

# From the Editor | July 2025



How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

Our editor, How Miller, is away this month but will return next issue. But before leaving, he gathered the stories you'll read in this edition of the *Sentinel*, which hold special meaning for many of our contributors.

We begin with a letter from COL (Ret.) Vahan Sipantzi, reflecting on his longtime friend Clyde Sincere, who passed in [March](#). Vahan and Clyde met in 1952 when they were among the first accepted into what would become the Army Special Forces. He shares memories of Clyde's service and their enduring friendship.

Next, Marc Yablonka reviews *Bobbie the Weather Girl: AFVN Saigon's Weathergirl Shares Letters from Vietnam* by Pia Bows. Marc and co-author Rick also wrote about Bobbie Keith in their book *Hot Mics and TV Lights: The American Forces Vietnam Network*.

Next is How Miller's review of *Across The Fence* by Chapter 78's John Stryker Meyer, along with an excerpt in which John recounts a

story about his friend Douglas "The Frenchman" LeTourneau. Doug passed away suddenly in July 2019, and his loss continues to be deeply felt by those who knew and loved him.

Marc Yablonka also reviews the documentary *On Healing Land, Birds Perch*, which tells the story behind one of the Vietnam War's most iconic photos. Visit [onhealingland.com](https://onhealingland.com) for screening info—I've already signed up for updates.

Lastly, you'll find photos of Chapter 78 Vice President James McLanahan presenting a \$9,225 donation to Sunburst Youth Academy—proceeds from April's Valor Luncheon. Also on the back cover is Chapter member Kris Boodaghian, who spoke at Azusa's Memorial Day event. **Note to our chapter members:** If you participate in similar events, please share them with us—photos are welcomed!

We hope you enjoy this issue. Keep the stories coming so we can continue sharing them with your fellow Green Berets and supporters. ❖

Debra Holm  
*Sentinel* Editorial Designer/Webmaster  
Honorary Member SFA Chapter 78



## SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

**July 19, 2025**

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

**Courtyard by Marriott**

5865 Katella Ave, Room A, Cypress, CA 90630

## Next scheduled chapter meeting August 16

### 2025 Meeting Schedule

September 20 • October 18 • November 15  
December (to be announced)



## MG BARGEWELL WEEKEND

Celebrating the legacy of service by  
Hoquiam native Eldon Bargewell.

**JULY 11-12, 2025**

**HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON**

The Delta Park Committee invites all  
past and future donors, military veterans,  
and the community to visit Hoquaim  
and to enjoy the events of the weekend.

**Friday, July 11, 6:00 PM:** an informal no-host social at the Hoquiam Brew Pub. . Open mic.

**Saturday July 12, 7:30 AM:** Free breakfast at Jitter House Cafe.

**11:00 AM:** Ceremony at Delta Park.

**1:00 PM:** Free luncheon at Hoquiam Elks with speakers Ken Bowra, Dick Thompson, and Fred Kliebacker.

**Keynote Speaker COL Scott White, ACOS USASOC**— following his speech he will administer the Oath of Enlistment to a group of future soldiers from around the Pacific Northwest.

**The 2025 Challenge Coin is available to donors.** Proceeds will go to park maintenance, improvements to parking and 10% of proceeds will fund a trip to Ft Bragg hosted by MG (ret) Ken Bowra.

**There will be an exciting drawing for MG Eldon A Bargewell Foundation members** for an all-expenses-paid 5-day trip for two to Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. Air fare, ocean front room, car rental included.

### How can you become a member of the foundation?

Donate \$50 or more within the last 12 months (July 2024-July 2025). If you aren't a lucky winner, you're welcome to tag along at your own expense. Dates to be determined.

**Write to Jay Fry for details:** [jayf@eldonbargewell.org](mailto:jayf@eldonbargewell.org)

**RSVP** at [info@eldonbargewell.org](mailto:info@eldonbargewell.org)

**More details as they develop** at [eldonbargewell.org](https://eldonbargewell.org)