted... or not! That is to be followed by a sampling of Scott's infamous tri-tip. Many of us are looking forward to the change of venue for the Chapter GM&B meetings, especially, as we do not wish to wear out the hospitality of **Bob and Kathy Maraviov**.



Jim S. & Wes developing their own agenda.



SF in AF Blue-Captain John "Deuce" Cleckner.



Max forgets rule number one-NEVER-volunteer.

Chapter members "Happenings & Other News" this past quarter:

Listed below are the updates, information and other such newsworthy items that have been made available reference the Chapter members and their families. I would remind all that IF I am

not made aware of events such as these I cannot share them with the Chapter. (JW)

Many thanks are again due **Ken Delfino** for his seemingly limitless and inexhaustible support of this Chapter. Earlier in the year Ken donated a very special item for the Chapter raffle which he had purchased in St Mere-Eglise. In March, Ken's assistance and expertise again proved invaluable in selecting and obtaining the "just right" gift from the Chapter to **LTC Navarro** to commemorate the "Bull's" latest milestone.

Kathy Maraviov, always at the head of the list for her consistent and dependable Chapter support, has done it again. Kathy, after having had about eight "large garbage bags" of yarn donated to her has come up with another very unique idea. With the help and support of two different church groups "lap throws" will be created for local Veterans homes. **Carrie Walker's** church group will make part of the "throws". The church group of Bob & Kathy's neighbor Mike's mother will create the balance. A great idea!! A well deserved - big "Tip of the Beret" to the Chapter ladies.

Another special thank you to **Jack & Becky Bowles** for the donation of "Beevo" ... That beautiful creature who will, after the Chapter Fund Raiser, be a very important element of someone's BBQ. We hope to be able see more of you at the future meetings.

Many thanks are once again due the Chapter Chaplain, the **Reverend Don Mangrum** for all that he does for the Chapter. No doubt, with all of the other demands upon his time assisting Veterans, taking care of family issues and notwithstanding dealing with health issues it must be a real challenge at times. Don your commitment and service to the Chapter does not go unappreciated.

Proud grandparents **John & Doris Cleckner** continue to enjoy their latest granddaughter "Punkin Puss". The young miss is actually more properly named Savannah Cheyanne Saterstad. That is quite a name for such a tiny tot. She is the daughter of proud parents Jon & Amber Saterstad. Jon is the youngest of Doris's four sons. A photo of "Punkin Puss" and proud grandmother Doris is included in this newsletter.

Bryan Furman, hiding out over there on the Coast... in the majestic Redwoods (where many of us would rather live) often appears to be the Chapter's most underappreciated and acknowledged member. Bryan is to be commended for his untiring and ongoing, quiet, but effective success at having established and maintaining a first class Chapter website. Another well deserved "Tip of The Beret" to an exceptional stalwart Chapter supporter who continues to do all that he can... and more... to include providing fishing tips to Wipf.

This Reno roving reporter is especially grateful to **Bryan** for his timely fishing reports... for Nevada!! Rumor has it that Bryan might be fishing near here on the 10/11th of May. Perhaps we will be able to get together and he will be willing to share his fishing secrets.

Belated and overdue thanks to **Doris Cleckner** the Chapter's official and invaluable and indispensable photographer. Doris's dependable efforts to insure that I am being kept well provided with all of the latest and appropriate Chapter photographs is a real boon to the creation of the newsletter. We could not get it done without her skills and contributions.

Thanks again. BTW- I have received an anonymous inquiry... Do all of your lens and filters include John?? We seem to never receive any photos of the photographer??

Scott Masterson continues to deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Chapter for his management of Chapter sales and raffles & drawings. Those are very necessary, but often underappreciated Chapter functions. Now, IF we can only train him to "manage" the drawings, just to slow Ken and Matt down a bit, perhaps, just perhaps- the rest of us might have a chance? Thanks to Scott for volunteering to host the May GM&B meeting at his place in Montague. I cannot speak for anyone else, but I am really looking forward with great anticipation to his much bragged about tri-tip. Dining report will certainly follow.

We would be terribly remiss to not mention and thank, **Mike & Carrie Walker** who, regardless of how busy or how distant ... still find... still make/take the time and effort to be more than fully supportive of this SFA Chapter. Thank you both... again. The carved chest will be a great addition to the fund raiser efforts. Keep safe.

Ken Holmes, who had earlier alerted us to his son, Eric's pending reassignment and promotion has recently updated that initial report. Eric Holmes, son of Ken and Susan has now been promoted to MSG (E-8) and is filling a ISG Billet at Fort Polk, LA. Almost as important is the fact that this is to be a three year stabilized tour. All will no doubt rest easier. Watch out for the "gators" and Armadillos Eric.

MSG (ISG) Eric Holmes, I have been reminded, is a third generation paratrooper. However, he is the only Airborne Ranger in the family. Ken's father, (retired **Colonel Kenneth E. Holmes**) was a platoon leader with the "G" Company -501st (101st) and made the combat jump into Normandy. Wounded in Holland, he was able to return to his unit just in time for Bastogne ("Battle of the Bulge") and the Rhineland Campaigns. Ken's dad served in three wars: WW II; Korea and Viet Nam.

Chapter member, **Ken Holmes** (MACV-SOG) and his brother, a USMC "Force Recon" type, served in RVN at the same time as Colonel Holmes. It had to be very tough time for the wives and mother.

Some Chapter members, and dedicated Newsletter readers, may recall that **Brad Hines** father, Jack Hines, was also in the 101st Abn Div and wounded in Holland. Brad's son, **Brady** is also a third generation paratrooper. As reported earlier, Brady is a soon to be retired SF MSG medic.

Max Hempting, apparently having forgotten military "Rule One"... never volunteer... has never the less done just that! Max has offered to take over the responsibility for next year's (2011) Memorial Ceremony for Allen Johnson in Los Molinos. Another big "Tip of the Beret" is due Max for stepping up and helping to share the load. Tis great to have you on board and actively involved... Bob really appreciates it .

NOTE: my sincere apologies in advance for anyone whom I might have inadvertently overlooked. It was not intentional... Just a "headspace" issue as this issue of the Newsletter has been a challenge.

Sick and Distressed:

Readers will quickly ascertain that this past quarter has not been an easy period for Chapter members and families. Many family

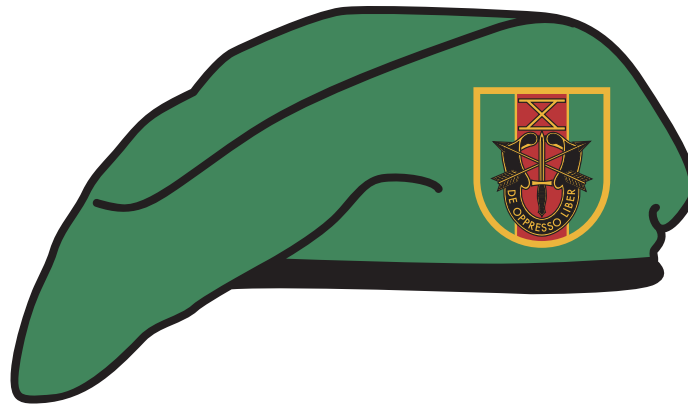
members, both nuclear and Chapter are no longer among us. They will be missed... but, not forgotten.

The Chapter's heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to the Maravirov family. **Bonnie Maravirov**, wife of Chapter member Gary Maravirov and sister-in-law to Bob and Kathy Maravirov lost her long battle with cancer in late April. Bonnie's absence will be deeply felt within the Chapter family and community. Bonnie, an active supporter and participant in Chapter activities prior to her illness will be truly missed.

John Nieland's sister, Charlotte, has succumbed to her very long struggle with an extremely debilitating disease. Charlotte, lovingly characterized by younger brother John, was a beautiful vivacious blond who lit up any room in which she entered. Charlotte, who was one of "Da Mayor's" most ardent and loyal political supporters, will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Having personally known John for over 42 years I am confident that he will get through this life challenge as he always has many others... Hang tough, Brother John.

Chapter sympathies and condolences are also extended to the family of **Bryan and Carolyn Furman**. Carolyn, who lost her mother after a long term battle in February, has just recently tragically lost her brother very unexpectedly. Carolyn's mother's passing might have been "lightened" by having had her ashes placed at the base of a Redwood tree said to have been very special to her. That majestic tree, which is reported to be topped by a beautiful orange colored Rose in the spring of each year will hopefully provide many positive memories to both Carolyn and Bryan... Tis apparently a climbing rose.

The Chapter shares in and feels, albeit, not as directly or dramatically as those immediately impacted, the pain and loss of the Chapter family members.



Chapter Member Birth Date & Wedding Anniversaries:

Recently Celebrated & this upcoming Quarter:

Recently celebrated or upcoming celebrations of Chapter members are listed below. There are still thirteen (13) Chapter members who have yet to provide these dates for themselves and spouses.

We cannot publicize nor celebrate these special occasions with/for you if we do not have the data.

Birthdays

7 April Becky Bowles
27 May Wes Fowler

Wedding Anniversaries

19 June Max & Carmen Hemping

Best wishes to those celebrating their birth dates and wedding anniversaries during this quarter. Remember, it's only a mark on the wall. Just because we become "older" on a man-made time recording

device does not mean that we have to grow up! Furthermore, each new day is a new personal best.

LTC Navarro's Assumption of Command:



The "Bull's" Change of Command Ceremony.

As was reported in the last Chapter Newsletter, Chapter member LTC Rich "Bull" Navarro was scheduled to assume command of a Special Forces Battalion. On the 5th of March 2010 he did just that, returning to the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Special Forces Group, a unit in which he had served about nine years earlier commanding an ODA therein. This was no doubt a gratifying and déjà vu filled occasion, however, now greatly tempered by the knowledge of the additional inherent responsibility.

Chapter President John Cleckner has already shared much about the "Bull's" new challenge and our tremendous pride in just being able to bask in the associated glow from his achievements. Thus, I will not elaborate more expansively in this newsletter. Additionally, most of us are aware of certain OPSEC issues associated with too much open discussion. But, those facts and issues do not diminish our associated pride with this Chapter member and active duty warrior's achievements... Many of us still wishing and visualizing that we were in it with him and the other SF Warriors. That is until the aching joints and diminished breathing capacity reminds us that those days are over.

In early April Chapter President John Cleckner, on behalf of the Chapter, forwarded a special congratulatory and commemorative gift (a desk pen set) to LTC Navarro... A photo of that pen set is included in this newsletter. Acknowledgement of receipt and a heartfelt



Chapter 89's congratulatory gift to LTC Navarro

expression of his deepest gratitude and surprise have been received from the "Bull". Assurances were given that just as soon as he could become settled into his new office (there is still a war(s) going on) that the pen set would certainly occupy a position of prominence.

Additionally, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors has created a special Certificate of Recognition for presentation to LTC

Navarro for his achievement. As most are probably aware, the "Bull" and his family are from the local area. That certificate has been forwarded to Colonel Navarro by John Cleckner. A photo of that special recognition certificate is included in this newsletter as well.



Shasta County's tribute to LTC Navarro

Back in the Day Photos

Many thanks again to Jim Sorensen for having provided another "Back in the Day" photo for use in the newsletter.

Fair warning... I would remind all that if more photos are not quickly forthcoming John and I will be forced to dig out and dust off more of our photos !



"Lonesome Jim" Sorensen returns to Long Hai - Feb '70



Final Thoughts to Ponder

The Chapter Newsletter crew is still in serious need of "Back in The Day" photos as well as current time photos. Photos and input from Chapter members distant from the flagpole would be tremendously appreciated. Also, any thoughts, ideas or opinions of what to include in the Newsletter, or what not to include would be equally welcome. Thank you... (JIW)

The Chapter membership rolls continue to include: Two active duty warriors and two contractors. Fortunately for "Papa-John", one of the AD types is currently in CONUS. May God, the Great Spirit, the Creator and/or whomever you place your faith and trust, bless, protect and watch over them as well as you and yours... most especially, all of those Warriors still fighting the good fight and in "harm's way".

I leave you with this time tested and proven truism to ponder and consider-

"War is an ugly thing, but, NOT the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that NOTHING is worth war ... IS much worse"
(John Stuart Mill (19th century -England)

DE OPPRESSO LIBER

For the Chapter President
Jim Wipf (M-1645)
SFA Chapter 89 Secretary

This will be mailed as a "hard copy" to all Chapter members and to SFA National.

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