



# SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER XI (WASHINGTON AREA) NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 21, 2008



SFA CHAPTER XI  
POST OFFICE BOX 4484  
LEESBURG, VA 20177

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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SFA Chapter XI Web site			<a href="http://www.sfa11.org">Http://www.sfa11.org</a>

<p><b>Next Chapter XI Event, Chapter XI Christmas Party, December 6, 2008 1800 to 2100 or whenever Hosts John &amp; Reyna Schram 8512 Indian Paintbrush Way Lorton, VA22079 ----- <u>Please Plan To Attend!</u> John &amp; Reyna are very gracious in hosting this event, and we would like to encourage all Chapter members to attend. (See map page 4)</b></p>	<b>Chapter XI Planned Activities</b>		
	October Meeting	24	2008
	December Christmas Party	06	2008
	January Meeting	30	2009
	February Meeting	27	2009
	March Meeting	27	2009
	April Meeting	17	2009
	April Dinner Dance	25	2009

whereby the members, Special Forces veterans, could maintain an association with each other.

As the fallout of the murder of the family of an active duty Special Forces non-commissioned officer, SFA National has been asked to provide funds to the survivor. In this instance National has provided funds but is looking at whether this really should be a SFA function and, if so, what conditions, rules and guidance should prevail. The questions and present and future ramifications are extensive. As more information is available it will be provided to the Chapter membership.

Largely because of its location in the Washington DC area, Chapter XI participates in two activities that could be titled services. First, it represents the Chapter and often SFA National headquarters at the Arlington National Cemetery funerals of soldiers who were members of Special Forces or its heritage organizations. Secondly, it provides morale support to the wounded at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The number of Chapter members participating in each of these

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Many associations are service organizations. That is, they exist to provide some service to the community such as help for the blind, orphans or the aged. In contrast, the Special Forces Association has in the past been largely a fraternal organization. That is, it did not usually provide a service but provided a means

activities is very limited, almost always the same very small group of individuals. It would be desirable for more Chapter members to participate. If you can participate, please do. For the funeral attendance, please call Charlie Norton. Gene Russell and Vic Hugo (703 893 3797) can provide helpful information concerning the wounded. Charlie's and Gene's addresses and telephone numbers are at the head of this newsletter.

**Guest Speaker.** Our guest speaker for the Oct 24 meeting was Colonel Giles Kyser, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy. Col. Kyser presented an excellent overview of the U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) that touched on the genesis, current state and future plans. The MARSOC Mission is: "to train, organize, equip and, when directed by CDRUSSOCOM, deploy task organized, scalable, and responsive U.S. Marine Corps special operations forces worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies." The MARSOC Goal is to provide to the United States and its partner nations, forward deployed, expeditionary SOF in support of the nation's enduring "persistent engagement" requirements. Col Kyser's briefing was current and most informative. We thank him very much for taking the time to join us and share the latest evolution in the development of United States Special Operations Forces.



**NEXT EVENT. Christmas Party, December 6.**

The next Chapter event will be our annual Chapter Christmas Party to be held on 6 December 2008. **John and Reyna Schram** have once again volunteered to host this event at their home at 8512 Indian Paintbrush Way, Lorton, VA 22079. The Schram's have stepped forward, now we need to do our part. Please plan to attend and let's have a great time. (See Map Page 5).

**Treasurer.**

**Dues Reminder. 2009 Membership dues must be paid before 30 January 09.**

Annual Dues. \$30.00 for a one-year renewal of membership.

Annual renewal. \$35.00 after 30 January

Life Membership. \$400.00 for a lifetime membership.

Life Membership. (65 and over). \$280.00.

Life Membership Reinstatement. \$435.00

Please mail dues payment to:

SFA Chapter XI  
Attn. John Mohler  
18346 Fairway Oaks Sq  
Leesburg, VA 21076.

➤ **Finance Report:**

Chapter Bank Balance: \$14,982.23

Less funds for SOWF: \$ 1283.00

Remaining Operating Funds: \$13,699.23

○ Donations since 8/24/08:

Al Paddock: \$100.00

Charlie Norton: \$ 65.00 (Raffle Contribution to SOWF)

**Chaplain**

SICK AND SHUT INS – Scot Crerar's wife, Nippy, has had recent knee replacement surgery and is the only new person to add to our list. It is very important that we stay in touch with those members and families who are undergoing the stress and trauma of illness and recovery. Please let our Chaplain, Gene Russell, know of anyone who is ill or having difficulty, so we may assist as appropriate. Often times, just knowing the Chapter cares is comforting.

The Chapter is also staying close to the SF Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed. There are currently four SOF patients on the ward. Plans are being made for another Katz Deli Lunch at Walter Reed in June 2009

**CHAPTER NOTES:**

**Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund Veterans Day Service.**

Fourteen Chapter members and guests attended Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund's Veterans Day Observance on November 11, 2008.



Chapter Member SGM (Ret.) Billy Thompson was featured on the front page of the Nov 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Washington Times.

The focus of this year's service was recognition of the Women Veterans who served and gave their lives in Viet Nam. Literally hundreds of Viet Nam veterans from all over the United States were in attendance. (Additional photos page 5)

**Donors Recognized by Chapter.** President Scot Crerar and Vice President Lynn Mariano presented Chapter XI plaques in appreciation of donations presented last Spring for our Dinner Dance in support of the Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed. In addition to a personal donation, Dennis Roache, of "Roache Salon" made an extra effort to coordinate contributions of \$1560 from local businesses; Agraria LLC, Michael Canele, Inc. and Sandra Charles. Plaques were also provided for each of the other contributing business owners.



**Website.** Please check our chapter web sight from time to time. The website can be accessed from any computer that enables a person to access the web regardless of specific browser service used. We will try to keep it current, posting information that is of general membership interest. Just enter: [Http://www.sfa11.org](http://www.sfa11.org). There is now also a link on the Chapter website to a "MEMBERS" page that allows for members to view or download the files. The link can be accessed from the web site above or directly though <http://www.sfa11.org/Members.html>.

We are able to upload any type of file, pdf, .doc, .xls, .jpg, .gif, etc), of any size. Keep in mind that any file uploaded can be seen by any site visitor; therefore we will maintain some control of file uploading. To have a file uploaded simply forward it to the Secretary or one of the

Chapter officers. A Chapter Photo Chronology file containing additional pictures of recent events that did not appear in our news letters will be included in that section, and will be updated periodically.

**The Viet Nam Veterans War Memorial Fund** is seeking donations to sustain and refine the memorial. Donations may be made directly to the Memorial Fund accessed at their web site, <http://www.vvmf.org> or through Chapter XI. 703-573-7328 (703-397-SEAT)

**Gen. (Ret.) Donald D. "Don" Blackburn's** funeral took place as scheduled 5 November 2008 at Arlington National Cemetery. Chapter XI was officially represented at the service by Scot Cedar and Charlie Norton.



*BG Blackburn and Captain David Carr (196x) Photo provided by a Chapter member.*

**LTC Jack Moroney** LTC Jack Moroney, another Special Forces stalwart, was interred in Arlington National Cemetery on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Although not a Chapter XI member, he did have many Chapter XI friends who attended the service.



**Chapter XI Members at the VN Memorial Fund service at the "Wall" November 11, 2008**



REFLECTING: Sgt. Maj. Bill Thompson of Virginia, a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, attends the Veterans Day observance at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall, where women who served were honored Tuesday.

**SGM (Ret.) Billy Thompson, VN Memorial Service 11 Nov 08 (Front Page Photo from Washington Times, 12 Nov )**



**October 24, 2008 Meeting. Vic Hugo and Thuy on left and Charlie Norton. (Rt.)**

**Memories of warmer times**



**Inge Lesiak & Walt McMahn, July 26, 2008, Pool Party**



**Chet Nagle, July 26, 2008, Pool Party**

**Map to Christmas Party Location, John & Reyna Schram, 8512 Indian Paintbrush Way, Lorton, VA 22079 (Ph 703 495 8022)**

