

# From the Editor | September 2025



How Miller  
Sentinel Editor

Debra Holm starts off this issue with an article about the state of negotiations around a proposed park memorializing two Owens Valley, CA, residents who were standout veterans.

MG Jack Singlaub, onetime Chief SOG in Vietnam, and CPT James Birchm would be honored, at no apparent expense to the County of Inyo. SFA and SOA are both supporting this effort, along with chapter member Dr. Robert Reed and others.

The dual and mingled conventions, SFACON 2025 and SOAR, are rapidly approaching—next month. There is still some time to sign up.

SFA Chapter 88 is seeking to raise \$18,000 by December 31, 2025, to install a Special Forces monument at Jacksonville National Cemetery. The goal is to complete the project in time for the planned unveiling on April 11, 2026, which marks the 39th anniversary of the Special Forces Branch. The December goal will ensure there is enough time for the monument's construction and installation. The monument will honor Army veterans and serve as a lasting tribute. Corporate sponsors are welcome to contribute.

Marc Yablonka reviews a book that will be of interest to many: *Wartime Athletes* by Bill Brown. Many of these patriotic athletes left successful sports careers to serve in the armed forces during a war, with some of them making the ultimate sacrifice. Bill covers many sports and wars, illuminating the dedication to their country that many of us will be heartened to hear about.

How Miller reviews Norma Donlon's book, *Soldiers Widow...Soldiers Wife...Soldiers Mother...* Before she met Medal of Honor recipient Green Beret Roger Donlon, she had already lost her first husband, John Irving, who was a door gunner on his final mission in Vietnam. Later, and after three more years of trying, Roger was able to marry her. They went on to a long, happy marriage with children, two of whom also joined the military. Norma shares two chapters of her book with us about John Irving and Roger Donlon, following the review.

Marc Yablonka wrote a story for *Vietnam Magazine* about VADM James Stockwell and his heroic service as the leader of the American prisoners of war at the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War. He relates his story and how much of an inspiration he was to others, during and even after the war.

Another of our readers, LTC (ret.) Sam Seetin, sent us a short piece called "Emotions Anonymous," describing how a surprise inspection of his A camp by General Creighton Abrams helped save the camp, though not necessarily the way the general intended.

Our July meeting was held at Iron Mike's Guns in Yorba Linda. Michael Healy III, grandson of "Iron" Mike Healy, 20-month commander of 5th SFG (A) in Vietnam, among other things, invited us to shoot after our meeting at his high-tech gun range and all-level training venue that showcases Iron Mike and is undoubtedly heavily influenced by his son, Green Beret Mike Healy [Jr.].

Please enjoy and keep sending us your interesting stories about your SF experience. ♦

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Some of the attendees at the July Chapter meeting, which was held at Iron Mike's Guns located in Yorba Linda, CA, gathered for a group photo. Left to right, (back row) Mike Healy, III, owner of Iron Mike's, Cody, Tom Turney, James McLanahan, Brent (guest of Tom Golden), Tom Golden; (front row) Johann Hindert, Gary Macnamara, and Jerry Guzzetta. Read more about this meeting on the back cover of this issue.



## SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

### September 20, 2025

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos  
The Pub at Fiddlers Green

4745 Yorktown Ave Bldg 19, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5176

Next scheduled chapter meeting  
October 18

### 2025 Meeting Schedule

November 15 • December (to be announced)