



# Special Forces Association

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

Northern California • Southwestern Oregon • Northwestern Nevada

www.sfachapter89.com

## Winter Newsletter–2011

### Chapter President's Column

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 26 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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##### Vice President

Scott Masterson

##### Secretary

Jim Wipf

##### Treasurer

Bob Maraviov

##### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Sorensen

##### Chaplain

Don Mangrum

Team,

It has been a great honor to serve first as your Chapter Secretary for two years and then as your President for the last four years.

Our Chapter has grown into the finest organization in SFA. We are not large in membership, but those that are members are so dedicated that we manage to achieve things far beyond what would be expected of us.

First I want to thank all of the hard working and dedicated Chapter Officers and the Chairman of our various committees. "They" are the ones who make this whole thing work like it does. We are a TEAM in the truest sense of the word as it relates to being Special Forces.

I want to especially mention the Chairman like **Mark King** and his outstanding Chapter Newsletter, **Jenny Johnson** and the Scholarship Program, **Jim Wipf** and the JR ROTC Program and Newsletter, **Bryan Furman** and our Chapter Web Site, **Jim Sorensen** and **Mike Walker** in procurement of Chapter Coins, **Scott Masterson** handling all of our Chapter Sales Items, **Bob Maraviov** as our QM keeping the Chapters Memorial Items and assets safe and accounted for, **Jack Bowles** in PR and Membership efforts. Last, but not least, I would thank **Ken Delfino** for his ever gracious and kind support of this Chapter for the plaques which he has so superbly created and provided..

And to our other Chapter Members who participate and support the Chapter. Many of our members do not live within our regional boundaries, yet they support the Chapter with ideas, donations, and other valuable offerings.

I want to thank you all for your support and dedication to SFA and Chapter 89.

This April we will elect a new President and I know he will do an outstanding job for us.

**Scott Masterson** has volunteered to run for Chapter President and has served at the National and Local Level of SFA and has been our Chapter VP for the past two years. Scott also handles all of the Chapter

Sales Products and Raffles. If elected I know our Chapter will be in good and capable hands.

I also want to mention that **Mark King** has been chosen as the 2010 Chapter Member of the Year and our Gold Star Mother, **Mrs. Jenny Johnson** has been chosen as our Chapter Associate Member of the Year. Both are incredibly worthy of these great honors.

This April I will be replaced as President of our Chapter. Because of this and some rather serious medical problems I feel it is most appropriate to also resign as Region "8" Representative

This would coincide with our Chapter election on April 9, 2011 and I have respectfully requested that SFA use this date as my last day on the job.

I will not give anything LIP SERVICE and I find that my current medical problems, at least now, make it impossible for me to have the memory that will allow me to do my responsible SFA duties.

I wish to thank SFA Administrator **Cliff Newman**, SFA President **Ronnie McCan** and the SFA Board of Directors for their outstanding support of Chapter 89, and the Association as a whole. Their incredible leadership and innovative ideas has moved SFA toward the level of excellence it deserves and they did it with great insight and drive to accomplish something that has been needed in SFA for decades.

Again, thank you ALL for allowing me to serve. It was a great honor and I will always cherish my time being a part of this, the Greatest Veterans Service Organization in America.

#### DE OPPRESSO LIBER

Submitted with great respect,  
John E. Cleckner Sr.

USA SF Retired

D-1874-L

President, SFA Chapter 89

Region "8" Representative

Saint Philip Neri

JFKSWC&S DMOR

## Spotlight on Chapter Members:

Editor's note: This is a new feature included in the Chapter Newsletter. It is being inaugurated with Jack "Woody" Bowles. The intent is to let Chapter members become more familiar with other Chapter members. With the cooperation and input from the Chapter membership, sharing their stories and info, this feature will continue to be included in future newsletters. Many thanks

are due Chapter member, and past Chapter VP, Jack "Woody" Bowles for agreeing to be the first in the spotlight. Hopefully, this will serve its intended purpose as well as motivating others to start digging through their memories. I'll be contacting future selectees in plenty of time for you to get it all together. Volunteers are welcome. (Wipf)

### Jack "Woody" Bowles

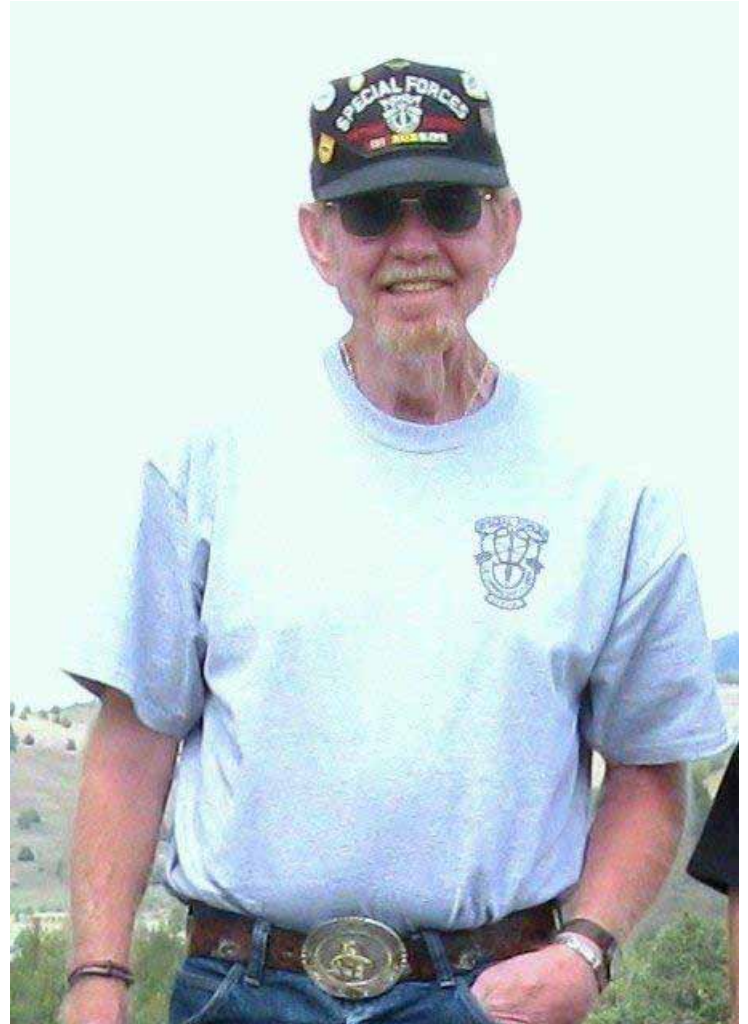
Jack was born in Los Angeles, California. It's reported that Jack, always an industrious individual, started earning his spending money at a rather young age. His first real job was mowing lawns. This, after his grandmother cosigned a loan enabling him to purchase a lawn mower. The proceeds from Jack's first money making endeavor paid for his early passion: roller skating and specialized skates. Jack became a Roller Derby skater, but, not for long. After an injury ended his Roller Derby aspirations, Jack moved on to his second passion: singing. Jack continued his singing career for a couple of years making what was considered good money back then. Good enough to purchase, with cash, a 1958 Corvette for \$2500.00. This, while still a high school student. Unfortunately, that Corvette was totaled by Jack's stepfather when Jack served in Korea. The car was not replaced by the stepdad.

While still in high school, Jack, along with a friend, Mickie Bennet, decided to enlist in the Navy. However, the Navy recruiter "ticked" Jack off so badly that he and his buddy processed for the Army.

After a bit of negotiating to convince his mom to sign the papers so he could enlist straight out of high school, Jack headed off to Fort Ord, California. Jack's friend, Mickie, did not make the trip as he was classified 4F because of his vision.

During "Basic", on his "wish list", Jack requested: Supply; Korea; and Airborne. The Supply option was based upon a recommendation by his step dad. Jack was sent to Supply School and then on to Korea in November of 1961. Jack was assigned to ASCOM-Korea with the 4th Signal Battalion. It was during this first assignment that Jack met an individual who, in Jack's words, changed his mind set about what he wanted to do in the Army. Jack met Isaac Camacho. At the time, Isaac Camacho was a radio operator out of the 1st SFG on Okinawa, who had been erroneously assigned to Korea. He was training the new arrivals for guard duty at the time Jack met him. Jack states that Camacho impressed upon him that if he, (Jack), wanted to be among the best and work alongside others who were just as skilled in both mind and body so as to be able survive better in a combat situation, that Jack should consider Special Forces. Two weeks later Camacho was reassigned to Okinawa. Jack was only 17 at the time. However, later, he did take that advice to heart. During his one year tour in Korea, Jack took Karate lessons at the same school that Chuck Norris had studied and practiced, however, at an earlier date.

Jack departed Korea on 15 December 1962 (his birthday anniversary) and returned to CONUS. After an unexpected delay in San Francisco due to the dock workers being on holiday, Jack was finally able to debark on 3 January 1963. Jack spent the balance of



The Chapter's very own.... "Smilin' Jack" Bowles

his leave in Los Angeles, California. In February 1963 Jack headed to Fort Dix and then on to Germany. Like many of us at that time, enjoying the "great accommodations" aboard a U.S. Navy troop transport.

Jack began his tour in Germany with the 51st Infantry/4th Armored Division just outside of Nuremberg. Others might recall that this was the year when Germany, and a number of other European countries, experienced its worst winter in sixty-six years. Being motivated to doing well, making rank as quickly as possible, and having always had skill with repairing weapons, Jack managed to finesse an assignment as the Headquarters Company Armorer. This also placed Jack in close proximity to and in the company of senior NCOs. It was there that Jack was befriended by a SGT Frederick F. Frederick, the Recon Platoon Sergeant. Joining Recon and making SP-4, Jack

## Spotlight on Chapter Members (continued):

was sent off to the 4th Armored Division NCO Academy at Stuttgart, Germany. Graduating first in his class (Honor Graduate) Jack was immediately promoted to SGT E-5. Jack credits SGT Frederick with motivating him into a combat MOS.

Due to Jack's outstanding performance in Recon, he was sent TDY to Grafenwoehr with a group of SF from the 10th SFG at Bad Toelz. This association rekindled Jack's interest in becoming Special Forces qualified. Jack satisfactorily completed all of the tests and interviews for SF at Bad Toelz and was accepted for SF training upon completion of his European tour of duty. In January 1966 Jack returned CONUS and finally got his military parachutist qualification... something which he had been promised in 1961.

In March 1966, Jack was sent to Fort Bragg, NC for Special Forces training. He requested training in: (1) Operations & Intelligence; and (2) Light & Heavy Weapons training. Being an E-5 at the time, he was not eligible to be trained in O & I. So, he began the Weapons Training Course. However, a week into Weapons training, Jack was one of three students subsequently selected for O & I training. (Jack already had an 11F MOS) When the O & I class selection was reopened, one of the cadre selecting the students was a John C. Cleckner, Sr. Jack had not known John prior to this time. Jack further shared that one of his classmates in the O & I Course was a Walter P. Shumate. Jack became friends with Shumate who was taking the O & I course to become eligible for promotion to MSG E-8. Jack states that, it was only later that he became aware, that this was the infamous Walter P. Shumate.

Jack completed training in November 1966. After two weeks of Special Interrogations training at Fort Holabird, Maryland and a Christmas Holiday break, Jack returned to Fort Bragg, NC. In February 1967 Jack received orders for the 5th SFGA in the RVN. After a short

leave, Jack arrived in Viet Nam. He was assigned to Ba Xoia (A-421) near the Seven Mountains area in the "Delta". Jack called this place home" for the next 16 months.

On June 8 1968, while on a "mail run" to his "B" Team at Chau Duc, with only three days remaining before DEROS, Jack's world would be forever changed. Near the Na Bong Pass, Jack and his group encountered an ambush. The 2 ton truck which Jack

had been driving hit a command detonated mine. Though Jack survived the explosion, the others in the vehicle were not so fortunate. All were killed. Jack reports that the bomb was the equivalent of 40 lbs of TNT. He was in the apex of the bomb blast. Jack credits his survival to the fact that he had sand bagged under his seat, around the foot pedals as well as behind the driver's seat. The truck was blown up and back about 50 feet with the engine coming to rest in the passenger seat. It was later discovered that there were three more mines/bombs that had failed to detonate. Photos of that event have been provided by Jack and are included in this newsletter.

Jack was transported by med-evac to Dong Tang and then on to the 24th evac hospital at Bien Hoa. He was later evacuated to Yokohama, Japan and then back to Womack Army Hospital at Fort Bragg, NC. He was assigned to "E" Company - 7th SF for the next 18 months while recovering from his major wounds... the doctors attempting to reconstruct his right leg and foot. In May 1969 the determination was made that Jack should serve in another specialty field. Jack reluctantly accepted that reality and was reassigned to Germany where he served with the 3rd Armored Division in Kirch-Goen, Germany.

In August 1970 Jack, again, received orders assigning him back to Viet Nam. Missing his scheduled appointments for reconstructive surgery of his left leg and foot, he arrived back in Viet Nam in November 1970. On January 3rd 1971 Jack went on "sick call" to obtain pain pills for his earlier injuries. According to Jack, the doctor immediately became "unhinged" and Jack was returned to Fort Ord, California for treatment and recovery. In 1973 Jack requested and was granted a medical retirement. It has been shared that this was not a "slam dunk". Jack has had to fight to finally receive the correct rating for his combat related injuries.

Jack shared that he felt that the highlight of his time in Special Forces was the opportunity, along with a number of others, to imbibe in a few too many toddies with Martha Raye. This occurred on Christmas Eve of 1967 at the B-55 TOC in Saigon. Jack further shared that he was also very pleased by a surprise visit by Martha Raye at the Fort Ord Army Hospital in 1971. Evidently she had discovered that he was there during one of her visits. Jack asserts that "She's the greatest!!" It's patently evident that Jack, like almost all SF, regards Martha Raye in exceptionally high esteem.

On the personal (non-military) side of Jack's life, the following has been shared. Jack met and married his first wife; Rose, in Erlangen, Germany in 1964. Jack and Rose have three children together... a son, Robert, the oldest, and two daughters; Kim and Kristine. After leaving the Army, Jack and family relocated back to Los Angeles, Jack's home. Jack and family remained in Los Angeles until one day when Jack became so disillusioned with it that he packed up and moved the family north...moving on to land that he had purchased years earlier. After purchasing a home for his family, Jack and Rose were later divorced.

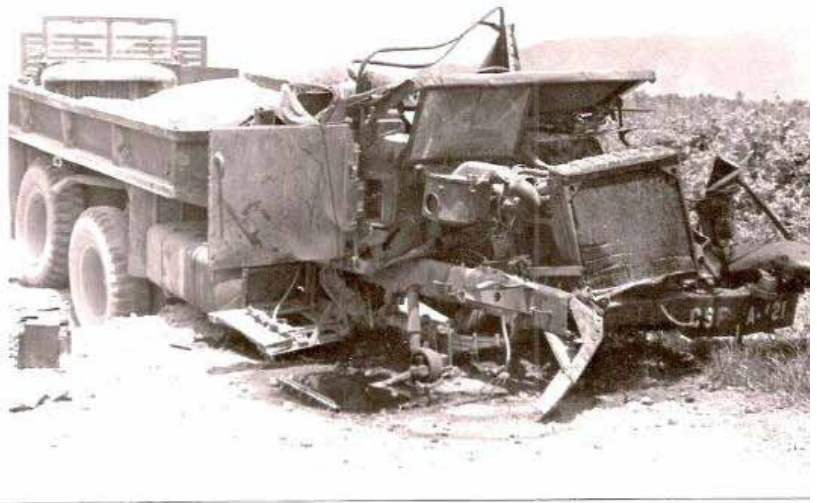
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CPT John Alexander, "A" TM CO, with one of three more mines found after the blast.

## Spotlight on Chapter Members (continued):

Becky, Jack's present wife and staunchest ally, supporter and "soul mate" shared the interesting drama of how she and Jack met and then later became an inseparable team. Becky says that she was sitting in a café talking with Rose (Jack's first wife) and in walked the type of man that she told her parents that she would never marry. However, she fell head over heels in love with him... however, not realizing that he was married at the time! It would be a number of years before Becky would once again meet Jack. Three years later, while at Knight's Lounge, on a quiet Wednesday evening minding her own business and enjoying an after work drink with her roommates, who should walk in but "Smiling Jack", Bowles!! Jack asked Becky out and she responded..."Sure, if my roommates can come along". Jack believed that Becky was kidding; she says that she assured him that she was serious. When Becky left the lounge, Jack followed her out to her vehicle and told her that she was going to marry him! It took several more attempts before Becky would even agree to date Jack. She had also always said NO to, and avoided all redheads and cowboys. However, sometime after that, no doubt succumbing to smooth talking "Smiling Jack", Jack and Becky were married.... And, now... you know the rest of the story!



Jack's "Ride" after the ambush!

Sometime after the Chapter was formed, Jack "Woody" Bowles joined the Chapter. Since that time, he has served as the Chapter Vice-President and he and Becky have proven to be two of the staunchest and most reliable Chapter supporters. Always there... whenever needed. BTW- I have feared to ask when and why "Smiling Jack" acquired the nickname of "Woody".

## SFA Chapter 89 Members of the Year:

The selectees for the SFA Chapter 89 "Member of the Year" 2010 were determined at the Chapter LT meeting in January. The official awards and recognition are scheduled to be made at the Chapter GM&B meeting to be conducted in February 2011. The selectees are:

Chapter "Member of the Year":  
**Mark King**

Chapter "Associate Member of the Year":  
**Mrs. Jenny Johnson**

Upon being notified of their selection and pending award, both recipients were very humble and expressed bewilderment as to why they were selected. However, anyone who has been following the activities of the Chapter, especially with regard to who has been doing what...will not be bewildered in the slightest.

Since first associating with the Chapter, **Mark King** has readily and unhesitatingly volunteered his expertise wherever and whenever it might be used. Mark is the creative inspiration behind this Chapter's contemporary award winning newsletter design, as well as being the man, who gets it formatted, published and mailed. Mark was also the creator of the initial design for the new Chapter Banner. Mark has been there whenever the Chapter has needed his expertise. Always, volunteering his services in advance as opposed to waiting to be tasked.

**Jenny Johnson's** contributions to the Chapter are no doubt equally apparent to those who have followed closely this Chapter's activities.



**Mark King- SFA CH 89 Member of the Year.**



**Jenny Johnson- SFA CH 89 Associate Member of the Year.**

Beyond being the mother of **Allen C. Johnson**, the Chapter's namesake, Jenny has contributed immeasurably to this Chapter's fame and success: The establishment and oversight of the scholarship program at Los Molinos High School; the fund raising activities in support of those scholarships; and donations made to the Chapter coffers from her fund raising activities is only the short list of her many contributions to the Chapter.

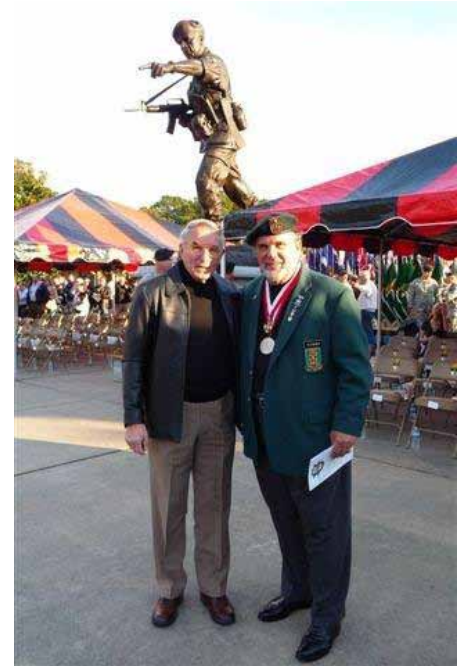
Congratulations to both, **Mark King** and **Jenny Johnson**, for all that you do for this Chapter. Your selection as SFA Chapter 89, 2010- "Members of the Year" and subsequent recognition and honors is certainly well deserved.

**Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:**

**Chapter President John E. Cleckner, Sr. inducted into the SF Hall of Fame:**



John Cleckner, Sr. receiving the DMOR Award from BG Sacolick.



MG Sid Shacknow & John Cleckner.



Col Bill Cleckner, MAJ/Ret John Cleckner, Sr., & CPT John Cleckner II.



LTC Navarro, Doris Cleckner, John Cleckner, & the "Bull's" CSM.



Brother Bill Cleckner, sister Melinda, Doris, John, sister Melody & sister Sharon.



John Cleckner, family, friends and teammates at DMOR ceremony.

## Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

### Chapter Christmas Gathering:

As has already been reported earlier in an AAR to the Chapter membership ... If you were not there, you certainly missed a great Chapter Christmas gathering. On 11 December 2010 twenty two (22) Chapter members, family and friends gathered at the Maraviov Team House in Shasta Lake, California.



Doug, Becky & "Static"

Kathy Maraviov and the other Chapter ladies presented a veritable feast for those gathered for the occasion. Dinner, (actually, more like a banquet) included tri-tip, roast chicken, ham, salads, potatoes, and gravy, and an array of desserts that was truly more than could possibly be eaten was offered up. This does not even take into consideration the vast variety of appetizers which preceded the banquet. Chapter President, John Cleckner, again mixed up his magical potion of egg nog for those caring to imbibe. It was great.

Present and sharing in the evening's festivities and camaraderie were: John & Doris Cleckner; Doug & Manuela Davenport; Sue & Matt Houston; Bob & Kathy Maraviov; Max & Carmen Heping; Jack & Becky Bowles; Mike & Carrie Walker; Tracy & children; Jim Wipf & Marlie Byrd and Jon and Jeff Comini who had driven from Gresham, Oregon to share the occasion with the Chapter.



Manuela & Doris

Following dinner, the traditional exchange of gifts between those present was conducted. The only "down side", if there was one, was that "someone" did manage to slip in the banned Keystone "Beer". However, to be totally honest, the recipient did not appear to be displeased with the Keystone.



Susan & Carmen

## Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

### Leadership Team meeting:

The Chapter Leadership Team met on 6 January 2011 at the Maraviov Team House. A variety of topics/issues for the upcoming year were addressed and discussed: Bylaws; Chapter calendar; Chapter elections; and a number of other issues of interest to Chapter operations. These will be presented to the Chapter for discussion at the GM&B meeting on 12 February 2011 by Chapter VP, Scott Masterson.

Many thanks to the Maraviov's for the food and drink provided for the meeting. An expression of appreciation is in order as well for the: banana nut bread from Doris Cleckner; delightful chocolate chip cookies from Kathy Maraviov (which Bob reluctantly shared); and some superbly delicious oranges from Jim Sorensen's 106 year old orange tree.



Mike & Carrie



Max, Jeff & Jon Comini

## Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

### Chapter "Lap Throw" project :

Kathy Maraviov, SFA Chapter 89 Chairperson, for the "Lap Throw Project" reports that Sandy McCathern, lap throw project manager, and her group of gallant ladies of "TOPS" # 1583 of Redding, California, are continuing to do their thing. This group of very talented and dedicated ladies create beautiful lapghams, hats, scarves, and slippers for those in need of warmth and comfort. TOPS #1583 has been creating and donating an average of 60 lapghams a year to veteran's organizations in Northern California since 1995. It has been shared that over the past years this group has created and donated several hundred items to veteran's organizations and homes for seniors. The group is already leaning forward and preparing for the opening of the Veteran's Home in Redding, California.

SFA Chapter 89 became associated with this group through **Kathy and Bob Maraviov**. Their neighbor Mike's mother is a member of TOPS. Since that initial association, **Carrie Walker** and her group of LDS ladies have joined this very worthwhile endeavor. It was reported in mid-December that Kathy's group had more than 90 lap throws prepared. Carrie's group reportedly had another 100 lap throws prepared. Thus, as of December 2010, more 190 items are ready when needed.

These various knitted items are knitted from donated material. It was shared that in the past it had often been necessary that donated



Sandy McCathern, center w/ red sash, with her group of "TOPS" ladies taking a break from knitting "lap throws".

and gathered knitted items had to be, first unraveled to create yarn for new items. Hopefully, with the donations of skeins of material being received, that will no longer be necessary. In early December, three boxes of material from **Jenny Johnson** were delivered to **Kathy Maraviov** for the project. It has been shared that it takes 16 ounces of yarn per lap throw. (Or... two, 8 oz. skeins). Each lap throw is approximately 35 X 45 inches. Those interested in providing material for the project, or knowing of a source to obtain the material should notify **Kathy Maraviov**. Great job... ladies!

## Upcoming Chapter Activities & Events:

### Veterans Day Parade:



The Chapter ladies at the after parade gathering.



The Chapter "guys" at the after parade gathering.

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### Chapter 89 Activities & Events Calendar (2011):

The 2011 Chapter calendar had been prepared by late November by the Chapter president. However, since that time, the 2011 annual Chapter calendar has become a major point of discussion within the Chapter Leadership Team. At the 6 January 2011 Leadership Team meeting a number of new possibilities and/or options were introduced

for consideration. These will be a major point of discussion at the 12 February 2011 GM&B meeting where they will be presented to the general membership for consideration and discussion.

Activities and events not expected to be subject to change are:

- 12 Feb: ..... GM&B meeting**
- 31 Mar- 3 April: ..... Scholarship Fund Yard Sale (WX permitting)**
- 9 Apr: ..... GM&B meeting and biennial elections.**
- 28 May: ..... Allen's Memorial Ceremony @ Los Molinos.**
- 22-28 Jun: ..... SFA Convention @ Orlando, FL.**
- 5 Nov: ..... Veterans Day Parade @ Shasta Lake, CA.**
- 17 Dec: ..... Chapter Christmas Gathering**

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### Chapter Elections:

This Chapter's forthcoming biennial elections will be a point of interest and discussion at the 8 February 2011 GM&B meeting. The names of those members who have indicated a willingness to be nominated and serve, if elected, as well as the timelines will be shared at the February meeting. What is confirmed, and may be shared as of this time, is: **John Cleckner, Sr.** has stated that he will not run for

another (third) term; and, the elections will be held at the 9 April 2011 GM&B meeting.

Any Chapter member who is willing to step up and be considered for one of the leadership positions should so notify the Chapter Secretary (Nomination Committee). All positions remain available and open.

### Back in The Day:

Thanks to those Chapter members who have continued to submit photos and information for this section of the Chapter Newsletter. As you have probably already ascertained, this is a larger than usual

edition of the newsletter. Thus, no space for "Back in the Day" stuff... It shall return!

## Chapter Member Birth Date & Wedding Anniversaries:

### Recently Celebrated & this upcoming Quarter:

Recently celebrated and/or upcoming this quarter, although, I would suspect that there are other anniversaries during this period. However,

that information has not yet been provided for publication in the Chapter Newsletter.

### Wedding Anniversaries

4 Feb..... Jack & Becky Bowles  
9 Feb..... Mark & Sally King  
12 Feb..... Ken & Sue Holmes  
28 Feb..... Doug & Manuela Davenport  
21 May..... Bryan & Carol Furman

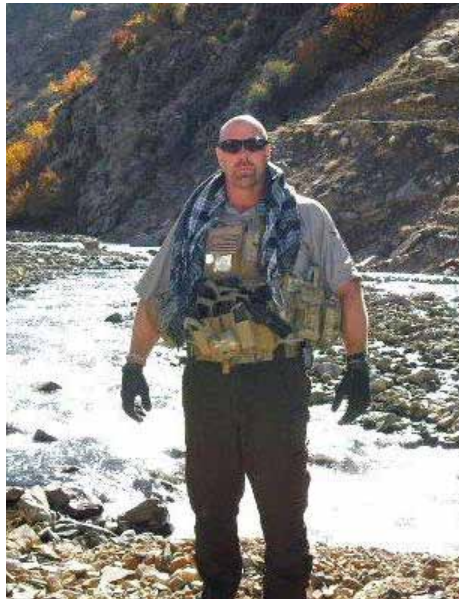
### Birthdays

3 Feb..... Melba Delfino  
2 Mar..... John Nieland  
15 Mar..... Carmen Hemping  
25 Mar..... Max Hemping  
7 April ..... Becky Bowles

## Away from the Flagpole:



LTC Rich Navarro and wife Katherine.



Huummm...Checking out the fishing possibilities?



Mike in the mountains

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

In case you have not yet heard... The City of Colfax, California has a brand new mayor in town. Not just any old mayor, but one who is no less than our very own Chapter member... **Ken Delfino**. Henceforth to be known as the **Honorable Mayor Ken Delfino**. Ken was quoted as having said... "I never thought that I would be sitting here with the title "mayor" before my name .It's really something that in America, everyone who believes in community and people can rise to this position. A GREAT choice...Colfax! A big Special Forces Chapter 89 congratulation to Ken... "Da Mayor".

Editor's note: This makes two mayors that the Chapter may now brag about having in their membership. **John Nieland** served a couple of terms as the mayor of Marion, Iowa.



Ken Delfino being sworn in as mayor of Colfax, California.



Da Mayor – Ken Delfino enjoying an after ceremony celebration.

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

Thanks to **Jon & Jeff Comini** for taking the time to make the trek from Gresham, Oregon to Shasta Lake to join with the Chapter for the annual Christmas Gathering. It was a real treat and pleasure to have you share the event with us. Many thanks as well for the gifts of the T-shirts that you so generously provided. We're trusting that it will not be nearly as long before you can join with the chapter again.

Congratulations are also in order to **Mary Baker**, wife of Chapter member, **Al Baker**, of Arcata, California. It has been reported that Mary, who has been serving as the Commander of District 21, Department of California VFW, was officially appointed to the National VFW Position of Chairwoman of the National Women Veterans Committee by Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank. The appointment was announced on 18 December 2010. It was further reported that Mary is the first woman veteran to command the 21st California VFW District. Way to go Commander Baker!!

**Stew Carnes** has contacted the Chapter. He reports that he is alive and doing well. Stew continues to do the things that he evidently does so well. We're still hoping to have him join us during one of his visits back here in the area. Thanks for the photos.

**LK Stevenson** reports that he is currently working for a field service company, surveying for drilling companies on the Front Range of the Rockies. It would appear that he is also in the process of becoming licensed in Wyoming. LK...Thanks for keeping the Chapter posted.

**Bob Maraviov** has reported that the Chapter has recently received an unexpected, but very much appreciated, gift. It seems that Bob's brother, **Mark Maraviov**, has donated a CD of "The Ballad of the Green Berets" to the Chapter. The Chapter should certainly be able to make good use of that. Many thanks... Mark!!

For those in the Chapter who might have the occasion to fly in the northern part of California... Be advised, there will be soon be another aircraft in the airspace around the Montague area. Chapter VP, **Scott Masterson** finally succumbed to one of his life's great passions. Scott has purchased an airplane: a 1963 Maule. It's a single engine, four passenger aircraft (STOL). As one would expect, he is really "jazzed" about it. He has already contracted a hanger for storage and is planning on taking even more lessons. Could it be that the Chapter may soon have its own "Junior Birdman"??

## Sick and Distressed:

None have been reported. Whether this is a good sign, or just an omission or oversight, only time will tell. Let's trust that it's a good sign.

## Final Thoughts to Ponder

The Chapter continues to have four members still serving: two on active duty; and two as contractors. Let us not forget them, or the many others who are still engaged in the GWOT. Contrary to what one might be lulled into believing by the absence of attention and/or reporting by the main stream media, there is still a war being waged. May God, the Creator, the Great Spirit, or whomever you place your faith and trust, continue to bless and protect our troops who are yet in harm's way.

### **DE OPPRESSO LIBER and Fratres Aeterni**

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

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



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**NATIONAL OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

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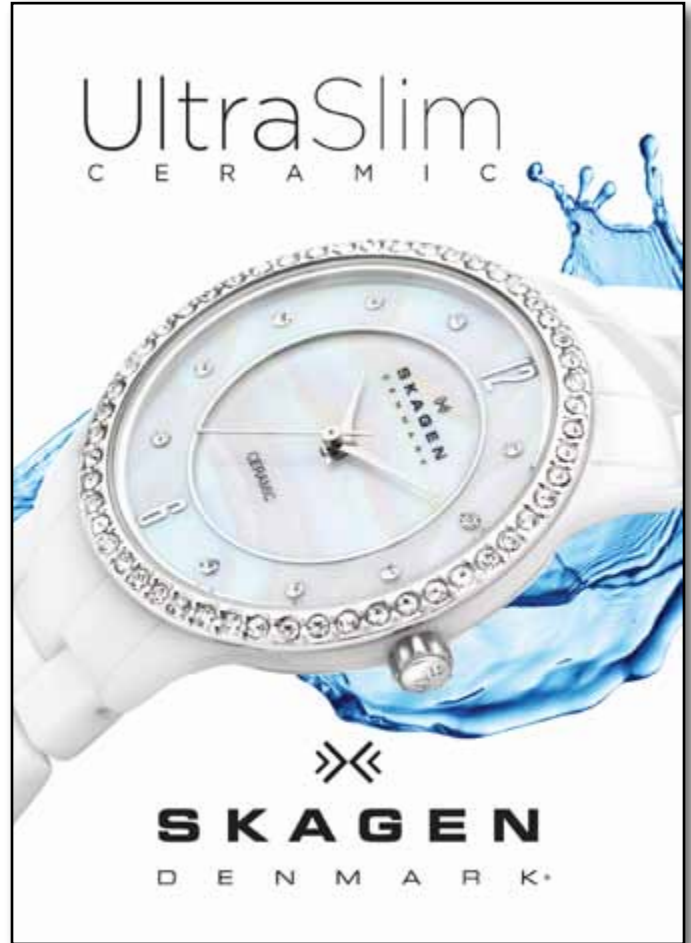
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