



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SENTINEL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2017



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SFA Chapter 78 September 2017 Meeting

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Celebrating the Green Beret Family Reception

Magdalena Eylicio Presented with the Coveted Martha Raye Award

SOAR XLI

SOG Chronicles Volume One by John Stryker Meyer





SENTINEL

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COVER: President Donald Trump places the Medal of Honor around the neck of Capt. Mike Rose. (Photo Credit: C. Todd Lopez) Photos in this issue unless otherwise noted are by Lonny Holmes.



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From the Editor



Lonny Holmes
Sentinel Editor

Captain "Mike" Rose Awarded Medal of Honor for Operation Tailwind in Laos

Captain Gary Michael Rose was presented the Medal of Honor in a standing room only ceremony in the White House by President Donald Trump on Monday, October 23, 2017. Participants of Operation Tailwind to include members of Rose's Hatchet Force, some pilots and air crews joined family members and friends in the celebration. President Trump and Vice President Pence met with Capt.

Rose and those from Operation Tailwind privately after the ceremony.

The U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Berets) have been awarded seventeen Medals of Honor for combat action in the Vietnam War, eight posthumously. Colonel Roger Donlon was the first recipient in 1964 and attended all events honoring Capt. Rose. Many other MOH recipients also attended these events.

Sunday night, the evening prior to the MOH presentation began with a reception sponsored by the Acting Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy, which was joined by all invited guests. My wife, Nilda, said "there are so many general officers that I cannot count them." Mr. McCarthy gave a wonderful speech about Capt. Rose and his military career. This was only the beginning of four exciting days in Washington, D.C. which honored Capt. Rose.

Lonny Holmes presented Secretary McCarthy a Chapter 78 Challenge Coin and in return was given the Secretary's coin.

In this issue of the Sentinel there are multiple sections with photographs from the series of events honoring Capt. Rose and also the Laying of the Wreath on President John F. Kennedy's grave by the First Special Forces Command.

Security was extremely tight making TSA screening look like child's play and consisted of multiple I.D. checks and non-invasive measures for all who attended events in the White House and the Pentagon. Transportation was provided by the government and included a police escort with red lights and sirens closing all roads to give us the right of way at all times giving the attendees a feeling of royalty.

After a patient forty-seven year wait Capt. Gary Michael Rose finally received the Medal of Honor earned in the battlefields of Laos while the Hatched Force temporarily closed the Ho Chi Minh Trail and collected a vast amount of intelligence. Mike alone as the only medic on the operation provided care to all U.S. Special Forces men (16) and more that one hundred Montagnard soldiers and some air men who crewed the extraction aircraft. A "True American Hero."

A couple links to read more about Capt. Gary M. Rose's MOH

<https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/rose/>
https://www.army.mil/article/195774/medal_of_honor_awarded_to_capt_gary_m_rose_for_actions_in_laos

The President's Page | November 2017



Bruce Long
President SFA 78

This month's Chapter meeting was held at Marie Callender's Restaurant, just down the street from Richard Simonian's office in the city of Orange. A buffet style breakfast was served and was enjoyed by all.

Call to order for our Chapter meeting was at 0930 hrs. Our pledge of allegiance was given by our Sergeant of Arms **Mark Miller**. The invocation was given by **Richard Simonian**.

Richard gave the Treasurer's report, and we currently have \$2,090 in the account. The Chapter received a \$300 check from Sgt. Maj (Ret) Billy Waugh and he apologized for not being able to speak at our Chapter meeting as planned.

Reading of the OCTOBER Chapter minutes was waived.

As most of you know, Capt. Gary (Mike) Rose SF medic received the Medal of Honor on 10/23/17 at the White House. **Tilt Meyer** and **Lonny Holmes** were invited and attended the ceremony at the White House.

At the writing of this column, I received a Facebook link from **Tom Turney** on the White House MOH ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjiGsJS3sN8>

Congratulations are in order for **Lena Eylicio**, who received the Martha Raye award from the Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT). This event was held at the Sheraton Pentagon, Washington D.C. Lena was accompanied by her husband **SGM Hank Eylicio**. Lena received this award for all of her hard work while A/5/19 was deployed in Afghanistan, and other deployments.



SFC James Light, COL Mike Wise, SF (Ret) LTC Jim Duffy, LTC Karl Johnson, Chapter 78 President SF (Ret) LTC Bruce Long

"Social Gathering of Men" will take place on November 10th 0630 hours at the Proud Bird restaurant located in Los Angeles. Richard has purchased tables for this upcoming event.

Jim Duffy made a recommendation that Alex Quade be nominated as an Honorary Green Beret. The Chapter membership agreed. Jim will contact National to find out what is required.

Tom Turney is involved in then "Save the Montagnard People/Vietnam Fund", and asked the Chapter to pass a resolution in support this organization. The Chapter agreed, unanimously.

The Airborne Operation was cancelled due to high winds.

SOD (North) will be conducting a Change of Command on October 24th (Tuesday) between 1100 – 1200 hours on the Anderson DZ, and after an Airborne Operation. The DZ is located at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

COL Wise will be re-assigned to the J-3 State of CA HQ in Sacramento until his retirement in May 2018. LTC Karl Johnson (promotable) will assume Command. Karl has also been the Commander of A Company.

Also present for the Change of Command was the new A Company Commander **Major Otenti**. Major Otenti is a new Chapter member, and hopes to attend our upcoming Christmas party along with his wife.

As previously mentioned, effective January, 2018 the Chapter will start meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Therefore, January 13th, 2018 will be the first Chapter meeting of the year under your new President **John (Tilt) Meyer**

Continued on page 2



Jim Duffy, Major Otenti, and Bruce Long

Fundraising: Don Deatherage briefed the Chapter, and as of now, all we need to do is agree on how much we should sell raffle tickets for and how many. Don will then submit our application for a permit which will be good for a year, September through September. The Chapter membership agreed to sell raffle tickets at \$10 each, and to purchase 1500 raffle tickets. The permit process can be renewed every year. It's the Chapter's hope that we can sell raffle tickets over a period of time so that we may collect more money for our Chapter.

Memorial Fund: We also collected \$110 for our Memorial Fund. A separate line item will be listed on the Treasurer's report. Again, this is strictly for Chapter members and spouses only.

In case of some of you don't know, the Chapter is a 501C-19 organization. Donations to the Chapter are tax deductible. If requested, I would be glad to send you the letter from SF National and the IRS. All you have to do is ask.

A "Go Fund Me" site has been set up by SFA Chapter 23 to help the fire victims in Northern CA. One of their Chapter member's **Fred Waltz** lost everything. Fred and I served with the 12 SFG back in the 80s. Great guy—he actually attended the recent SOA reunion in Las Vegas. Which brings me to another sad announcement,

Tony Burditus, a retired SF, lost his wife during the mass shooting in Las Vegas. Contributions to his family can also be made on "Go Fund Me" (<https://www.gofundme.com/burditus-family-fund>). This information was supplied by SFA Chapter 75.

Next Chapter meeting: November 18th, location to be announced at a later time. Hopefully Prado Dam Shooting Range.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 16th, same location, same time. I hope to get the invitations out early this November with a deadline of the first week of December. We will also have assigned tables; this will help cut down the confusion on where to sit. ♦

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

SFA Chapter 78 October 2017 Meeting TALES FOLLOWING TALES



Mike Keele

By Mike Keele

Chapter 78's faithful gathered at the Marie Callendar's restaurant in Orange, CA on October 21st, right after some of the fellowship had just returned home from Las Vegas and the Special Operations Assn. Reunion. This was the forty-first such gathering of the mostly recon guys, mixed healthfully with a smattering of rotor heads and starched wing jockeys who supported

these highly unique recon vagabonds. Chapter 78's president-elect John—just call me "Tilt"—Meyer—was highly conspicuous, telling tales of yesteryear and looking down the road to a new episode of the Operation Tailwind story from 1970 in Laos. Earlier this year, Tilt wrote a six part piece for an on-line blog called Sof-Rep, in which he outlined the actions of the lone medic on that operation of one hundred and thirty six men of the indigenous Kontum Hatchet Force, including their sixteen Special Forces advisors. One of those men, Gary "Mike" Rose, was the lone medic on that mission and he was scheduled to receive the Medal of Honor the on Monday, October 23rd. Among those invited to attend that ceremony were Tilt and Rose's Vietnam buddy (and Sentinel Editor) Lonny Holmes, who was also the Best Man at Rose's wedding.

Our meeting was originally intended to host retired SF notable Billy Waugh, but he had to cancel after suffering a fall a week or so before the meeting. Billy's book *Hunting the Jackal* gave highlights of his long Special Forces career and subsequent follow-on tour de force with the CIA, ending with 74-year-old Billy hitting the ground in Afghanistan just after 9-11.

So, with Billy being Hors d'Combat, president Bruce Long scurried around in search of a replacement and Presto! The e mails flew fast and exciting, naming a guy who has some experience as a combat videographer who was willing to give us a briefing on his experiences in the sand box. With breakfast under our belts and still no speaker, Bruce called and got the man out of bed. Bed!

So the meeting became a retelling of tales of the SOAR Convention and Tilt's description of Operation Tailwind and it's tactical significance. Tilt also asked for, and was granted, a change of our monthly meeting back to the second Saturday of each month. The current meeting date was made in an attempt to bring in members from A/1-19 SF, who are obligated to attend a meeting of their own on the second Saturday. Since the youngsters rarely came to our meetings, we voted to switch back, beginning in January.

Continued on page 18

THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS



Updates on the Montagnards



Tom Turney

History of The Montagnards

By Tom Turney

The Montagnards have lived in the Central Highlands for centuries. Their origins have been traced back to both ancient Malay Polynesian groups who migrated from Polynesia and Indonesia and the Mon Khmer who migrated from Burma, today's Myanmar. There are over 28 different groups within the five primary Montagnard

tribes which are Bahnar, Jarai, Rhade, Koho and Mnong.

Before outsiders showed up in the Central Highlands, Montagnard life was simple and peaceful and revolved around the seasons, the family, and the village. They hunted, fished and grew crops to satisfy their lifestyle. Their weapons were crossbows and spears and transportation was by foot, horse or elephant.

Things began to change in the mid 1800s when the French moved into the Central Highlands lured by the productive lands and the availability of Montagnard labor. The French ruled Indochina (today's Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) beginning in 1884 when they defeated China in the Sino-French War. They ruled Indochina as a protectorate of France and their influence is still evident today in many parts of what was then Indochina.

After World War II, the North Vietnamese Communists led by Ho Chi Minh battled for control of Vietnam. The French recruited thousands of Montagnards as soldiers and at one time had 13 Montagnard battalions who fought alongside them against the North Vietnamese. In return, the French promised the Montagnards independence from Vietnamese rule and created an autonomous country for them in South Indochina called "Pays Montagnards Du Sud Indochinois" granting self-administration and self-determination to the Montagnard people of the Central Highlands.

When the French were defeated by the North Vietnamese at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the Geneva Accord was negotiated without participation of Montagnard leaders. The Accord split Vietnam



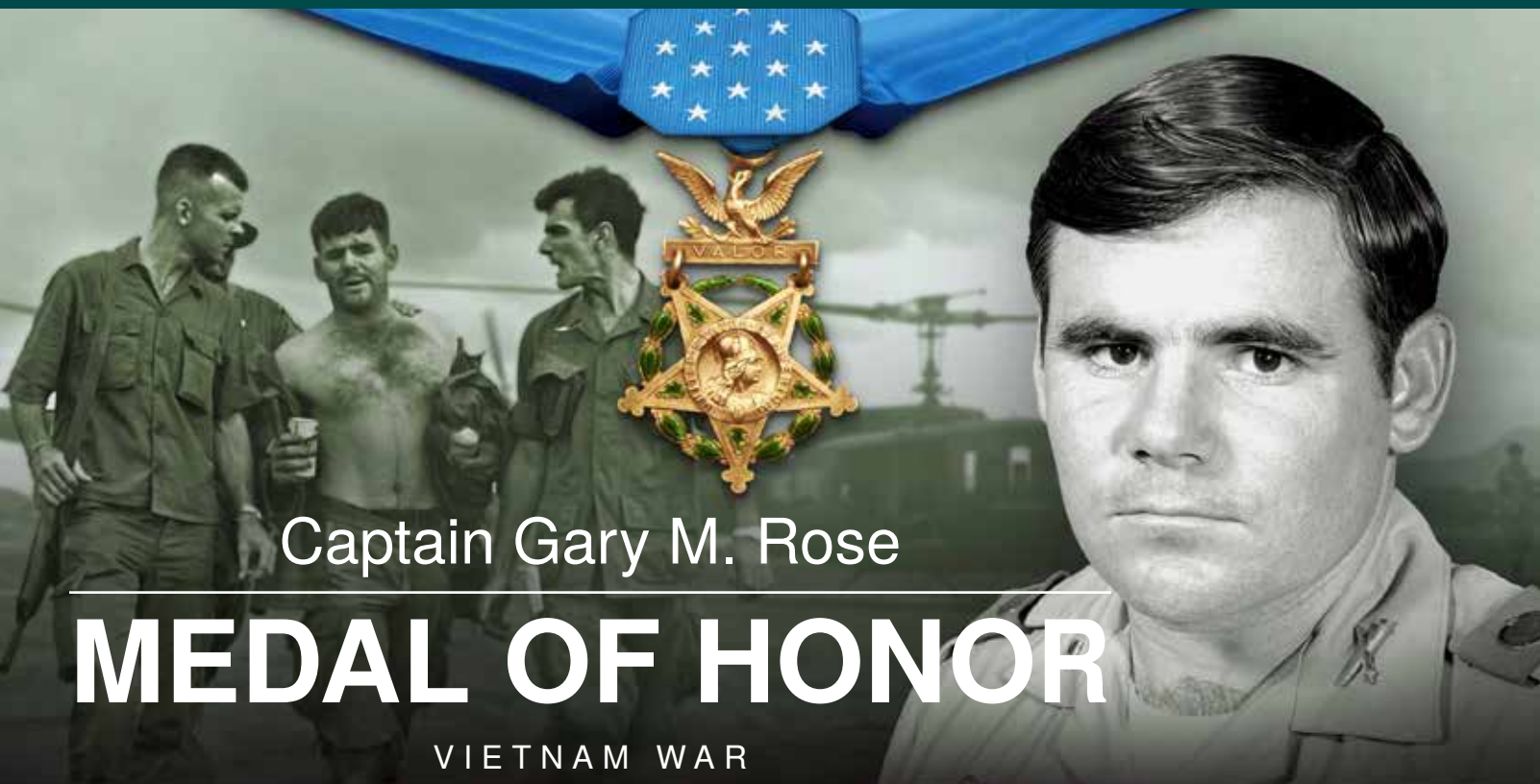
FULRO (Front Unifie De Lutte De La Races Opprimee) flag

into two countries divided by the 17th parallel. Ho Chi Minh assumed leadership in North Vietnam and Ngo Dinh Diem became the first President of the Republic of South Vietnam with the support of United States.

The Montagnard autonomy granted by the French was completely eliminated when France withdrew from Vietnam. The Central Highlands became part of the Republic of Vietnam under the Administration of the South Vietnamese government in Saigon. In the seven provinces of the Central Highlands, Montagnard Province Chiefs were replaced with Vietnamese leaders. The Montagnards were now classified as an "ethnic minority" on their own ancestral lands and the goal of the new government was assimilation. The 13 Montagnard battalions that had been part of the French army were reorganized and integrated into the South Vietnamese army and forced to take Vietnamese names. All Montagnard officers lost their commands and were replaced by Vietnamese commanders.

The government completely disarmed the Montagnards, confiscating traditional swords, spears and crossbows giving them to the Vietnamese who were recently resettled on Montagnard lands in the Central Highlands. Over a million North Vietnamese refugees fleeing the Communists were settled on the most fertile Montagnard lands in the Central Highlands and thousands of Montagnard people were forcibly relocated to less fertile lands.

Continued on page 18



Captain Gary M. Rose

MEDAL OF HONOR

VIETNAM WAR



I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT

I WILL NEVER QUIT

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE



On Monday, Oct. 23, 2017, President Donald Trump awarded the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, to retired Army Captain Gary M. Rose, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. To read the official Medal of Honor citation visit <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/rose/>.



Army Welcome Ceremony for the Medal of Honor Nominee, Captain Gary M. Rose

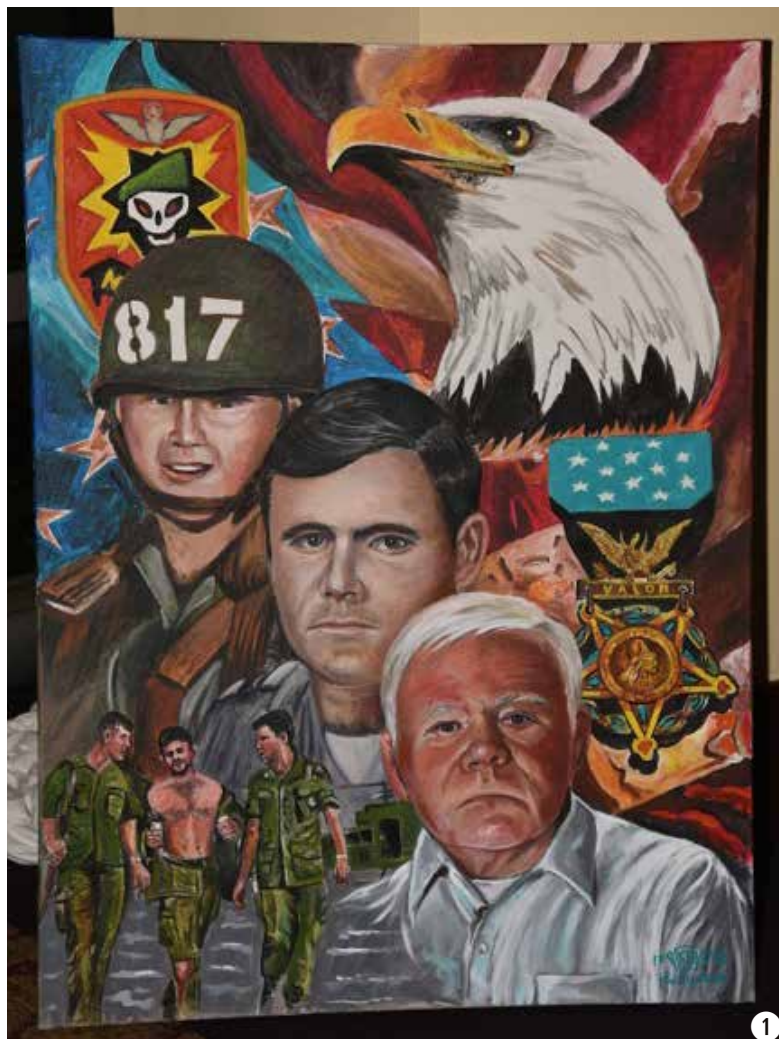
Hosted by the Acting Secretary of the Army • Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, Falls Church, VA



- ❶ Retired Captain Gary Michael Rose (known by family and friends as Mike)
- ❷ General Gary H. Cheek, Director of Army Staff
- ❸ Tom Tomlin and wife
- ❹ Lt. Col. Gene McCauley, then Captain, the Commander of Operation Tailwind in Laos. Without his planning and leadership Operation Tailwind would not have been a success.

- ❺ Merica Floyd, Captain Mike Rose and Mrs Charles Floyd, wife of our A-16 Team Sergeant
- ❻ John Stryker Meyer and Anna
- ❼ Lonny Holmes, a guest, Capt. Gary M. Rose and John Stryker Meyer

Army Welcome Ceremony for the Medal of Honor Nominee, Captain Gary M. Rose



① Painting presented by Ken Pridgeon, Sr.

② Capt. Gary M. Rose and his grandson appreciating the painting's detail. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)

③ Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey

④ Becky Moriarty did all the administrative coordination for participants who attended Capt. Gary M. Rose's MOH Ceremony and events. Just prior to the start of the Army Welcome Ceremony for the Medal of Honor Nominee she completed the Marine Marathon in Washington, D.C. All thank Becky for her hard work.

⑤ Artist Ken Pridgeon, Sr.

⑥ Capt. Gary M. Rose

⑦ Lonny Holmes presenting Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy with a Special Forces Chapter 78 Challenge Coin.



- ⑧ Capt. Gary M. Rose and his family pose for a group photo with senior Army leaders. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ⑨ Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey and Retired Sgt. Maj. Morris Adair (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ⑩ Capt. Gary M. Rose and Nilda Holmes
- ⑪ Gen. James C. McConville, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army & Retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. and Medal of Honor recipient Bennie G. Adkins
- ⑫ U.S. Soldiers with the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" perform "The Ballad of the Green Beret."
- ⑬ Lonny & Nilda Holmes and Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson

Medal of Honor Ceremony • The White House



- ① Retired U.S. Army Capt. Gary M. Rose smiles at a passenger during the car ride to the White House ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ② Capt. Gary M. Rose and wife, Margaret pose for a photo before the Medal of Honor ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ③ Capt. Gary M. Rose poses with grandchildren. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ④ 1st Sgt. Bright & Sgt. Maj. Adair
- ⑤ Decorations of 1st Sgt. Bright
- ⑥ Medal of Honor recipients in attendance for the ceremony.
- ⑦ Sgt. 1st Class (R) Melvin Morris MOH
- ⑧ Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins MOH
- ⑨ Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tony Goble, Colonel John Stahl Deputy Commanding Officer, Sgt. Maj. Colden and Nilda Holmes, left to right. 5th Special Forces Group Airborne representatives attending MOH Ceremony.



- ⑩ Medal of Honor recipients stand during the Medal of Honor ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ⑪ Chaplain, Major General Paul K. Hurley giving Invocation
- ⑫ President Trump and Capt. Gary M. Rose
- ⑬ President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike R. Pence and retired U.S. Army Capt. Gary M. Rose pose for a photo with guests after the ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tammy Nooner)
- ⑭ Rose speaks with President Trump at the White House reception following the ceremony.
- ⑮ Retired Capt. Gary M. Rose
- ⑯ Rose speaks with fellow MOH on the White House grounds after the ceremony.
- ⑰ Deputy Commanding Officer 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne, Colonel Stahl and Nilda Holmes
- ⑱ Presidential Dining Room

Reception in Honor of Medal of Honor Captain Gary M. Rose

Hosted by The Special Forces Charitable Trust • 2941 Restaurant Falls Church, VA



- ① Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH with members of Operation Tailwind in Laos on September 11-14, 1970.
- ② Col. Roger Donlon MOH and Sgt. Maj. Hank Eylicio
- ③ Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH and Maj. John Padgett who was the medic on the extraction air craft in Operation Tailwind in Laos.
- ④ Green Berets past and present, all served in 5th Special Forces Group Airborne. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kamar, Master Sgt. Austin, Col. Roger Donlon MOH, Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH and Sgt. 1st Class Laughlin.
- ⑤ Col. Roger Donlon the first Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War (1964) and Capt. Gary M. Rose the last Medal of Honor awarded for the Vietnam War. Both "great" Special Forces soldiers.





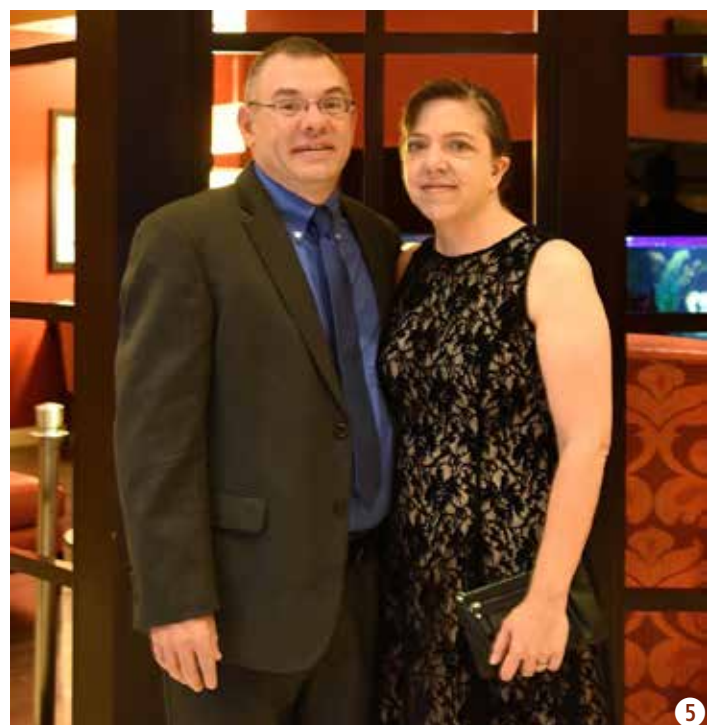
- ⑥ Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH and grandson with Col. Roger Donlon MOH
- ⑦ Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH and Catherine Merica Floyd, daughter of Team Sergeant "Chuck" Floyd, A-16
- ⑧ Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tony Goble, 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne and John Stryker Meyer.
- ⑨ Magdalena and Company Sgt. Maj. Eylicio of A Company, 19th Special Forces Group

- ⑩ Sgt. Maj. Eylicio with the ladies, Anna and Nilda
- ⑪ Sgt. Maj. Eylicio and CSM Golden
- ⑫ Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH with members of Operation Tailwind to include air crews and pilots
- ⑬ Colonel Stahl, Deputy Commanding Officer, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Stahl speaking about Capt. Gary M. Rose MOH.

Induction into the Hall of Heroes Ceremony • Pentagon Auditorium



- ❶ From left, Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan, Acting Secretary of the U.S. Army Ryan D. McCarthy, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey participate in the Medal of Honor Induction Ceremony for retired Capt. Gary M. Rose at the Pentagon, in Arlington, Virginia.
- ❷ Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James C. McConville presenting Capt. Gary M. Rose with the Medal of Honor Flag.
- ❸ 2nd from left Rick Estes President of the Special Operations Association, CSM Robert "Spider" Parks who was on Operation Tailwind
- ❹ Capt. Gary M. Rose speaking on his induction into the Army Hall of Heroes.
- ❺ Mr. Neil Thorn and his wife, Molly. Neil was the man responsible for getting Capt. Gary M. Rose's MOH approval through Congress. "A job well done!"



John F. Kennedy Wreath Laying Ceremony • Arlington National Cemetery

October 25, 2017 • Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



- ❶ ❷ Special Forces Wreath Laying Ceremony at President John F. Kennedy's grave site by the 1st Special Forces Command, led by Commanding General, Major General Francis M. Beaudette.
- ❸ Cpt. Gary Michael Rose MOH, shaking hands with Major General Francis M. Beaudette, Commanding Officer, 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) at the President John F. Kennedy Grave.
- ❹ U.S. Army Sgt. Jeremy Bennett with retired Capt. Gary M. Rose after the wreath laying ceremony. (Photo by Pfc. Julie Driver)
- ❺ Major General Kurt L. Sonntag, Commanding General of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.
- ❻ Congressman Joe Kennedy III and Major General Francis M. Beaudette at the John F. Kennedy Grave after presenting the Special Forces Wreath



Celebrating the Green Beret Family Reception



- ❶ Col. Angle, Sgt. Maj. Eylicio, Gen. Patrick Roberson Deputy Commanding Officer, 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) and retired Maj. Clyde Sincere an original Green Beret
- ❷ Senior NCO's from the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne): Sgt. Maj. Strong, 1st Sgt. Wilson and Master Sgt. Austin
- ❸ Magdalena "Lena" and Sgt. Maj. Eylicio
- ❹ Green Beret author, retired Maj. John Plaster who was one of the first to write about Operation Tailwind and then Sergeant Mike Rose, Capt. Gary M. Rose, and Mrs. Plaster.
- ❺ 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), Deputy Commanding Officer, Brig. Gen. Patrick Roberson and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Rarey
- ❻ CSM Shorter of 1st SFG(A), his wife Leslie with Lena Eylicio and Sgt. Maj. Eylicio of the 19th SFG(A). Leslie Shorter was also a Martha Raye Award Recipient. The SGM's are long career friends.





David T Guernsey Jr., Executive Director of the Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT) presents the Martha Raye Award to Magdalena Eylicio (center) wife of SGM Eylicio of A Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).



Magdalena Eylicio center, front row. Eight women from the 1st, 5th, 10th, and 19th SFG(A) plus one from the 4th MISG (A) and 95th Civil Affairs (A) who were awarded the Colonel Martha Ray Award by the Special Forces Charitable Trust for extraordinary contribution to the well-being and morale of Green Berets and their families.

MAGDALENA EYLICIO PRESENTED WITH THE COVETED MARTHA RAYE AWARD

Magdalena Eylicio was presented the Martha Raye award at the Celebrating the Green Beret Family Reception in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

This award is given annually to women who have provided extraordinary contribution to the well-being and morale of Green Berets and their families. Mrs. Eylicio, wife of Sergeant Major Hank Eylicio of A Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was chosen along with seven other women who represented all Special Forces Groups and support units world-wide.

An honorary Green Beret, Colonel Martha Raye was chosen as patron of this award because of her extraordinary contribution to the well-being and moral of the Green Berets especially during the Vietnam War.

The Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT) provides these awards to the women of the Green Berets as part of the Trusts mission which includes delivering critical, enduring support through comprehensive progress and services that improve the quality of life and enhance mission readiness for the U.S. Army Special Forces Community—past and present—and their Families.

A “Tip of the Beret to Magdalena” from Chapter 78 and all Green Berets! ❖



Magdalena Eylicio's Colonel Martha Ray Award.



- ❶ SOA President Emeritus Clyde Sincere and Col. Roger Donlon congratulate SOA Members who were awarded 40 Year Pins.
- ❷ Master of Ceremonies, retired Col. Rand Binford, SOA Board of Directors. Col. Binford was the Commanding Officer of 1st Special Forces Group Airborne prior to retirement.
- ❸ Ed on left, Mike Stern and Jimi Salaga

- ❹ Ed's decorations
- ❺ Stan Steenbok and "SF Legend" CSM (R) Joe Lopez "China Boy"
- ❻ Members of "Delta" Project Vietnam. Bottom row right, Mike Stern my old team mate.



- ⑦ Keynote Address at SOAR 41 by Col. Roger Donlon, MOH
- ⑧ Chapter 78 members Brad Welker, Mike Keele, Doug Le Tourneau and Chapter President Bruce Long
- ⑨ Major (R) Clyde Sincere and wife
- ⑩ Crossed canes of two SF Giants. Two 85 year old warriors still can have fun!
- ⑪ Capt. Chris McClure, SOA Board of Directors
- ⑫ Brad Welker, John Joyce, and 5th SFGA friend of John's
- ⑬ Mike Keele and Davie Maurer
- ⑭ Cora and Mike Keele
- ⑮ Special Operations President Rick Estes and wife (left) and Nilda Holmes
- ⑯ Nilda Holmes and Magician Patrick Martin who presents the "Art of Illusion Show at SOAR. Note \$5 bill floating in mid air!
- ⑰ Special Forces Executive Director Cliff Newman and wife Karen

History of the Montagnards continued

Montagnard leaders who opposed the new regime were jailed or killed and the teaching of Montagnard languages was banned while all documents and books in the Montagnard dialects were destroyed. After Diem was assassinated in 1963, the South Vietnamese government was ultimately taken over by Nguyen Van Thieu, but the oppression of the Montagnards continued.

In response to these actions, the Montagnards began a movement for independence called Bajaraka (formed from letters of the main Montagnard tribes) which the South Vietnamese government immediately crushed and jailed its leaders. Several years later a new underground movement known as FULRO (Front Unifie De Lutte De La Races Opprimee) was formed again aimed at creating an independent state for the Montagnards.

With the entry of the US into the Vietnam War, Army Special Forces established the Civilian Irregular Defense Group and recruited Montagnards and constructed a number of A Camps in the Central Highlands to counter the growing influence of the North Vietnamese Army infiltration down the Ho Chi Minh trail. Montagnards and Special Forces worked closely together for over a decade and developed a special bond of friendship, respect and trust.

When the US left Vietnam most of the Montagnards remained. They continued to fight for their independence in Vietnam and Cambodia but the combination of the Communist North Vietnamese now controlling the Central Highlands and the Communist Khmer Rouge controlling the border areas of Cambodia near Vietnam, many Montagnards died.

Today the Montagnards are dispersed, extremely poor and still persecuted. Former Special Forces soldiers have been working to help the Montagnards for years, and we as a group continue to work on behalf of those who supported us.

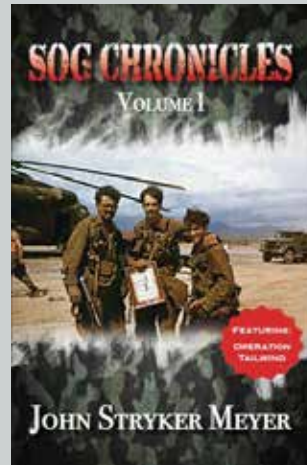
This section of The Sentinel will continue to carry stories about the Montagnards. Anyone interested in publishing a story about their experiences with the Montagnards or sharing photos is encouraged to contact Tom Turney at turney@newcap.com. ❖

Tales Following Tales continued

Another topic of discussion was our attempts to schedule a day at the range at Prado Dam, where the shooting events for the 1984 Olympics were held. Renting the space is a trifle on the expensive side, so President Long is vowing to get as many of the members out to shoot as possible. These events are always fun, but a benefit of shooting at Artemis—where fire is simulated with a laser-loaded Glock 19—is that old hands don't have to clean weapons afterward. There is an unsubstantiated rumor though, that Ed Barrett was volunteering to bring his entire arsenal for the guys to shoot, and he would cover the gun cleaning.

How did then Green Beret Sergeant Gary Michael Rose earn his Medal of Honor? This book tells the story.

In SOG Chronicles Volume One, the first six chapters will focus on a SOG mission in September 1970, upon reflection, a suicide mission, where 16 Green Berets led by a savvy, experienced unconventional special operator and 120 indigenous troops took pressure off of a CIA operation deep in Laos and survived four days of nearly constant combat thanks to strong close-air support.



It was also unique in that it was one of the few missions in SOG history where participants were approved to take official photos documenting the mission, dubbed "Operation Tailwind." Aviators were given approval to take photos too. Another unique aspect of these first six chapters are interviews from many of the aviators and crew members who supported

Operation Tailwind from the air, including: Air Force fast movers, single propeller A-1H Skyraiders, forward air controllers; Marine Corps Cobra gunships, with the radio call sign "Scarface"; Marine Corps heavy-lift CH-53D helicopters; and some Army helicopter support.

This is an excerpt from **SOG Chronicles Volume One**
By John Stryker Meyer

To purchase the paperback book or an e-book version of *SOG Chronicles Volume One* you can go to Meyer's website: www.sogchronicles.com

Or directly to www.amazon.com, and type in John Stryker Meyer

Perhaps the most exciting project on the fire is the setting up of a high-end gun raffle, with a number of guns to be raffled off, and the crown jewel being an AR in .308 caliber, being donated by Bruce's neighbor and newest best friend for life, who has a gun manufacturing operation right here in downtown Orange, CA. Other weapons will be donated by Chapter good guys, with the goal being to raise \$10K for our activities fund. The process of getting authorization for a raffle from the State of California has been started, and should be completed before my teenage grandchildren graduate from college. Plans call for twelve hundred tickets to be sold at about \$10 apiece. *Buy early and often.*