

From the Editor | October 2026



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

This issue of the *Sentinel* is dedicated to the memory of **John S. Joyce**, our founder, who passed away unexpectedly on September 6. A longtime member of the Special Forces Association, John was first an active member of Chapter 78 before moving to Las Vegas, where he became a member of Chapter 51. A dedicated supporter of both chapters and of the Special Forces community, John shared his talents as a designer, organizer, and businessman whenever they were needed.

John's obituary is our featured story this month, and we chose to include the member profile he wrote in 2011, giving him the opportunity to tell his own story—and giving us one more chance to hear his voice.

As always, this issue also contains stories that reflect the many experiences, traditions, and contributions of the Special Forces community—past and present.

“Primum Non Nocere” is from one of our readers, **David Daugherty**. Becoming an 18D (Special Forces Medical Sergeant) by way of the Special Forces National Guard involved becoming “acclimatized” to training with active-duty troops who were more diverse and experienced. But when his team deployed, he was ready and even demonstrated his Warrior Diplomat skills by creating and implementing a successful humanitarian effort, while being grateful for all the support his teammates provided.

I have reviewed ***Cry Havoc*** by **Jack Carr**. The story is fictional, but it takes place partly within MACV-SOG and builds into an international

spy drama. Jack draws from a knowledge of real SOG activities and relates a compelling, page-turning tale with many plot twists, while referencing real-life Special Forces and OSS operations. A good read.

After WWII, the United States dismantled most of its intelligence, psychological warfare, and irregular warfare organizations. As a result, when North Korea invaded South Korea, those capabilities had to be rebuilt **“From a Standing Start,”** as told by **Kenneth Finlayson** in ***Veritas***. We learn how the CIA had already assumed many intelligence functions, leaving psychological warfare and Civil Affairs to be rebuilt under the direction of BG Robert A. McClure, laying the groundwork for the creation of Special Forces.

Welcome Home, Sister, a short film by **Emma Spencer**, is told through the experiences of Penni Evans, one of the American Red Cross volunteers known as the **Donut Dollies**. These brave and cheerful women brought a little piece of home to troops throughout Vietnam, including Special Forces soldiers in places such as Kontum. Because they served as civilians, despite many of the same exposures faced by military personnel, they have remained ineligible for VA or VA-type medical benefits. Emma is producing this film to help bring attention to their story and garner support through the film festival circuit.

We appreciate your continued support, and please keep sending your stories to us to share with the Regiment. Stories can be sent to me directly at Howmiller78@outlook.com or by contacting us through our website specialforces78.com

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