



# Special Forces Association

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

Northern California • Southwestern Oregon • Northwestern Nevada

www.sfachapter89.com

## Summer 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.

### Officers

**President**  
John E. Cleckner, Sr.

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Jim Wipf

**Treasurer**  
Bob Maraviov

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Jim Sorensen

**Chaplain**  
Don Mangrum

### Chapter President's Corner

Chapter 89 has again been recognized by SFA National for its outstanding Programs, its issue oriented projects, its achievements within the SFA Community and most importantly, its recognition of SFA Members and their accomplishments.

summed up by saying that it was a good convention where many old friends were reunited. The SFA effort to reorganize SFA was approved and will go forward to be completed by next year's convention. Apathy, for some ungodly reason permeated the Chapters in SFA and was



**Veteran's Home ground breaking ceremony (L-R):**  
CA SCTY VA-MG (ret) R. Brautigam;  
CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger;  
CA LT GOV A. Maldonado;  
CA Senator Sam Aanestad;  
Deputy Dir CDVA T. Puntillo;  
and SFA CH-89 Pres. John E. Cleckner Sr.

Chapter 89 participates in more activities than any other Chapter in SFA. This includes Scholarships programs, ROTC Programs, Newsletter, DROP Input, SFA suspense dates met with Constitutional mandates and reports. Its accomplishments were listed on the "Chapter Board" at the Presidents meeting and reflected that it filled every recognized and SFA program and more.

Our local and geographical accomplishments are recognized by local and state legislators.

SFA has again recognized one of our Chapter members as the "SFA Member of the Year" by selecting **Jim Wipf** for this honor and recognizing his incredible list of accomplishments for the 2009-2010 year.

Our Chapter Quarterly Newsletter was also honored this year as the BEST in SFA...

We recently had a very successful Officers Meeting and have set the stage for many upcoming programs, events and projects.

The most important is a Fund Raising Project that will be explained in the Newsletter.

**Jack and Becky Bowles** represented our Chapter at this year's Convention in Fayetteville. The AAR could be

noted by President McCan. Hopefully our SF Heritage will take over and this kind of sophomoric behavior will be overtaken by the SF Spirit of EXCELLENCE...

On a positive note, we have been finding a lot of potential SF members, but recruiting them has been a problem for some reason. Recruiting members along with Fund Raising has to be our highest priorities so we can continue to move in a positive direction.

Remember that our next business meeting will be September 11th at Bob & Kathy's team house in Shasta Lake CA.

We have planned an Oktober Fest, a Christmas Party and don't forget the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Shasta Lake. This year's "Theme" will be Remembering the Korean War and its Veterans on the 60th anniversary of the War. Bob has already arranged for the fly over.

Keep our active duty members and the Civilian Contractors in your prayers. Remember that **LTC Rich Navarro** is now the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group Airborne. God speed to him and his Warriors.

DE OPPRESSO LIBER

## Chapter Historical Musings:

In this edition of the Chapter Newsletter we will take departure from the usual "Spotlight on Sponsors" section and attempt to recognize, as space permits, chapter members. The following

historical look back and informative update article was submitted by Doris Cleckner, the Chapter Historian and Photographer. Thanks, Doris.

Consider what I am writing below and understand that we are one chapter out of 100 with a membership of 34, World Wide.

Special Forces Association (SFA) Chapter 89 has been in existence since June 9, 2005. It took years to finally bring all of the components together to move forward with this dream and establish this SFA Chapter in the North Western region of the United States. Because of geography we represent Northern California, NW Nevada and SW Oregon—a geographical area the size of 2 Ohios.

Since that time our Chapter and its members have distinguished themselves so many times that I felt it most appropriate to review the Chapter's history, accomplishments to include those of many of its members.

Larry Trimble stepped up to the plate and volunteered to set the standard by becoming Chapter 89's first President. His detailed planning and leadership set the course for our Chapter. With the help of the first leadership team, VP Harris, Secretary Cleckner and Treasurer Maravirov he moved the Chapter into the lime light nationally and set a standard that very few current SFA Chapters can meet.

President Trimble submitted his Secretary, John E. Cleckner Sr., for the Saint Phillip Neri Award. At the SFA National Convention, June 17, 2006, John was awarded the Silver Saint Philip Neri Medal (#4).

Larry served one term and then John E. Cleckner Sr. was elected and is serving his second term as President. Larry was selected as the SFA Chapter 89 Member of the Year for 2007.

Bob Maravirov has been on board as our Chapter Treasurer since the beginning and has done so much for the Chapter and SFA that he was selected as the "SFA Association Member of the Year 2009". It should be noted that Bob was chosen over 10,000 other SFA Chapter members. That is quite an accomplishment and shows the degree in which he contributed to SFA and his Chapter.

Chapter 89 has received SFA National recognition for its Chapter Newsletters three times. This year our new rendition designed and created by Mark King and overseen by Jim Wipf has taken SFA by storm received the most prestigious SFA "Best Quarterly Newsletter for the Year 2010". Mark's employer, Skagen Designs, Ltd. has provided the entire development and printing process free as a way of honoring the Men of Special Forces for their service to America and Freedom around the world.

As all of you know, Chapter Secretary Jim Wipf has been doing an outstanding job, but all of his accomplishments are not necessarily known by our Chapter Members. Jim volunteered to organize the SFA Chapter 89 SFA/ ROTC Award of Excellence Program which honors the Distinguished Cadet (Leadership and Academics) with the SFA/ ROTC Award of Excellence. This Chapter's SFA/ROTC Award of Excellence Program was initially established with "13" High Schools in Northern California and Northwest Nevada. The Chapter's program has since been reduced to 12 HS JROTC programs. There are over 3100 JROTC Cadets participating in these programs. The JROTC programs we support consist of 8 Army, 3 Navy and 1 Air Force program. Jim coordinates directly with the Director of HSRUTC

in Washoe County, Nevada for their particular Awards Program. Jim is ably assisted with the presentations in Northern Nevada by Chapter members Mark King and Brad Hines. Coordination with the Enterprise HS ROTC, Redding, California, is effected by the Chapter President, John Cleckner. Presentations at the Enterprise HS JROTC are made by John Cleckner, dependably assisted by Scott Masterson, Bob and Kathy Maravirov, Jack and Becky Bowles and Doris Cleckner.

This year, as in years past last, Chapter 89 submitted a Chapter Member of the Year to National for consideration for the SFA Association Member of the Year Award.

In early June our Convention representative Jack Bowles notified me that Jim had won the Award. It was presented informally at the Officers Meeting last month and will be formally presented at the September Business meeting.

Again, like Bob, Jim was selected for this incredible honor over 10,000 other Green Berets.

There are so many others that have been so involved in setting up all of the programs for this very active SFA Chapter to become number one in SFA: Bryan Furman and his efforts in establishing our outstanding Web Site; Mike Walker and Jim Sorensen for getting us our outstanding Chapter Coins; Jenny Johnson for her efforts to finance the Chapter Scholarship program; and Jim & Marlie, Jim & Jan Sorensen, Bob and Kathy, and Jack and Becky, Wes Fowler, Susan Houston and Max Hemping as well as a number of others for their donations and support of her Annual Yard Sale. We should not overlook the wonderful donations that were given so that our Chapter's SF Memorial Monument could be built at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery nor our unsung Chapter members who continue to serve their communities around the Country and whose efforts have been so great that their recognition has reflected greatly and positively on SFA Chapter 89.

Last but certainly not least is our SFA Chapter 89 active duty and civilian contractors. Men like Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Bull" Navarro who now commands one of America's premier War Fight Units, the United States Army Special Forces 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Captain John E. Cleckner II who at 51 is still fighting after 40 deployment with Special Operations out of his Air Force SOF at Hurlburt Field, Florida, and to our other two heroes who are now serving as Civilian Contractors after a life time career as Green Berets. Our Chapter honors these men and wishes them all that God can provide them to accomplish their missions.

I am so proud to serve in some capacity in this great organization. I hope that my thoughts and memories will be well received. Everyone in our Chapter works so hard, I have mentioned just a few, I know that all of you have given so much to make SFA Chapter 89 what it is and represents.

Doris E. Cleckner  
Chapter Historian & Photographer

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

As one will quickly ascertain this has been a very active event filled quarter for the Chapter. Four Chapter gatherings away from the "flagpole" in Redding, SFA/ROTC Awards presentations, scholarship presentations, the annual Allen C. Johnson Memorial Ceremony,

and a number of other, non- Chapter specific, activities attended by a few Chapter members representing the Chapter in local Veteran's events.

### Chapter gathering in Montague:

Early May found thirteen (13) Chapter 89 members, and two Black Labradors gathered in Montague, California for a day of SF camaraderie, tall tales, "low crawling", great food and drink and some very unusual entertainment. **John and Doris Cleckner, Jack and Becky Bowles, Bob and Kathy Maraviov, Susan and Matt Houston, Jim Wipf and Marlie Byrd, Doug Davenport and Ken Delfino** joined host, and Master Chef, **Scott Masterson** at his home in the shadow of the absolutely majestic Mt Shasta. All of this while being entertained (XX-rated) by the Black "Labs"(males) of Doug and Scott who were in an ongoing contest to determine which would be the "Top Dog". That entertainment was only surpassed by Becky's classes on, and a practical exercise of ..... Well, you had to be there. If we told you... we would have to shoot you!! It was a truly great time in which we even had time, much to the pleasure of **Ken Delfino**, for a raffle drawing. The real shocker of the day was that Ken did not win this time around??



Hmmm? Well...WHAT happens in Montague—STAYS in Montague!



Scott advises John about where to put his Keystone "beer".



Doug and Jack watching the action.

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

### SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Ceremonies:

On the 29th of May members of the Chapter 89 travelled to Los Molinos, California for the annual memorial ceremony for the Chapter's namesake, **SFC Allen C. Johnson**. In attendance representing the Chapter were **John and Doris Cleckner, Bob and Kathy Maraviiov, Jack and Becky Bowles, Doug and Manuela Davenport, Chapter Chaplain Don Mangrum, Max Hemping, Susan and Matt Houston and Jim and Marlie** who joined **Jenny Johnson** and other family and friends for this somber annual event. After



Jenny Johnson's after the memorial ceremony for Allen.

the ceremonies, those who had attended the graveside ceremony moved to Jenny's home where a virtual feast had been prepared. Nearly thirty (30) folks: Chapter members; other family; and friends came together at Jenny's to remember and memorialize not only Allen, but, our other absent chapter family members as well. **Ray Johnson, Everett "Sam" Houston and Bonnie Maraviiov** were never far from anyone's thoughts during this gathering to both honor and remember those who have gone before us.



Remembering Allen- (R-L) Laurie Wright (niece), Jenny Johnson and Marilyn Shrepfer (ex-sister in law).

### Gathering at Mike's:

An impromptu gathering was held at Mike & Carrie Walker's on the 26th of June. **Jack & Becky Bowles, Bob & Kathy Maraviiov, John & Doris Cleckner, Doug Davenport, Gary Maraviiov and Scott Masterson** travelled to Anderson, California for an afternoon of BBQ and Chapter family camaraderie with the Walker's before Mike left

again for the office. Chapter president Cleckner took advantage of the occasion to present Mike with one of the new Chapter coins. The Chapter will be anxiously awaiting Mike's return until he is once again home from the hills.



Mike receives a new SFA Chapter coin from Chapter President John C.



Chapter gathering at Mike's (L-R) Jack, Doug, Mike, Gary, John, Bob, and Scott.

**McKinleyville LT meeting & gathering:**

Jim and Jan Sorensen superbly hosted the Chapter gathering in McKinleyville in mid-June. The mid-June date was selected to provide Chapter President Cleckner the opportunity to brief the Chapter LT on the issues to come out of the SFA National Convention in Fayetteville, NC. McKinleyville was selected to better accommodate participation of those Chapter members living on the Coast. That strategy was successful. During the LT meeting Jim Sorensen presented the new Chapter Coins.

John & Doris Cleckner, Bob & Kathy Maravirov, Scott Masterson, and Jim & Marlie shared and enjoyed an outstanding day (and a large part of the evening) with North Coast Chapter members: Al & Mary Baker; Bryan & Carolyn Furman; and Rodney Dean. Rodney was accompanied by his friend, Dave Sprague.

Hosts, Jim & Jan Sorensen, provided all with an almost unbelievable dining fare. Everything from barbequed oysters to "pulled pork" and salmon burgers, culminating with delicious homemade chocolate cake and ice cream. All of these veritable delights served up in a virtual Eden-like atmosphere in their beautiful back yard. It was a truly memorable affair.



John presents Chapter Certificate of Appreciation to Jim Sorensen for his chapter support.



Our gracious hosts, extraordinaire,—Jim and Jan Sorensen.



Mary and Al Baker, two of our North Coast Chapter members.



(L-R) Al Baker, Jim (cooking), John and Rodney Dean enjoying the gathering.



Carolyn and Bryan Furman with Scott Masterson.



Bryan, Al and John. Allen is sharing new "stories" with the Chapter

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

### Los Molinos Scholarships:

In early June deserving students of Los Molinos High School were once again presented Scholarships awarded in the name of **SFC Allen C. Johnson**. As a direct result of **Jenny Johnson's** fund raising efforts, assisted by a number of Chapter members, and another generous donation by "V.E.T.S", four \$500.00 Scholarships were able to be presented this year. Making the presentations on behalf of the Chapter was: **Jenny Johnson**, Scholarship Chairperson; VP- **Scott Masterson**; **Max Hemping**; and **Bob Maraviov**. The Los Molinos HS recipients were: **Emily Anderson**; **Kendric Brewer**; **John Conrad**; and **Michael Griffith**. A big tip of the beret is due Jenny for her chairmanship of this very worthy project.

Chapter VP Scott Masterson and Scholarship Chair, Jenny Johnson, award scholarships.



Bob, Susan, Scott, Becky and Jack at the Vet's Home groundbreaking ceremony.

Casey Jones being sworn in to the Navy Reserve by SFA Chapter President John Cleckner.



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

Listed below are the updates, information and other such newsworthy items that have been made available reference the Chapter members and their families. I would remind all that IF I am

not made aware of events such as these I cannot share them with the Chapter. (JW)

Northern Nevada Chapter member **Ken Holmes** reports that he and wife Susan are once again proud new grandparents. Their oldest son Scott and his wife Tanya have presented the family with a new grandson named Logan Christopher Holmes. Logan was born on the 24th of June in Reno, Nevada. Logan arrived weighing in at 7 lbs-12 oz and 19 inches long. Congratulations to both the proud grandparents and parents. Ken and Susan's younger son, 1SG Eric Holmes, an active duty serving Airborne Ranger, continues to serve as a Company 1SG at Fort Polk, LA. Tis reported to be hot and humid, but still much better than Iraq or Afghanistan.

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Chapter president **John Cleckner** and wife **Doris** also announced the arrival of a new grandchild. A granddaughter named Mae Lee Coonrod. Mae, the daughter of Casey Coonrod and Chaunteo Johnson, was born three months premature in Redding, California on the 15th of May. An update was provided by proud grandmother Doris on the 29th of June. Mae, now at 3 lbs-9 oz, is reported to be doing "real good", although still in the hospital in Oakland, California. Doris thanked all for their prayers and asked that those so disposed to please continue as they were still needed.

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The Chapter's "Midwest" representative, **John Nieland**, reports that he has recently represented the Chapter in one of the largest motorcycle events in the mid-west, the J & P Open House Ride. "Da Mayor" further reported that he will also be participating in the upcoming American Legion Legacy Ride. This event will begin at the Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, travel through five states, and finish in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. John states that the purpose of the ride is to raise funds for the children of Iraq and Afghanistan KIAs. John has promised photos from the ride wearing Chapter 89's new sweatshirt. Great Veteran's support, John. Keep the greasy side of the motorcycle facing down.

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**Brad and Carol Hines** report that their son, Brady, is now fully retired from active duty. You'll remember that Brady was an SF Medic (MSG) whose last duty assignment was as the NCOIC of the medical clinic at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. It's reported that Brady's long term future plans are still undecided. At the present time he is said to be cruising the country on his motorcycle. Probably, just attempting to decompress before compartmentalizing the past twenty years and moving on to whatever the future holds for him. No doubt many of us can identify with and understand that scenario and psychological adjustment need.

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Proud mother, **Marlie Byrd**, has shared that her son, Dr. Gregory Byrd (PHD) a Professor of Letters, at St. Petersburg College in Florida, was recently notified that he had been selected as a Fulbright Scholar- A Lectureship Award Recipient. As such, Greg, his wife, Shawna and their daughter, Carly will travel to Albania for four months in February of 2011. Greg will teach American Literature while attempting to learn as much as possible about the Albanian culture. Dr. Byrd is a published author of not only non-fiction pieces, but, of poetry as well. In 2009 he was a finalist for the Pinion Poetry Prize competition (Mesa State University). Although, having never served in the military, Greg was the impetus and driving influence behind the establishment of a "Student Veteran's Association" at St Petersburg College. It was further reported that daughter (child protégé) would be taking her cello to Albania with her. Congratulations... all. BTW- While Marlie had been invited to visit the family in Albania, Jim was not!!

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**Bob** has reported that the **Kathy** initiated/inspired Chapter project, ("Lap Throws") is moving right along. Although, Bob was not certain as to just how many, Carrie Walker's Church Group has made a number of lap throws. The Lions Club ladies have already used up all the yarn that had been donated to them. It was necessary for them to purchase more. More than twelve (12) lap throws are said to have been made by that group. The Enterprise TOPS ladies have already completed more than thirty-five. Kathy has reported that in the past, the lap throws had been donated to Veteran's homes in the Reno and "Bay Area". However, when the local Veteran's Home opens, the lap throws will be provided there. There appears to be a shortage of yarn, and funds to purchase yarn (some of the ladies are said to having had to resort to unraveling old sweaters, Afghans...Etc, to obtain yarn). Anyone having inside information on how/where to obtain more yard (reasonably or donated) for this very worthwhile "labor of love" please so advise Kathy. Perhaps some Chapter, or personal, donations might be in order? Many thanks to Chapter ladies Kathy and Carrie for your commitment to this project. More to follow in next month's Newsletter regarding this very worthwhile project.

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**Jim & Jan Sorensen** recently made a trip to Oregon to visit with their daughter. Stopping in Keizer, Oregon, Jim had the opportunity to visit with a LTC (R) Herman R. Smith. LTC Smith had been Jim's dad's XO when he served in the 71st Armored FA battalion of the 5th Armored Division during WWII. Jim has been in touch with LTC Smith for about 16 years after having been referred to him by the Secretary of the 5th AD Association. Colonel Smith has been brought on board to help collaborate on a website dedicated to the 71st AFA. For those who might be interested, the URL for the website is : <http://www.71afa.com>. Tis an interesting site. But, of course it would have to be... having been created by "Red-legs"

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

Yesterday (13 July), I met with **Mark King** for lunch, newsletter coordination and a bit of catching up on the King family. Especially, the exploits of youngest son, "Howie". To know him is to love him! Mark was provided the Chapter certificate for the SFA "Best Quarterly Newsletter 2010". Mark will use his expertise to create a copy of that award certificate and it'll then be presented to SKAGEN DESIGNS as a token of the Chapter's appreciation for all that they have done for the Chapter. Their support has been, without exaggeration or hyperbole, absolutely invaluable. During lunch, and while Mark was a bit distracted during bites, and my "baffling him with my BS", I even enlisted (conned) him into designing and creating a "flyer" for the forthcoming Chapter Fund Raiser to begin in September. (Details to follow in a separate message).

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Also, of note was breaking information provided by Mark that he and wife, **Sally**, will be taking over a post retirement project of her father, LTC Larry Corn, USA (R). That, being, a "Print Screening and Embroidery" part time business. Note that I wrote "part" time, not spare time. Wife, Sally (MBA), is an executive with Intuit and most of us already have some idea of just how busy is Mark: a designer with Skagen; helping raise two sons; and doing "volunteer" design projects, not only for SFA Chapter 89, but, for the Cal-Nevada "All Airborne" Chapter as well. As of yesterday, the new endeavor by Mark & Sally was without an official name. However, hopefully with their new business card displayed in this newsletter we will know the name of the new venture. [EDIT: The new venture is named 4KTees - [www.4ktees.com](http://www.4ktees.com)] It cannot be overstated just how invaluable both Mark's and SKAGEN's contribution is to this Chapter

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## Upcoming Chapter Calendar Events:

### Chapter General Membership & Business meetings:

11 September 2010 @ Maravirov Team House (1300)

9 October 2010 @ Maravirov Team House (1300)

6 November 2010 @ Maravirov Team House (time TBA)

11 December 2010 @ Maravirov Team House (time TBA)

### Annual Fund Raising Campaign:

11 December 2010—Kicks off at the GB&M meeting.

11 December 2010—Drawing for prizes.

### Annual Shasta County Veteran's Day parade:

6 November 2010—Assemble @ Maravirov Team House. (details to be provided later)

## Chapter Member Birth Date & Wedding Anniversaries:

### Recently Celebrated & this upcoming Quarter:

Best wishes to those celebrating their birth dates and wedding anniversaries during this quarter. Remember, it's only a mark on the wall. Just because we become "older" on a man-made time recording device does not mean that we have to grow up! Furthermore, each new day is a new personal best.

#### Wedding Anniversaries

9 September..... Ken & Melba Delfino

10 September..... Jim & Jan Sorensen

11 September ..... John & Doris Cleckner

#### Birthdays

5 July ..... Allen Johnson

6 July ..... Ken Delfino

7 July ..... Cliff „Neill

19 July ..... Ken Holmes

4 Aug ..... Sandra Fowler

4 Aug ..... Doug Davenport

7 Aug ..... Jim Sorensen

8 Aug ..... Kelly Cleckner

12 Aug ..... Carrie Walker

19 Aug ..... Vanessa Johnson

21 Aug ..... Mark King

24 Aug ..... John Wipf

3 Sept ..... Susan Houston

6 Sept ..... Carolyn Furman

8 Sept ..... Jon "Doc" Cleckner

8 Sept ..... Matt Houston

18 Sept ..... Scott Masterson

25 Sept ..... Sally King

28 Sept ..... Bob Maravirov

## Sick and Distressed:

As reported earlier, Chapter 89 was saddened by the loss of one of its family members during this past quarter: **Bonnie Maraviov**, the wife of Chapter member **Gary Maraviov**. Bonnie's services were attended by: **Bob & Kathy Maraviov**; **John & Doris Cleckner**; **Susan & Matt Houston**; and **Scott Masterson**. It was reported that there was a wonderful service highlighting Bonnie's life in words and pictures followed by a lovely dinner. At the request of Gary, John Cleckner shared a few words and thoughts in memory of Bonnie. Bonnie, always a very pleasant addition to any Chapter event in which she participated, will be sorely missed.

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Remembering happier times—Bonnie and Gary Maraviov before a parade.



## Away From the Flag Pole:



Derek Hayes (right), John's nephew, and his gunner in Iraq



On the job above Kawtina, Afghanistan.



Beauty, even in a hostile environment- Pech Valley, Afghanistan.



Mark King, designer & creator of the contemporary award winning Chapter Newsletter.

## Back in the Day Photos

**The Brothers - Masterson:** As is apparent by the photograph, all three brothers served in the Special Forces. "Bud" and "Scott" served in the late 60's while younger brother, **Wes**, served with 7th GP in the early 70's. Both "Bud" and "Scott" served initially with 6th GP and later with MACV-SOG. "Scott" with CCC (Recon Co) and

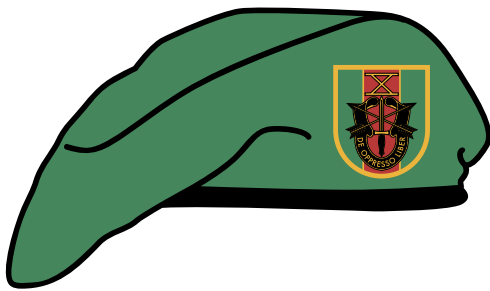
"Bud" with CCN (RT Cobra & North Carolina) until wounded and returned CONUS. "Scott" was a weapons specialist, "Bud" was O&I and "Wes" was an Engineer. After completing their service the brother's chosen careers followed similar paths in law enforcement. "Scott" retired with 28 years with the CHP and now resides in

Northern California. "Wes" retired from the NHP after 30 years and now lives in the Las Vegas, Nevada area. "Bud", after almost 30 years with both Customs and the ATF, retired from the ATF and now lives in Virginia. "Bud" is currently the Treasurer for SFA Chapter 90 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. All brothers belong to the SFA with "Scott" and "Bud" also belonging to the SOA.

"Scott" believes that the brothers came by their inclination for Special Forces rather naturally. Their father, Emmett Warren Masterson, was a career USAF NCO. As a radio operator (CW) and after completing 25 missions in Africa he was transferred to Italy where he completed another 25 missions. It was during this period that, as crew member, he participated with the infiltration/ex-filtration of OSS operatives in Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe. Scott further shared many other interesting exploits about their father which will have to be shared in another edition



The Brothers Masterson - (L-R) Raymond ("Scott"), Wesley ("Wes") and Emmett ("Bud") GreenBerets All!



**Jack Bowles** (circa 1967) on an operation on Nui Than, (one of the seven mountains). Jack was with ODA 421 at Ba Xaoia at the time. He served in RVN for 17 months until wounded and was returned to CONUS.



## Final Thoughts to Ponder

The Chapter elections will be upon us before we realize it. It might be time for some other Chapter member's to consider serving as a Chapter officer. John has already shared that he will not be serving again. Neither Jim nor Bob have committed to serving further. Thus, ALL chapter leadership positions could be open for new blood. More will follow in the next newsletter.

The Chapter continues to have four members still serving and in "harm's way": two active duty; and two civilian contractors. May God, the Creator, the "Great Spirit", or whomever you choose to place your faith and trust, continue to bless and keep them safe from harm as well as all those Warriors still fighting the good fight.

I leave you once again with the following truism to consider and ponder:

"There are three types of people: those that make things

happen; those who get involved and help make things happen; and those who sit idly by on the sidelines and can only wonder what has happened."

It is up to each of us, individually, to determine which type of person that we will be. Who have you chosen to be??

Chapter elections are coming. Be all that you can be !!!

### DE OPPRESSO LIBER

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.

## Thank You to our Sponsors

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