First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of Special Forces Association – Chapter 88- Northeast Florida – JAN FEB 2023 - Vol 23-1

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President's Message

DEWEY WALKER CSM (Ret)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOW; it's December, and the year is closing at warp speed. Please slow down to enjoy the Christmas Holiday Season and spend time with your family. As warriors, our families have not always been a priority. The Special Forces Military Ball is in January; bringing your family and redirecting your focus would be a great start.

A few months ago, the USO closed its lounge at the Jax International Airport. A group of local business leaders, airline companies, and veteran organizations stood up to support our military, and the Jax Airport Military Lounge (non-USO) is back serving military members. The Chapter received a request from the Military Lounge Committee to provide the flags for the Military Lounge. The new Leadership Team believes this is an excellent opportunity to assist our military and support the local community. Also, Volunteers staff the new Military Lounge; if you or family members would like to help staff the lounge, don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the chapter officers for additional information.

The 20th Special Forces Group has units deployed overseas. We recently received a request for comfort items (WHOLE BEAN COFFEE editor). Last week, Bruce Pastorini shipped a package to the team, and we are working on a source to maintain a supply for the remaining deployment.

The coming year looks like another good year. A few upcoming events are The Special Force Military Ball on Jan 14, 2023, Ladies' Night at Alhambra Theatre & Dining Fri Mar 10, 2023 and Green Beret Charity Tournament on May 12, 2023. https://green-beret-charity-golf.perfectgolfevent.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

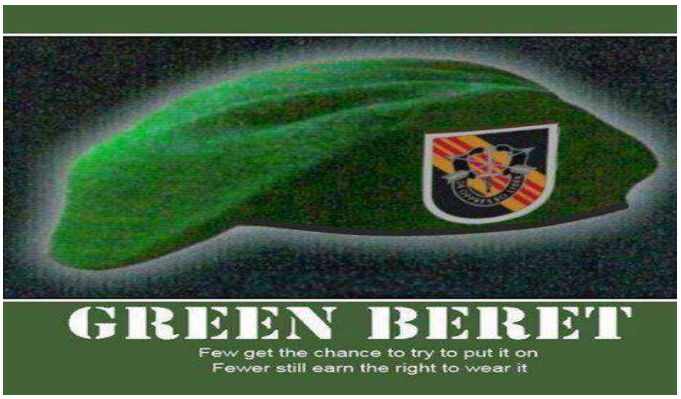
2022 was a great year, with many Chapter objectives accomplished. I want to thank the outgoing leadership team for their many accomplishments during the past two years.

On 3 December 2022, a change of command ceremony was conducted, which represented a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for the Chapter from President Willam Rothrock to President Dewey Walker. New leadership brings new directions, objectives, and policies. What does not change is the desire for the Chapter to execute its Mission Statement, be involved in community activities, and serve as the Local Voice for the Special Forces Community. With the new team and your commitment, we shall break new ground while having a great time with Warrior fellowship and teamwork.

On behalf of the President and the Board of Officers, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. "De Oppresso Liber,"

Dewey Walker,

SFA Chapter 88, President 2023-2024



Chaplain's Corner

By COL (Ret) Chaplain Daniel Davis

STRENGTH

The Psalmist David, a man after God's own heart but also a man involved in much war, often found himself in great need of strength from God to continue on in the struggle. His often times of gaining strength from his Lord caused him to write many passages in the Psalms about his blessings at this point: "The Lord is the strength of my life" Ps. 27:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" Ps, 46:1, "O God, you are awe-inspiring… you give strength and power unto your people. Blessed be God" Ps. 68:35.

For the people of God strength for any effort, strength for standing strong under pressure, strength for solving problems is always available. There is no need for worry, for "beating ourselves up" over issues that can be easily handled with the help of God.

The more you "call upon" the Lord the stronger you will become in the practice. "It never occurred to me to call upon God" you say, or, "God is not interested in my situation." On the contrary, is he not a very present help in times of trouble? Is there anything great or small that escapes His attention? Not on your life!

The more we turn to God the more available He seems to be. The strength He provides becomes a welcome source, and after a while we learn that the higher power of God increases our joy of living. There is a certain freedom in that fellowship with God that cannot be matched by any other relationship. It is true that all the strength I need to face the pressures that I face on a daily basis is available to me in the Living God. I will let go and let God help me today. Amen! ***MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES – Chaplain Davis***

SFA88 MEMBER OF THE ISSUE

DANIEL O. DAVIS Jr, COL, CC (Ret)

"CHAPLAIN & GREEN BERET

There is a special bond between all soldiers and the Chaplains who minister to them. *SIR, just so you see it in writing, and truly understand;* ***we SFA88 Members ALL LOVE YOU! You are like our inspirational brother who is wiser and more experienced! You have been our spiritual role model! You are a "Green Beret's Chaplain" who walked the SF talk and took point for your flock for 50+ years!****.*

Below:1LT Davis receiving medal while in 7th SFG (A).

Not only do the Chapter Members of SFA88 admire our Chaplain, he is recognized and admired by Green Berets throughout SFA and was honored at the Jacksonville SFA Conference with the highest award that SFA give their members the 2016 Saint Phillip Neri Gold Medal to recognize his military and community contributions.

In 1948 a young Daniel O. Davis enlisted in the United States Air Force where he advanced from Private to T/Sgt before he was discharged in 1955.

Below- 1967 at FT Benning as 20th SFG (A) Asst Grp Chaplain at Basic Airborne Training. He later became HALO qualified and is a Master Parachutist

Chaplain Davis served with 20th SFG from 1967 thru 1970 and in 1968 earned the "3 Prefix" and became "flash qualified" with 20th Grp by completing required Special Forces training. He also completed HALO School at FT Bragg in 1971. He went Active Duty from July 1970 as a Captain and retired in 1992 as Colonel. He served with 20th SFG '67-70 and went Active Duty with 7th SFG and in 1970-71 was in Viet Nam with 5th SFG '71-72 remaining

MEMBER OF ISSUE Cont.

in Viet Nam after 5th Grp returned colors to Ft, Bragg assigned to "TSH – Training Support Headquarters. In 1972 he returned and was assigned to 20th Engineer Battalion and 3/187th, 101st Airborne Div. He returned to Special Ops area assigned to ASA in Thailand. '74-76. Chaplain Davis was leadership instructor at Ft. Sill Artillery School, Asst Div Chaplain 82nd , Asst Corps Chaplain XVIII Corps at Ft. Bragg then Div Chaplain 2Nd ID in Korea, he returned to CONUS for schools and 84-87 Ft. McPherson Ops Officer for FORSCOM Chaplain. '88-91 he was the VII Corps Chaplain and deployed to Desert Storm. He returned to FT Stewart GA as Installation Chaplain and in 1992 retired from Active Duty.

COL (Ret) Davis already had 2 BAs, 2 MAs and Doctor Of Ministry when he moved his family to Jacksonville FL as Divinity Doctorate candidate at Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary. After his graduation he remained as adjunct Professor and taught Old Testament at the Seminary. In addition to that he has assisted many Jacksonville Baptist Pastors as guest Preacher. In addition to being SFA88 Chaplain he remains a Pastoral Counselor to people who need his help.

Chaplain Davis is a Husband to his loving and supportive wife and life partner Virginia. They were married April 25, 1948 and have quite a legacy. Parents to Three Daughters, Six Grandchildren and Twelve Great Grandchildren. (Below)

Chaplain Davis is not just known respected and loved by his family, SFA88, and SFA Green Berets but also his parishioners, past students, neighbors, and friends. This fall one of his parishioners and the Davis family contacted the Jacksonville Jaguars to nominate COL Davis for the prestigious "Veteran Of The Game"

SFA88 members know that Chaplain Davis has serious lung problems impacting his ability to leave his home. At the recent Jags vs Ravens game on Dec 17, 2022 the Davis family stood proudly in his place in the South Endzone waving while the Jags announcer gave a brief summary of his service, … including being both USAF and Army and oth Viet Nam and Desert Storm veteran and …Green Beret! TIAA Bank stadium, full of 40,000 fans, erupted in a loud cheer and applause to show appreciation for COL Davis's service. *This editor was there and it was a special moment!*

CHAPLAIN A SPECIAL MAN!! , DE OPPRESSO LIBER

https://www.facebook.com/20thSFG

NEWS ABOUT 20 th SFG(A)

As President Walker mentioned in his President's Message, SFA Chapter 88 recently got a recent email. Currently, the 3/20 SFG (A) from Camp Blanding - 3/20th Battalion, and Headquarters Staff are on the ground at undisclosed location in Africa and manning a Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) North West Africa for an undisclosed period of time

HHD's 1SG sent RFS (Requesting for Supplies) for beaned coffee to sustain their staff meetings. … Actually, all support care packages or letters of encouragement will be greatly appreciated.

The mail is going through the Diplomatic Mail Pouch: Mailing Address:

Robert Borger (RJE)
2410 N'Djamina Place APT 31
Dulles, VA 20189-2410

(Editor Note – all SFA 88 Members have been invited to the 20th SFG Alumni Picnic the last two years.)

The 3/20th Alumni March BBQ will not be the same weekend as the last two as we are deployed here unless current rear-detachment command initiates it. However if they do not, the BBQ will just be pushed to the right.

Soooo –we have one 2 lb bag of Dunkin Original Whole Bean from BJs warehouse and a request into Maxwell House down town, but if you want to help, mail some whole bean coffee and some non-perishable comfort items in a care package to the address above and … put in a nice letter or card of "Hey, we remember what its like and … come home safe!"

SFA88, ROTARY, MASONS

Intersecting Venn Diagram!!

It's no secret that our SFA88 members wear many hats besides the Green Beret and live a life of post active duty or FLARNG service, SFA88 members step up to contribute to their NE Florida where our members live. In addition to helping JROTC we have Civil War and WW2 Paratrooper Reenactors teaching History, members who support anti human Trafficking, JFRD Urban Search and Rescue, a Public Defender who tries to keep kids from getting screwed by the system, a member who helped establish AA Center at the Beaches, Members who are Folds of Honor Motorcycle escorts, members who help JROTC., but frankly SFA88 Brothers who are the "Movers and Shaker's" are also Rotarians, and Mason's.

As President Walker wrote, recently USO closed Jacksonville Airport USO Service Member's Travel Lounge. SFA88 and Rotarian's Pat Mulvihill and Tom Meissgeier were instrumental in mobilizing and coordinating the Jacksonville Veteran's Community to replace USO, man and keep open a place for Service Members and Families to rest while traveling through Jacksonville International Airport (JAX).

Above Tom being interviewed by TV news reporter Maria Baretto at re-opening of renovated JIA Military Lounge.

Below – Rotarian's Pat Mulvihill and Tom with Maria at the entrance located on first floor

JROTC & ROTC NEWS

JROTC KEEPS KIDS IN SCHOOL!!
THANK YOU JROTC CADRE

MIDPOINT for SCHOOL YEAR 2023 ***IS ALREADY HERE !!***

JOHN PAGE (Mason); SFA88's XO JROTC PROJECT MANAGER WILL ASK FOR MEMBER PRESENTERS VERY SOON!! .

The call for candidates is going out again to 20 + NEFL High Schools in January after New Year's Day. XO John Page (a Mason) has already received requests from Cadre at Baldwin, HS, Columbia HS and other high schools and has some tentative presentation dates.

Scott Eder (St Aug Rotarian) is contacting the JROTC Cadre at the ARMY schools we give scoholarships to to invite them to the SFA88 Military Ball in January.

SFA88 scratched St Augusting Army JROTC from the Scholarship list because of lack of initiative of Cadre and and cadets to meet the essay requirement.

Proponents for adding Columbia County in Lake City and Baldwin JR/Sr HS for $500 scholarships will likely be forthcoming at January meeting as Old Business.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On DEC 17, 2022 SFA 88 Members participated in laying wreaths on graves and cremation vaults of SFA88 Deceased Brothers; Joe Fredrickson, Douglas Oman Jr, Don Wilkison, William Reagan III, Ted Lee, Don Rice, and First Group's WO Calvin T Rockward III.

SFA88 Member Pat Mulvihill 2nd from Right is a Rotarian and was SFA88 Project Manager. Pat is on Cemetery Veteran's Committee on Speaker dais with Guest Speaker BG Karen S. MondayGresham DCG 63rd Readiness Div Center . The General lives in St Aug and served with Steve Muskett in Kuwait.

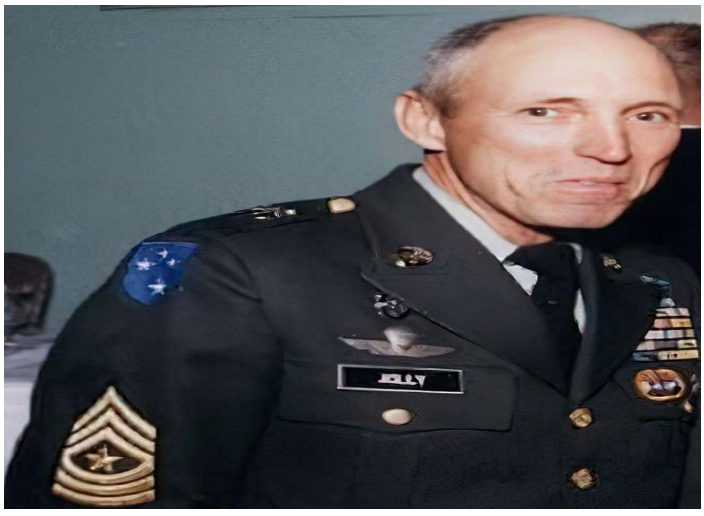
Above - Past President Willy P Rothrock (Rotarian) at WO Rockward's grave.

WAA – Continued SFA Members put a crest and toasted each deceased member with a taste of Horse Soldier's bourbon. Below- Douglas Oman Jr – vault

"Jumpin' Joe" Jolly 20th SFG –

Died May 5, 2022

Below - SFA88 Life Member D6687. We lost another SFA88 Brother. Jumpin' Joe Jolly" passed away this past May 5th and is buried in Lake Wales Cemetery, Lake Wales, FL., SFA88 did not know until Dec as Joe requested no obituary and no fanfare before he passed. He was a good man and fine Brother! – DOL, RIP



UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF SFA88 CHAPTER EVENTS

2023

07 January, 10:00; Chapel of the High Speed Pass, JAX

14 January, 1730-2200 Special Forces Military Ball, Hill Top, Orange Park, FL

04 February 10:00 ; Chapel of the High Speed Pass, JAX

04 March, 10:00; Chapel of the High Speed Pass, JAX

Friday 10 March, 17:30 – Ladies Night at Alhambra Dinner Theater, Beach Blvd Jax FL

01 April, 10:00 ; Chapel of the High Speed Pass, JAX

06 May, 10:00 ; Chapel of the High Speed Pass, JAX

Friday 12 May 2023 9:30 Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament, South Hampton Gold Club St Aug.

SFA88's SPECIAL FORCES BALL

17:30 SATURDAY JAN 14 , 2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SFA88 BOARD

SFA88 LADIES NIGHT

ALHAMBRA DINNER THEATER-

FRIDAY 10 MAR 23 @ 17:30

$73 per for Dinner, and Show (limited 30 Tix)

Contact Dewey Walker at SAF88@comcast.net for RSVP and on ticket availability. Information on show, menu and cast will be available at web link Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament

MAY 12, 2023

https://green-beret-charity-golf.perfectgolfevent.com/