First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of the Special Forces Association Chapter 88, Northeast Florida -- SEP-OCT 2025, Vol 25-5

OFFICERS

President (CO)
Dewey Walker
904-993-1211
sfa88@comcast.net

Executive Vice President (XO)
(Vacant)

Hon. Vice President (3/20 SFG)
Major Brian S. McDowell

Vice President Operations (S3)
David Ware
904-861-5062
WeerWare@comcast.net

Secretary Pro Tem (S1)
Thomas F Burke, Jr
703-203-7610
tburke2743@aol.com

Treasurer (CFO & S4)
Wade D. Carroll
904-868-3861
wdcarroll9@comcast.net

STAFF

Chaplain
Leland E. Stanford
904-287-0915
lelandestanford@gmail.com

Sergeant at Arms
Thomas Jackson
904-718-1530
TBone20SF@comcast.net

Judge Advocate & Inspector General
William P. Rothrock
706-662-9838
willyprothrock@gmail.com

Supply Sergeant (S4)
Chris Munoz
904-254-7147
wingforce@aol.com

JROTC Programs
John H. Page - Awards
904-465-0611
sgmjhpage@aol.com

Scott Eder – Scholarships
904-315-8204
scott.eder@edergrp.com

Public Affairs & Newsletter
James Bullinger
334-701-5435
jbullinger@sw.rr.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dewey Walker, CSM (Ret)

The End of Summer and New Opportunities

It's hard to believe we are already starting the ninth month of the year and entering the third quarter. The kids are back in school, and Labor Day is here! I mentioned to my wife that Labor Day signifies the end of the summer vacation season, and I hope she understands what I mean. I have a feeling she is already planning a trip for the winter holidays. Yes, dear!

The staff has several essential events planned before the end of the year. The next event is "Operation Friendship" on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11am on Camping Blanding. This serves as our Organizational Day and Summer Family Cookout. This event is free of charge, so feel free to bring your family and friends. We have also invited members of the 3rd Bn., 20th SFGA and the 82nd Abn. Div. Association's Jacksonville Chapter to join us. Tracy McRea, who owns a professional catering company in Daytona Beach, will cater the event once again. It will be a great time and I encourage you to RSVP early with David Ware, VP for Operations, as we need a firm headcount for planning.

The Special Forces Memorial Monument project is progressing well. The Veteran Affairs Washington Headquarters has approved the placement of the monument at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Additionally, the United States Army has granted permission to use official Army and Special Forces graphics on the monument. Currently, our focus is on raising funds for this project. I encourage each member to contribute and to ask friends and local businesses to consider making donations as well.

Pat Mulvihill, our committee chair, is leading this initiative and has done an excellent job so far. If you have any fundraising ideas, please reach out to Pat or the committee. Please see Page 4 for more information on ways to donate.

The chapter's management team is continuously evolving, and we currently have openings for both staff and committee positions. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to join our dynamic leadership team. Please reach out to me or one of the chapter officers to discuss your options. I would also like to express my gratitude to those members who have recently accepted leadership roles.

We are planning to field a squad for the annual Wounded Warrior Project Carry Forward 5K run on Nov. 8. See page 5 for details and save the date.

Plans are already in the works to support the City of Jacksonville's annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11. Once again, the 3rd Bn., 20th SFGA is providing us with 3 military vehicles. Mark your calendars and come join us.

President's Message *Continued…*

President's Message *Continued…*

Finally, the Chapter has two new members Scott Ballentine and Gustavo Ritschi, both retired A-Team Sergeants. Scott has graciously agreed to take on the role as the Assistant S3 Officer for Operations and Plans. Please join me in welcoming Scott and Gustavo to the Chapter!

De Oppresso Liber,
Dewey Walker
President

A Gathering of Green Berets

SFACON 2025
14-17 OCT 2025
LAS VEGAS, NV

Orleans Hotel & Casino
See Event Details on SFA Website

Ware Takes Oath of Office as New Vice President for Operations

President Dewey Walker swore in ***David Ware*** during the August 2 meeting as the chapter's Vice President for Operations (S3). Ware has also volunteered to chair and serve as the tournament director for the 2026 Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament. Thank you David for volunteering to serve in these two important positions.

"OPERATION FRIENDSHIP"

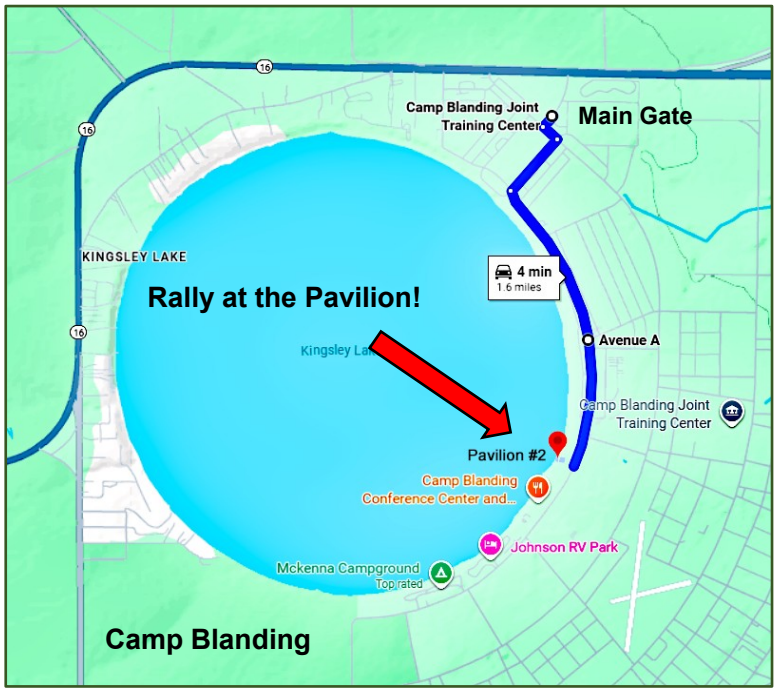
Our Chapter's annual Organizational Day and Summer Family Cookout is on **Saturday, Sept. 20**, at 11am on Camping Blanding near Starke, Fla. We are gathering at Pavilion #2 just off of Avenue A, which is the frontage road along the lake. From the Main Gate it is about 1.6 miles or a 4-minute drive.

This event is free of charge, so feel free to bring your family and friends. Members of the 3rd Bn., 20th SFGA and the 82nd Abn. Div. Association's Jacksonville Chapter are also invited to join us. Tracy McRea, a professional caterer from Daytona Beach, is catering us once again.

RSVP to David Ware, VP for Operations, to be included in the headcount for meals. Deadline is Sept. 13.
Email: weerware@comcast.net
Or Text: (904) 861-5062
Provide your full name and the number of people (family/friends) that are joining you.

It's Going to Be a Grand Event!

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION



Post GB Charity Golf Tournament Update

Following the chapter's successful 2025 Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament in May, outgoing tournament director Wade Carroll made a presentation on June 5 to the ***Marsh Landing Country Club and Golf Course*** in Ponte Vedra, Fla. Here, Carroll presents a Chapter 88 certificate of appreciation and a limited-edition Chapter 88 golf towel for the staff for the Club's donation of two gift certificates for a free round of golf for 4 players, valued at $1500. Accepting on behalf of Mike Duckworth, the head golf professional, is assistant Golf Pro ***Brett Aring*** in the Marsh Landing Pro Shop.

On June 20, Chapter Vice President for Operations and the new 2026 Golf Tournament Director David Ware presented ***Jason Hill***, the general manager of ***The Golf Club of Amelia Island*** with a certificate of appreciation. Hill's golf club in Amelia Island, Fla., donated a round of golf for a foursome team as a silent auction item for the 2025 Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament held on May 16. The donation helped our chapter raise additional funds for many of our community charity projects and JROTC award programs.

Life of a Warrior Series

The August Warrior of the Month is retired ***Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Wade D. Carroll***. Carroll, 80, supports the chapter as its long serving chief financial officer and treasurer. Like so many of us, after graduating from high school, Carroll joined the Army in June 1962, attending Basic Training at Fort Ord, Calif. Initially, he was interested in being a 71L admin clerk, but after watching a film on the Airborne, Carroll signed on to be a 111 Infantryman, staying at Ft. Ord for AIT. He reported in Jan. 1963 for the basic airborne course at Ft. Benning, Ga. After graduating, he reported to Co. D, 1st Abn. Battle Group, 506th Inf. Regt. at Ft. Campbell, Ky. Here, he served with Co. D, then the Group S3 training section, and then back to Co. D to lead the ground radar section. Carroll was discharged in June 1965, moved to Ohio and joined the 2093rd USAR School as an instructor until the unit deactivated in Oct. 1970. Then he joined Co. C, 11th Special Forces Group (Abn.) in Dayton as an Intel Sgt. He completed the SFQC in 1973, Jumpmaster course in 1975, and the Air Assault course in 1980, rising up to Team Sgt. Medical issues would force him to depart SF after nearly a dozen years in May 1983. Then he became the First Sgt. of the 246th Psyops Co. in Columbus, Ohio. In Sept. 1983, Carroll transferred to the 15th Psyops Bn. at Ft. Thomas, Ky., serving as the Cmd. Sgt. Maj. for 7-years. In civilian life, Carroll started working in the railroad industry in 1966, first with B&O Railroad. Later he worked for CSX Railroad and was asked about moving to Florida. In Nov. 1989, he moved to Jacksonville with CSX and transferred to finish out his Army career as the CSM for the 416th Transp. Bn. (Railway), retiring in June 1995. He resides in Jacksonville with his wife Cindy.

Special Forces Monument Project Update

The Chapter's project to raise money for the construction of a Special Forces Memorial Monument for the Jacksonville National Cemetery is building momentum. As of August 15, we have raised **$4385** (actual $4,351.88 after GoFundMe fees) toward our $18,000 goal. We are 24 percent on our way. We have received 17 donations from 3 organizations ($950) and 14 individuals ($3435). Of the 14 individual donors, 5 were on GoFundMe ($1000) and 9 were checks ($2435). Between the 4 out-of-state donors, they collectively contributed $1450. We are very grateful for these generous donations, but we're still a long ways from our goal. Please contribute and help to promote this worthy project. Save Saturday, April 11, 2026 on your calendars and plan to join us for the dedication ceremony. For more information, contact Padraic Mulvihill, Monument Committee Chairman, by email: *pem@axisp.com* or call (904) 534-0035. If you haven't donated yet, please donate today! Help Honor our Heroes. Corporate sponsors welcome.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

COL Reed Barrett, Ashburn VA

James Bullinger Family, Saint Augustine FL

Sean Healy, Jacksonville FL

Preston Bradford, East Greenwich RI

Vernon Perry IV, Ponte Vedra Beach FL

Michael Bagley, Fleming Island FL

SFC Andrew Obeso, Monterey CA

Jan Bullinger, Rio Linda CA

Dewey Walker, Jacksonville FL

Wade Carroll, Jacksonville FL

John H. Page, Callahan FL

Chief James Faircloth, Callahan FL

Padraic Mulvihill, Jacksonville FL

COL Jason Psaltides, Davie FL

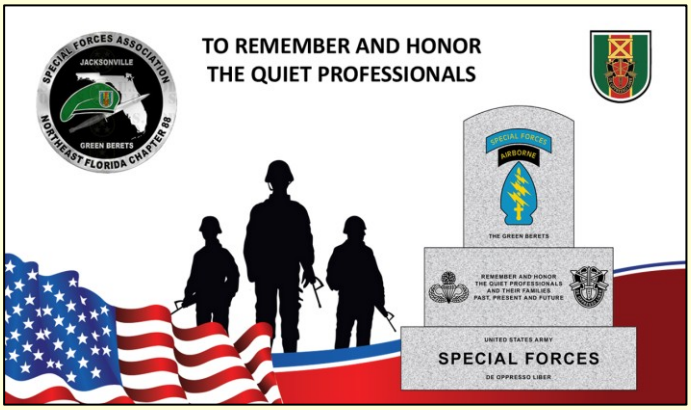
ORGANIZATIONS

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Saint Augustine

SFA Chapter 76 South Florida Hollywood

National Sojourners Northeast Florida Chapter 435 Jacksonville

Help Honor our Heroes *Support the Special Forces Monument*



SFA Chapter 88 has an ambitious goal to raise **$18,000** for a Special Forces monument for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Donations are needed for the construction, delivery, installation and future maintenance of the monument; and fund the dedication ceremony -- planned in conjunction with the 39th anniversary of the Special Forces Branch.

Our goal is to raise the money before **Dec. 31, 2025**. This allows us time to complete a contract, make a down payment, construct the monument, deliver and install it in time for the April 11th ceremony this next year.

This monument project is important for honoring the service of the Army veterans interred in Jacksonville. It serves as a remembrance for the families, friends, comrades in arms and visitors to the National Cemetery.

On **Saturday, April 11,** 2026, the public and our Special Operations veterans are invited to join us for this significant and historical event. More information will be forthcoming in 2026.

SFA Chapter 88 is on **GoFundMe.Com** and donations are fast and easy at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund; or scan the QR Code with your phone or tablet for access to the donation page. GoFundMe offers many ways for payments. Use the *"Enter Custom Tip"* link to adjust any tips you want to leave for GoFundMe. You can opt for a low or no tip.

Are you Old School? We accept checks made payable to "**SFA Chapter 88**," write "**SF Monument**" on the memo line. Mail checks to: SFA 88 Monument, 10539 Inverness Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32257. We are a 501(c)(19) charity, Fed Tax EIN: 56-6148492, and donations are tax-deductible.

For more contact Padraic Mulvihill
Monument Committee Chairman,
email: *pem@axisp.com*.
or call (904) 534-0035

Scan to Donate

Save the Date!

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025
Wounded Warrior Project
Jacksonville National Headquarters, FL

SFA Chapter 88 is again sending a squad to join in this year's **Carry Forward 5K** Run/Hike fundraiser in November.

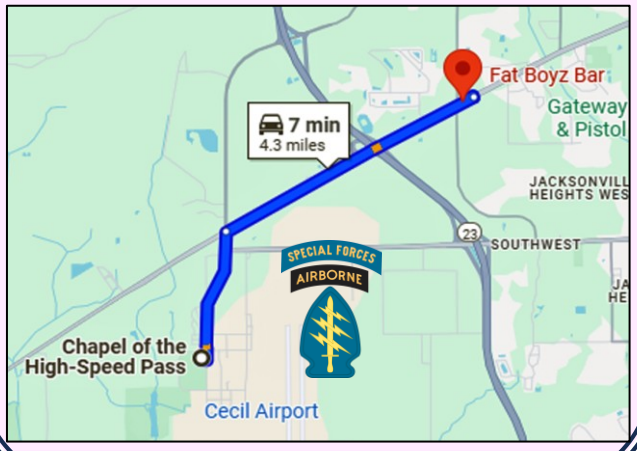
A Great Event for a Worthy Cause

For more information or to join our squad, scan the QR Code with your smart phone or tablet to reach our Chapter 88 Squad page.

Our goal is to field a 10-person team and raise at least $450 for our fellow wounded veterans. Last year was great and this year will be even better! So far, we have 3 squad members and $240 towards our objective. Let's roll!

After the Monthly Meeting…

Come join members rallying for a post-meeting drink at ***Fat Boyz Bar*** located at 11137 Normandy Blvd, Jacksonville. From the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, it's an easy 4.2 mile or 7-minute drive. Chapter 88 members receive free coffee.
Find "**Fat Boyz Bar**" on *Facebook*.



SPECIAL FORCES

Welcome New Chapter Member

Scott Ballentine
Gustavo Ritschi

Save The Date!

B/3/20th SF REUNION
Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026
American Legion Post
Plant City, Fla.

Details to follow later.

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.*
SEP 6 – OCT 4 – NOV 1

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.
SFA Chapter 88, P.O. Box 7452, Jacksonville, FL 32238

Newsletter Submission Deadlines 2025/26

- Nov-Dec = *Oct 15*
- Jan-Feb = *Dec 15*
- Mar-Apr = *Feb 15*
- May-Jun = *Apr 15*