

From the President | October 2026



James McLanahan
President SFA Ch. 78

Make It Count

Most of you already know—John Joyce was a friend of Chapter 78. Lately, I find I am wasting time needed for obligations. This has become one of my favorite quotes reminding me to get back on task when I drift.

"It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it." —Seneca

John Joyce did not waste his time.

And those of you who knew him much better than me could add more to anything I can say to describe him. He always helped me anytime the chapter needed anything. From Nevada. Always. I am sure his friends, family, and colleagues can all say the same.

I would tell you one of my biggest fears is that I gave too much of the time I have to the wrong things. Things that when I looked back, I would see them as lacking not lasting.

We should build things that last with people we care about. I think John did that. And when we do, when we focus on common goals, for the greater good, with our friends and family we make our time count. Be the rising tide that lifts all ships.

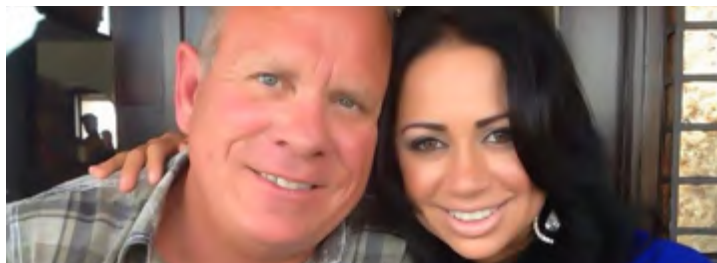
It sounds simple or obvious, but it took me a long time to understand. If you saw the path my life has taken it might have looked like a mouse lost in a maze. Not for lack of effort—I was going 100mph the whole time. I promise. But, effort and direction are not the same.

It's hard to say from the outside looking in, but from where I stand, John Joyce saw a straight line. ♦

De Oppresso Liber,

James McLanahan

President, SFA Chapter 78



Stand John Joyce's Family in Their Time of Need

Following the sudden passing of Special Forces brother and long-time SOA vendor John Joyce, a GoFundMe campaign has been established to help his widow, Ozzy, with funeral and immediate household expenses.

If John touched your life or supported your unit or organization, please consider making a donation in his memory.

Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/standing-with-john-joyces-family-in-their-time-of-need> to make a donation or for more information.

Thank you for helping us take care of one of our own.



SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

October 17, 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, October 12 to
VP Don Deatherage @ drdeathca@gmail.com

Next month—November 21, 2026
Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos
The Pub at Fiddlers Green

Eat, Drink, & Be Merry!

SFA Chapter 78 Christmas Party

Save the Date!

December 12th, 2026
4pm – 8pm

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
1601 Bayside Dr.
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625