



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

### **MINUTES 11 NOV 2023**

Special Forces Association Chapter 32-50 met for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon, at Madison's Restaurant, 4747 SE 29th St, Del City, OK, on Saturday, 11 NOV 2023, at 1100 hours.

#### **Officers Present**

President: Roger "Rock" Taylor

Vice President: Bill Coultrup

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator/ WebMaster: Jerry Cooper

Assistant Secretary: Charles Watts

Chaplain/Assistant Treasurer: Dick Goodman

Medal Presentation Coordinator: Doug Warden

Quartermaster: David "Sarge" Cronic

**Officers Absent:** Secretary/Assistant WebMaster: Pat Carr

#### **Opening Ceremonies**

Sarge Cronic returned thanks for the Thanksgiving feast provided by the Chapter.

President Rock Taylor called the meeting to order, at 1200 hrs.

Vice President Bill Coultrup led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Dick Goodman led the Special Forces Prayer.

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

#### **Guests**

LTC (R) John Avans, who plans to join the chapter, was introduced by Larry Zimmerman. Larry also brought his wife Faith. Johnny McCharan brought his wife Cindy; Ellis Edwards brought his wife Thao; John McAllister brought his wife Thu; Jim Selders brought his wife Keely; Charles Watts brought his wife Ellen; and Roger Routh brought both his wife Sylvia and his daughter Zoey. Three of the Vietnamese Airborne veterans also brought their wives.

#### **Illness**

Please pray for Ray Williams and Ellis Edwards, who have both been in the hospital.

#### **Death of LTC Steve Travis**

Dr. Stephen "Steve" Travis died November 4, 2023 after a short battle with cancer. Steve had an interesting and varied career path. He graduated from Classen High School, in Oklahoma City, a semester early, in 1979, and enlisted in the 12th Special Forces Group of the Army Reserve. At 17, he went off to Basic Training at

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for basic training, then Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for medical training, Fort Benning, Georgia, for paratroop training, and finally, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for Special Forces training and specialized training as a Special Forces medic.



Dr. Stephen Ralph Travis  
6 AUG 1961-4 NOV 2023

He went on to Ranger School and several specialized paratroop courses to become a jump master, to HALO (high altitude, low opening training) and high altitude, high opening training. Along the way, he enrolled at Oklahoma State University to major in a pre-veterinary course in Animal Husbandry and later veterinary school. He did so because he was inspired by a veterinarian who taught in the Special Forces Medic program, who happened to be from Western Oklahoma. He later worked summers for that veterinarian.

At vet school, he met and married Denise Trosper, a fellow vet student. They both graduated from OSU as vets. They ended up working in Texas, Steve treating racehorses and Denise at Baylor Medical Center with a team doing medical transplantation of pig organs in humans. Steve met the MD members of her team and was attracted to human medicine.

While he lived in Texas, the first Gulf War occurred. The Army asked Special Forces medics to volunteer for active duty. Steve volunteered and participated in the first Gulf war in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. He later participated in a program in Northern Iraq to protect Kurdish people from Saddam Hussein.

In a fit of patriotism, the Texas Legislature passed a statute granting free tuition to any Texas resident who participated in the Gulf War. Steve accepted and went to medical school in Texas. He reasoned that he liked, and was good at, the practice of medicine. He loved veterinary medicine but was frustrated that the only people who could afford the really good medical skills he had were rich people who owned racehorses.

Steve graduated and found a program at the OU Medical School which attracted him. It was the "Med-Peds" residency program. Graduates of the program were eligible to become "double-boarded" in internal medicine and pediatrics. The result would be a specialist who could provide specialty medical skills to the whole family. He thrived in the program.

He went to Guthrie and worked for the County Hospital program in Guthrie and Crescent until Mercy Hospital took over those hospitals. He then came to the OU Medical School as a clinical teacher. There, he taught residents who were treating patients as a part of their training. He loved the work and thrived.

Steve remained in the Reserve. When the 12th Special Forces Group disbanded, he transferred to the 19th Special Forces Group of the Utah National Guard. Steve received his commission as a medical doctor and became a Battalion Surgeon and later Group Surgeon.

He was activated and deployed frequently in Special Forces. After 9/11, his battalion was sent to Afghanistan. He was particularly well-suited to that mission. He and the medics of the battalion put on clinics to treat the Afghan civilians' children. They found that, after putting on the clinics, people would tell the soldiers where they were likely to be ambushed. That didn't happen in other locations.

Steve was sent to other places most people have never heard of where there is war. He did a six-month tour on the island of Mindanao, in the Philippines, opposing a Muslim insurgency based in nearby Indonesia. He did a tour in the Balkans with an aviation battalion which needed a flight surgeon. He also went to teach medics in places like Cambodia and Bangladesh, and several tours in Korea.

Tragically, Denise predeceased him in 2019, also due to cancer. He was also predeceased by his mother, Bobby Jean Kay and both sets of grandparents. Steve is survived by Malinda Daniels, his loving companion who cared for him until his death; her mother, Sharon Goode, Malinda's brother Tim Goode (wife, Tiffany), and her sons, Michael Daniels (wife, Katy and their girls), and Tyler Daniels. He is also survived by his father, Rex Travis, his stepmother, Patricia Travis; his siblings Michael (Mike) Travis, Margaret Travis (husband, Billy Ellis), Mary Travis (companion, Dustin Selby), and Chris Travis (wife, Brandi) and Steve's lovely, nieces and nephew, Liz Crane, Jacob Crane, Sophia Travis and Savannah Travis. Steve is also survived by his Army comrades and OUHSC Family.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the health care professionals at the Stephenson Cancer Center and the OUSHC Critical Care Unit for all their care and support. Contributions in lieu of flowers are suggested to the American Cancer Society at [donate.cancer.org](https://www.donate.cancer.org), or an honorarium to be established at the OUHSC.

Memorial services were held, Sunday, 12 NOV, 2023, at 1400 hrs, at Baggerley Funeral Home, 930 S. Broadway Edmond, OK. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.baggerley.com](http://www.baggerley.com) for the Travis family.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator Jerry Cooper reported, as of 1 NOV 2023:

General Fund bank balance	\$3,213.34
ROTC Medals bank balance	\$2,823.71
Green Beret Benevolent Fund	\$2,754.00
<b>Total Cash in Banks</b>	<b>\$8,791.05</b>

**Medal Sales Report as of November 1, 2023**

Item	2023	2022	Difference	%
Medals sold since January 1st	714	590	139	23.55%
Remaining Medals on Hand	3,058	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross Medal Sales	\$11,949.37	\$10,018.81	\$1,930.56	19.27%
Net Profit from Medal Sales	\$3,455.36	\$2,075.32	\$1,380.04	66.50%

Ellis Edwards' motion to approve both the Treasurer's report and the Medals Report, seconded by Johnny McCharan, passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Presentations to Vietnamese Airborne Veterans**

SFA achievement medals were presented to the following Vietnamese Airborne Veterans, who also received challenge coins and SFA Certificates of Appreciation at our 12 AUG 2023, meeting. The awardees represent the remaining nucleus of an original band of forty comrades, who escaped as a group when The Republic Of Vietnam fell to the Communists, in 1975. The first few years, the group lived communally in a run-down OKC apartment house. When they arrived, most had only elementary educations, and very few could speak English. By applying their Airborne disciplines, remaining together as a group, and helping one another, they proved the American dream is still alive. Almost all are now American citizens, and they still honor their unbreakable bonds of brotherhood. Medals were presented to the following Vietnamese Airborne veterans by the following SFA members:

**Recipient**

- CPT Hanh Le Nguyen
- LT Suc Mau Le
- LT Mai Thanh Le
- LT My Huu Le
- SFC Nay Nguyen

**Presenter**

- Rock Taylor
- MAJ Jerry Cooper
- CPT Dick Goodman
- CPT Ellis Edwards
- Sarge Cronic

CPL First Class Ly Van Luong  
PFC Sat Ngo  
Tien Quan  
Debbie Quan  
PVT2 Dung Anh Nguyen

Roger Routh  
Roger Routh  
Doug Warden  
Doug Warden  
Butch Graham

Ellis Edwards invited the Vietnamese Airborne veterans and their wives to our Christmas luncheon and “dirty Santa” gift exchange, on Saturday, 9 DEC 2023, at Madison’s Restaurant, 4747 SE 29th St, Del City, OK,

The Vietnamese Airborne veterans donated \$300 to SFA Chapter 32-50.

### **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 current planning itinerary will include 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](mailto: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, has stepped up to take the lead on organizing the traditional aspects of SFA conventions during the cruise. Many of you have been great sponsors and friends of the Special Forces Association and have provided support to past conventions.

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 the 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.

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](mailto:specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com)

## **Old Business**

### **Oklahoma Military Hall Of Fame Induction Banquet**

Our own Vice President, COL(R) Bill Coultrup, was inducted into The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, on Saturday, 28 OCT 2023, at the Norman Embassy Suites. Colonel Coultrup was born in Trinidad, on 21 December 1962, and raised overseas, while his father worked in the oil and gas industry. He graduated from Texas A&M, in 1985, and was commissioned an Armor 2nd Lieutenant with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In 1989, he became a Special Forces Officer,

and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Special Forces Qualification Course.

In 1993, Captain Coultrup and his unit deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia, as Task Force Ranger, in response to a critical situation on the ground that threatened the stability of the United Nation's relief mission. On 3 October 1993, Task Force Ranger conducted an assault. As the task force was preparing for exfiltration, one of the MH-60 Blackhawk helicopters was shot down. Coultrup and his team fast-ropeed onto the site under heavy enemy fire. When a second Blackhawk was shot down, Coultrup's unit spent the night repelling attackers that were attempting to overrun the crash site. The events are immortalized in the book and movie "Blackhawk Down." For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

During his 30-year career, 24 years were in Special Operations, of which 10 years were combat tours. Coultrup participated in numerous combat operations in Somalia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Philippines, and other sensitive locations worldwide. From 2001 to 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Coultrup deployed five different times to war zones. For his actions during these missions, Coultrup's awards also include two Bronze Stars and the Defense Superior Service Award.

Colonel Coultrup is a respected speaker for several charities, and was key in raising \$250,000 for one military support charity. He remains active in supporting Oklahomans through the Oklahoma Chapter of the Special Forces Association, the Military Order of World Wars, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He resides in Edmond, Oklahoma.

The following chapter members attended the banquet: MG Douglas O. Dollar, COL Jim Selders and wife Keeley, COL McEdward Law, LTC Charlie O'Leary and wife Nancy, LTC Rick Cacini and wife Kathy, LTC Nokey Klutts, MAJ Jerry Cooper and wife Paula, Doug Warden, Butch Graham and Charles Watts. Eight members of Chapter 32-50 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

Jim Selders' motion to approve the meeting minutes for 14 OCT 2023, seconded by Doug Warden, 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**

Thao Edwards won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$70, all of which she donated back to the Chapter.

**Our Next Meeting** will be the Christmas luncheon and "dirty Santa" gift exchange, at Madison's Restaurant, 4747 SE 29th St, Del City, OK, on Saturday, 9 DEC 2023. The social hour begins at 1100 hours, and the meal begins at 1200 hrs. Those wishing to participate in the "dirty santa" gift exchange should bring a present with a value up to \$25.00.

De Oppresso Liber,



Charles J. Watts

D-2833

Assistant Secretary