

THE BOB SALZMAN MEMORIAL CHAPTER FLORIDA
CHAPTER XXI SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
Volume LXVIII March 2025 NR 3

Website: <http://specialforceschapter21florida.weebly.com/>



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President's Update - John Vislosky

- March already. Time continues to move quickly. Lots of information to pass along to everyone. This is a 12-page Newsletter.
- As of this Newsletter we are officially renamed the “The Bob Salzman Memorial Chapter”. We would like to Thank the “Duke” for having lent his name to Chapter XXI over the years, but all things must change. The comments I received about retaining Bob’s name alone were very enlightening. Bob along with George “Speedy” Gaspard (and Suzie) and Richard “Whit” Whitman have done so much to build this Chapter and I trust that by retaining Bob’s name we show proper appreciation to Bob Salzman, Speedy and Whit for all that they have done for Chapter XXI.
- Still waiting for RSVPs for the 17 May 2025 Meeting and Luncheon at the Villages. So far, I have received 12 RSVPs (with the corresponding \$10 fees/person) from Bonnie and Dick Cooper (Chap 85); Jim and Sheila Trice; Steve and Gayle Erskine; Bill Schluz, John and Anna Fryer; John and Betty Vislosky; and Rich Whitman.

Please get your RSVPs into me as soon as you can but before **2 May 2025**. Details of the meeting and the luncheon follow below.

- **Call to action**→Looking for a Chapter XXI member who wishes to present the JROTC Award at Sebastian High School Ceremony on 11 April from 1730 hours until 1930 Hours. See details below.
- SFA National has proposed several changes to the National Constitution. It is important that you vote on these proposed changes. Proposed changes and details below.
- Educational Grant Deadline is 31 May 2025

Next Chapter Meeting

- **When:** **17 May 2025** beginning at 1100 Hours until completion Mark your calendars and RSVP to me as soon as possible but before **2 May** with a non-refundable \$10.00 check per person to hold you, your spouse and/or your guest’s place (See Reservation Cost below).
- **Where:** Luncheon will be at the **Orange Blossom Hill Country Club**, 1542 Water Tower Circle, Lady Lake (The Villages) Florida 32159 (P) 352-751-4501
<https://www.orangeblossomhillscountryclub.com>
- **Reservation Cost:** A non-refundable \$10.00 per person to reserve your seat(s). To be paid by check **NO LATER THAN 2 May 2025**. Make checks payable to SFA Chapter XXI. Mail your check to:

John Vislosky 551Honeyflower Loop Bradenton FL 34212-5001.

- **Price of Meal:** Lunch will be ala cart. In addition to the \$10 fee per person to hold the room for us, each member and guest can order food, soft drinks and alcoholic drinks directly from the menu. It will be “Happy Hour” so there is a discount on the price for alcoholic drinks. Each member and guest will be individually responsible for paying for their own meals, drinks and tip.

For a look at the menu in advance: <https://www.orangeblossomhillscountryclub.com/lunch>

- **Hotel Information:** For those of you that wish to stay overnight we have negotiated a special room rate from 16 May through 18 May at **Comfort Suites, The Villages, 1202 Avenida Central Lady Lake FL 32159 (P) 352-775-0815**. The rate is \$120.00 per night plus tax & fees. Use the promotional code of **SFA 2025** when booking. **IMPORTANT, if you wish to stay at the hotel, you must make your hotel reservation no later than 15 April 2025**. You can choose as many (or few) nights as you wish.
- **Hospitality Room:** None. Due to alcohol restrictions the Hotel will not allow a private hospitality room. BUT....the restaurant and bar at Orange Blossom Hill Country Club said we are welcomed to stay as long as we wish in our separate meeting area to socialize on 17 May.
- **Meeting Agenda Highlights:** We are very excited about this upcoming meeting and to give you good cause to attend, we will have 2 honored guests.
 - *VA Representative, Noel Hike* (An honorary Chapter XXI member) will be there to present updates about the VA under the new VA leadership and Administration. Noel and his VA colleague will have an updated VA PowerPoint presentation on new veteran benefits, spousal support, etc., followed by Q&A. We are so grateful to have Noel as an honorary member and for the two of them to take time to present the latest VA updates exclusively to our Chapter.
 - Our other honored guest is *Craig Gross*. Craig is a Goldstar Father of Corporal Frankie Gross who was KIA in Afghanistan on 16 July 2011. Craig is also the voice of Goldstar families and has met with the President of the USA, Donald J Trump representing Goldstar families. Craig also has been frequently interviewed on all the major news networks about Goldstar family issues.

Craig will be there to speak about his son, Frankie, and to provide an overview of his newly published book, *This Side of Their Sacrifice*. This highly acclaimed book is a series of personal vignettes about the soldiers, sailors and airmen, and their Goldstar families and the ultimate sacrifice made in defense of our County.

What is Happening

- Several members of Chapter XXI attended February's *Green Beret Troop Support* luncheon at *Grills* in Cape Canaveral:



Joe McLaughton and Ed Chandler



Phil Devlin with his brother, Jimmy Summerhill, Bill Schulz, and Mike Stover

- Steve Epkins sends an update on our JROTC Program:

I {Steve} finished packaging and addressing the 26 Awards that I will mail - 25 High Schools and 1 to FIT. I will mail them on Monday and let you know my costs so you can just list me as a donation to the Chapter. Also, I delivered 16 Awards to Lee County JROTC which I will present on 1 May and 8 to Collier County JROTC for a total of 49 High Schools and 1 University = 50 awards from our Chapter.

- **Volunteer Needed:** An opportunity to support the Chapter has come up. Steve Epkins has asked for a volunteer to present the SFA Chapter XXI Certificate, Ribbon and Medal to the Top JROTC Cadet at the Sebastian River High School JROTC Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony is on April 11th from approximately 1730 to 1930. Sebastian HS is just south of Cape Canaveral at 9001 Shark Blvd. Sebastian FL.

If you wish to represent the Chapter and make the presentation, please contact John Vislosky ASAP by email (JV4@aol.com)) or phone (914-406-0316). Uniform is Green Blazer, SF Tie and Green Beret.

SFA Proposed Changes to the National Constitution

The SFA National Board of Officers has approved four possible changes to the Constitution. IAW the SFA Constitution, you are requested to vote on these questions. You can vote electronically on the Team House (use the "Elections" button from the main menu). You will have a chance to vote by paper ballot as a postcard ballot will be included in The Drop. Don't vote twice - duplicate ballots will be resolved and only one vote per member will be counted. Voting is done online in the Team House (see above) or by returning your paper ballot from the upcoming Drop.

The relevant section of the SFA Constitution is quoted immediately below and the questions to be voted on are shown below that. You will also see the questions when you do your electronic ballot.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by (i) approval of the Board of Officers and (ii) approval by the membership by two-thirds of those voting:

- a. at the annual membership meeting held at the Annual Convention provided at least 10% of voting members attend the meeting. For the purpose of this Article, "attendance" at the annual membership meeting shall be assumed to be the same as the number of members registered for the Annual Convention; or*
- b. at a special meeting of members called for this purpose provided at least 10% of voting members attend the meeting; or*
- c. by Written Ballot distributed electronically or by mail to all members in good standing*

The emphasis (the underlining above of constitution text) is by the author of this email.

Questions For Voting

- 1. Do you support adding a 7th elected member to the National Board of Officers? Yes or No**

Current Constitution verbiage:

Section 1. Association Officers. The Association officers govern the Association during their two-year term in office. Association officers are elected from the voting membership during an election year. Elections are held in accordance with Article VIII, Elections. The officers serve without compensation, but the president, with approval of the Association officers, may authorize travel expenses for the conduct of Association affairs. The Association

officers consist of six voting members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of External Communications, and Project Management Officer.

Proposed Constitutional verbiage:

Section 1. Association Officers. The Association officers govern the Association during their two-year term in office. Association officers are elected from the voting membership during an election year. Elections are held in accordance with Article VIII, Elections. The officers serve without compensation, but the President, with approval of the Association officers, may authorize travel expenses for the conduct of Association affairs. The Association officers consist of seven members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of External Communications, Special Projects Officer and Adjutant. The President is not a voting member of the Board unless one of the other six positions of the Board is vacant, requiring the President to become a sixth voting member, only for the duration of the vacancy.

Issue: The President currently votes in all NBO decisions requiring approval or disapproval. A majority of the votes are motions the President proposes.

Discussion: Adding a 7th elected officer, the Adjutant, removes the voting power from the President.

2. Should Associate Members have the right to serve in an elected position at the Chapter Level? Yes or No

Current Constitution verbiage:

C. Office Holding Rights. A member must meet the prerequisites as outlined in Article IV, Section II, paragraph B, and subparagraph (1) to be elected as an Association officer. A member must meet the prerequisites as outlined in Article IV, Section II, paragraph B to be elected as a chapter officer. All members, to include honorary and associate members, may serve on any Association or chapter committee or ad hoc body. Committees or positions are not elected positions and will be appointed by the National Board of Officers as required. At the Chapter level, any deviation from this paragraph will be dealt with on an individual chapter basis by majority vote of Chapter

Proposed Constitutional verbiage:

C. Office Holding Rights. A member must meet the prerequisites as outlined in Article IV, Section II, paragraph B, and subparagraph (1) to be elected to the National Board of Officers. A member must meet the prerequisites as outlined in Article IV, Section II, paragraphs B or C to be elected as a chapter officer. All members, to include honorary and associate members, may serve on any Association or chapter committee or ad hoc body. Committee and ad hoc body positions are not elected and will be appointed as required. At the Chapter level, any restriction to this paragraph will be considered on an individual chapter basis by majority vote and placed in the Chapter by-laws.

Issue: Article IV, Section II, para B covers Special Forces qualified members. Article IV, Section II, para C covers Associate Members. Current Constitution restricts Associate members from holding elected officer positions at the Chapter level.

Discussion: If approved, this amendment will change the Constitution to allow Associate members to hold office but will allow Chapters to restrict Associate members from office if voted on and added to their by-laws. "You can add to but not take away...."

3. Redefine "Immediate Family"? Yes or No

Yes or No, Amend ARTICLE IV, Section II, Paragraph C - Associate Member (Definition of Immediate Family)

Voting YES - changes the definition to: Immediate family is defined as surviving widow/partner, adult children and siblings, and parents of a Special Forces qualified member.

Voting NO - no change to the current Constitution – "Immediate family is defined as surviving widow and children of SF KIA."

Issue: Current verbiage does not include all the immediate family and only has provisions for those who KIA.

Discussion: IRS guidelines for a 501c19 defines immediate family as surviving widow/partner, adult children and siblings, and parents of a servicemember. This change would allow immediate family members of all deceased Special Forces qualified members to become members.

4. Provide Medal of Honor Recipient Free Life Membership? Yes or No

Yes or No – Amend Article IV, Membership, Section IX. Dues and Fees, C. Life Membership Fee

Voting YES - adds "Special Forces qualified persons who are awarded the Medal of Honor will be presented a SFA Life Membership at no cost to the recipient."

Voting NO - no change to the current Constitution

Issue: Recognition of SF-qualified MoH recipients

Discussion: Numbers involved will not have an adverse impact on SFA. There is a total of 61 living MoH recipients from all services, and many of the living GB members are already members.

Donations

- The Chapter wishes to Thank **John Fryer** for his recent donation of \$300.00. John has dedicated his donation to the following: \$100 in memory of Elwood Currier; \$100 in memory of Bob Cherry and \$100 in memory of George “Speedy” Gaspard.
- Thanks to the generosity of **Bill Schulz and Richard Whitman**, we have several signed bottles of **Horse Soldier Bourbon** available for purchase. All the bottles are signed by one of the Founders of the Bourbon Distillery and who also happened to be one of the SF Team members of the first ODAs in Afghanistan after 9/11. If interested in purchasing some or all the signed bottles contact Richard Whitman for details: Tel: (407) 482-3817, E-mail: rgwsrw99@aol.com

Health & Welfare

- **Ginny Billingsley:** Lisa Curtice wrote to me about her mother Ginny Billingsley: *Currently she has been moved to a nursing home and has transitioned to Hospice care. I do not believe I will be able to bring her to anymore meetings, or weekends, as she needs more care than I can provide. Please let everyone know how very much she loved getting to see everyone, especially after Dad passed. She misses everyone and hopes that everyone is doing as well as the can. If anyone asks, she can be reached at her number 386-295-5881.*
- **Phil and Joette Devon.** Phil is doing better and continues to fight the good fight. Prayers continue.
- **Ray and Judy Drewry:** Please keep both Ray and Judy in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Sheila Whitman:** Please provide prayers.

SF/Ranger Luncheons

St Petersburg SF/Ranger: *The Harbor Master* at Bay Pines Marina, 4999 Harbor Lights Drive, Seminole FL 33706. 1 March @ 1130 Hours ET

Cape Canaveral SF/Ranger: Held monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at 1130 Hours ET at *Grills Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar*, 500 Glen Cheek Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL. The next one is 25 March @ 1130 Hours ET.

Upcoming SFA & SOA Events 2024

8 Mar 2025: 20th SFG(A) Reunion and Dining Out 2025, Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa, 4000 Grand Avenue Birmingham, AL 35226 [WEBSITE](#)

29 Mar 2025: 20th Group Reunion, Saturday, March 29th, 2025 – 1200 -1700 hours, 2207 W Baker St, Plant City, FL 33563. POC Chris Bell chrisbell66@tampabay.rr.com

6-7 Apr 2025: 5th Annual Spartan Clays shooting event, Special Forces Charitable Trust, Hudson Farm, Andover, New Jersey. [WEBSITE](#)

May 2025 (Specific date TBD) - 5th SFG(A) and SFA Chapter 38 will dedicate the Special Forces Vietnam Memorial on Gabriel Field, Fort Campbell, KY. The new granite memorial will consist of the names of the 800 SF men lost during the Vietnam war. <https://specialoperations.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2adc2817e604ddbfe991ebff7&id=74154dc516&e=15c7c2590f>

1 May 2025: Special Operations Warrior Foundation 45th Anniversary Dinner & Fundraiser. Theme is “Honoring America’s Finest: Their Service, Sacrifice, Legacy, and Families”. 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM at The Gathering at Armature Works in Tampa, FL. Keynote speaker that evening will be Retired Marine Sergeant Kevin Hermening, the youngest hostage taken as prisoner during the Iran hostage crisis. [WEBSITE](#)

2 May 2025: 2025 SF Regimental Birthday Ball for the National Capital Region, 1400, Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, VA. Honoring Task Force Dagger. POC Ray Oden, President, SFA Chapter XI, odenrl24@gmail.com

5-8 May 2025: SOF Week – Global SOF, Tampa, FL [WEBSITE](#)

17 May 2025: Chapter XXI Spring Meeting and Luncheon, **Orange Blossom Hill Country Club**, 1542 Water Tower Circle, Lady Lake (The Villages) Florida 32159 (P) 352-751-4501
<https://www.orangeblossomhillscountryclub.com>

9 Aug 2025: B-2/11 SFG (ABN) Reunion (TENTATIVE), Rachel’s Restaurant, 54 Westchester Dr, Youngstown, Ohio. LEARN MORE [WEBSITE](#)

18-22 Aug 2025: 1st SFG(A) Reunion, Helena, MT. Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr, Helena, MT 59601.
[Activity Brochure](#) [Register Here](#)

11-14 Sep 2025: Det "A" Berlin Get Together (any SF Brothers in the AO are invited), Comfort Suites Greenville Airport. [BROCHURE](#)

20-27 Sep 2025: 5th Group Annual Reunion. No details yet, but SFA Chapter 38 sponsors the event in Clarksville, TN.

13-16 Oct 2025: SOAR, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV

14-17 Oct 2025: SFACON 2025, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV [WEBSITE](#)

17-20 November 2025: 2025 Modern Warfare Week – Fort Bragg, Global SOF Foundation [WEBSITE](#)

Chapter XXI Quartermaster (Sale Items)



DOL Crest Zipper Pull
\$7.00 each plus
\$2.00 postage



USA Flag (3'x5')
\$10.00 each plus
\$3.00 postage



SF Ratchet Belt and Buckle W/ DOL Crest
\$50.00 each plus
\$5.00 postage



SFA Chapter XXI
(Only 7 Left of the Original Coin)
\$15.00 each plus
\$1.00 postage

Make checks payable to *SFA Chapter 21*
Mail your order and checks to: *Susan Micelli, 4243 McCorvey Rd, Deland, FL 32724*

Chapter XXI Education Grant Program

Chapter XXI has created a program to provide limited financial aid to direct dependents of current active members, in good standing, who are attending accredited educational institutions. The Board of Directors has formed the Education Grant Committee which has finalized the Grant process, will oversee the deployment of the program, and manage the application and awarding process.

Attached to this Newsletter are two documents: 1) Overview of the Education Grant Program and 2) a Blank Application form. All active Chapter members, in good standing, are encouraged to forward the application to their descendants who meet the Program requirements. After the applicant completes their portion of the form, it is then returned to their sponsor who would then complete the sponsor endorsement section. Please note that Chapter members are required to complete their portion of the application and forward it to the Chapter no later than the **stated deadline, 31 May 2025**. Completed applications should be mailed to: Philip Devon, Treasurer, SFA Chapter 21, 4313 North Course LN, Avon Park, FL 33825.

If you have any questions regarding the Education Grant Program, please email your questions to: Philip Devon, email address: pnjdevon@gmail.com

For more information, please see the Educational Grant Objective, Criteria and Application below:

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER XXI EDUCATION GRANT

Objective of the Education Grant-

Create a source of contributing funds to the achievement of academic goals for members of Chapter XXI, SFA and their descendants. Amount of Education Grant should be calculated to cover the expense for textbooks and related items necessary for one year of college education.

Program Overview-

1. **Funding** - Use Chapter XXI existing General Fund plus any funds raised/donated specifically for the Education Grant.
2. **Budget** - \$500 per recipient, target of at least 2 recipients per year.
3. **Criteria** - Candidates for the Grant must be active members or direct descendants (children, stepchildren, grandchildren, great-grandchildren) of existing active members of Chapter XXI. Education Grants will be awarded based upon merit (grades), need (income), and evidence of leadership and participation in school, community, and volunteer activities.
4. **Application** - Candidates must provide the completed application form by the stated annual deadline of 31 May.
5. **Selection of Awardees** – Current elected Chapter Board of Directors will appoint an Education Grant Committee to review applications received and select the annual winners using an established grading evaluation criterion (i.e., points for grades, points for need, points for participation in leadership and activities).
6. **Winners of the Education Grant** will be announced and awarded by the first week in August and recipients will receive a formal announcement and check via mail.

Special Forces Association Chapter XXI Education Grant Application

Section 1: Applicant Information (Please print)

Date _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone # _____ Email _____

FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

School Currently Attending _____ Current GPA _____ When will you Graduate? _____

School You Plan to Attend _____ Anticipated Start Date _____

Intended Major or Area of Interest _____

What is Your Long-Term Career Goal? _____

Your Most Important Personal Achievements **Last 12 Months** (Leadership Positions, Community Service, Awards, Scholarships, etc.) _____

—

What Else Should We know About You? _____

If You are Awarded a Grant, How Will You Use the Money? _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Section 2: Chapter XXI Member Sponsor for the Applicant

Name _____ SFA Member # _____ Member Relationship to Applicant _____

Why Do You Believe that the Applicant Should Receive the Chapter XXI Education Grant? –