"First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of Special Forces Association – Chapter 88- Northeast Florida – NOV-DEC 2024 - Vol 24-6

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APPOINTED STAFF

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Fund Raising Vacant

Newsletter - Bruce Pastorini
Need Volunteer –
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President's Message
DEWEY WALKER CSM (Ret)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"SF Veterans Helping SF Veterans"

Every year, as fall arrives, I eagerly anticipate the start of the family holiday season. It's a time for family, festivities, cooler nights, colorful foliage, and finally, the end of the Hurricane Season. One of my favorite parts is Halloween, especially seeing the joy on a young child's face when I open the door and hand out candy. The sight of their smiles and the reassuring expressions of their young mothers make it all worthwhile. It's a small gesture that brings immense joy.

The Chapter will elect the leadership team for the 2025 and 2026 term on 2nd November. Your presence is required to cast your vote. If you do not vote, please do not complain. If you vote, do not complain; instead, volunteer to make a difference. We have a great operational Chapter, and no Chapter can come close to the quality of our membership. We need to tap into the resources to make our Chapter great.

The ballot includes Dewey Walker for President, Stephen Muskett for Executive Vice President, Michael Ricketts for Vice President of Operations, Secretary-open, and Wade Carroll for Treasurer.

We will execute "Operation Downtown" in the COJ Veterans Day Parade in November. The parade starts at the eleventh Minute of the eleventh Hour, on the eleventh Day, and in the eleventh Month. The 3rd Battalion of the 20th Special Forces Group has committed three military vehicles to support Operation Downtown. Upon completing the mission, the President will host a Tailgate Cookout for members and their families. By joining us, you will strongly support the Veterans and Our Special Forces Chapter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Cont

Thanksgiving Day is one of my favorite family days. I wish you all a “Happy Thanksgiving Day” and encourage you to spend time with your family. Please remember that it's not just a suggestion but a duty to check on our senior members to ensure they have a happy Thanksgiving Day. Also, please let us know if you know of a Chapter or military family in need. We will take care of our warrior brothers.

De Oppresso Liber”,

Dewey Walker

President

OPERATION DOWN TOWN
JAX VETERAN’S DAY PARADE
11 NOV 2024

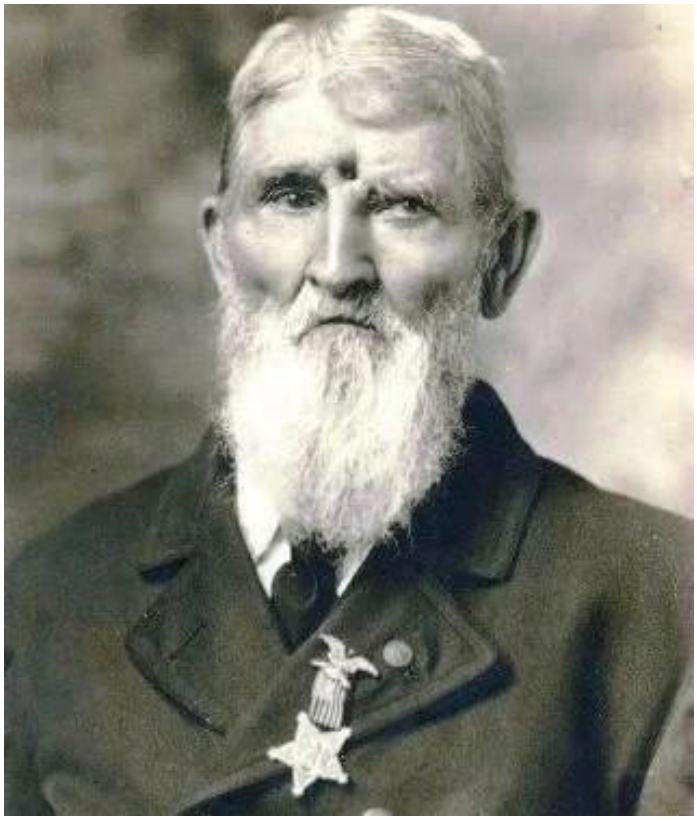
Steve Muskett 904-501-4590 is the Project Manager; he has coordinated with 3/20th who will provide 3 vehicles. Dress is uniform of your era with Beret, John Page will establish base camp in vicinity of Stadium end line with burgers, dogs, beans & chips. BYO Lawn Chairs and water/soda. Any beer is to be in an insulated cup when not in cooler. Steve will brief the final plan November 2nd Meeting.

NOTICE TO ALL ANNUAL DUES PAYING SFA88 CHAPTER MEMBERS

ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT WINDOW = AUG 1 Thru DEC 31 HAS OPENED AND YOUR 2025 DUES ARE NOW DUE. ANNUAL DUES ARE $40. IF you are NOT current there is a $5 surcharge so reinstatement is $45. Mail your check payable to SFA88 to Wade Carroll (SFA88 Treasurer) 10539 Inverness Dr. Jacksonville FL 32257-3704

NEWS from 3/20th SFG(A) FLARNG

As you know we have a bunch of Crusty Old Retired Soldier/Citizen Florida Guard members. Joey Browning who is a reenactor at Ft Clinch contributed a picture of his Great Grand Father’s Civil War era sniper team target



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT JACKSONVILLE "CARRY FORWARD 5K" 11/16/2024 at WWP MAIN HQ BUILDING

4899 Belfort Rd., Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7:00 AM
OPENING CEREMONY AT 8:00 AM

James Bullinger is Project Manager to assemble an SFA88 team and briefed "Carry Forward"5K for Wounded Warrior Project to be held November 16,2024. SFA Chapter 88 is forming a "Squad" to participate in the even with an intent to field a minimum of 10 participants and raise $400.00 or more for this fundraiser even. Members were encouraged to sign-up with James Bullinger (334)701-5435.

SUPPORTING THE VETERAN PRISONERS

SFA88 Joey Browning 2nd left (904) 303-3337 has asked SFA88 Members to donate to purchase high quality hard wood for Vet prisoner's to make cremation boxes for Veteran's internment at National Cemetery. He has also asked if you or a friend who are wood workers could cut the wood memorial boxes template pieces for Prisoner's to assemble and finish. Contact Joey to help.

SFA88 – REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED GREEN BERETS

When – DEC 14, 2024, Time 10:00
Where - Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218

At September Chapter Meeting ***Wreaths Across America*** - PM Pat Mulvihill (904) 534-0038 asked the Chapter to again donate 12 Wreaths to honor SFA88 members and two AD Green Berets buried at Jax National Cemetery. Members will meet at VA Admin Building and split up with names and grave locations and Horse Soldier bourbon to lay a wreath and toast, "***Brother you held the line against evil and are relieved … RIP – De Oppresso Liber"*** and mark as SF Deceased. Then they meet up at Columbarium.

SFA88 & Rotary at JAX INT'L AIRPORT MILITARY LOUNGE MIA/KIA EVENT

SFA88 / Rotarian Pat Mulvihill (far left) was at installation of Missing Warrior Table at JIA. Pat, Tom Meissgeier, John Page have all manned the sign in desk. SFA88 donated the Six Services Flags and Joey Browning donated a "Paratrooper" shadow box.

Operation Friendship

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

HANNA PARK, JAX FL

Above: L Wade Carroll, C- Tracey Mcrea, R- Bruce Pastorini

Tracey, Owner of "Bennett's Catering" in Daytona Beach again provided food for the annual joint SFA88/All Airborne event. Tracey is the daughter of SFA88 Member #A3334 Charles B. McRea a 12th Grp GB. Tracy is also an Honorary SFA88 Member #H-2 and past Newsletter MOI.

Above- SFA88 XO John Page was the grill master and did an outstanding job. John is also going to run the grill at the veteran's day parade SFA88 Base Camp.

Above – L - Lee Standford the Chapter Chaplain said the grace R – All Airborne (AA) President Snuff Smith who is also SFA88 member and some of the AA buddies sold merchandise left over from the 82nd Airborne Division Convention.

Above – Two new SFA 88 members who attended the picnic. L Brett Wooten former 82nd and 3/20th AGR Brett ran the Rigger Shed, R-Wendel Waters, former 7th Grp and SIC, lives near Gainsville.

SFA 88 Members - Hurricane Helene.

Former 3/20th FLARNG and USA BG (Ret) Trey Chauncey was USA-UPStar/FEMA Program Manager for NC response. He managed the rapid establishment of three massive (700+) first responder, Linemen and refugee Base of Operations in Ashville, Spruce Pine and Bakersville NC. Bravo Zulu Sir. It's great that you were able to use your managerial skills to serve the impacted victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. Good luck on the rest of your recovery mission. Continued Next Page

SFA 88 Members - Hurricane Helene.

Bruce Pastorini above left is a Structures Specialist for JFRD's Urban Search and Rescue FL-TF-5 who deployed searched Tarpon Springs, Horseshoe Beach, Steinhatchie and Jena in the Florida panhandle.

SFACON 2024 Cruise to Bahamas

Every Chapter Member, John Page, Chris Munoz, Willy P Rothrock, Dick Gunn, Mark Dickens and Bruce Pastorini with wife, girlfriend (Mark) or stag (Willy) had a blast on this first ever SFACON aboard the Carnival Princess to Freeport and Nassau.

Above Departure concert Gary Sinise and the "LT Dan Band" serenaded SFA Members. Horse Soldiers Distillery gave out free shots of "Bourbon Mojitos".

In addition to the Formal GB Dinner there was Hawaiian and Pirate Nights (Arrgh!).

L – Peg Leg Dickens, Right Pirate Princess Sue, Right Eye Willie and Left Eye Glaucoma Bruce.

Above - :Sister Luv" singers "Salute to Service" Entertainment was <u>outstanding quality shows</u>.

Above – L-R Willy P, John and Shiela Page, Tom and Barbara Meissgeier, Deloras Munoz and Bruce and Sue Pastorini in front of cruise "Green Beret Club"

Above – Last Night Formal Dinner – Dick Gunn and Maggie sat with 5th Grp friends .