

From the President | September 2026



James McLanahan
President SFA Ch. 78

Converging Jet Streams

Sometimes it's just good to be lucky. I have heard that luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity, and I believe it.

By the time you read this, I will have handed out a bunch of Chick-fil-A gift cards to our Chapter members (a fun bonus) for showing up at the August meeting, spending time with us, and hearing from our guest speaker, Ben

Ruzicka, who was at the Battle of FOB Ghazni.

I had the good fortune to fly home seated near a gentleman named Gib Bosworth. As a sales guy, I don't always have the energy to talk to people about mortgages. Sometimes I am just too tired and simply run out of words. In fact, my available word count was probably something like negative 150. But as I got up from my chair to deplane, I noticed a guy wearing a Gary Sinise Foundation shirt.

I feel like people thank us for our service a lot. It's nice, and it never gets old. But the people who do charitable work on our behalf can never be thanked enough. So, I felt that if I was going to set a good example for our organization, I should thank this man and give him a coin.

We are trying to get things done. We need to grow. We need to meet new people, ask them what they do, and tell them about us. If our values, goals, or paths align in any way, we will be stronger together. If they do not, we can still meet someone new and practice good manners.

Did I mention I was tired? I was grumpy, had too much on my plate, and did not have enough time to get it all done. But it wasn't like anyone was shooting at us.

So, I said hello and asked whether he was affiliated with the foundation. He said yes. I told him, "You guys do some great work, and we are proud of you." He lit up and introduced himself. I let him know who I was and shamelessly bragged about Chapter 78 for a moment.

He asked whether I had a business card, to which I replied, "Kind of." I shook Gib's hand and gave him my Chapter coin. We walked and talked as we deplaned, and he handed me his card and a stack of Chick-fil-A gift cards. He said, "Please give these to the guys at your next meeting on behalf of a grateful nation."

It was a simple exchange, but I cannot tell you how much it pumped me up to have such a pleasant conversation with a guy who flies around the country helping veterans when they need help most. ♦

De Oppresso Liber,

James McLanahan

President, SFA Chapter 78



SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

September 19, 2026

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

Please send RSVP by Monday, September 14 to
VP Don Deatherage @ drdeathca@gmail.com

Next month—October 17, 2026

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

2026 Meeting Schedule

October 17 • November 21
December (to be announced)