



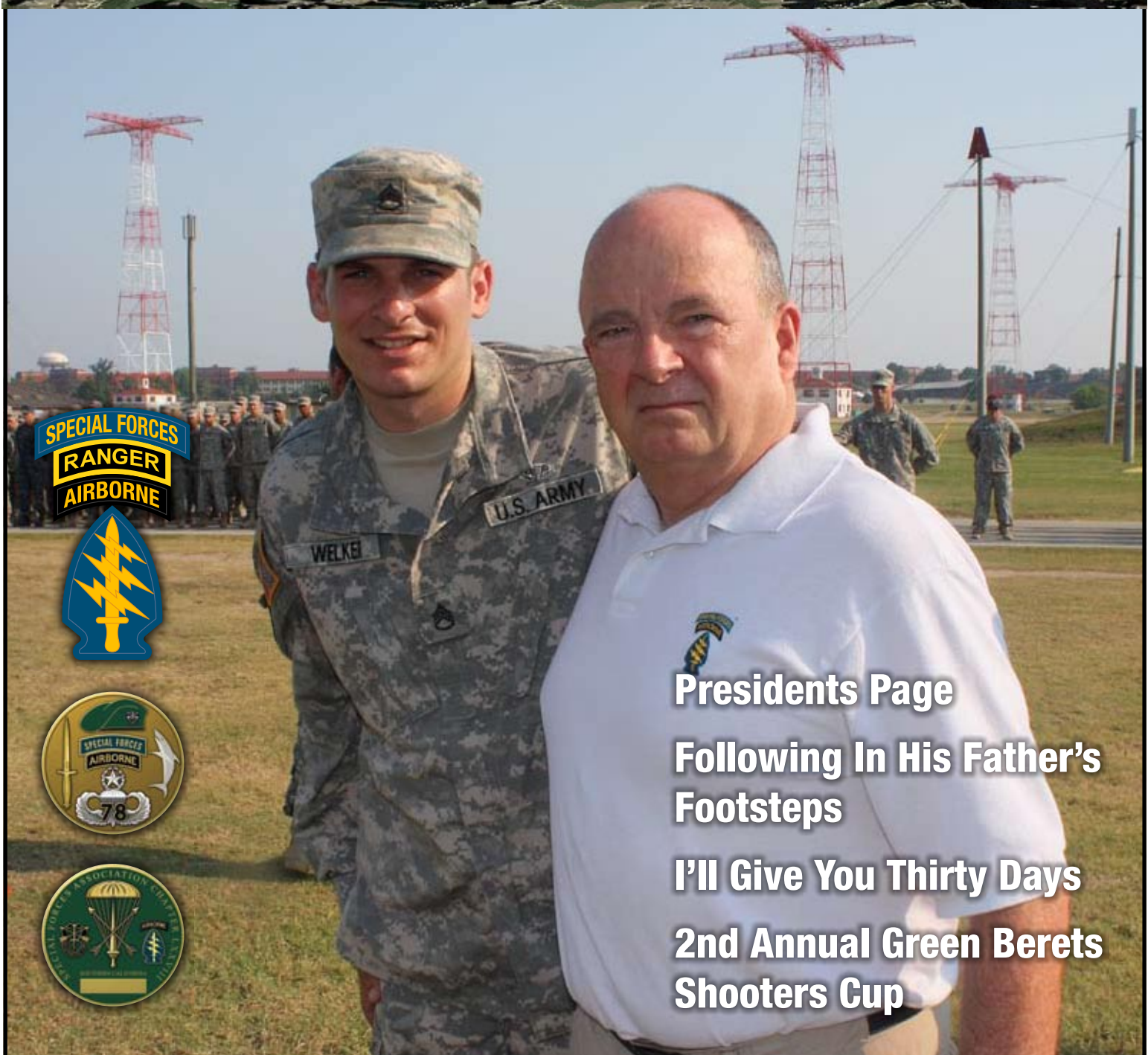
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

AUGUST 2012



SPECIAL FORCES
RANGER
AIRBORNE



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Following In His Father's
Footsteps

I'll Give You Thirty Days

2nd Annual Green Berets
Shooters Cup



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M-12798

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COVER PHOTO: SSG Welker has his "Blood Wings" pinned on by his father Brad Welker, at Jump School Graduation at Fort Benning, GA.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN July 2012

Chapter 78 has officially 57 members on the National SFA Roster. This number is based on General Members, Decade Members and Associate Members. If you are a general member and not listed on the roster this reflects dues not paid. General Members who are not receiving a copy of the quarterly "Drop" either have not paid their

dues to SF National or possibly have a change of address. Associate Members also fall into the annual dues category and the national office removes both categories annual memberships' names from the active roster until dues are paid. Please contact me if you do not get your copy.

Our chapter is listed in Region 8 which includes California, Arizona and Nevada, and **Bill Darnell** of Chapter 23 your regional representative. Presently there are 85 active chapters ranging in membership size from 16 to 885 (Chapter 1-118). Without doing the math the average size is about 60. There are 16 with more than 100 members, and several close to 100. Total SFA membership is 9,136. Why did I list these numbers? Several reasons! Number one is to demonstrate what a small chapter like ours is doing versus many larger chapters. We have produced a great and frequently updated website(s), very good monthly newsletter (The Sentinel), a really fine annual Christmas Dinner and lastly, The Green Beret Shooters Cup. Like a good A-Team (now ODA), it's the members who count, not the size. I thank all of you who help make our chapter great.

However, we need to become more active in the national elections of officers. This year the total ballots for the election totaled 843 or 9% of the membership. Our chapter was credited with two ballots. **We can do better.**

SFA National is requesting that chapters use the term "**Green Beret**" more often and also place it on the masthead of chapter newsletters. "**Special Forces**" is becoming a Generic Term. Marines, Navy and the Air Force have 'special forces.' The good old days are gone. SF was only SF. Not true now. Special Operations Forces can refer to legs in an armored cavalry unit doing "special work," whatever that may be. I

agree with SFA and we will find a way to add Green Beret on the front page of the Sentinel. Currently we are also using the term in all advertising and is on our websites.

Jack Tobin (Colonel, retired) is the newly elected SFA president and Chapter 78 member Jim Duffy is a long time friend and I have asked Jim to be our chapter liaison directly to Jack. Back channels work better many times. Jack Tobin has a very strong SF history and I suggest reading his bio in the **DMOR** section of the current (summer) issue of the "Drop."

I would like to request our chapter members send me photographs of their active duty participation for the Sentinel. I am also looking for photographs of members' children who are or were on active duty and a short story about their military activities and deployment. In this issue is a great photo of Brad and his son at Fort Benning Georgia after the pinning of his "Blood Wings."

Many chapter members are working long hours to help support our chapter. One of the least recognized is **Al Watts** who also is Past President of American Legion Post 295 who continues to coordinate with me each month regarding our Saturday meetings. Al is responsible for the purchase of the food and then becomes lead chef to prepare our breakfast. He usually cooks between twenty five to thirty breakfasts at each meeting. A "tip of the Beret" to Al Watts! Any profits from this endeavor help run Post 295.

Bruce Long is coordinating with the active duty Special Forces Command at Fort Bragg in recruiting SF Teams for

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SGT Jon Holmes in Sniper Hide during second tour in Afghanistan.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

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the Second Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup. At this time it appears that he is successful and is working with **Steve Cowan** to bring several teams on board. Recent e-mails from Bruce suggest that the SF Command will continue to work with him in garnering teams from the 1st, 10th and 19th SF Groups. Bruce Long resides in Corona and is also coordinating with the mayor of the city to locate members of their police department to field a team for the October event. We will also invite his honor, the Mayor to our event! Bruce is also one of the most active members who staff the Chapter 78 Booth at local gun shows.

Terry Cagnolatti is the Green Beret Shooters Cup Team Coordinator and remains in frequent contact with teams who are registering for the Second Annual Cup. The top 10 teams from last year are on board. Terry is also constantly on the alert to recruit "new" teams. Presently we have about eighteen teams in the registration process. This does not include the military teams which take much more coordination. As I



Terry Cagnolatti is standing by the owner of a HU-1B 'chopper. He flew these in Vietnam.



SFC Steen and Terry C. The Green Beret Foundation donated funds to him for his daughter who has leukemia.

previously mentioned, Steve Cowan also works closely on coordination with active military teams.

One of the most involved chapter members is **Steve Cowan** who heads the 'Shooters Cup Committee.' Steve coordinates with all committee members regarding all aspects of the pending 'Second Annual Cup,' orders and purchases all necessary supplies to include the prizes (Springfield XD9 pistols), 'T' shirts, challenge coins and other materials. He is the Go to Guy! Steve is the designer of the 'Cup' logo and original brochure and advertisement which was used in the "Drop" and two issues of the "Soldier of Fortune Magazine."

John Joyce who is also a businessman helps with our administrative decisions and continues to provide the service as our best graphics designer for the chapter and 'Shooters Cup.' Notice the last two gun show flyers we are using to promote the chapters' sales...which have doubled since their introduction. The original idea for the flyers came from member **Richard Simonian** who also underwrites their production cost through his company.

Chapter Past President and Chairman of the Sponsor Recruitment Committee is **Jim Duffy** who has been very successful in garnering corporate support for the October 13 event. Nearly single handedly he is obtaining team sponsors and many corporate sales items for prizes for this years team members. He has a very time consuming and difficult'

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Jim Duffy and friend at Mike Raahages Gun Show on June, 2012. Jim helping raise funds for the Green Beret Shooters Cup and the Green Beret Foundation.



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job and does not get discouraged by many “no’s” when contacting various corporations. My guess is he receives about ten “no’s” to a “yes, we will participate with your organization’s event.”

I have not mentioned all participants in organizing the event or working at the many gun show booths we staff and selling raffle tickets to raise the necessary funds, however I do want to say that Honorary Member **Mike Keele** is providing and outstanding service to the chapter. He is working with Steve in the construction phase of projects for the ‘Cup’ and is one of the best fund raisers to date. Last month he raised over \$1500.00 in donations and ticket sales alone. Mike is always available and participates in all aspects of chapter and cup activities. By the way, Mike has written three very nice article for the Sentinel over the past several months. ♦

COMING EVENTS

Crossroads of the West Gun Shows

Chapter 78 Booth

AUGUST — Costa Mesa, Orange County Fair Grounds

Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19

.....
SOAR XXXVI Special Operations Association

36th Annual Reunion

October 22 – 26, 2012

The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

.....
Lonny Holmes, D-6067

President, Chapter 78



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78 and the 2nd Annual GREEN BERET SHOOTERS CUP
wish to thank our current 2012 sponsors, who are on board as of July.





FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS: SON OF SFA 78 MEMBER EARN'S HIS JUMP WINGS



Member Brad Welker had the privilege of returning to Fort Benning and pinning on his son, SSG Ryan Welker's, jump wings at Eubank's Field. Forty five years after Brad completed his fifth jump he was able to greet his son as he double timed off of DZ at Fryar Field. The officer's and enlisted personnel of Charlie Company 507th PIR were excellent hosts. The ceremony held

at the Tower Week training site was short due to the record 100 plus degree heat. The thirty four foot towers brought back memories of aching joints and painful groin rashes. Ryan has reported to his next duty station SOT-B of the 2nd Bn of the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell.



I'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY DAYS

By Mike K.

I spotted a table occupied by an older couple with two more places available, so I asked them if Cora and I could join them. "Sure," said the old fellow. "Please do," said the little old lady beside him.

Cora and I introduced ourselves, and by the old war horse's livery, I could see that he had fought in Manila. He was just one of the 16,000,000 who put on a uniform during WWII in the U.S. Roughly two million are still living. He had been a ground pounder; F Troop, 12th Cavalry Regiment, First Cavalry Division. He was born in 1920, and had tried to enlist in the Navy at the onset of the war, but he had no birth certificate so he was sent home to await his draft notice. By 1943, he was headed for the 1st Cavalry and he was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery during the fight for Manila. During the Philippine's campaign, he participated in the liberation of a POW camp in Manila. When the war ended, he was on a troop ship that deposited him, along with the rest of the Cav, in and around Tokyo.

He knew this would be his only opportunity to see Japan, being Mexican and from Los Angeles, undocumented and without an education. He had no aspirations to be a career soldier. His duties allowed him to do some sightseeing while he was in Japan, and he found the civilians polite and non-threatening.

Within a year, the soldier was a civilian back in Los Angeles. He had been granted citizenship upon his discharge and he went back to work, got married and had three kids. But something was always a little wrong. He had a drinking problem. He got divorced and didn't have much contact with his children. He got into fights, mostly when he was drunk. By the late 1960's, he was married once again to a woman who had one son. But, the drinking problem kept the family from having a solid union. In 1968, he was working for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, but he was going no place. He frequently begged his wife to call in sick for him, especially on Mondays. He knew he was at the end of his rope but still, he could not stop drinking. His wife confided to his mother that she was about to throw him out and was told to go ahead. Mom couldn't put up with him, either.

There is a pivotal moment in most well served lives, and it came in 1968 for this man. After many failed attempts to rid himself of the alcohol curse, our man got a break. His wife told him "I will give you thirty days. Shape up or get out." This seemed to fit in with what the law had in store for him, too, as he was

about to be sentenced for his third drunk driving conviction. Always a planner, he had arranged to take all his vacation, and had his tooth brush with him when he faced the Judge.

If this were a fairy tale, maybe the charge would be dropped. He might even serve the 90 days he expected to receive and come out a better man. But in those days, Judges had some latitude, and he said to our hero, "I can see that your problem is alcohol. You're not a criminal, so I'm going to sentence you to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Return here in one year with a progress report". Now there was hope. His wife went to the meetings every night with him because she knew that if he was given the opportunity to fall off the wagon, eventually he would. After a year, there had been progress. His wife was happy. He had stopped calling in sick and had been promoted at work. Now they even had money for a better home. He hadn't been in a fight in a long time, certainly not in a bar. In time they bought a house and now have many grandchildren and a bunch of great grandchildren. They both are retired and love to travel, even at their golden ages of ninety one and 83. They can move along at a sprightly clip, too, I might add.

So there is a moral to the story, I suppose. At some point in life, you have to realize that if you have a problem and you must get help. In WWI, it was called Shell Shock and there was little sympathy from the military. In WWII and Korea, it was called Combat Fatigue. There was more sympathy, but for some, the medical advice was "act normal and you'll be normal." For those of us in the Vietnam era and later, they now call it PTSD. We didn't even know we were sick, most of us, certainly not in any way connected with our military service. So coming to grips with the demons of our past can lead to a much more pleasant future. But for those with problems, acknowledgement of those problems is a first step.

Seeking professional help is more painless than one might think. Especially if you can avoid help from a judge. The V.A. turns virtually no one away, and private assistance agencies abound, most run by recovering veterans. If there is breath, there is hope for improvement. Just ask that little old couple who recently attended their fifth reunion as part of the First Cavalry Division Association. ♦



2nd Annual Green Beret Shooters Cup October 13th, 2012

www.sfa78cup.com • www.specialforces78.com



The 2nd annual Green Beret Shooters Cup will take place at Mike Raahuage's Gun Club on October 13th, 2012. This is a combat pistol competition featuring 5-man teams from LAPD SWAT, FBI, US Army Special Forces, Special Operations Command, LA DA's Office, LA Sheriff's and many other Police and Military Agencies.

The money raised from this event benefits wounded Green Beret's returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We invite the public to attend our free event. There will be booths set up by our sponsors like Aim Sports, Springfield, Magpul and many, many more. We will be raffling off many great shooters prizes as well.

Come and see these amazing teams compete and support your wounded Green Beret Veterans who have given so much to protect the United States of America and our way of life.



Visit our booth at the Gun Show for a chance to win:



Kimber .45 Custom II



Springfield M1A
With Scope and Bipod