

From the Editor | February 2026



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

Chapter 78 member Tom Turney and well-known Doc Padgett update us with ongoing efforts to help the Montagnards whose families were left behind after the Vietnam War and continue to be zealously marginalized by the Vietnamese people and government.

“Another Died in My Place,” Part 1, by chapter member, retired Green Beret, author, and investigative reporter, Greg Walker. From the not well-known efforts by SF in El Salvador in the 80s, Greg brings to light the truthful

account of a rescue mission gone bad and covered up. He tells of mistakes made, procedures not followed, and the bravery of three pilots who died trying to complete the ill-advised nighttime mission.

Greg has spent years trying to find out what actually happened and see that the medals that were deserved were finally awarded, while bringing closure to the families. His attention to detail is remarkable.

Ride to the Sound of the Guns, by retired Special Forces officer Ted Mataxis Jr., tells about the remarkable career of his father, Ted Mataxis Sr. Much of the material was gathered and written already by his father, and Ted Jr. added to that and wrote an interesting book about a heralded career Army officer and his family.

From the buildup and deployment to WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and against the Russians in Afghanistan and beyond, Ted Jr. tells us about his Dad's career—often in the elder Mataxis' own words. Included is a section exploring the period when they were both serving in Vietnam at the same time. Notable figures have brought up the fact that Ted Sr. led from the front and rode to the sound of the guns, which contributed greatly to mission success.

Ted Jr. went on to serve with SF in Granada and El Salvador. His son, Ted III, fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is truly a story about Family and their love for our country.

Textbook Special Ops: The Son Tay Raid was written by John Gargus and Cliff Westbrook. John was one of the major planners and a participant in the famous raid. With the benefit of years of interviews, Gargus has added much detail and additional depth to make this what will be the definitive book about the Son Tay Raid. High praise from Gen. McChrystal and a collection of high points herald this [newly published] book. Hopefully, we will have an excerpt from the book in next month's *Sentinel*.

The Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach provided a beautiful backdrop for Chapter 78's annual Christmas party. With incoming president James McLanahan at the helm as emcee, guests enjoyed Sinatra classics and holiday favorites performed by local celebrity Frank DiSalvo. The program featured a colors presentation by Sunburst Youth Academy cadets, and our guest speaker was Norma Shinno Irving Donlon, author of *Soldiers Widow... Soldiers Wife... Soldiers Mother...* We were also honored to welcome distinguished visitors, including SFA President Chris Wilkerson and SFA Chapter 75 President Lee Jacobs.

As part of the chapter's long-time outreach to future SF candidates, Chapter Secretary Gary Macnamara presented the ROTC Award of Excellence to 2LT Kyle Debisaran at the Cal State University Fullerton ceremony commissioning ceremony.

We are delighted to keep receiving excellent stories from our readers. Let's keep that momentum going, and send us your stories that you think Green Berets, young and old, would like to hear. ❖

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SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

3RD ANNUAL

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION VALOR LUNCHEON

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

U.S. ARMY LTC (RET.)

HENRY “DICK” THOMPSON, PH.D.

Legendary MACV-SOG Veteran, Codename “Dynamite”

Internationally recognized consultant, educator, speaker and author

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