



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

MINUTES 12 JUL 2025

SFA Chapter 32-50 met at Golden Corral, 1501 S. Sooner Road, Midwest City, OK, 73110, on Saturday, 12 JUL 2025, at 1200 hours.

Officers Present

President: Russell Higbie

Vice President: Charles Watts

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator/ WebMaster: Jerry Cooper

Secretary/Assistant WebMaster: Pat Carr

Medal Presentation Coordinator: Doug Warden

Officers Absent

Chaplain/Assistant Treasurer: Dick Goodman

Quartermaster: Rick Cacini

Opening Ceremonies

President Russell Higbie called the meeting to order, at 1200 hrs.

Vice President Charles Watts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Butch Graham led the Special Forces Prayer.

Rafael Elias played, and the members sang the Ballad of the Green Beret.

Guests

Accompanying Ray Williams was wife Shirley, son Aaron, and Shirley's sister, Norma Fisher. Mack Law brought his son, Mike. Art Linville was back with the promise to speak to us at a meeting in the near future. Another welcome sight was Kenny Gorrell. Col. Jim Selders was accompanied by his lovely wife Keeley.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator Jerry Cooper reported, as of 12 JUL 2025:

General Fund bank balance	\$7,616.81
ROTC Medals bank balance	\$22,775.97
Green Beret Benevolent Fund	\$2,754.00
Total Cash in Banks	\$33,146.78

Medal Sales Report as of Jul 12, 2025

Item	2025	2024	Difference	%
Sold since January 1st	643	453	185	40.39%
Remaining on Hand	1,128	N/A	N/A	N/A

Gross Medal Sales	\$12,860.00	\$8,784.00	\$4,076.00	46.40%
Net Profit	\$3,188.51	\$4,142.55	-\$954.04	23.03%

Doug Warden reported that 39 ROTC medal presentations were completed

Ray Williams' motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Medals Report, seconded by Pat Carr, was unanimously approved.

Chaplain (MAJ, Ret) Andy Taylor

Rock Taylor's son, Chaplain (MAJ, Ret) Andy Taylor, a certified Baptist preacher, gave us a dynamite talk on faith and how he became a chaplain. After serving as an O5B commo man and 11B light weapons NCO on ODA 211, Co A, 2d Bn, 12th SFGA, Andy served in combat, in Iraq. His military experiences led him to dedicate his life to God, and, after getting out of the Army and attending seminary, Andy came back in as a chaplain. He completed Ranger School as a 36 year old chaplain, which was almost unbelievable! MAJ Taylor served several more combat tours, including one with the 82d ABN in Iraq, before finally retiring.

Passing of Johnny McCharen



Friend and benefactor of Chapter 32-50, John Thomas McCharen III, affectionately known as "Johnny," passed away on July 18, 2025, at the age of 79. A lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, Johnny was a man of deep character, sharp intellect, and boundless generosity. His legacy is one of devotion—to family, community, country, and a strong belief in the value of hard work.

Johnny was born January 8, 1946, in Oklahoma City. He graduated from Harding High School, in OKC, in 1964, and went on to attend the University of Oklahoma. He remained a proud and passionate supporter of both Harding and OU throughout his life—Sooner born and Sooner bred.

Johnny served proudly and honorably as a staff sergeant in Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division, a role that reflected his patriotism and deeply impacted his lifelong support of veterans. Although Johnny was not a Green Beret, he very much enjoyed hanging out with them, and Chapter 32-50 did not have a better friend. Johnny McCharen's support of and generosity to the SFA will long be remembered.

Johnny McCharen was a treasured and generous benefactor! His heartfelt, genuine, and sincere approach was offered to many. He was a true and dependable friend, freely giving assistance to others from the time he was a child for the rest of his life. His gift of passion was exercised by helping others and promoting many endeavors.

In his professional life, Johnny led Osborne Electric Company, a business founded by his father and Marvin Osborne. He guided it into a thriving enterprise through innovation and hard work. His entrepreneurial spirit led Johnny to found several other businesses, always focused on building something lasting for future generations.

Above all, Johnny was a devoted husband, loving father, and proud grandfather. His family was the heart of his world. He was known for his quick wit, kind heart, and an ever-ready willingness to lend a hand to those in need.

Johnny was preceded in death by his beloved parents, John and June McCharen of Oklahoma City; his cherished daughter, Susie Vesper of Oklahoma City; and his beloved grandson, Donald Edward McCleery III, "Trey," of Denver, Colorado. He is survived by his loving wife, Cindy McCharen; his sister, Janie Shea; his children, John Thomas McCharen IV (Tishia McCharen), Mindy McCharen McCleery (Donny McCleery), and Rob Cherry (Vicki Cherry); and his treasured grandchildren, Jack Vesper, Kate Vesper, Blake Cherry, Ryan Cherry, Adam Cherry, Drew McCleery, and Taiaylor Johnson.

A celebration of Johnny's life will be held on Monday, 28 JUL 2025, at 1500 hours, at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 222 N.W. 15th St, Oklahoma City. At that time, Chapter 32-50 will present Johnny's wife Cindy with a certificate of appreciation and a chapter coin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (www.t2t.org) and Special Forces Association Chapter 32-50 (PayPal: Chapter 32-50 Special Forces Association), organizations close to Johnny's heart.

Johnny McCharen lived a life of purpose, service, and love. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Passing of Col. Jerry Ring

A great patriot and American, Col. Jerry Ring, died July 20, 2025, in Stroud, Oklahoma. Jerry spent 12 years in the US Army after graduating from Hominy HS in 1950. He served in Korea as a machine gunner with the 187th Airborne. He participated in one of two combat jumps that the 187th made in the Korean War.

Jerry and 8 others volunteered to cover the night retreat of his company after they were surrounded by Chinese soldiers. He resisted until he ran out of ammo and the barrel of his machine gun melted. The other 8 volunteers were executed by their captors, but Jerry was spared because he had been knocked out while still swinging his empty weapon. He spent 13 months as a POW in the infamous Camp #5. He and several others were kept separate from other POWs, because they refused to give any information to the enemy, other than their name, rank and serial number.

Jerry escaped by drowning his guard, and he made it 100 miles back to American lines. He was recommended for the Medal of Honor for his actions, but, since there was only one witness to his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star by Colonel William Westmoreland, CO of the 187th Battle Group.

Jerry stayed in the Army 12 years, serving with the 11th Airborne, the 101st Airborne, the 82nd Airborne and the 77th Special Forces Group.

Funeral services will be [Friday, 25 JUL 2025, at 1100 hours](#), at Parks Brothers Funeral Chapel, [504 N. 8th Ave, Stoud, OK, 74079](#).

Old Business

Doug Warden's motion to approve the meeting minutes for 14 JUN 2025, seconded by Jim Vaughan, was unanimously approved.

Chapter 32-50 entered a float in Edmond's 4th of July Independence Day parade. Riding on the float and receiving repeated standing ovations were Russ Higbie, Col. Bill Coultrup, Greg Holmes, Zoraida Holmes, Rafael Elias, Jerry McGlaughlin and Charles Watts. Fortunately, the rain held off until the end of the parade, when all participants got soaked! No one melted!

Historian, Maj (R) Joe Todd, is continuing to record videos of combat veterans. If you have not recorded an interview, contact Joe at (918) 914-2179.

Please give Pat Carr your submissions for The Drop. Please also give Pat your old photographs (in uniform or out) to be preserved on the chapter website.

If you have not completed a personal biography on Team House, please do so.

New Business

President Higbie presented plaques honoring the service of 5 former chapter presidents:

Col. Jim Selders
CSM Ray Williams

Col. Jack Farr
MSG Rock Taylor
A plaque was mailed to CSM Marcus Whitt, in Tennessee.

President Higbie brought up the site of future chapter meetings. The consensus was that Golden Corral, in Del City, was the best place we have met since leaving the Sheriff's Headquarters. Based on the preference expressed, Jerry Cooper reserved the meeting room at Golden Corral, 1501 S. Sooner Road, Midwest City, OK, 73110, for the remainder of the year.

The missing chapter banners have been replaced. The banners were posted on our float in the Edmond Independence Day parade. They remain in President Higbie's possession,

Jerry Cooper announced Chapter 32-50 has reserved a vendor's table at the 2025 annual convention, in Las Vegas. The table has been comped by National.

Jerry Cooper passed out CSM Wilson Hunt's memorial photo cards, prompting discussion about making such cards part of our funeral protocol.

Larry Zimmerman won the 50/50 raffle, in the amount of \$80, which he donated back to the Chapter. Those wishing to participate in the 50/50 drawing should bring small bills. Five dollars buys six tickets. A chapter coin gets an extra ticket.

Our Next Meeting is Saturday, 9 AUG 2025, at Golden Corral, 1501 S. Sooner Road, Midwest City OK 73110. The social hour begins at 1100 hours, and the business meeting begins at 1200 hours.

De Oppresso Liber,



Charles J. Watts
D-2833
Vice President