



SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 78

The LTC Frank J. Dallas Chapter

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2021

COWBOY

The Special Forces Brotherhood
Stands By a Fellow Warrior

Capitol Police Officer Who Led Mob
Away from Senate Chambers
is an Army Iraq War Vet

Department of Veterans Affairs Approves
Green Beret Foundation Accreditation



SENTINEL

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2021

From the Editor



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

In the January issue, my first as editor, I took a chance and decided we should use the "Green Beret Santa Clause" cover. I hope you all thought that was okay. Our cover this month, suggested by our terrific Graphic Artist, Debra Holm, is a nod to MOH recipient SGM Bennie Adkins who was laid to rest on 12/18/2020. It is also a tip of the beret to the far-too-many lost to COVID-19.

Fortunately, we haven't lost any chapter members, but we have been affected somewhat. Our Chapter Treasurer and Chaplain, Richard Simonian, tested positive and was subsequently cleared. We had to cancel March, April, and May meetings last year. Chapter President Bruce Long was forced to postpone urgent surgery due to a lack of facilities caused by so many COVID-19 patients. And attendance is down at the chapter meetings that are being held in accordance with current rules. Hopefully things will improve now that there are multiple approved vaccines.

We have an article that is a tribute to the United States Capitol Police, who as a group bravely kept the Congress, their families, and staff safe from those that attacked our Capitol and Democracy itself, something each regular chapter member has put his life on the line to defend. It cost the USCP and his family the life of Officer Brian Sicknick, and an unknown number hurt. One example are the actions of one of our fellow paratroopers from the 502nd of the 101st Airborne Division. Eugene Goodman showed courage and great situational awareness when he taunted and baited some aggressive attackers into following him away from an open door to the Senate chamber and right to backup officers. He looks like a very good SF candidate.

One quick note on the status of SOCOM. Acting Secretary of Defense, Chris Miller, has elevated SOCOM to a position where it reports directly to him. It remains to be seen if Miller's replacement will alter that, or let it remain in place until Congress can give formal approval.

Lastly, you'll also see good news about the Green Beret Foundation and their V.A. accreditation. I personally have been able to direct some money their way by using Amazon Smile. They get really good ratings on the website CharityNavigator.org. Their Overall Rating was 90.89 on 8/1/2020. 1,659 families were helped in 2019. ♦

How Miller
Sentinel Editor

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FRONT COVER: The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon; soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment; and the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," conduct modified military funeral honors with funeral escort for Medal of Honor Recipient U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, Dec. 16, 2020 (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)



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From the Vice President | February 2021



Don Gonneville
Chapter 78 Vice-President

President Bruce Long is still recuperating from very serious surgery, but he should be back home by the time this issue goes to press. We all wish him a very speedy recovery.

As we move forward, the Chapter is looking forward to some very interesting events. Co A/5/19th SFG is being reflagged as Co C/1/19th SFG at a ceremony on 21 February at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), Los

Alamitos. Because our Chapter is now closely affiliated with this unit, we have been invited to attend the ceremony. As a result, we have changed our monthly meeting date from Saturday the 20th to Sunday, 21 February.

Jim Duffy has been very instrumental in helping the chapter members maintain their marksmanship proficiency. The last event at Artemis was a great success. He is now setting up a range day at the Prado Olympic Shooting Park for a weekday in April. This event will be in addition to our regular April meeting. As with all chapter events, more information will soon follow.

Another focus this year will be membership development. We have had excellent meetings in spite of the low turnout caused by COVID, but we expect a risk abatement over the coming months. We will be reaching out to our current members to encourage greater participation in our monthly meetings and special events. We will also develop a program to identify and contact former Special Forces personnel living in our area, but not yet members of the Special Forces Association. There are many advantages to their active participation and we hope to help them avail themselves of these opportunities

In parting, a tribute to Mr. Tommy Lasorda. Several years ago at a Dodgers game, Chapter 78 presented Tommy with a Green Beret and made him an honorary Chapter member. He wore his beret during the entire game. The nation lost a great man, a baseball legend, and a great American. RIP Mr. Lasorda. ♦

De Oppresso Liber

Don Gonneville

Vice President, SFA Chapter 78



February Chapter Meeting

IMPORTANT: New Date
Sunday, February 21, 2021

Co A/5/19th SFG is being reflagged as Co C/1/19th SFG at a ceremony on Sunday 21 February at the JFTB, Los Alamitos. Because our chapter is now closely affiliated with this unit, we have been invited to attend the ceremony. As a result, we changed our monthly meeting date from Saturday the 20th to **Sunday, 21 February.**

- **The ceremony will begin at 1100 hrs.**
- Uniform will be green blazers, berets, etc
- Spouses / Significant Others are also invited
- Masks and social distancing will be observed
- Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP to me ASAP at don@gonneville.com – Co C needs a headcount two weeks prior to the event

LOCATION: Across from the parking lot of the
The Pub at Fiddlers Green

ADDRESS: [4745 Yorktown Ave Bldg 19](#)
[Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176](#)
(Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos)



Capitol Police Officer Who Led Mob Away from Senate Chambers is an Army Iraq War Vet

By Gina Harkins

(2021, January 13, Military.com, https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/01/13/capitol-police-officer-who-led-mob-away-senate-chambers-army-iraq-war-vet.html?ESRC=eb_210114.nl)

Before Eugene Goodman faced dozens of protesters who broke into the U.S. Capitol last week, he served as an infantryman in Iraq.

Goodman, an officer with the U.S. Capitol Police, is credited with leading a mob of protesters away from the Senate chambers during last week's siege of the federal building. Igor Bobic, a HuffPost politics reporter, [captured the now-viral moment](#) when Goodman was suddenly faced with a large group of President Donald Trump's supporters who had surrounded and broken into the Capitol.

Bobic's near-90-second video shows Goodman attempting to hold back the crowd, picking up a baton to hold them back before running up a flight of stairs. When he reaches the landing where the stairway splits in two directions, Goodman leads the mob in the direction opposite of the Senate chambers.

"He's trying to bait them," Kirk Burkhalter, a professor at New York Law School and a former New York City police officer, told [The Washington Post](#), which first reported on Goodman's [Army](#) ties.

The officer can then be heard radioing fellow law enforcement members that the rioters reached the second floor.

"Just now realizing how much of a close call it was in the Senate. Literally seconds," [Bobic noted](#) three days after posting the video of Goodman.

Goodman left the Army in 2006 after serving four years as an infantryman, said Lt. Col. Gabriel Ramirez, an Army spokesman. He deployed to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), from 2005 to 2006.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Army Good Conduct Medal.

The Capitol Police did not respond to questions about Goodman's time in uniform or actions on Jan. 6, including whether he's being considered for any awards for single-handedly leading members of the mob away from senators.

Keith Taylor, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and another former New York City police officer, reviewed the video and told the Post that Goodman showed significant situational awareness.

"Even as he spoke and beckoned to the rioters, he was communicating with coworkers through a radio attached to his uniform, Taylor said, giving them updates on where he was and where he was headed," the paper reported.

Several friends also told the Post that Goodman was focused on "defusing the threat to lawmakers, not his own safety."

"My job is to protect and serve," the Post reported he told coworkers after Bobic's video of him went viral. "And on that day, I was protecting." ❖

Eugene Goodman, Capitol Police Hero and Army Vet Promoted and Escorts Incoming VP Harris at Presidential Inauguration

On January 20, 2021, Eugene Goodman escorted incoming Vice President Kamala Harris to her inauguration as the Vice President of the United States. He received a standing ovation and cheers when stepping out onto the inauguration platform ahead of Harris.

His promotion to acting deputy Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate was also announced.

In the days following the events of January 6th lawmakers have recommended Goodman for the Congressional Gold Medal.

"When Officer Eugene Goodman was the only thing standing between Members of Congress & the mob, he selflessly redirected their fury on himself so they could escape," Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., one of the co-sponsors of the bill, said January 14, 2021 on [Twitter](#).

"I urge he be honored w/ the Congressional Gold Medal," the highest award that can be bestowed by the House and Senate, said Mace, who sponsored the bill with Reps. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., and Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo.

"I shudder to think what might have happened had it not been for Officer Goodman's fast thinking and commitment to his duty and his country," Crist said in a statement.

Cleaver added, "In moments of crisis, there are always individuals who rise to the occasion and put themselves in harm's way in defense of others. On January 6, 2021, one of those individuals was Officer Eugene Goodman." ❖

About the Author

Gina Harkins can be reached at gina.harkins@military.com. Follow her on Twitter [@ginaaharkins](https://twitter.com/ginaaharkins).

Book Review

Phoenix Rising: From the Ashes of Desert One to the Rebirth of the U.S. Special Operations by Col Keith M. Nightingale (Ret)

By John Friberg

(2021, January 8, "Book Review – "Phoenix Rising" by Keith Nightingale", SOF News, <https://sof.news/books/phoenix-rising/>)

COL Keith Nightingale (Ret) is the author of *Phoenix Rising: From the Ashes of Desert One to the Rebirth of U.S. Special Operations*. The book, published in 2020 by Casemate Publishers, provides a detailed look at Operation EAGLE CLAW. This was a mission by U.S. Army Special Forces, supported by other military forces, to rescue American hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

The hostages were taken in November 1979 by Iranian demonstrators that gained control of the embassy grounds and were held prisoner for months. The rescue attempt by Delta Force was aborted once on the ground in Iran at a staging area — due to maintenance problems the force came up one helicopter short. Tragically, after the mission was aborted, and the rescue force prepared to depart Iran, an aircraft mishap took place killing eight service members.

The failed attempt was an embarrassment for President Jimmy Carter and proved to be a major factor in his defeat in the upcoming presidential election to Ronald Reagan. The aborted hostage rescue prompted a reexamination of America's special operations capabilities.

This book provides a first person account of the coordination, preparation, and conduct of the hostage rescue mission. Keith Nightingale, as an Army major, was the Deputy Operations Officer for Joint Task Force Eagle Claw. Based on his personal diary the book offers an inside look at the personalities, issues, bureaucratic infighting, coordination, and preparation for the mission as well as the events during and after the mission.

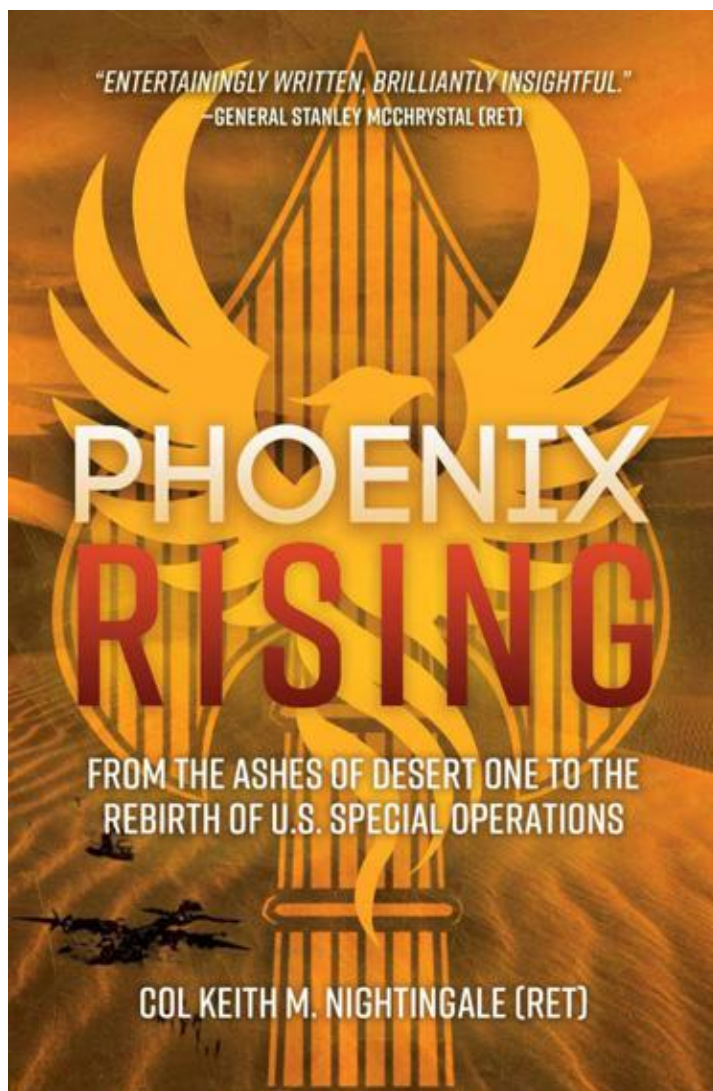
The book follows a logical path: covering the planning, training, execution, and aftermath of the hostage rescue mission. It concludes with a description of post-mission actions and events that would eventually lead to a reorganization of the special operations community.

The author employs a unique format: providing almost standalone vignettes relating to the mission, many only 1-3 pages long. Some of these are entitled: "Inside an RH-53", "The Agency Men", "The Truck Option", "The Navigator", "The Shrink", "Cash and Carry", and many more. This particular style made for an interesting and engaging read.

An important part of the book — at the end — involves the 'politics' of the formation of what would become the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations / Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC) and the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). The bureaucratic infighting and Pentagon stonewall-

ing of the intent of Congress to increase America's SOF capability is explained in great detail by Nightingale.

If you are a student of special operations or someone interested in military history then you will find this a worthwhile and interesting read. The book is available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Phoenix-Rising-Hostage-Rebirth-Operations/dp/1612008771/>) in hardcover and Kindle format. ❖



[Phoenix Rising: From the Ashes of Desert One to the Rebirth of U.S. Special Operations](#)

by Col Keith Nightingale (Ret)

Casemate (July 23, 2020)

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336 pages

COWBOY



A photo taken at SOG's secret base FOB 1, in Phu Bai, in summer of 1968, in front of ST Idaho's team room. From left: Spike Team Idaho Team Leader (One-Zero) Robert J. "Spider" Parks, Nguyen Cong Hiep — ST Idaho Interpreter, and Khanh "Cowboy" Doan.



John Stryker Meyer

By John Stryker Meyer

Since its inception, the Special Forces brotherhood has stood by fellow warriors through thick and thin regardless of politics or bureaucratic inertia.

There's a perfect example of how that brotherhood responds in the recent case of SOG legend Khanh "Cowboy" Doan, who presently lives in San Jose, California. Cowboy entered the world of SOG legends on October 5, 1968, as a member of ST Alabama which was inserted into an A Shau Valley target early in the morning. An inexperienced team leader took the nine-man SOG recon team down a trail and unintentionally walked it into an deadly L-shaped ambush with 50 NVA soldiers firing down on the team. The team leader and pointman were killed instantly in the opening volley of fire. A third team member was wounded, later died before the team was extracted at the end of the day.

During this frantic day in hell, the NVA launched several wave attacks against the remaining seven men on the team — one of which, the son of a general, never fired one shot. He prayed and cried a lot while the remaining six team members stacked up the dead bodies of NVA soldiers to create a bulwark they hid behind during the wave assaults. The Green Beret who directed all of the air assaults on NVA positions and fought with great valor that day was Lynne M. Black Jr., a combat-hardened veteran who had a previous tour of duty with the 173rd Airborne Brigade before joining SOG. Cowboy was the team interpreter, who by 1968 was entering his third year of running top-secret SOG recon missions across the fence into Laos, Cambodia and N. Vietnam. For a detailed account of that bloody day in NVA hell people can read Black's book [*Whiskey*](#)

[*Tango Foxtrot*](#), or [*Across The Fence – The Secret War in Vietnam, Expanded Edition*](#), view the History Channel's presentation [*Jungle Ambush*](#) or [watch](#) or [listen to Jocko Willink's Podcast #258](#), recorded in November 2020.

By the end of the day, Black, Cowboy, team member Do Ti Quang all had been wounded several times. Cowboy had been shot with AK-47 rounds and suffered multiple shrapnel wounds, as did Black and Quang. Once in the morning, Black was knocked unconscious by a grenade blast that destroyed his CAR-15 and riddled him with shrapnel. When ST Alabama ran out of ammunition, they picked up weapons and ammo from dead NVA soldiers to continue the battle. A Jolly Green Giant Air Force HH-3 helicopter pulled ST Alabama from the jungle at last light. It was so heavily damaged from enemy gunfire that it limped over a few hill tops before settling down in Laos, incapable of flying further. Other aircraft rescued everyone from that shredded chopper.

The final tally: three members of ST Alabama were killed, the team leader and two fearless indigenous troops. During the course of the all-day battle, two South Vietnamese Air helicopters, H-34s code-named Kingbees were shot down, two Jolly Green Giants were shot down in Laos, every helicopter gunship that supported the team on the ground, the Marine Corps HML-367 – Scarface, The Muskets, from the 176th of the Americal Division, several A-1 Skyraiders, and Phantom F-4 jets received hits from enemy gunfire that day.

Years later, Black spoke to the NVA officer who had set up the L-shaped ambush on ST Alabama. The NVA officer told Black that the team had landed in an NVA division headquarters, consisting of 10,000 communist troops. He told Black that ST Alabama and the air assets had inflicted 90 percent casualties on the enemy troops, including KIAs, WIAs and some MIAs. The NVA officer told Black



RT Idaho at CCN in Da Nang in late 1970 or 1971. Second from left, front row is Do Ti Quang, a life-long friend of Cowboy. On October 5, 1968, he was a member of ST Alabama and stood side-by-side with Cowboy and Lynne M. Black Jr. and the remaining three survivors of that horrific day. Behind Quang is RT Idaho One-Zero Ken Bowra, who went on to retire as a two-star general after 40 years of service to our country. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)



Doug "The Frenchman" LeTourneau, standing under the "new" CCN Recon Company sign at the entrance to the CCN Recon billets. He built the sign, erected it and worked with an artist to set it in place in the fall of 1969. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)

the battle was so epic in their annals that they held a reunion for the men who survived the battle.

One month later, while still healing from the numerous wounds he received on October 5, 1968, Cowboy was assigned to ST Virginia, which ran a mission on or about Thanksgiving Day 1968 in Laos. Richard Childers was the team leader and this mission was the first for new team member Doug "The Frenchman" LeTourneau. The team had been on the ground for a few days when LeTourneau was shot in the back four times by NVA soldiers which triggered a running gun battle between communist troops and ST Virginia. Fortunately for LeTourneau, he was carrying the FM PRC-25 radio in his ruck sack when the NVA fired on him. The rounds slammed him to the ground face first, with all four bullets penetrating the radio, the ruck sack, and through LeTourneau's clothing, puncturing the skin on his back four times before running out of kinetic energy.

When the team was extracted on ropes hanging from a helicopter, LeTourneau and Cowboy were wounded by shrapnel exploding from RPG rockets fired at team members from the jungle floor by NVA gunners. The vegetation was too thick for any helicopter to land. "I'll never forget that day," Cowboy told the *Sentinel*. "The Frenchman was shot in the back four times and lived to talk about it. He and I provided cover fire as our team moved to the LZ that day...He and I received beau coup shrapnel wounds as we were being pulled out of the jungle by the helicopter...I was still wounded from that day (Oct. 5, 1968), but the team (ST Virginia) needed me, so I went (on the mission)."

With those two missions, Cowboy earned a mention in any SOG history. His family escaped from Hanoi in 1954 dreading the communist takeover in North Vietnam for a safer country in South Vietnam. "We knew South Vietnam have problems, not perfect. But, we knew it was better than communism," Cowboy said.



Doug "The Frenchman" LeTourneau, stands at attention during an inspection of RT Idaho at CCN in April 1969, prior to launching for a scheduled mission in Laos. He is being quizzed by Lt. Gen. Richard Stilwell who conducted the inspection. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)

He continued running recon missions until he was wounded several times in 1971 during a firefight with NVA soldiers. He lost a leg due to injuries sustained in that firefight. Undaunted, he went to work for the CIA in some limited capacity using his interpreter skills until Saigon fell April 30, 1975. As the communists invaded Saigon, Cowboy took a unique tactic, he walked north from Saigon, heading up to I Corps.



Cowboy places flowers at the gravesite of ST Alaska team member Kenneth M. Ryan. In May 1968, Cowboy was a team member of ST Alaska, along with Ryan. On the day of that fateful mission, Cowboy was ill and didn't go on the mission where the entire team, with the exception of One-Zero John Allen, were KIA. Allen escaped and evaded enemy soldiers for several days before he was picked up by an American helicopter. "I still feel guilty about losing Ken, because had I gone with the team, maybe I could have helped them find the NVA and save my team." (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)

"The NVA didn't look at me suspiciously because I was going north, everyone else was fleeing," Cowboy said. For the next 11 years, he collected his family, attempted to escape more than a dozen times, finally succeeding in 1986. He landed in San Jose, held various jobs, became a U.S. citizen and joined the Special Operations Association — formed by SOG recon men in 1976.

China Virus

When 2020 rolled around, he was once again fighting for his life, as he had to begin dialysis treatments. In November, he was interviewed by Podcaster Jocko Willink, in one of the most detailed interviews Cowboy has ever had. Through the interview, Jocko focused on Cowboy's story, his missions, his love for America, freedom and his hatred of communism because communists in Vietnam had killed several family members before and after he arrived in America.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, the China virus hit his family. First, his son. A few days later, his wife — whose brother was a member of SOG ST Idaho, who was killed in May 1968 when the NVA wiped out that team. Then Cowboy got it and their grandson caught it. Cowboy was taken to the hospital, where he stayed for over a week, before coming home where he required care and his dialysis treatments escalated to needing eight to ten hours daily to survive.

Thus, his family was down. No one could work. Bills piled up. A call went out to former 101st Airborne retired master sergeant Bonnie Cooper, who worked in military intelligence during her 20-year career with Uncle Sam's Army. She quickly responded. "I've never done one before personally, but I know who Cowboy is and I'd be glad to help him," she said. Within 24 hours, Cooper established a GoFundMe account in Cowboy's name. Cowboy thanked Cooper,



Following a lengthy interview with Podcaster Jocko Willink, are, from left: Jocko — a retired Navy SEAL officer, "Cowboy" and yours truly in November, 2020. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)

and added at that time, "I'm not familiar with this, but thank you for thinking of me." With no other support or public endorsement from any veterans groups or organizations, the Cowboy fundraiser went public on December 14, first on Cooper's Facebook page.

In just six hours, the first goal of \$2,000 was surpassed. A few more people, mostly Special Forces men who knew Cowboy or knew of his heroic story, posted the fundraiser on other social media. Then, Jocko Willink, who had a following of 1.8 million people at that time, posted the notice and personally donated \$2000 to the fundraiser. During that week, several Special Forces veterans and people who had seen or listened to Cowboy's interview with Jocko — [Jocko Podcast #258](#) — began donating to the fundraiser. By Christmas, more than 760 people donated more than \$32,000 to the campaign. After the fundraiser page was shut down several Green Berets who served with Cowboy at FOB 1 or CCN, wrote private checks to Cowboy. With all of the holiday excitement they had missed the social media postings from Cooper and others.

Cowboy's response for the *Sentinel* to the amazing campaign was heartfelt: "You have saved my family...please thank Miss Bonnie, Jocko and the more than 700 people (who donated to the Cowboy fundraiser)."

Indeed, it was an unique effort to help a fearless SOG warrior started by a retired master sergeant who knew Cowboy's story from reading *Across The Fence*, to retired Navy SEAL/Podcaster extraordinaire Jocko Willink, fellow SOG recon Green Berets and hundreds of citizens around the country who learned of Cowboy's exploits as a SOG recon operator and for his love of America and its unprecedented freedoms from [Jocko's podcast](#). ❖



From left, Cowboy with former ST Alabama One-Zero Tim Schaaf at a Special Operations Association reunion in Las Vegas more than 15 years ago. Schaaf was the experienced One-Zero of ST Alabama replaced by a sergeant with no experience running SOG missions in Laos a few days before the fateful mission on October 5, 1968. Schaaf was highly respected throughout SOG and ran dozens of recon missions. The inexperienced sergeant who replaced Schaaf died in the opening blast of the ambush he walked the team into that fateful day. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)



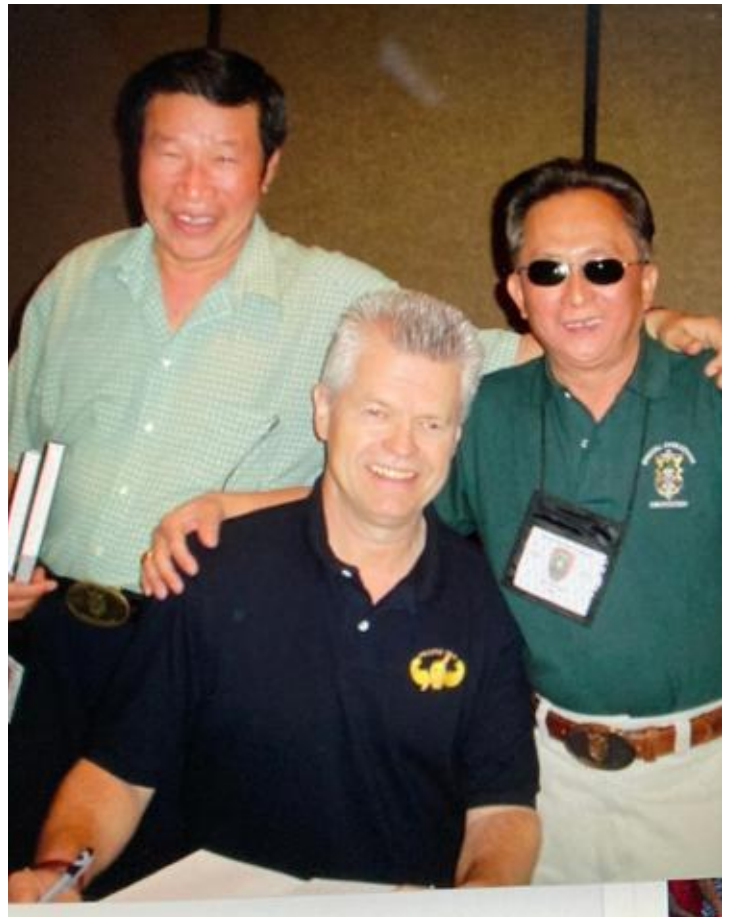
At the 2010 SOA Reunion, from left, Khanh "Cowboy" Doan, and Chapter 78 member MG(R) John "Jack" Singlaub. (Photo courtesy Bonnie Cooper)



At the 2010 SOA Reunion in Las Vegas, NV, from left, Cowboy, Tom Cunningham, ST Louisiana team member, Robert J. "Spider" Parks, ST Idaho One-Zero, who was the Covey Rider that worked with ST Alabama on Oct. 5, 1968, and Tim Kirk, ST Idaho team member. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)



At the 2010 SOA Reunion, left to right, Nguyen Ngo, LTG John Mulholland, MG(R) Eldon Bargewell. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)



At a SOA Reunion in Vegas, from left, Khanh "Cowboy" Doan, John Stryker Meyer and Nguyen Cong Hiep, interpreter, RT Idaho. (Photo courtesy John Stryker Meyer)

Book Review

The Exile of Sergeant Nen a novel by Stephen Fleming



Kenn Miller

Reviewed by Kenn Miller

It is difficult to categorize *The Exile of Sergeant Nen*. Is it a war novel? Yeah, it is, but most of the combat is in the background. Is it a novel about Vietnam? Yeah, but it's more a novel about Vietnamese people in America. But it is primarily a novel about one man — Sergeant Nen, a veteran of the losing side of the battle of Dien Bien Phu.

As a teenage French Colonial paratrooper he was captured and resisted indoctrination

by the Viet Minh, and after being released by the Viet Minh, found a life for himself in the ARVN airborne. Despite his family's pressure on him to become an officer, he took great pride in being a soldier, a paratrooper, a professional senior NCO, and a Vietnamese.

After the chaos at Tan Son Nhat airport on the last days of the Republic of Vietnam, Sergeant Nen and his sister and brother-in-law and his corporal find themselves as refugees in Virginia. Nen is fortunate that after years of working with American soldiers, in addition to his native Vietnamese and French, he is fluent and literate in English. Sergeant Nen finds some resolution and context in visiting the nearby battlefields of the American Civil War.

The Exile of Sergeant Nen is a hard novel to categorize. It is a war story, an immigrant story, a family story, a love story — for the first time in his life, in America, Sergeant Nen finally meets and loves a woman who isn't a prostitute. It is a story of a man that I think anyone who ever served in a combat unit will admire. This novel is a novel about Vietnam and Vietnamese people, America and American people, war and peace, and a central character worth remembering.

As Loyd Little, author of the SF classic *The Parthian Shot*, said, when *The Exile of Sergeant Nen* was newly published, this little known but excellent novel is "Well written, poignant, and fun to read! An unusual perspective that works."



I think it was Jim Morris who turned me on to *The Exile of Sergeant Nen*, and I've thanked Jim regularly over the decades for introducing me to Sergeant Nen. ♦

[The Exile of Sergeant Nen](#)

by Stephen Fleming

Algonquin Books (09/01/86)

ISBN-10: 0912697466

ISBN-13: 978-0912967455

186 pages



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVES GREEN BERET FOUNDATION ACCREDITATION

On November 11, 2020, the Green Beret Foundation (GBF) announced the its accreditation by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), and recognized by the Department of VA Office of General Counsel for the purpose of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the VA. VA-accreditation is a rare distinction. Now as the sole VA-accredited special operations benevolent organization, GBF will be expanding its mission of supporting soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Forces and their families to include providing specifically tailored advocacy within all the stages of the VA claims process to address the Special Forces soldiers needs.

HOW TO HELP?

Individual donations can be made by visiting <https://greenberetfoundation.org/donate/>



Select GBF as your charitable organization using [Amazon Smile](#) at <https://smile.amazon.com>. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Green Beret Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. You can select a charitable organization after signing in. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Visit greenberetfoundation.org to learn how the Green Beret Foundation supports America's Special Forces soldiers and their families.

A large, illuminated neon sign that reads "WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA". The word "WELCOME" is in large, circular neon letters at the top. Below it, "TO" is in blue, "Fabulous" is in a blue script font, "LAS VEGAS" is in large red block letters, and "NEVADA" is in blue block letters at the bottom. The sign is set against a blurred background of city lights.

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2021 CONVENTION

The 2021 Special Forces Convention "SFACON" promises to be one of the biggest, SFA Conventions of all time. Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world and we promise to throw a lot at you over the course of 4+ days. Our host hotel, The Orleans, has a huge hospitality room which will feature an "open" bar for the entire convention. Don't miss this one!



SFACON

www.sfacon.com

Starts with free welcome breakfast
10am - 10/22/2021

FEATURING

- Open Bar all days
- SF Speaker Symposium
- Butler Purple Heart Run
- M Hotel Day Club After Race Party
- Death Valley Motorcycle Ride
- Golf Tournament



Above left, Chapter member James Carter was presented with the Order of Saint Maurice award by Chapter 78 Vice President Don Gonneville (picture in the photo above right at left).

2021 SFA Convention "SFACON" t-shirts and challenge coins were on display at the meeting.



Chapter members present at the meeting, front row left to right, Mark Miller and James Carter, center row, Jack Blau and Thad Gembacz, back table, Jim Duffy and Susan Weeks.



Chapter Treasurer and Chaplain Richard Simonian