



Special Forces Association

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

Northern California • Southwestern Oregon • Northwestern Nevada

www.sfachapter89.com

Winter 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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This past quarter has been a rather interesting period, confronting challenges both agreeable and sad.

Agreeable in that some Chapter members were able to gather and enjoy two of the major annual "fun" activities; the Shasta County Veteran's Day Parade in November and the Christmas Gathering in December. Additionally, a very successful Chapter fund raising raffle campaign was completed. Agreeable, also, was the return, if only for a brief time, of one of the Chapter's contractors currently serving overseas. Also, great news was the announcement that one of the Chapter's own active duty members is returning stateside to assume command of an SF Battalion.

This period has proven challenging in consideration of recent earthquakes, severe and adverse weather and many unexpected medical and health issues

within the chapter family. However, the Chapter has continued to move forward, fighting one dragon at a time. Well, sometimes.. two!

Although the Chapter did not appreciate an increase in official Chapter SF membership during this period, the Chapter's SF family did increase with the advent of two new grandchildren born to Chapter members.

The Chapter is leaning forward and preparing to move into the year, irrespective of what new challenges it might bring.

Nearly continuous and ongoing serious health issues this quarter have plagued John. Thus, no Chapter President's Column this issue. The "Prez" will return in the next edition.

Missing in America Project (MIAP)

On November 18 2009, **John Cleckner Sr.** and **Bob Maraviov** represented the Chapter for the service and internment of **Captain Donald W. Smith's** unclaimed remains. Captain Smith was KIA during WW-II. On this date the local branch of the MIAP held memorials for and honored 15 veterans

who had fallen and been forgotten, some for over 100 years. For those who might not be aware, the MIAP arranges for the burials of Veterans whose remains were found in mortuaries across the nation and had gone unclaimed by their families.



Some Chapter members might recall from an earlier newsletter that Chapter member, **John Nieland** of Marion, Iowa has been involved in this same type of MIAP activity as well. Berets off to all who have found (taken) the time and effort to become involved in this special honor to those fallen comrades who would have otherwise gone un-honored and forgotten.

Major (R) Fred Salanti, founder and National Executive Director of the MIAP was earlier selected to be the Shasta County Veteran's Day Parade Grand Marshall.

With great Honor, John and Bob escort the remains of a forgotten veteran.

Spotlight on Sponsors:

This is the second in the Chapter's efforts to appropriately recognize and publicize those individuals and/or companies who have so graciously and unselfishly come forward in support of this Special Forces Chapter. Selected to be spotlighted in this

edition is COLFAX TROPHIES. Not only is the proprietor of this business a staunch and reliable supporter but Ken Delfino is a Chapter member as well.

In 2002 I retired from United Airlines after a 32 ½ year of being yelled at for losing bags, reservations and not having the specific seat that a last-minute passenger wanted! To make up for that excitement, I did have the great fortune to work with some great people and went through some pretty exciting times in our industry. As all things do, philosophies change and the company no longer operates where the leadership cares about those who make the company thrive or survive. I retired on

After two sets of murdering muslims used one of our aircraft as a flying bomb into Tower Two of the World Trade Center (UA 175) and attempted to do the same with UA 93 into some unknown target in the Washington area, I left my office on 12SEP2001 and started using some of the 800 hours of sick time that I had accumulated over the years. I finally retired on 28FEB2002.

We were living in Suisun City until the house sold in December '01 and I followed Melba up here to Colfax. Not too long after the move, I started getting cabin fever and Melba talked me into opening a trophy shop. Actually, I had wanted to get something engraved for her for Christmas and when I found out I had to go 15 miles to Auburn, 12 miles to Grass Valley or 55 miles up the hill to Truckee, I realized I might have a small niche here in Colfax to serve.

Two very good friends who owned a trophy shop in Arroyo Grande helped convince me and got me started in the business.

What to call it? Something ending with "Trophy Company" seemed to generic. With the memories of September 11th and in particular, the heroism of the folks on United 93 still very fresh in my mind, I chose to call the shop "Heroes and Winners". My intent was to keep telling the story, over and over of the DIFFERENCE between a hero...and a winner for very few people can be both!

I'd tell the kids that sure, Joe Montana, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods and Sammy Sosa were all winners, but they certainly had never placed their lives on the line as Todd Beamer, Greg Bingham and the others did on United 93. Now Rocky Bleier and Roger Staubach were winners AND placed their lives on the line with their service in South Viet Nam, but both have rejected the hero title placed upon them. They are two good and very talented athletes who did their jobs and served our great nation.

So it was in the honor of those heroes of September 11, 2001 (NYPD, NYFD, UA93, NYPA and former LT Rick Rescorla) that I gave the shop the "Heroes" half of the name.

Last year I decided to change the name to make it more local and so now Colfax Trophies exists. I am the service provider for our small, but active town of 1700 residents (899 registered voters!). I have ended up donating more than I've made, but this is an economically depressed community and I'd rather have the kids and outstanding citizens be recognized for their athletic, scholastic and community achievement and so I just charge enough to cover my costs. There is no way I will make a fortune in this business up here...unless I get an offer from some big doobie somewhere.

A few years ago, by accident, I discovered how to laser and paint-fill wooden plaques and these creations are what I really enjoy doing best. Other than repeat football and annual business orders, these are usually 'one-of-a-kind' and I take great pride in them.

Unfortunately I am kind of a techno-phobe and do not do the "photo-in-the-computer" thing so I cannot show you what some of my favorites are. One of my very favorites was one that I created for MoH recipient SGM Jon Cavaiani. Last year Jim Wipf gave me my biggest challenge in creating a 3-D plaque for one of his mentors. I do enjoy making the plaques for my fellow SFA Chapter 89 members.

I will continue to do this until I no longer can. I've always enjoyed "doodling" and this is just a different version of it! One thing that I am proud of is that since I am a home-based one-man shop, I can work whenever and if you're in a bind, I can probably get something done and turned around to you w/in 24 hours IF I have materiel in stock. Just be advised that the shipping fee may cost more than the product!

When not doing trophies, Ken and Melba are busy in the community. They helped form the Colfax Junior Falcons Football & Cheer Association in 2004...the Kiwanis Club of Greater Colfax in 2004...Colfax Pride, Inc. in 2005 (a group of volunteers who put on the Independence Day and Christmas Winter Festival)...and currently Ken is Mayor Pro-Tem and Melba was elected as Treasurer of the City of Colfax.

Their next big project is an all-day "Reading of the Names" Memorial Service in Colfax on 11SEP2011.

God Bless America for we are...One Nation under God!

Ken Delfino
United States Navy (Ret)

Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

Shasta County Veteran's Day Parade (2009)

The wee hours of the morning of 7 November found twenty Chapter members, families and friends gathered, all anxiously preparing for participation in another Annual Shasta Lake Veteran's Day Parade at the Maraviov Team House. Chapter President **John Cleckner** and **Doris Cleckner**, **Scott Masterson**, **Bob and Kathy Maraviov**, **Jim Wipf** and **Marlie Byrd**, **Max Hemping**, **Susan**, **Matt and John Houston**, **Jenny Johnson**, **Jack and Becky Bowles**, **Bryan Furman**, **Doug and Manuela Davenport**, and **Carrie Walker** rode on the newly bannered "float", this year graciously powered by a "prime mover" provided by **Mike and Patti Whitlock**. Agreeable weather, the promise of post parade victuals, libations and the long anticipated Annual Chapter Raffle fired the enthusiasm of those gathered. Post parade activities did not disappoint.



Kathy, Carrie, Jenny and Matt in a serious contemplation.



Bob presents the SFA Memorial Knife to Jenny Johnson..



Pre-Parade preparation. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians!!



Mike & Patti Whitlock, Chapter friends, supporters and chauffer.



Post-Parade dining and camaraderie.



VP Scott Masterson and "Prez" John Cleckner plotting the next move.

Annual Chapter Fund Raiser Raffle

Following the parade and a brief Chapter business meeting the long awaited and highly successful Chapter Raffle was conducted. Winners of the raffle prizes were:

- Gamo Air Rifle:.....Wes Fowler (SFA Ch-89)
- Custom Made Quilt:Daven Moray (Montague, CA)
- Nature Photographs:Jeann Hemping (Richmond, CA)
- Winchester Knife:Richard Pease (Montague, CA)
- Tramontia Cookware:Daven Moray (Montague, CA)

A big Tip of the Beret is due Chapter Treasurer **Bob Maraviov** for his exceptional organization and management of this year's Raffle campaign. Also due recognition and accolades for their generous donations of raffle prizes are: **Jenny Johnson, Kathy Maraviov, Tracy Jones, Scott Masterson** and **Jack and Becky Bowles**. Thanks to you all for making this year's campaign the success that it was. This will certainly be a hard act to follow.



Wes Fowler with the recently won GAMO Air Rifle.

Wreaths Around America(WAA)

No doubt a bitter-sweet occasion, in December **Susan and Matt Houston** and **Bob Maraviov** travelled to the NCVC at Igo, California and assisted with the laying of the wreaths. Especially poignant and sad must have been the placement of a wreath on the headstone of Chapter member, husband, father and everyone's cherished friend, **Everett "Sam" Houston**. Chapter members will recall that it was only on this past May 8th that memorial services for Sam Houston were conducted. The Wreaths Across America is just another of the many programs that some Chapter members residing in the local area support annually.



Susan, Matt and Bob place a wreath for Sam.

Chapter Christmas Gathering

The evening of 9 December found a hardy number of Chapter members, families and friends braving the cold and nasty weather, gathered at the home of **Mike and Carrie Walker**. The Chapter Annual Christmas gathering, following a very brief business meeting, was



Matt and Susan check out Santa's gifts.



Proud new parents & grandparents, Carrie, Mike, Kristin and Danny with Lila Eve.

underway. In attendance and enjoying the spirit of the season was: **John & Doris Cleckner**; **Scott Masterson**; **Bob & Kathy Maraviov**; **Doug & Manuela Davenport**; **Jack & Becky Bowles**; **Ken & Melba Delfino**; **Susan & Matt Houston**, and **Jim Wipf & Marlie Byrd**. Also joining in the festivities were the Walker's daughter and son in law, **Danny and Kristin Anderson**. A special guest appearance by the Walker's new granddaughter **Lisa Eve** was one of the highlights of the evening. The Chapter was very pleased to have "**Buzz**" **Montalvo**, a recently retired SF warrior join the Chapter's festivities.

The traditional exchange of gifts between attendees was great. However, on the downside, **Ken Delfino**, as usual,, grabbed the "brass ring" !! That being a beautifully carved wooden chest which had just recently been personally delivered straight from Afghanistan. (A footnote is that donations have been collected to send Ken away during the next Chapter raffle or gift exchange). Men's and women's wrist watches, generously donated by

Chapter sponsor, **Skagen Designs**, were greatly appreciated as part of the Christmas Raffle.

A bountiful Christmas Dinner menu prepared by **Carrie Walker** and **Kathy Maraviov**, assisted by other Chapter ladies and supplemented by way too many other delightful and delicious treats certainly sated everyone's appetites. Absolutely no one left hungry.

A mere "Thank You" cannot even come close to expressing the appreciation felt by the Chapter for the Walker's generous hospitality, opening up their home for this very special Chapter event. However, Many Thanks anyway to Mike and Carrie and all of the others who contributed to making it such a memorable occasion. If you missed this gathering, then you really missed a great one!!



"Santa" Mike presenting Ken with the special gift.



Becky arrives looking for the party.



Scott and Doug taking it all in

Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

A select few Chapter members living in the "shadow of the flag pole" have participated in the following community and veteran's activities and ceremonies. These local activities, although not

official SFA activities, have been represented by some Chapter members.

Korean War Veteran's Memorial Dedication

On 8 November 2009 a Korean War Veteran's Memorial was dedicated at the NCVV located at Igo, California. Chapter President **John Cleckner**, VP **Scott Masterson**. Past VP **Jack Bowles** and Chapter Chaplain **Don Mangrum** represented SFA Chapter 89. Chapter Chaplain Don Mangrum gave the Invocation and what

has been reported to be the first of a series of very moving and emotional speeches. A number of local politicians and dignitaries were also in attendance. The Color Guard was provided by the Enterprise High School NJROTC.

Annual Chapter Recognition

During the Christmas gathering at the Walker's, two of the Chapter's annual recognition awards were presented. Present to receive the awards were:

Ken Delfino: Chapter Associate Member of The Year.

Jim Wipf: Chapter Member of The Year

Also recognized, but, not present were the following awardees:

Mark King: Chapter Special Recognition of the Year (Individual)

Skagen Designs: Chapter Special recognition of The Year (Supporter)

Awards to Mark King and Henrik and Charlotte Jorst, owners of Skagen Designs, Inc will be presented at time yet to be determined.

Chapter Business meetings

Chapter business meetings conducted this past quarter have already been publicized in the Chapter Business meeting minutes which have been provided to the Chapter membership. If you're not receiving these, electronically (if you're on the internet and we have your correct address) or via "snail mail" (if you do not

have internet access) please let the Chapter Secretary know that fact. Past Chapter Business meeting information will no longer be addressed in the Chapter Newsletter. It is believed that information is adequately addressed and publicized via the business meeting minutes provided to every Chapter member.

Chapter Member Birth Date & Wedding Anniversaries:

Recently Celebrated & this upcoming Quarter:

Nearly 60% of these dates have been received and recorded from the Chapter membership. It would be very nice to have all of this data so that these special occasions could be recognized and publicized

for all the Chapter members. Remember that a promise has already been made not to publicize the year of birth.

Birthdays

- 16 January Jenny Johnson (BD)
- 17 January Doris Cleckner (BD)
- 3 February Melba Delfino (BD)
- 2 March John Nieland (BD)
- 15 March Carmen Hempting (BD)
- 25 March Max Hempting (BD)

Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 January John & Louise Nieland
- 3 February Ken & Sue Holmes
- 4 February Jack & Becky Bowles
- 9 February Mark & Sally King
- 28 February Doug & Manuela Davenport
- 21 March Bryan & Carol Furman

Best wishes to those celebrating the anniversaries of their birth dates. A big congratulations is sent to those celebrating wedding anniversaries for your success in being able to make it happen.

A VERY SPECIAL VALENTINE'S WISH FOR ALL OF THE LADIES!!

SFA/ROTC Distinguished Cadet Awards:

Presentation dates for the Washoe County JROTC units have been published. Eleven presentations will be conducted 5-26 May 2010. Although the Northern Nevada Detachment of SFA Chapter 89 can and will handle the presentations in Nevada, any other Chapter members who are desirous of coming over and participating are certainly invited to do so. If you are interested, please let me know.

The schedule will be provided to the Chapter at the February business meeting. The SFA presentation at Douglas HS JROTC has been discontinued. Details will be provided at the next business meeting. The presentation date for Enterprise NJROTC has yet to be determined.

Allen C. Johnson's Memorial Scholarship Fund yard sale fund raiser:

Jenny Johnson has announced that this year's Scholarship yard sale fundraiser will be conducted April 1-3 2010. Donations will begin being accepted by Jenny after 1 February through mid-March. Any and all items remaining after the first weekend's effort will be offered in a garage sale during the period of 8-11 April 2010. No doubt

Jenny will require assistance in both the set up, break down and monitoring (yard guards). Mark your calendars now and make every effort possible to support this not only necessary, but, very successful endeavor of Jenny's for the Chapter's namesake. Be there or beware!! President JC is looking for "volunteers" for other projects!!

Allen Johnson's Annual Memorial Services:

The service has been rescheduled for 29 May 2010, still at the Los Molinos site. Services begin at 1200 hours. Lunch will follow at Jenny Johnson's. The menu, which will be provided in the January business meeting minutes, will have you drooling. Iced tea and coffee will be provided. Anyone wanting libations beyond that feel free to bring your own poison. The recommendation to hold the post

services luncheon at Jenny's was her idea. She believed the cost last year in Red Bluff to be prohibitive, but, more important; the site was not Chapter fellowship friendly. The Chapter leadership agreed so long as it does not become a burden upon Jenny and her helpers. Thank you, Jenny

Chapter Calendar:

The 2010 annual calendar is presently being refined and updated for publication by the Chapter president. Once finalized, it will be provided to all Chapter members (email or snail mail) as well as being updated when appropriate or necessary on the Chapter

website. However, important dates or changes from the tentative draft calendar sent out last month for review and comment by the Chapter president are listed below:

- 13 February Chapter Business meeting @ Maravirov Team house.
- 13 March Chapter Business meeting @ Maravirov Team House.
- 1-3 April Jenny's Scholarship yard sale fund raiser.
- 8-11 April Jenny's follow on garage sale.
- 29 May Allen Johnson's Memorial Services @ Los Molinos, CA.
- 5-26 May SFA/ROTC Awards in Northern Nevada.
- 7-13 June SFA Convention @ Fayetteville, NC.



Upcoming Chapter Calendar Events (continued):

Skagen's Sponsorship Appreciation Presentation:

The tentatively scheduled January 2010 presentation date had to be "scrubbed". All concerned parties at Skagen were either out of town or country. Upon the suggestion of a number of Chapter members we are exploring the possibility of having it later in the spring when the weather is more likely to be cooperative and decent. (April-May)

We're also trying to coordinate the presentation for a time that might facilitate both a Chapter business meeting and some type of social gathering in the Reno/Sparks area. This would allow the folks west of the Sierras to meet those of the Chapter living on the morning side of the Sierras.

Chapter website:

Bryan Furman, with the technical assistance of Hans has created an absolutely superior website. His continuing quest for improvement, not only for information and enjoyment, but utility as well, is an

ongoing and endeavor by Bryan. If you have not visited it lately, you owe it to yourself to do so. Check out the new Google calendar and other recent additions to the Chapter website.

Away From the Flag Pole:

A Chapter Donation by an "Original": ("A Blast From The Past")

In late November-early December I was contacted telephonically by a then unknown individual offering to make a donation to SFA Chapter 89 of a complete collection (less three editions) of the SFA "The DROP". The collection spanned from the beginning of "The DROP" to the present time. This Chapter had evidently been selected as a potential recipient due to an earlier rebuff and "blow off" to the offer by another Chapter. In fact, the donor stated that he had had some very insulting and demeaning accusations made about his credibility and authenticity. Allegations that were obviously unfounded and untrue.

After very quickly and easily being convinced that the caller was exactly what and who he claimed to be, I gratefully accepted on behalf of Chapter 89. Then we agreed to make arrangements for pick up after the first of the year. As the donor lives in Gold Beach, Oregon, not far from where my brother and Chapter member, "JW" Wipf lives in Coos Bay, Oregon, it would be an easy thing to effect. During the conversation it was quickly discovered that both the caller and I had been at Bad Toelz (10th SFG(A) within a few days of each other in 1968. He was departing BT as I was transferring in from the Airborne Battalion in Mainz. We knew many of the same people. Of course, he had known them much better and for a longer period of time.

After mentioning this unexpected offer in the Chapter business meeting minutes, I was almost immediately contacted by Chapter member Wes "Longshot" Fowler. The caller had been a long ago acquaintance and friend of Wes while at Bad Toelz on a number of tours. In fact, both had competed for a berth on the US Olympic Marksmanship Team.

In early January, while travelling to Coos Bay, Oregon I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Ervin "Dutch" Harpole (MSG/Retired) (SFA # D-483). Although not requested (was NOT necessary in my opinion) "Dutch" gave me a copy of the unit movement orders for 10th SFG (A) from Fort Bragg to Europe in 1953. Another copy of orders provided from a year or so later was very interesting as many of us would quickly recognize many of the names on those orders. Of course the ranks would not be as recognizable as the orders predated the "legends" that were yet to come.



Jim with Ervin "Dutch" Harpole.

"Dutch", if I can presume to call him that, is one of "The Originals". Despite his protests and assertions that HE was nothing or someone special, I do believe that many of us of the "Snake Eater" era would strongly and seriously disagree with that evaluation.

The very best aspect of this entire story is that two old 10th Group (Bad Toelz types) SF buddies have been put back in contact. Further great news is a report from Wes that "Dutch" has agreed to try and make one of the Chapter gatherings or activities later in the year.

This donated collection will complement very nicely the earlier donation of "The DROP" made by Jim Sorensen.

The "Bull" takes Command:

The long "hush-hush" whispering is now over and worst kept "secret" in the Chapter can now be officially announced. The Chapter's own LTC Rich "Bull" Navarro, currently deployed forward overseas is scheduled to command a battalion in the 7th Special Forces Group (Abn). A "source close to him" reports that he is scheduled to return to CONUS very soon and will then attend the Pre-Command Course prior to assuming command.. The change of command is scheduled

for 5 March 2010. Apologies were offered as invitations or 'official' announcements had not yet been publicized. However, in the truest words spoken and/or heard recently, it is rather difficult to coordinate such things while "down range", especially, as it has been "kinda busy" over there. Congratulations Colonel Navarro and family. You make us proud ... and envious.



"Doc" Cleckner, LTC (R) JB Anderson (RIP) and MSG Gassen in Bagram.

Honor Flights:

Chapter member **John Nieland** and a group of other American Legion members with whom he is associated recently escorted 30 World War II Veterans from Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Washington, DC on what has come to be known as "Honor Flights". Upon disembarking at the airport the WW-II Veterans were met by "Donut Dollies" volunteers dressed in period attire ready to serve them coffee and donuts. Also on hand were approximately 75 volunteers from the local American Legion Rider groups and Patriot Guards.

The group began their visit at the WW II Monument where they were met by many political dignitaries; chief among them for John's group was Senator Grassley of Iowa. The group was then off to visit the Air Force, Marine, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials.

Departing that same evening, John reported that the Iowa WWII Veterans were awe struck to be met and greeted by a group of more than 150 locals at 0030. John further shared that although the younger veterans slept the entire return trip, the WWII veterans remained awake discussing the great experience that they had enjoyed.

Note: John Nieland is a retired ex- 1st and 7th SFG (A) Veteran with whom I have had the pleasure of being friends with for over 44 years. Retiring to his home in Marion, Iowa, even a stint as City Mayor has been unable to dilute his "Snake Eater" qualities and values. (Wipf)



"Buzz" Montalvo , Brady and Brad Hines in Reno.



John and Louise Nieland on a recent cruise.



Mark King, the Newsletter "Guru"



"Claymore" and "Golden Body" on the "Float and Bloat" river trip.



Vanessa Johnson with children enjoying Halloween.

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

Reports in from the "bush" from Chapter member **Stew Carnes** indicates that all is well with him. He was apparently not involved in the recent events reported in the news. Obvious reasons and OPSEC dictate no other details. But, many in the Chapter rest easier now knowing that he remains safe and well.

Steve Stevenson has reported that he is alive and well in the wilderness. Although winter weather and economic conditions have influenced a slowdown in his field of expertise he remains confident that he'll soon be out there doing the Fremont and Carson thing once again.

The Chapter's own, **Ken Delfino** has reported that in late November he was 'rear-ended' near Colfax, California. Although, Ken was sober and unimpaired, and the other driver was reportedly, by the CHP account, "pretty drunk", Ken will no doubt be found to be at fault over there on the evening side of the Sierras. Seriously, Ken, we are very pleased that you were not injured more than you were. You would be deeply missed.

Ken has just recently returned from yet another trip to Normandy where I believe that he might have acted as a 'tour guide', if even, unofficially. We're anxiously awaiting the sharing of the trip's details.

Late November - early December reportedly found **Jenny Johnson** travelling to North Carolina to spend some quality time with Vanessa and the Grand-Children. Apparently it was a great visit. Tis special times with the G-Kids as most of us aware. Especially over the holidays. Hopefully Jenny will update the Chapter about the trip in person one of these first days. Photo of Vanessa and the "kids" are in this edition of the newsletter. However, photos are not from this trip.

Bill "Buzz" Montalvo, a recently retired SF MSG, whom some of you met at the Chapter Christmas gathering has provided four photos of the "ramp ceremonies" in Afghanistan for Allen Johnson. Buzz, a friend of both Allen and Brady Hines has also served with the Chapter's own, **LTC "Bull" Navarro**.

Mike and Carrie Walker became grandparents for the first time on 31 October 2009. Their beautiful new granddaughter, Lila Eve Anderson, was certainly a treat and not a trick. Lila Eve arrived at the DZ weighing 8 lbs -1 4oz at 19.5 inches. Rumor has it that she made a perfect PLF. The proud parents are daughter **Kristin and husband Danny Anderson**. Congratulations to all. BTW- We're not buying Mike's contention that Lila gets her good looks from grandpa.... After all, we do know the grandmother and mom. Thus, there is NO doubt at all where the "good looks" come from. Although, Lila, like G-Pa is hair challenged.

It has been reported that **Nathan Furman**, the son of proud parents and Chapter members **Bryan and Carolyn Furman** has recently earned a PHD. It would appear, if I have read the lengthy pedigree accurately, that Nathan, a graduate of Cal-State Chico, has earned his Doctorate at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and is now a Professor at Green Mountain College in Vermont. He majored in

Parks, Recreation and Tourism, with a focus in; Outdoor/Adventure Education. Congratulations Doctor Furman and Bryan and Carolyn Furman.

MSG Brady Hines (SF medic and former Clinic NCOIC at Camp Mackall) and son of Chapter member, **Brad Hines and wife Carol**, came to Reno to visit with family over the December holidays. Unfortunately severe weather and the resultant impact upon the railway system prevented the full family reunion which had been planned. Brad's father, **Jack Hines**, a combat wounded WWII 101st Airborne Division Veteran and Brad's sisters were not able to make the trek to Reno. Three generations of paratroopers!! Two of them 'Screaming Eagles"! **"Buzz" Montalvo**, a friend of Brady also shared the evening. Brady will soon be joining the ranks of the retired. Well earned.

Reports from **Captain John "Duece" Cleckner**, forwarded from a proud dad, reported that a torn ACL was going to necessitate surgery. Reconstructive surgery was originally scheduled for 16 December, and then rescheduled for 29 December. The attending physicians are two orthopedic surgeons with whom "Doc" has been associated for a while. Hopefully, the surgery will have been successfully accomplished by the time that this newsletter is published. Rehab is believed to be about six months.

Proud dad has also reported that **John II** was just informed that he had received the Outstanding Emergency Clinical Nurse/ICU Nurse of the Year Award for Air Force Special Operations Command. (AFSOC). John II will now be entered in the Air Force wide competition.

Ken Holmes has checked in and states that he is totally enjoying retirement. He further reports that his oldest son, Scott, has recently married a young lady named Tanya. They are expecting their first child (Ken and Sue's second grandchild) The Holmes younger son, Eric, by now should have returned from his latest deployment to Iraq. Eric is an Airborne Ranger, on the E-8 list, and headed for a three year stabilized tour as a 1SG at Fort Polk, LA. Mom, dad, wife and all of the kin should now sleep more peacefully.

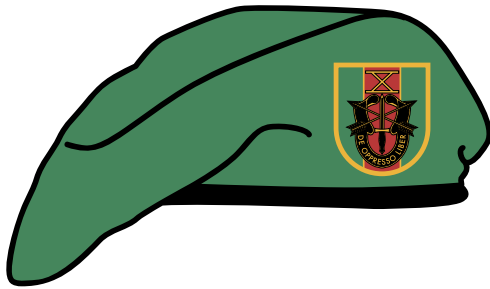
Speaking of "kin", **Ken** has a great story that he has shared with me in the past about speech accents and the first time that he took his, then, new bride Sue home to West Virginia. Sue is from Tasmania, Australia. Perhaps one day Ken can share this great story with all of us.

Al Baker, all Chapter emails sent to you continue to be rejected by your computer or server? I called earlier and so advised. However, server is still rejecting mail as undeliverable. Would you check that out again? Thanks.

THANKS to all the Chapter members who have taken the time to contact me so that I may be able to keep the other Chapter members up to date on what's current with you and yours.



Bad Toelz rifle range BBQ. Wes Fowler on the far right.



ODA 8 Mountain Team in the Bavarian Alps. Wes Fowler is sitting, second from right.



SFC Ed Mazur (RIP) and Jon Comini enjoying an after Ops "cool one" at Dong Ba Thin.

Sick and Distressed:

Best wishes and a speedy pain free recovery are sent to Captain **John "Duece" Cleckner** who is recovering from reconstructive surgery.

A speedy recovery is wished for **Ken Delfino** as well following his recent automobile accident 'ouch". A reliable source has reported that his favorite vehicle is beyond salvage. Ken, you're much more important than the vehicle...we think.

Carol Hines, who has been confronting a number of health issues recently is also sent Chapter regards and "get better soon" wishes.

Chapter sympathies and condolences go out to **Marlie Byrd** for the recent death in her family with the loss of her son in law.

John and Doris Cleckner who were intended to be wished strength and success in dealing with their recent and ongoing health challenges are evidently now much better. Great news!! Keep strong... We need you.

Chapter prayers and well wishes continue for **Gary and Bonnie Maraviov**. May the challenges not be as insurmountable as they appear? You are a part of this Chapter family as well and the Chapter stands ready to assist, however it might. .

Well wishes and prayers are extended to Chapter Chaplain **Don Mangrum** in his ongoing health issues. The Chapter is here if we are needed.

Kathy Maraviov is reported to be doing very well after an unspecified medical procedure. Regardless of what it might have been, all of us are absolutely certain that being able to finally dive her car would no doubt hasten the recovery.

Chapter Best Wishes and prayers are sent for all the above and for any other of the Chapter family who are dealing with issues of which we are not aware.

Final Thoughts to Ponder

A noteworthy and significant loss has recently occurred within the Special Forces Brotherhood and community with the death of **Colonel (R) (MOH) Robert Howard**. Although any and all losses are certainly significant and saddening, this loss concerns one of the greatest legends and Hero of the U.S. Army Special Forces. A legend that has stood out from an unbelievable number of many other decorated and publicly recognized Heroes. Since the loss has already been widely acclaimed and publicized it will not be expounded upon excessively here. With only the caveat that those of us "Snake Eaters" who were of his era, albeit not of his ilk, are extremely gratified to know that the credit and honor denied this great "Shadow Warrior" during his service for reasons of secrecy and politics are now finally being acknowledged and shared.

In Memory of and in Tribute to Colonel Bob Howard and all of the other Special Forcers Warriors, past, present and future who have given, and continue to offer up their Last Full Measure of Devotion,

we sadly, but proudly, salute you. Although the following quote was not penned for the SF Warrior, they certainly exemplify this truth:

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." - George Orwell

May the Creator, God or in whomever you place your faith and trust, bless, protect, and watch over you and yours and, most especially, all of the Warriors still fighting the good fight!

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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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