# First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of the Special Forces Association Chapter 88, Northeast Florida -- JAN-FEB 2025, Vol 25-1



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dewey Walker, CSM (Ret)**

## *SF Veterans Helping SF Veterans Requires Volunteers*

As the year concludes, it presents an opportunity to reflect on the preceding twelve months, assess our achievements, and critically analyze our shortcomings. In the words of Mr. Soichiro Honda, the founder of Honda Motors, "I have encountered numerous failures, averaging one hundred for each success, and I have gained more insights from these failures than from any success I have experienced." Through our two-decade history, the chapter's leadership team has effectively transformed our failures into learning experiences and is now well-equipped to pursue success in the forthcoming year. We are committed to mastering the future with the lessons we have learned.

The successes we've achieved today and in the past stem from the commitment of a few dedicated members, and the membership shared in that success. We are at a pivotal moment where our operational growth demands additional manpower. Your involvement is essential and we have resources available to support activities and programs. Chapter meetings are a great opportunity to gain insights and understand how to engage more actively in the Jacksonville Area. I strongly encourage all members, especially those who haven't attended, to come join us. Let's make a meaningful commitment to sustain and grow our Northeast Florida Chapter 88.

Active participation from our membership is crucial to maintaining effective management and streamlining daily operations. It is evident that there is a growing need for enhanced involvement from the members. The chapter's organizational structure is thoughtfully designed, with elected officers, staff officers, assistant staff officers, skilled technicians, committee chairs and dedicated committee members. Our Secretary/Adjutant recently pinpointed several key roles that are vacant and its vital to fill them for our operations. We encourage you to step forward and contribute your skills and expertise.

- Sergeant at Arms
- Director of Fundraising
- Asst. Director of Fundraising
- Veterans Affairs Officer
- Protocol Officer
- Assistant Public Affairs Officer
- Website Administrator
- Photographer/Caption Writer
- Charity Committee Members
- Finance Committee Members

***President's Message*** *Continued…*

- Assistant Operations Officer
- Asst. Logistics Officer/PBO
- Assistant Chaplain
- Investment Committee Members
- Membership Committee Members
- ROTC Committee Members (awards and scholarships)

Filling these positions is crucial for operational readiness, ensuring that each chapter member has clearly defined roles and responsibilities. By collaborating effectively, members can achieve significant accomplishments for the chapter.

On December 7, the leadership team for 2025 and 2026 was installed. The team comprises myself continuing in the President's role, Executive Vice President Stephen Muskett, and Treasurer Wade Carroll. I am committed to this team and I'm excited about working with the officers you have selected. However, two officer positions are vacant: Vice President of Operations and Secretary, and filling these slots is crucial for our success. If you want to learn more about the duties and responsibilities associated with these positions, please contact Executive V.P. Steve Muskett for further discussion.

As we approach the end of the year, we embrace the Christmas Season and a time that embodies the spirit of generosity, compassion and togetherness. Gatherings, delightful meals, the sharing of gifts and cherished moments with loved ones mark this joyous period. Lilisa and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt wishes to all members and their families for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to being with you in the coming year. May you be blessed with joy and success.

De Oppresso Liber,
*Dewey Walker*
President

# December Guest Speaker

During the December 7 meeting, chapter members had an opportunity to hear the story of Trung Lively, a lucky evacuee and survivor of the Vietnam War. Lively told the chapter how his adoptive American father, helped him and his mother escape from the Republic of Vietnam the just days before the fall of Saigon. Lively, who was 7-years old, and his mother fled on the third to last C-130 Hercules aircraft flight out of Tan Son Nhut Air Base on April 28, 1975. Lively's father served in the Army in Germany before a tour in Vietnam in 1964. After his enlistment and later in 1970, Lively's father returned again to Vietnam to serve as a civilian Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. With his connections, he arranged the evacuation. On April 30, the People's Army of Vietnam (North) and the Viet Cong took the capitol shortly after the last helicopter with evacuees departed from the U.S. Embassy.

After fleeing Vietnam, Trung and his mother first lived on Guam, then relocated to Los Angeles, then to San Diego, and later settling in West Virginia. Today, Trung and his wife Sway Lively reside in Winter Park, Florida. Above, Lively is presented with a chapter certificate of appreciation for his presentation from President Dewey Walker.

## In Memoriam

**Charles Bruce McRae,** A-3433, a 20-year chapter member since January 2004, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on the evening of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2024. Born Jan. 31, 1934, McRae, 90, was predeceased in death by sons Colin Bruce and Charles Lee. He is survived by his wife Sydney; children Tracy, Joseph and Matthew; daughter-in-law Melissa McRae, and grandchildren James, Cooper and Campbell. Bruce's daughter Tracy McRae is also an honorary member of Chapter 88 and the owner of Bennett's Catering in Daytona Beach. Tracy has supported our annual organizational day and family cookouts for several years. Please keep the McRae family in your prayers.

*"Rest in Peace my Warrior Brother,*
*we shall meet Again."*

# Veterans Day 2024

For more than a decade the members of Chapter 88 have helped to support the City of Jacksonville's annual Veterans Day parade to honor veterans from all branches of the service. This year the parade fell on Monday, November 11.

Steve Muskett served as the operations officer for organizing and coordinating this year's participation by chapter members.

Chapter 88 partners with the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group from the Florida National Guard, based at Camp Blanding, for Soldier and tactical vehicle support.

According to Chapter President Dewey Walker it is important for the chapter to participate.

"It is important to bring recognition for the service and sacrifices of the Special Forces community, both the current serving and former veterans." Walker said, "We're a small, but important part of the U.S. Army in service to the Nation."

Thanks to all our members who helped make this a special day and raise public awareness.

Continued…

Chapter 88 members ride in a Polaris MRZR ultra-light tactical vehicle driven by a 3rd Bn., 20th SFGA unit partner member. Image courtesy of Fox30News

Steve Muskett rides above a mine resistant ambush protected all-terrain vehicle, followed by Willy Rothrock and other chapter members in a tactical cargo vehicle. Image courtesy of Fox30News

Chapter Executive V.P. Steve Muskett (left) waves to parade watchers from the gunner's hatch of a MRAP all-terrain vehicle. Chapter Judge Advocate Willy Rothrock and other chapter members wave to the crowds from a M1083 5-ton medium tactical cargo vehicle. The vehicles were provided and driven by members of the 3rd Bn., 20th SFGA, our unit partner members. Images courtesy of the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation.

**GREEN BERET CHARITY**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

***Polish Your Balls & Get Ready to Tee Off***

**May 16th**

For Info Email
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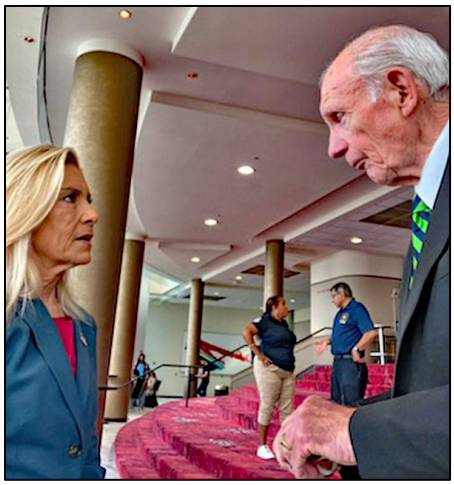
## **Veterans Day 2024** continued…

Right, chapter members (l to r) Padraic Mulvihill, Steve Muskett and Dewey Walker attended the pre-parade breakfast hosted by the City of Jacksonville for military unit and association leadership. Far right, President Dewey Walker thanked Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan for the city's support of all of the area military units, the retirees, veterans and the families.

According to the Mayor's Office, 200 people representing about 50 veteran organizations attended the breakfast event. Over 3000 participants from 150 units and organizations marched in the parade while watched by more than 30,000 people.



Left, member Padraic Mulvihill, right, engages with Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan at the VIP breakfast hosted by the city before the parade. Mulvihill, along with Chapter 88 President Dewey Walker and Steve Muskett, joined with other military unit and association leaders for a pre-parade event with city, county and state officials. Mulvihill helps to advocate for veteran related issues and strengthen relationships with municipal officials.

Bruce Pastorini helps to serve up a hotdog to a high school Marine Corps JROTC member participating in the annual Jacksonville Veterans Day parade. Marching in a parade for an hour sure works up an appetite.

After the parade, members of Chapter 88, the 3-20th SFGA, family and friends rallied in the parking lot to enjoy a grilled meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and drinks with the parade participants. Grill masters John Page and Tom Meissgeier led the cooking duties.

***Welcome*** to new chapter members ***Tim Settle*** (November) and ***Scott Taylor*** (December), both are 20th SFGA veterans.

**Chapter Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the *Chapel of the High-Speed Pass,* 6112 POW-MIA Parkway on *Cecil Field.***

**JAN 4 -- FEB 1 -- MAR 1**

# Backing Our Wounded Warriors

On Saturday, Nov. 16, Chapter 88 deployed a crack squad of 8 hard charging runners and walkers to participate in the Wounded Warrior Project's Carry Forward 5K fundraiser. The event was held at the WWP National Headquarters in Jacksonville. Our chapter set a goal to field 10 squad participants and raise $400 to support WWP and their efforts. We successfully raised $500 towards helping benefit the needs of our wounded brothers and sisters.

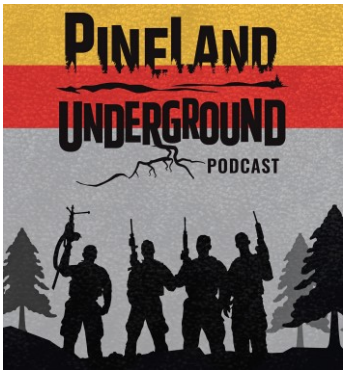
It was a beautiful fall morning with clear blue skies and cool temperatures. More than 2000 people, supported by about 150 volunteers, either ran or walked the route. Each participant received a race medallion crossing the finish line.

Thanks to James Bullinger for serving as our squad leader and coordinating the event.

Tim Settle flies a 20th Special Forces Group banner while jogging the Carry Forward 5K.

**SFA Chapter 88 Squad Members**
(Pictured from left to right)

- Tim Settle
- Vanessa and Joey Browning
- William "Willy" Rothrock
- Tracy and James Bullinger
- Mary and Patrick Rice (Guests)




## PINELAND UNDERGROUND Podcasts

The Official podcast of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Liberty, NC. PsyOps officer Maj. Ashley "Ash" Holzmann and Civil Affairs NCO Sgt. Maj. Derek Riley provide the best Special Operations Forces (SOF) related podcasts on a bi-monthly basis. Podcasts vary in length from 45 to 75 minutes. Available to listen on Spotify, SimpleCast and Apple podcasts.

Visit **https://www.swcs.mil/P-U-Podcast/**

Or scan the QR Code with your cell phone.

A great way to learn the history of SOF and stay current on evolving issues and programs.

**Save The Date**

***Chapter 88 is Invited!***

**3/20th SF Battalion BBQ**
**Saturday, Jan. 11**
Camp Blanding

Details to follow at the Jan. 4 Chapter Meeting.

# Chapter Gears Up for Annual JROTC Awards

***John Page*** and ***Scott Eder*** lead our chapter efforts to connect with and support the high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs in the greater Jacksonville area.

It's a new year and new opportunities to acknowledge cadet excellence in high school JROTC programs. Chapter 88 is an active participant in the Special Forces Association's Award of Excellence recognition program. In 2024, chapter members served as award presenters to 21 Northeast Florida area high schools.

If you have not had an opportunity to be a chapter presenter, consider volunteering in 2025. Past member presenters will vouch it is a worthwhile experience to engage with these young outstanding future leaders.

The chapter also awards a number of monetary scholarships to outstanding JROTC graduating seniors. Eder will also seek volunteers to help with scholarship interviews with nominees from *Baldwin, Englewood, Keystone Heights, Paxon*, *Raines*, *St. Augustine* and *Wolfson* high schools.

Page and Eder will have more details later in the spring.

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

THIS CERTIFIES THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION HAS PRESENTED

The Award of Excellence

Distinguished Army Military Science Cadet Award (JROTC)

To

Cadet Hard Charger

For Scholastic Excellence and Military Proficiency, in Keeping with the Traditions and Ideals of the United States Army Special Forces "Green Berets", during the year 2023 - 2024 at Keystone Heights High School Junior ROTC

PRESIDENT, CHAPTER 88, JACKSONVILLE, FL

SECRETARY, CHAPTER 88, JACKSONVILLE, FL

**Purpose:** To recognize outstanding cadets in the Junior and Senior ROTC programs in as many high schools or colleges in the vicinity of SFA chapters around the nation. It is an "Award of Excellence" for the Distinguished Military Science Cadet who distinguishes himself or herself in a given JROTC unit. It is for scholastic excellence and military proficiency in keeping with the traditions and ideals of the U.S. Army Special Forces. The award is open to all Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps J/ROTC program cadets. The award recipient is determined by a JROTC Senior Instructor at a high school or a ROTC Professor of Military Science at a college.

## *Did You Know?*

The Special Forces Association Award of Excellence and its certificate, medal and ribbon were designed and developed by SFA Chapter 80 in Las Cruces, New Mexico in the 1990s. When Chapter 80 decided to discontinue administering the program, they transferred it to SFA Chapter 50 in Tulsa, Okla.

Later Chapter 50 merged with Chapter 32 to become SFA Chapter 32-50 of Oklahoma. Chapter 32-50 continues to manage the SFA program today and is the sole source for the order, handling and shipping of the approved medal and ribbon sets that come in a small presentation box.

The SFA Award of Excellence was officially approved by the United States Army Cadet Command and is in their revised Reg 672-5-1, paragraph 3-6, published Sept. 14, 2022.

***First-Coast Arrow*** is published bi-monthly by Chapter 88 and is an un-official publication of the Special Forces Association. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Special Forces Association or the U.S. Department of Defense. If you have news, suggestions or ideas you think would be useful, email us at jbullinger@sw.rr.com.

**Newsletter Submission Deadlines for 2025**

- Mar-Apr = *Feb 15*
- May-Jun = *Apr 15*
- Jul-Aug = *Jun 15*
- Sep-Oct = *Aug 15*
- Nov-Dec = *Oct 15*