



SFA Indian Nations Chapter 32/50
1715 Spoke Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

MINUTES 9 SEP 2023

SFA Chapter 32-50 met at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Headquarters, 2101 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK, on Sat., 9 SEP 2023, at 1200 hours.

Officers Present

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator/ WebMaster: Jerry Cooper
Secretary/Assistant WebMaster: Pat Carr
Assistant Secretary: Charles Watts
Medal Presentation Coordinator: Doug Warden

Officers Absent

President: Roger "Rock" Taylor
Vice President: Bill Coultrup
Chaplain/Assistant Treasurer: Dick Goodman
Quartermaster: David "Sarge" Cronic

Opening Ceremonies

Jerry Cooper called the meeting to order, at 1200 hrs.
Charles Watts led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Jerry Cooper led the Special Forces Prayer.
Rafael Elias played and the members sang the Ballad of the Green Beret.

Guests

Jerry Cooper, brought Airborne and Pathfinder veteran, Don Keeton, as well as former Marine, Tom Bradbury. Also present were special operators, Greg Holmes and Eric Humphrey, both of whom have been MIA and sorely missed. The following wives further improved the quality of our meeting: Thao Edwards, Shirley Williams and Sylvia Routh. Visiting with our speaker, Bob Ford, and assisting with his presentation were Sherri Dobrinski, Geraldine Weber and Jessica Leal

Deaths- Brigadier General (R) Paul L. Babiak



Brigadier General (R) Paul L. Babiak completed his final patrol 25 AUG 2023, before being welcomed to Heaven by God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit. BG Babiak served in numerous Special Forces leadership positions, including SF Detachment Commander, SF Company Commander and SF Battalion Commander. He was a man of faith and integrity, and he was highly respected by those with whom he served. BG Babiak was a beloved figure in Hennessey, Oklahoma, where, for twenty-seven years, he was Superintendent of Schools. A memorial service was held at Hennessey High School, Saturday, 3 SEP 2023. There, BG Babiak's lovely wife Jewell and his three children were presented with a framed SF Certificate of Excellence, an SFA Chapter Coin with his name and membership number etched on it, and an SFA Award of Excellence medal. The memorial service was attended by eighteen Chapter members: McEdward Law, Jim Selders, Nokey Klutts, Rick Cacini, Ray Williams, Everett Bagley, Larry Zimmerman, Doug Warden, Jerry Cooper, Charles Watts, Ellis Edwards, Butch Graham, Dick Goodman, Jerry Haney, Russ Higbie, Robert Kelson, Marvin Shire, and Rock Taylor. A final manifest call was conducted, and the members joined in singing "the Ballad of the Green Beret."

Stephen R. Bryan (6 MAR 1945-12 SEP 2023)

Stephen Ray "Steve" Bryan, former SF medic with Co. A, 2nd BN, 12th SFGA, passed 12 SEP 2023, age 78, at Circle of Life Hospice Hospital, Bentonville, AR. Steve was born March 6, 1945, in Lawton, OK, to Walter and Ruth Bryan. Though not a chapter member, Steve was well-known to members of A Co, 2Bn, 12 SFGA. A tall, thin man, he was known to comrades as "Blade." Steve graduated from Clinton High, Clinton, OK, in 1963, and continued his education at Oklahoma Christian College, in OKC, and later at Central State University, where he earned a BA in Commercial Art. Steve met his wife Judy Elaine Mollet while at OCC. He designed the logo for the Welch State Bank in 1982, which is still in use today. Steve worked in commercial art for 2 years, in OKC, before moving with his wife Judy and son Greg to West Plains, Missouri, where he taught middle school art. Their second son Jason was born in West Plains. The family moved from West Plains to Elk City, OK, where he farmed with Judy's father. After 3 years, he moved to Craig County, where the family purchased their own farm/ranch, where they have lived since. Tiring of hauling water to a cistern to supply the farm house, Steve was instrumental in forming the Craig County Water Board, District 3. It was a happy day when he no longer had to haul water from Bluejacket in his old flatbed truck, with its top mounted water tank, to the cistern at the top of the hill to supply gravity fed water to his house. His interest in hunting, fishing, and sharing these passions with his grandsons, never waned. He was most at home when away from the city and out in nature. Steve was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Ruth Bryan, his grandson John William Bryan, and sister-in-law Johanne Bryan. Steve is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judy Elaine of the home, his sons Greg Allen (Rebecca) Bryan of Centerton, AR, Jason Adam (Rachel) Bryan of Seneca, MO; grandsons Morgan, Christian, Easton and Ellis; brothers Philip (Jeri) Bryan Edmond, OK, Mark Allen Bryan, Welch, OK; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins from coast to coast and border to border.

Beside his love of God, his family and his country, Steve had one other great love, his miniature dachshund Hilda. They spent many an hour together riding around the farm in his truck. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the: African Mission Fund, c/o Wilshire Church of Christ, 400 E. Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105; Neosho Christian Schools, 900 W. South St, Neosho, MO 64850; or Circle of Life Hospice, 1201 NE Legacy Parkway, Bentonville, AR 72712. Services were Fri, 15 SEP 2023, at the Church of Christ, in Miami, OK, with Mr. Ron Babbit officiating. Interment was at the New Salem Cemetery, East of Seneca under the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami. Friends and family may send notes of encouragement by viewing Mr. Bryan's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator Jerry Cooper reported, as of 9 SEP 2023:

General Fund bank balance	\$3,097.28	\$1,987.64
ROTC Medals bank balance	\$2,748.47	\$2,292.77
Green Beret Benevolent Fund	\$2,754.00	\$2,754.00
Total Cash in Banks	\$8,599.75	\$7,034.41

Item	2023	2022	Difference	%
Medals sold since January 1st	709	519	129	24.90%
Remaining Medals on Hand	3,022	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross Medal Sales	\$10,647.00	\$8,201.00	\$2,446.00	29.83%
Net Profit from Medal Sales	\$3,417.12	\$2,274.28	\$1,142.84	50.25%

Larry Zimmerman’s motion to approve both the Treasurer’s report and the Medals Report, seconded by Roger Routh, passed unanimously.

Speaker- CPT (R) Bob Ford

CPT (R) Bob Ford made his commitment to flying helicopters while in ROTC, at the University of Oklahoma. Within one year of his 1966 graduation and commissioning, Ford was flying combat in Vietnam. After six weeks, he became an aircraft commander and took command of a helicopter detachment at the old Imperial Capital of Hue, forty miles from the DMZ—the farthest northern helicopter unit in Vietnam. During his tour, he flew over 1,000 combat missions.



I LT Bob Ford, JAN 1968, Hue, RVN

At the start of the TET offensive, in February 1968, Ford and his other pilots manned the perimeter in the MACV compound, during a 3 day night and day ground attack. After being evacuated, Ford flew 70 missions into the battle, all of which were in weather of $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile visibility- 200 foot ceiling. Upon leaving the military in 1969, Ford became vice-chairman of the Ford Family Shawnee Mills facility, in Okeene, Oklahoma. In November 2018, CPT Ford was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame He has written an autobiography, "*Black Cat 2-1*", documenting his "give back" legacy.

New Business

Rick Cacini reminded us that the Yukon Veterans' Museum banquet will be 19 OCT 2023, at the Yukon Veterans' Museum.

Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Presentation Banquet

Please save Saturday, 28 OCT 2023, on your calendars, as our own Vice President, COL(R) Bill Coultrup, will be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. The 2023 banquet will be from 1800 to 2130 hours, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2501 Conference, Norman, OK. Eight SFA Members have previously been inducted:

MAJ John Mullins-2022

CPT Ellis D. Edwards- 2021
SSG Douglas Jason Warden- 2021
CSM George Wilson Hunt- 2019
SGM Eugene Rockholt- 2017
LTC Michael E. Sloniker- 2013
CSM Everett Bagley Jr- 2012
MAJ GEN Douglas O. Dollar- 2007

To purchase tickets at \$85 per person, click on the below website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-oklahoma-military-hall-of-fame-induction-banquet-tickets-671667705187>

You will be asked, "Which inductee group would you like to sit with?"

SFA CARNIVAL CRUISE

SFA Legacy Initiatives has signed a contract with Carnival Cruise Lines to charter an entire ship for SF, Family, and friends. The Carnival Paradise will provide an exclusive cruise experience departing from Tampa, FL, on October 19, 2024. The planning itinerary includes the following events that will also support many SF small businesses during this epic event:

October 17-18 Pre-cruise gatherings, USSOCOM events, golf tournament, poker run, supporting local SF businesses with Scuba dives, off-shore fishing, boat trips, & more

October 19 - Board the ship, SF Swag, Regimental Colors flying from the mast, sail away party with nationally known music artist(?)

October 20 - Day at Sea, beer and wine tasting from SF owned breweries and wineries

October 21 - Bimini

October 22 - Nassau with a shore party at the SF owned "The Bearded Clam Sports Bar", support other SF businesses with shore excursion

October 23 - Day at Sea, SF liquor tasting from SF owned distilleries

October 24 - Return to Tampa-more activities like football games, hockey games, etc...

We have over 1,000 passengers already registered during the pre-registration phase.

Register today at: specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com.

During the 2023 SFA Convention (SFACON), the membership voted that this cruise will also be the venue for 2024 SFACON. SFA Chapter VIII (8), Hawaii Chapter, taken the lead organizing the traditional aspects of SFA conventions during the cruise. If you have questions, contact Pete Tingstrom, SFA Chapter VIII President.

Prepare to be inspired by an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers who have conquered adversity and achieved remarkable success, both during and after their military service. Hear stories of resilience, leadership, and triumph, drawing upon the lessons learned from your time in Special Forces and applying them to your civilian life. Potential speakers include: The Originals, Medal of

Honor Recipients, Commanders of various organizations like USSOCOM, USASOC, etc. The 1st SFG and Detachment A/Berlin have already committed to conduct their reunion on the ship. We are in discussions with SOA, 5th SFG and others to do the same.

Please register early, we need to see our numbers of where we are at in the next 30 days. If we don't meet our goal we will have to open this up to the Night Stalker Association, Rangers, Civil Affairs and other organizations to fill up the ship. There has never been an opportunity like this before, so don't be the one who sees the pictures, videos, smiles and memories after this is all over, wishing you had attended. Make the commitment today and sign up. We will be posting new information to the SFA Teamhouse and SFACON 2024 website soon.

Rooms are designed for two occupants. If you don't have someone to come with you, we have started a forum where folks can find someone to defray the cost of the room.

<http://pub24.bravenet.com/forum/static/show.php?usernum=1987450266&frmid=10393&msgid=0>

What is included: Cabin in selected category for 2 passengers, taxes, port fees, and gratuities. 3 sit down meals a day, snacks and more throughout; non-bottled water, lemonade, iced tea, hot chocolate, and some coffees and teas. Also includes things like a Brunch, Fast Food, around the clock buffet, and ice-cream bar, Vegas type production shows, water slides, comedy club, activities for kids, competitions, etc.

Make Lifelong Connections: Strengthen the bonds forged in the crucible of the Special Forces and form new connections with like-minded individuals who share a common mission and purpose. The reunion cruise is a chance to expand your network, exchange ideas, and collaborate with fellow warriors who are making a difference in various fields.

So don't miss out on this extraordinary gathering of elite warriors. Reserve your spot today on this Global Gathering of Green Berets and embark on an adventure that will reignite the fire within and create memories that will last a lifetime. Together, let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future.

DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

De Oppresso Liber,
Pete Tingstrom
President SFA Chapter VIII (8) Hawaii
Special Forces 2024 Cruise Lead Planner / SFACON 2024 Chair
specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com

Old Business

Russ Higbie's motion to approve the meeting minutes for 12 AUG 2023, seconded by Rafael Elias, was unanimously approved.

Historian, Maj (R) Joe Todd, is continuing to record videos of combat veterans. Contact Joe if you have not recorded an interview.

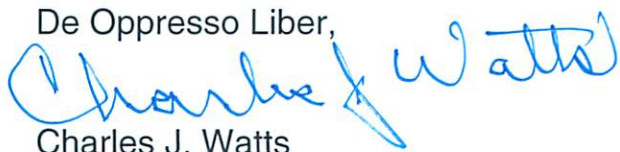
As always, Pat Carr requests submissions for The Drop.

50/50 Raffle

Jim Laughlin won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$110, all of which he donated back to the Chapter.

Our Next Meeting will be Sat, 14 OCT 2023, at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Headquarters, 2101 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City. The entrance to parking is on the north side of NE 36th Street. The social hour begins at 1100 hours, and the business meeting begins at 1200 hrs.

De Oppresso Liber,



Charles J. Watts

D-2833

Assistant Secretary