



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2017



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5th Special Forces Group Memorial Service Held for
Three Killed in Jordan

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From an A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF Group Wife



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COVER: The honored guests of Chapter 78's 2016 Christmas Dinner — the wives and girlfriends of the deployed members of A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF GP (ABN). Photo by Geri Long.



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From the Editor



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

To quote Major John Cleckner, "A GREAT Lady of Special Forces has passed." On Christmas Eve Catherine Bank, wife of Colonel Aron Bank passed on. She was 96 year old, born on July 3, 1920 and raised in Luxembourg. She met Colonel Aron Bank after World War II and they were married on August 4, 1948. They moved to the United States living at Fort Bragg, NC and later in Virginia, becoming an American citizen.

They had two daughters, Linda and Sandy, and two great grandsons, KJ and Wyatt. Following the colonel's retirement they relocated to San Clemente. Catherine will be interned at the Riverside National Cemetery with her husband, Colonel Bank.

Chapter 78's annual Christmas Dinner was a huge success this year and honored the wives and girlfriends of the Green Berets of A Company, 19th Special Forces Group, Airborne. We give a special thanks to chapter member **Richard Simonian** who paid for and made transportation and hotel arrangements for these special women. One of the wives was flown from Washington, and chapter members funded her airfare. Alex Quade was our special guest speaker and Mr. Simonian also supported her travel expenses. A "Tip of the Beret" to Richard for helping to make this years Christmas Dinner very special for all.

Sadly, as the "War on Terrorism" continues we are losing more of our fellow Green Berets killed in the Middle East. **Brad Welker** represented Chapter 78 by attending the Memorial Services for SFC Lewellen, SSG McEnroe and SSG Moriarty held on the 5th Special Forces Group Gabriel Field, at Fort Campbell, KY. These are the first Green Beret's killed in action by terrorists in the country of Jordan.

Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor



LEFT: Catherine Bank

RIGHT: COL Aron and
Catherine Bank on their
wedding day in 1948

The President's Page | January 2017



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

Happy New Year everyone. I hope all of you had a safe and a Merry Christmas.

Our Christmas party at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club was a major success. I'm not sure how we did it, but we had a total of 118 members and guests! The General Manager Scott Jones just shook his head. I don't think he was very happy especially after we "borrowed" a couple of chairs from the Yacht Club banquet room. As usual the food was

GREAT and we really "lucked" out because we got in line first!

The Posting of the Colors was conducted by Crescenta Valley High School JRROTC, located in the city of La Crescenta. Their escorts were LTC Worley and his lovely wife Gayle.

The highlight of the night was honoring the wives and girlfriends of the deployed members of A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF Group (ABN). The honorees were transported by a stretch limo from the Atrium hotel in Newport Beach and transported back after the event — a really BIG thanks goes out to **Richard Simonian**.

All of the women were given a long stem yellow rose as they were introduced. The wives with children were also given gift cards. As most of you know their husbands and boyfriends are currently serving in Afghanistan, and have already made contact with the Taliban with no casualties.

Special guest Alex Quade, war correspondent extraordinaire — what a delight — put on a great presentation along with several videos of her travels in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Alex has a documentary coming out early next year called "*Danger Close*". At the writing of this article, Alex is already back in good old Fayetteville, NC.

There were lots of door prizes followed by a Silent Auction, overseen by **Jim Duffy**. The proceeds from the auction were to

be used to purchase care packages to be sent to A Company. All of items were donated, including lower receivers and CCW courses by Artemis Defense Institute. Jim Duffy and I also donated some knives. The Miller brothers also collected cash donations by going table to table. By the end of the night, according to Jim Duffy, the Chapter collected \$3,500.

Our Chapter Person of the Year is no other than **Dorene Gomez**, Personal Assistant to Richard Simonian. The Chapter Certificate of Excellence was framed and given to her during our event. I think she was really surprised. Dorene does a lot of behind the scenes for the Chapter, and is greatly appreciated.

Another special guest was Ann Mills-Griffiths who serves as Chairman on the Board of Directors of the National League of POW/MIA Families. The Chapter is hoping to have her as a guest speaker sometime early next year.

Other guests included Steve and Sandy Lieberman owners and operators of Artemis Defense Institute.

Next Chapter meeting:

01/21/2017 at 0900 hrs at the Artemis Defense Institute located at 11 Spectrum N. Pointe Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630

Please contact me if you plan to attend as we need a head count for a continental breakfast and lunch. We will be doing competitive shooting after the meeting. Chapter members and their spouses shoot free, and the event is sponsored by Richard Simonian.

Any questions feel free to contact me.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ♦

Bruce D Long
President, SFA Chapter 78
SGM, SF (Ret)

A Special Thanks from Lena Eylicio

Hello to the Members of SFA Chapter 78,

I wanted to THANK YOU all again for such a wonderful time at the Christmas Dinner Party. Getting to meet Alex Quade was wonderful and watching what she has been able to be part of was awesome. Thank you for helping the 16 ladies that were able to make the party to finally meet up and enjoy this time together with each other and you. What you did to take care of the wives & girlfriends was wonderful. Some had not met or talked until that evening and now they have a chat group, and are scheduling Disneyland, beach and Coronado weekends together and talking all the time. Keeping in touch more with the ladies from out of state, inviting ladies to come down and stay with each other for weekends, etc. Thank you again to the

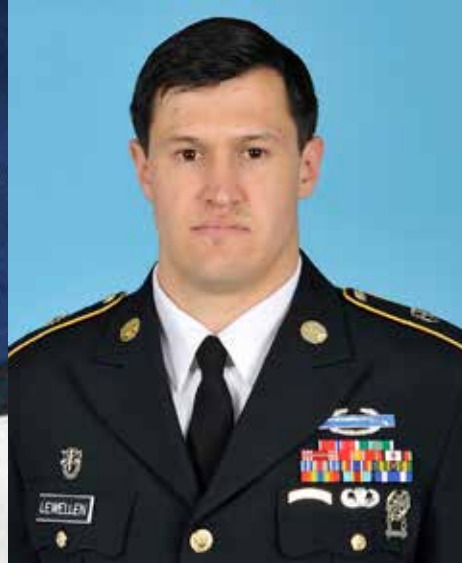
wonderful men of SFA Chapter 78 for helping get some of the ladies that really needed to be here down and to Mr Richard Simonian — you Sir are a guardian angel to these ladies and families, thank you for everything you do for our soldiers and their families. I am very proud to know you all and to be a part of the SF community. Merry Christmas & God bless!

Thank you,
Lena Eylicio
Respectfully,
Magdalena S Eylicio (Lena)
Lead/Co-Lead FRG Volunteers
A Co 5/19 SFG (A)

5th Special Forces Group Memorial Service Held for Three Killed in Jordan



SSG James F. Moriarty



SFC Matthew C. Lewellen



SSG Kevin J. McEnroe



Brad Welker

By Brad Welker

On 4 November 2106 three Special Forces soldiers returning from a training session in Jordan were treacherously fired upon by a Jordanian working as a security guard at their duty station. Engaged by automatic weapons fire the trio sought cover and announced in Arabic "Don't shoot we are Americans". The killer continued his assault and mortally wounded the men who were only armed with pistols. One of the SF men returned fire seriously wounding the assailant, who is reportedly in a coma.

On 8 December 2016 the 5th Special Forces Group held a memorial service on Gabriel Field at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. SFC Matthew C. Lewellen, SSG Kevin J. McEnroe were assigned to the 3rd Battalion and SSG James F. Moriarty was a member of the 1st Battalion. The Memorial was first held before a standing room only crowd, in the Liberty Chapel where teammates and commanders of all three men eulogized them.

The mourners retired to Gabriel Field where the entire 5th Special Forces Group stood at attention in the windy, thirty degree weather to honor their sacrifice. Memorial trees were planted to recognize each of the men were then dedicated and their next of kin placed roses adjacent to the memorial plaques.



Jim and Cindy Moriarty placing roses on Jim's tree.

James Moriarty, a Marine Corps helicopter crewman during the Vietnam War, father of SSG Moriarty has long been an advocate of Special Forces. He served on Operation Tailwind in his role as a door gunner. He became an attorney later and was instrumental in the correcting the false accusations made by CNN about Operation Tailwind.



ABOVE: Entire 5th Group (minus those deployed) stand at attention

RIGHT: Brad Welker and Mike Rose

Also present was retired Captain Mike Rose who was the medic who managed to care for and save all 16 Special Forces soldiers wounded during Tailwind. He was severely wounded, on the first day of the five day operation. He refused to be evacuated and continued to administer all the wounded SF and Hatchet Force strikers until they were all evacuated. Mike was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. His courage and dedication to duty during the operation have recently been re-evaluated and has been upgraded to a Medal of Honor. He will be receiving that honor early next year. ❖



SFA Chapter 78 Christmas Dinner 2016

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club, Corona Del Mar, CA



- 1 The evening's guests of honor — the wives and girlfriends of the deployed members of A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF Group (ABN)
- 2 The Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade
- 3 Members of the Crescenta Valley High School JRROTC.
- 4 Crescenta Valley High School JRROTC prepare to post colors.
- 5 Dorene Gomez, Chapter Person of the Year, and Bruce Long
- 6 A Crescenta Valley High School JRROTC student completes the POW/MIA ceremony

- 7 The POW/MIA table
- 8 Richard Simonian and Bruce Long
- 9 MSG Sato wore his Corcoran Jump Boots, designed by LT General, then LT, William P. Yarborough in 1941. MSG Sato's boots are an outstanding example. SF still wear these boots, which represent an Airborne Tradition and another mark of excellence.
- 10 MSG Chris Boodaghian and MSG Sato



11 Anna Meyer, Ann Mills-Griffiths, John Stryker Meyer, and Ed Barrett

12 Alex Quade

13 Ingrid and John Creel.

14 Kim Holmes, Brad Welker, and Nilda Holmes

15 Tom Turney and Lonny Holmes

16 Chris and Deanna Martin, daughter, guest

17 Jill and Tom Turney

18 Steven Lieberman, Kar Korps and Kavon Harvey of Artemis Defense Institute.

19 Danny Jacobson and Jill Jaxx

20 Debra and Darrell Holm

21 How Miller and wife

22 Aaron Anderson and wife

23 Jim Duffy and Brad Welker

24 Lonny and Nilda Holmes

25 Paul and Dorene Gomez

26 SFOD North Commander, Colonel Wise and daughter

27 MSG Boodaghian and wife

Alex Quade Joins Weekly Special Forces Shoot at Artemis Defense Institute



By LTC (Ret) Jim Duffy

On Friday December 16 Alex Quade, International War Reporter was invited to Artemis Defense Institute to join our weekly Special Forces shoot. Richard Simonian, Tilt Meyer, John Yeandle and I were joined by Alex, Bruce Long, Rob Pugh and Instructor Craig Schmelter in a series of accuracy, movement and scenario shootings with a modified Glock 22.

The courses of fire were challenging and Alex did great especially for the first time. Rob Pugh a 19th SFG Green Beret did great as well for his first time at Artemis but six years on deployments as a Green Beret and Contractor may have helped.

Alex was embedded with Rob's A-Team downrange so this was also a reunion for them.

On Saturday evening Alex gave an awesome presentation as Guest Speaker for Chapter 78's Annual Christmas Banquet. She discussed her background as a White House Intern, a TV Correspondent to an International War Reporter. Also shown



TOP LEFT: John Stryker Meyer, Richard Simonian, Rob Pugh, Alex Quade, Jim Duffy, Bruce Long; TOP RIGHT: Bruce Long; BOTTOM: Alex Quade and Rob Pugh

were videos of a final exercise of Robin Sage Green Beret candidates and an actual Green Beret combat operation. In all cases her access is unprecedented and provides up close and personal coverage. ❖

From an A Company 5th Battalion 19th SF Group Wife

Dear Mr. Richard Simonian,

I can't begin to tell you how appreciative I am of the kindness you showed to myself and the fellow wives of our deployed soldiers.

Your thoughtfulness includes not only the invitation you extended to us wives but also the accommodations you provided for those

of us who were coming long distances to attend. I very much enjoyed meeting you all, including Mr. Jim Duffy and COL Wise, who have each provided guidance and hope for my husband while he is away on duty.

I had a great time, and really felt a part of a community that understands what we are going through during these uncertain times.

Thank you again for your inclusion and generosity,

Best wishes and merry Christmas!

Loni Canepa-Heyenbruch