



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78
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THE LTC FRANK J. DALLAS CHAPTER

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For His Wife and a Passion
for Running Marathons**

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To Board of Affordable
Community Living (ACL)**

Official 2012 Shooters Cup Movie

**Air Vietnam Crash
Nha Trang, Vietnam — 12-22-69**



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COVER PHOTO: Green Beret Special Forces Association Chapter
78 member, John Creel, at the 2012 ING Hartford Marathon in
Hartford, Connecticut.

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THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Lonny Holmes
President SFA 78

PRESIDENTS COLUMN FEBRUARY 2013

Each year the Sentinel highlights one member of Chapter 78 for his dedication to SF, family and country. In this issue we showcase member **John Creel** who was a "First Generation" Special Forces Soldier who was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (A) in Germany during the late 1950's. His unique story is pre-

sented in this issue by **Terry Cagnolatti**.

In the third week of January, **Jim Duffy** and I attended the annual "SHOT Show" (shooting, hunting, outdoor trade show) in Las Vegas, NV. The convention had more than 1600 booths dedicated to the firearms and hunting sports. All major corporations highlighted their new products and demonstrated their unique assets in the field. Jim and I set a goal of contacting all sponsors for the 2012 Green Beret Shooters Cup with the intention of their continuing support for the 2013 event. Secondly, we approached nearly fifty more corporations to introduce them to the GBSC to garner their support for this year. At this point in time, I believe we were successful. A third priority was to contact law enforcement and military members in attendance to recruit new and diversified teams. To further this recruiting Jim attended both a dinner and luncheon session for law enforcement officers. We spoke with multiple departments from CA, NV, OR, and AZ. Many of these officers are very interested. As luck would have it I spoke with the Team Captain of the Nevada Highway Patrol Shooting Team and several team members; yes they want to join us at the Third Annual GBSC in October.

A SHOT Show highlight was meeting with **CSM Dennis Berry** of the 4th Battalion of SF Training Group at Fort Bragg. CSM Berry is planning on sending a team for the 2013 GBSC although there is no federal funding. All travel and accommodations will be at team expense. Hopefully we can locate several sponsors to support active duty teams.

Mike Keele's article on the 2012 Green Beret Shooters Cup is in final layout for publication in the Soldier of Fortune Magazine.

Mike has been working closely with **LTC Robert K. Brown**, the publisher, and Mike had mentioned a very unique combat experience that one member of a 2012 Team had experienced. Well it looks like Mike stuck his neck out and has been asked to write about the event for the S.O.F. Magazine. We hope Mike will still occasionally write for the Sentinel since his articles are appreciated by all our members. *(Continued on page 2)*



Long Beach Police Department, who won the GBSC Trophy, 2012, display the trophy with pride along side other awards.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

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Mark Miller attended the final day of the SHOT Show, then two gun shows on the following weekend in Las Vegas. Mark and several friends went pistol shooting prior to heading back to California and mentioned the GBSC to staff at the range. On his return he received notification that the Clark County Shooting Complex was interested in the 'Shooters Cup.' The 'Complex' is host to the National Three Gun Finals each year as well as other large shooting matches. I followed up with the 'Complex' director and by printing time of this edition of the Sentinel I will have a formal tour and discussions with the senior range staff. I did make it clear that the 'Cup' will not move at the current time. However in the future we may require a larger facility than we currently use.

At the March chapter meeting we will appoint an elections committee to begin the nominations process for new chapter officers for the year 2014-2015 (a two year service period). Nominations and candidate selection are due by September and the election of officers will be held at the November chapter meeting. New officers will take the oath of office at the Annual Chapter 78 Christ-

mas Dinner. Their term will of office will officially begin January 1, 2014. ♦

Special Forces Association National Conference

Now is the time to begin planning for the Special Forces Association National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. The dates are June 26 to 30, 2013. The host hotel and location is the Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, TX. Room reservation is 1-888-421-1442. The SFA Group Number is 8220. For convention registration and payment see your current issue of the DROP. Note Jim Duffy will be the official Chapter 78 representative to attend the committee meetings. Chapter members who attend please look for Jim Weldon who was a long time Chapter 78 member prior to moving to Texas to be closer to his family. Jim was a medic who served with distinction in IV Corps RVN on A-433.

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The next chapter meeting is Saturday March 9, 2013 at American Legion Post 295.

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Lonny Holmes
President
Chapter 78



John Joyce and his wife, Ozielly, on vacation in Brazil, her home country. John is following the Special Forces, Airborne Ranger tradition traveling the world in his leisure time.



1-0 RT Delaware, second war, new and old weapons, Afghanistan

A FORMER GREEN BERET'S LOVE FOR HIS WIFE AND A PASSION FOR RUNNING MARATHONS

**Interview Conducted by
Terry Cagnolatti**

On January 10, 2013, I sat down with John Creel a member of Special Forces Chapter 78 who has a true love for his wife of 53 years, Ingrid; and a passion for running.

John stated that he joined the United States Army in October 1954, and completed jump school, at Fort Benning Georgia, in 1955, where he was recruited for the US Army Special Forces, also known as the "Green Berets." John's Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) were Communications and Demolitions.

In March 1957 John was deployed to Bad Tolz, Germany and assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group. While assigned to the 10th Group Creel completed language school - yes, you guessed it - German. John met his wife Ingrid in Munich, Germany in 1958 and they were married in 1959. A year later they moved back to the United States where John was honorably discharged at Fort Hamilton, New York in 1961.



John and his wife Ingrid with Denis Paez

John has been retired since completing a combined 40 years working for both the General Electric Company and Kaiser Hospital as a sales representative and x-ray technician respectively.

While working out at his local gym in 2004 and at the age of sixty-seven (67) John

met a group of young women who were training to walk/run a half marathon at the Los Angeles Marathon event. Two women of the group were Margaret Chau and Jean Gardner who eventually became his running partners along with Denis Paez and Kevin Kilcoryne. John thought it would be fun to join in the race; however he had not run much since his military days. John said of the race, "I did fine for the first eight miles but cramped up and it took me forty minutes to run the last four miles."

However, John did not give up on running, as in true Special Forces tradition. He continued to train with a group called. "A Snail's Pace," there John connected with a group of friends. On October 10, 2004 John ran his first full 26.2 mile marathon race. It was then he fell in love with running and set a goal to run a marathon in each one of the fifty states in America. After the Long Beach Marathon on October 10, 2004, Creel ran the Boston Marathon on April 18, 2006, starting his quest of the fifty states.

(Continued on page 4)



John Creel (far right) and 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Bad Tolz, Germany



(Continued from page 3)

As John left to compete in each state, he found himself facing another challenge. John's wife Ingrid was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1988, her condition has grown progressively worse with each passing year, John stated, "Ingrid can neither stand, walk nor feed herself; she has not been able to walk since 1995." Each time John left California to compete in an out of state race he would hire a local live- in caregiver to be with Ingrid for the duration of his trip, usually two or three days at a time. John stated, " it became clear that these arrangements were not working out because he learned Ingrid was not getting the proper care." She would at times remain in bed for John's entire trip. Both John and Ingrid decided that it would be best for her, Ingrid, to accompany him on each out of state marathon. John researched and found a caregiver that would provide proper care for Ingrid in each one of the states they traveled to.

The company is called "A Place for Mom" ran by Trish Bossow, a caregiver Franchisee who lives and works near Ft. Worth, Texas. "Trish has provided us with extremely reliable care-giver options for over three years; I cannot over state how much she has helped us."



John Creel celebrating making his goal of 50 marathons in 50 states with fellow runners

On November 15, 2009, Ingrid accompanied John for the first out of state marathon which was held at San Antonio, Texas and forty-four marathons afterwards. John and Ingrid also participated together in races as John would push Ingrid in her wheelchair in four 5 K races over the last two years.

John Creel completed his goal of the fifty state marathons on October 13, 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut where he placed second in his age group (see photos) at the age of seventy-six years old and has completed a total of 60 Marathons.

John has placed over the entire period of competing in his age group first in twenty two races, second in thirteen races, and third in nine races.

I asked John, what was your favorite or best race? He immediately answered "New York," because of the crowd. We ran through five boroughs and the crowds were electrifying. John added, he also ran past Fort Hamilton where he was honorably discharged from the service in 1961, which was exciting. I then asked John what was his least favorite or most challenging race? John replied Green River, Wyoming, stating "because the course went from 6,000 feet to 7,050 feet in 3 miles, almost straight up. We had to turn around and come down the

same road, a very difficult race."

John Creel is an inspiration to Americans of all ages not only for his tenacity and discipline in completing over sixty marathons at the young age of seventy-eight, but more so for the love of his wife Ingrid.

In 2009, John and Ingrid returned to Germany with a large group of family members to renew their wedding vows after fifty years of marriage at the same chapel where they were married in 1959.

"De Oppresso Liber" ♦



John Creel at the finish line of the 2012 ING Hartford Marathon.



John Creel accepting his award at end of the marathon... a true "Green Beret"

JOHN STRYKER MEYER ADDED TO BOARD OF AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY LIVING (ACL)



ACL is the non-profit corporation that owns 8 mobile home parks for low to moderate income families which are managed by Santiago. The Board of Directors recently added John Stryker Meyer, a U.S. Army Special Forces combat veteran and author, to help expand the Veterans Affordable Housing Program offered by ACL to help veterans and their families achieve their "American Dream" of home ownership.

John Stryker Meyer is the author of Over

the Fence, the Secret War in Vietnam and On the Ground, the Secret War in Vietnam in which he recounts his top secret reconnaissance missions as part of MACV-SOG. Meyer is actively involved with several veterans service organizations and is passionate about "serving those who have served us".

Meyer will be part of a new committee to expand the Veterans Affordable Housing Program which has helped more than 70 veterans and their families. The committees' focus will be to find ways to network with other veterans organizations to find veterans who need affordable housing as well as find sources of funding i.e.; donors and grants for our down payment assistance program. ♦



Now available to watch at the Shooters Cup website!
www.sfa78cup.com



AIR VIETNAM CRASH NHA TRANG, VIETNAM — 12-22-69



Submitted by Brad Welker, this is a picture of a crash that took place in Nha Trang, RVN 22 December 1969. The Air Vietnam passenger plane ran off the runway at the Air Base there. Ironically it struck a jeep as it ran off the field containing SFC Richard V. Williams of Delta Project (B52) who was seriously injured and medically evacuated to Japan where he died of the injuries about a month later.

The Victoria Club was a bar frequented by lower ranking American GI's. The information below describes the events. The civilian deaths included bar girls and children in an adjacent "school".

ACCIDENT DETAILS

Date: December 22, 1969

Location: Nha Trang, Vietnam Operator: Air Vietnam (South Vietnam)

AC Type: Douglas DC-6B

Registration: B-2005

cn / ln: 44694

Aboard: 77 (passengers:70 crew:7)

Fatalities: 10 (passengers:10 crew:0)

Ground: 24

Summary: An explosive device was detonated in the cabin just as the aircraft was about to land. The blast damaged the aircraft's hydraulics. The aircraft became airborne, overran the runway and crashed into a school.