



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT XLIV**



**SOAR XLIV  
OCTOBER 18-22, 2021  
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**You can also donate a portion of your Amazon purchases to the SOAF through the Amazon Smile Program at <https://smile.amazon.com>**



# EDUCATION

**Educational grants to vetted Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families**

The Special Operations Association Foundation provides educational grants to vetted active duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families through the Special Operations Association's (SOA) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program. As of August 2020, 173 young men and women have been awarded scholarships since the grant program began in 1983. The George C. Morton Scholarship grant is awarded by the SOA and must be used at an accredited four year College or University, Junior College, Community College, or Technical School which will lead to an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, or a technical vocation program certificate.



**ELIGIBILITY:** A high school graduate, or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, unmarried, and under the age of 21 years at the time of application. Must be a son, daughter, or grandchild, natural or adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit, and is a SOA member in "good standing". Applications are also accepted from wives and widows of Special Operators who are members of the Special Operations Association or were KIA or MIA while serving with a Special Operations unit in combat.

**APPLICATIONS:** Application packets are available from 15 September of the previous year to 15 March of the year that the grant will be awarded. The deadline for

the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year the Grant will be awarded. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Steve Yevich at [syevich@hotmail.com](mailto:syevich@hotmail.com).

**More information on the Special Operations Association can be found at <http://www.specialoperations.org>**



# Special Operations Association Fact Sheet

The Special Operations Association, established in December 1977, is a fraternal veteran's organization of past and present American and Allied military personnel who have conducted special operations in a combat environment. Membership is limited to Free World forces who supported, or personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity. The group includes veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia as well as those from our most recent conflicts in the global war on terrorism.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider, and Force Recon personnel and veterans of other elite military organizations who were an integral part of Special Operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

- a. To unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations;
- b. To perpetuate the Special Operations "esprit de corps"; and,
- c. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA through the management of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$671,000 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 173 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veteran's organization, 501(c)(19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Annual membership dues are \$30 USD. Lifetime membership fee is \$505 USD under 70 years of age, and \$305 USD for 70 years and over. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report, (SOAR AAR).

The SOA conducted its 44th annual reunion (SOAR XLIV) virtually from The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 19-22 October 2020. This year's attendance via the Zoom meeting platform was 149 members and guests.

Revised: 1 November 2020

WEB SITE: [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)



## President's Report



SOAR XLIV was the most unusual reunion that the Special Operations Association ever had! In the midst of the worst pandemic in 100 years, the Board and staff organized and presented an outstanding virtual reunion, the fruits of which will serve us well in the future. Virtual platforms are here to stay.

Some highlights. John Russell stood up an Auxiliary Committee, and hosted a well-attended Zoom meeting. The committee will start out to assist widows and families. Vicki Padgett, wife of DMOR Doc Padgett, has agreed to serve as chair.

A growing source of interest at SOAR is our list of authors. Clyde Sincere hosted “Author’s Story Time”, which highlighted almost twenty authors. Keep on writing!

I attended three great Zoom meetings: CCN hosted by Tilt Meyer and Horace Boner; the NKP meeting hosted by Mike Taylor, and RT Rivero’s Air Assets Hospitality meeting. Great to catch up with our mates.

Doc Padgett hosted his annual Health and Welfare meeting. Well done, Doc.

Mike Taylor hosted the Joint POW-MIA Committee meeting. We heard the latest from DPAA and Mike regarding our never-ending commitment to bring home the remains of our warriors. The MIA Family Memorial Breakfast scheduled this year was a COVID casualty. It will be re-scheduled for next year and will be sold out very quickly.

A special note of thanks for those who worked endlessly to transform the expected live meeting to a virtual platform. President Rick Estes coordinated across our community and with The Orleans. Secretary Duffy Jensen strained his back and eyes for days over his laptop. Old friend Steve Sherman provided web support. And the tireless Bonnie Cooper, newly designated SOA Web Coordinator provided support and excellent videos for days.

See you next year — God willing — LIVE! — in Las Vegas for SOAR XLV on October 18, 2021, to be followed immediately by the Special Forces Association Reunion!

Doug

### **Virtual SOAR comment from Dave and Dee Spencer:**

*“The opportunity to attend SOAR virtually was a success!” In the future, I think we should consider making virtual access to some of the SOAR events accessible to those who may not be able to attend in person. Moreover, I think we might consider making some of the SOAR events accessible to family members; particularly, our children and grandchildren. I think having some interactive seminars might be added to the schedule of events for family members to observe, ask questions, and learn some measure of importance of our freedoms and how they must be defended and secured from one generation to another”*

# Seeking Brightlight Candidates

December 2020

Fellow SOA Members,

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XLIV this year due to personal financial problems? If you know an SOA member faced with that dilemma, please call or e-mail Operation Brightlight committee members who are listed below.

Operation Brightlight was founded in 2005 to help SOA members attend SOAR and is funded through member contributions. The levels of assistance can range from helping to pay for a hotel room, SOAR registration, airfare or travel costs, a stipend for taxi and general costs, or all of the above combined, depending on the SOA member's individual situation at the time of the review by the Operation Brightlight Committee members.

Operation Brightlight committee members screen any applicant's request for assistance before any final decisions are made regarding that individual candidate. The names of all Brightlight candidates remain confidential and are not shared with the general membership, only committee members and key personnel on the SOA Board of Directors or SOA Special Staff.

Since 2005, 43 SOA members and three family members have been assisted at some level of monetary consideration by this program thanks again to the generosity of the SOA membership in general, and the SOA Riders.

Please contact one of the following committee members for assistance:

- Chairman John "Doc" Padgett | 702-499-8155 | E-mail: [bacsi10@yahoo.com](mailto:bacsi10@yahoo.com)
- Tim Schaaf | 951-551-1462 | E-mail: [schaafnt@msn.com](mailto:schaafnt@msn.com)
- Rick Grabianowski | 775-846-1138 | E-mail: [rick@grabianowski.com](mailto:rick@grabianowski.com)

Respectfully submitted,

SOA Operation Brightlight Committee  
John "Doc" Padgett  
Tim Schaaf  
Rick Grabianowski

*"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm." —George Orwell*

# Table of Contents

SOA Fact Sheet .....	01
President’s Report .....	02
Seeking Brightlight Candidates.....	03
SOA Board of Directors .....	05
SOA Special Staff and Committee Chairmen.....	06
SOA-WAC .....	07
SOAR XLV Early Warning Order.....	09
SOA Author’s Event.....	10
POW-MIA Symposium.....	17
Election Tally Report.....	20
SOAR from the TOC & Team Houses.....	21
Financial Reports .....	25
Membership Report .....	29
Awards .....	30
SOAR XLIV GMM Minutes .....	31
Tenure Pins 20-40.....	34
Registrar’s Report.....	40
George C. Morton Scholarship Report.....	41
SOA Riders Report .....	43
Video History and Archive Report.....	44
Warrior’s Family Fund Report.....	45
Brightlight Report .....	46
Nominating Committee Election Announcemnt.....	47
Jason Hardy Ad .....	48
TAPS .....	50
SOA Policy Statement Reminder .....	52
Endowments, Bequests and Wills .....	53
Planned Giving Program .....	55
SOA Membership Folio .....	56
Quartermaster Sales.....	60
Silent Auction Ad.....	62
COVID-19 and You – Now What?.....	64
SOA MOH Ad and Order Form .....	67

**2021 annual dues are now due and payable.  
Refer to the annual dues page 56 for additional information.**

# **Special Operations Board of Directors 2020-2021**

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# Special Operations Association Special Staff and Committee Chairmen

## **Budget & Planning Chair**

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## **Operation Brightlight Chair**

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## **Video History Project & Archives (I.C.) Chair**

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Chuck.Woodson@gmail.com

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iddavis1@msn.com

## **Entertainment Chair**

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johnr7940@gmail.com

## **Membership Chair**

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membership@  
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## **System Coordinator**

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## **Warrior Family Fund Chair**

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## **POW/MIA Chair**

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# SOA-WAC

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS WOMENS AUXILLARY COMMITTEE**



During the Virtual SOAR of 2020, wives and widows of Special Operations Association (SOA) members met in a virtual Zoom meeting and established the SOA Women's Auxiliary Committee (SOA-WAC).

The committee was the inspiration of SOA member John Russell who presented the concept to the Board of Directors. After much work, John was able to engage some wives and widows and schedule the first meeting, with the help of Bonnie Cooper, at the virtual SOAR to establish the SOA-WAC. John provided much useful information, ideas and inspiration.

The committee elected Vicki Chan-Padgett as its first chairwoman. The Mission and Goals were presented and approved. Three agenda items that developed from that meeting were (1) engaging widows within the organization, (2) develop an FAQ sheet to aid those who recently have had a loved one pass, and (3) draft language to amend the bylaws to make the committee an official SOA organization. This will be submitted to the SOA Board of Directors in the next few weeks.

### **The mission and goals of the committee are as follows:**

The mission of the SOA-WAC is to provide support to the Special Operations Association through the engagement and camaraderie of Association member's wives, widows and families.

### **Goals**

1. The SOA-WAC will provide activities to help and support the wives, widows and families of SOA members
2. The SOA-WAC will provide direct assistance and consistent support in dire circumstances.
3. The SOA-WAC will help with the recruitment of new SOA members through partnering with key family support units at special operations units.
4. The SOA-WAC will develop a fiduciary plan that will support the activities of the committee
5. The SOA-WAC will serve at the discretion of the Association's Board of Directors to address the special needs of the wives, widows, and families.
6. The SOA-WAC will be a resource for the Association as the Association addresses the needs of its members

The committee welcomes the participation of all SOA wives and widows. Interested women may contact Vicki Chan-Padgett at her email: [vickichanpadgett@yahoo.com](mailto:vickichanpadgett@yahoo.com).



# Early Warning Order SOAR XLV 18-22 Oct 2021

**Who:** SOA Members in good standing and their guests are eligible to register. If you have questions about your status, contact [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org), or 910-425-1425.

**Where:** The Orleans Hotel and Casino, 4500 West Tropicana Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420, Phone: 800 675-3267 <http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>.

**Group Code:** ASP1C10 (Alpha-Sierra-Papa-One-Charlie-One-Zero). Use this code when making your reservations.

**Accommodations:** Room rates and availability are guaranteed through 13 September 2021. Sunday through Thursday daily — \$47 per day plus tax and resort fee \$15.99. Friday and Saturday — \$97 per day, plus tax and resort fee \$15.99.

**Guests:** Guests are always welcome; however, sponsors are expected to be in attendance when their guests arrive.

**Banquet Seating:** Reserve your banquet seat after you check-in.

**End of Reunion:** All SOAR activities will cease at 1200, Friday 22 October 2021.

*For the first time ever, the Special Operations Association Reunion and the Special Forces Association Convention will be held at the same venue and overlap by one day – Friday, October 22nd. Friday, the 22nd will feature a shared hospitality room with both organizations.*

## MIA Memorial Breakfast

*There are 140 of our brothers-in-arms, who would have been eligible to join the Special Operations Association, but are still Missing in Action (MIA) or Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered (KIA/BNR).*

*On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the SOA will hold a memorial breakfast at SOAR in The Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, in honor of these 140 men who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Details and a method to make reservations for this event will be posted on the SOA website and Facebook page, and by “Blast Email”, when the details are finalized.*

*If you know the family members of any of our unaccounted for or KIA/BNR personnel, please pass on this “heads up” and encourage them to attend, if interested.*



**WELCOME**  
TO Fabulous  
**LAS VEGAS**  
NEVADA

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2021 CONVENTION**

The 2021 Special Forces Convention "SFACON" promises to be one of the biggest, SFA Conventions of all time. Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world and we promise to throw a lot at you over the course of 4+ days. Our host hotel, The Orleans, has a huge hospitality room which will feature an "open" bar for the entire convention. Don't miss this one!

**October 22-25th**  
**Immediately following**  
**SOAR**



**SFACON**  
[www.sfacon.com](http://www.sfacon.com)  
Starts with free welcome breakfast  
10am - 10/22/2021

**FEATURING**

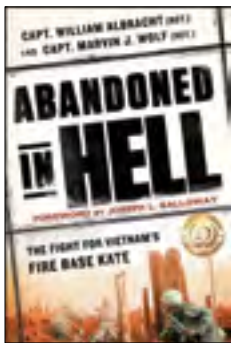
- Open Bar all days
- SF Speaker Symposium
- Butler Purple Heart Run
- M Hotel Day Club After Race Party
- Death Valley Motorcycle Ride
- Golf Tournament



## SOA Author's Event

Distinctly different from last year's very successful inaugural event in Las Vegas, this year's Authors' Event was an equally successful "virtual" affair conducted via a Zoom webinar. From a windowless conference room at The Orleans, President Estes stood in for Clyde Sincere as host for eleven authors displaying a collection of 17 books. Steve Sherman, one of the eleven authors, orchestrated and managed the 3-hour virtual forum from the comfort of his home in Houston. He was assisted by Bonnie Cooper in sunny Florida. Each author, from their own secret location, was given 15 minutes to present their work and answer questions from the attendees

The following are synopses for each author's work with links to available sources.



In October 1969, William Albracht, the youngest Green Beret captain in Vietnam, took command of a remote hilltop outpost called Firebase Kate held by only 27 American soldiers and 156 Montagnard militiamen. At dawn the next morning, three North Vietnamese Army regiments—some six thousand men—crossed the Cambodian border and attacked.

Outnumbered three dozen to one, Albracht's men held off the assault but, after five days, Kate's defenders were out of ammo and water. Refusing to die or surrender, Albracht led his troops off the hill and on a daring night march through enemy lines.

*Abandoned in Hell* is an astonishing memoir of leadership, sacrifice, and brutal violence, a riveting journey into Vietnam's heart of darkness, and a compelling reminder of the transformational power of individual heroism. Not since *Lone Survivor* and *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* has there been such a gripping and authentic account of battlefield courage.

*Abandoned in Hell* by William Albracht is available on Amazon.



The U.S. Congress has been assembling unlawfully since 1861. That's right! Since 1861, martial (military) law has prevailed in the United States. Since then, international bankers and members of the bar association have conspired to take control of America. In *Treason By Lies, Deceit and Fraud*, Mike Blackwell states:

- Abraham Lincoln ignored the Constitution by convening Congress under military law... and the precedent has continued to this day.
- The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is a privately owned corporation organized under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.
- The US legal profession is actually governed by the British Accredited Registry in London, England in conjunction with the Vatican for their own financial profit and control.

- Every US citizen is by law a slave of the corporate state known as the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The original government formed by our founding fathers was unincorporated. Why is it incorporated now? Does this matter? Absolutely! Learn how the American people lost their freedom and how they can regain it again.

*Treason by Lies, Deceit and Fraud* by Mike Blackwell is available on Amazon.



## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)



For too long, a small group in our nation's Capital has reaped the rewards of government, at the cost of its citizens. Washington flourished - but the insiders refused to share in its wealth. Politicians prospered - but allowed our jobs to leave and our factories to close.

Not anymore.

In *Trump: A True American Patriot ... or Not?* Glenn Fearn and Mike Blackwell reveal the depths of corruption, deceit, and manipulation infesting our political system for hundreds of years, regardless of political affiliation.

- Read the hard evidence that exposes how our elected officials sold Americans into slavery.
- Understand the founding fathers' true intent when they formed our Republican form of government.
- Discover the influence of the satanic Roman “cult” on our politicians and political system.

Does Donald Trump want to transfer power back to “We the People”? In *Trump*, you will see the great battle that is upon us.

***Trump: a True American Patriot* by Glenn Fearn & Mike Blackwell is available on Amazon.**



*Combat Talons in Vietnam* is a personal account of the first use of C-130s in the Vietnam War. It provides an insider's view of crew training and classified missions for this technologically advanced aircraft. Many covert missions over North Vietnam were successful, but one night, John Gargus, a mission planner, oversaw an operation in which the aircraft—carrying eleven crewmembers—failed to return from a nighttime mission. For thirty years, a search for the missing aircraft remained in progress.

In the late 1990s, the Combat Talon veteran community at Hurlburt Field in Florida, still uncertain of the full story, decided to dedicate a memorial to the lost crew. When wartime mission records were declassified, Gargus embarked on a long journey of inquiry, research, and puzzle-solving to reconstruct the events of that mission and the fate of its crew. He discovered that the wreckage of the plane had been found in 1992 and that the remains of the crew were being held in Hawaii. Through numerous Freedom of Information Act requests, interviews, and site visits, Gargus sought to answer the question of why it took so long to find the wreckage and, more importantly, why the special operations command units were left uninformed. By 2000, the remains were relocated to a common grave at Arlington National Cemetery at last providing a measure of closure to family, friends, and comrades.

***Combat Talons in Vietnam* by John Gargus is available on Amazon, and an autographed copy can be ordered at [Gartalon70@gmail.com](mailto:Gartalon70@gmail.com).**

## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)

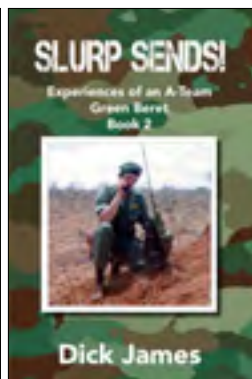


In May 1970, aerial photographs revealed what U.S. military intelligence believed was a POW camp near the town of Son Tay, twenty-three miles west of North Vietnam's capital city. When American officials decided the prisoners were attempting to send signals, they set in motion a daring plan to rescue the more than sixty airmen thought to be held captive.

On November 20, a joint group of volunteers from U.S. Army Green Berets and U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces perfectly executed the raid, only to find the prisoners' quarters empty; the POWs had been moved to a different location. Initially, the Son Tay raid was a devastating disappointment to the men who risked their lives to carry it out. Many vocal critics labeled it as a spectacular failure of our nation's intelligence network. However, subsequent events proved that the audacity of the rescue attempt stunned the North Vietnamese, who implemented immediate changes in the treatment of their captives. The operation also restored the prisoners' faith that their nation had not forgotten them.

John Gargus not only participated in the planning phase of the Son Tay rescue, but also flew as a lead navigator for the strike force. This revised edition incorporates the most recent information from raid participants and also includes recent translations of North Vietnamese perspectives. No previous account of this top-secret action has given such a full account or such insight into both the execution and the aftermath of Son Tay.

**The Son Tay Raid** by John Gargus is available on Amazon, and an autographed copy can be ordered at [Gartalon70@gmail.com](mailto:Gartalon70@gmail.com).



Reflections and Experiences of a Vietnam War Green Beret A-Team Member. This book describes what led up to the author becoming a "Green Beret," including the more than a year of training he endured in reaching that goal. U.S. Army Special Forces was just beginning to accept SF trainees from raw recruits in 1962, when he volunteered. Prior to that, only non-commissioned officers (NCOs) could join Special Forces. Book One of a four-part series describe Dick's experiences as a "Green Beret."

"On Becoming a Green Beret," will take readers who have endured the same training back to their own experiences, while those who haven't will learn a lot about what training was like in those days, as well as feeling like they're living through the same training and experiences Dick endured. Aiding in Dick's recollections of his past come mostly from the hundreds of letters home, which were saved, and are now his. He also still has more than five hundred photographs he took along his journey, especially in Ethiopia and South Vietnam. He also has more than a hundred binders of research materials to support his historical memories.

## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)

“Now that I’ve read *Slurp Sends!*, I can’t wait for his next book. It’s a masterpiece, weaving American history in the 50s/60s with Dick James growing up delivering papers in Oakland, every detail on entering the Army, training to be a Green Beret and Special Forces unique niche in military history.”  
—John Stryker Meyer, author of SOG Chronicles, Across the Fence, and On the Ground

*Slurp Sends* by Dick James is available on Amazon.

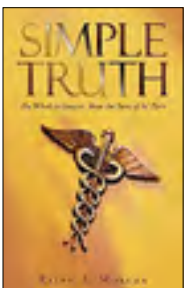


From May 10 to 12, 1968 two reinforced regiments — 3,000 to 4,000 regular, uniformed troops — of the 2nd PAVN Division attacked an isolated U.S. Special Forces camp called Kham Duc near the remote Laotian border of I Corps. They shot down 12 planes, including a C-130 with 183 civilian refugees. Nearly 150 close-support aircraft attacking in some 350 sorties during those three days followed by two days of carpet bombing by scores of B-52s caused an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 NVA casualties. More than 1,000 U.S. and indigenous defenders

were narrowly evacuated by Air Force transport planes and Army and Marine helicopters just before a monsoon storm closed the camp’s airstrip.

This revisionist history and analysis of the battle is the only one published by an eyewitness participant. James McLeroy was the Officer-In-Charge of the covert SOG site inside the SF camp. His experience there combined with the co-authors’ original archival research and interviews of many other direct and indirect participants in the battle radically contradict all the other misinformed and misinterpreted accounts of it. The combat narrative is detailed in the context of the grand strategies and politics of the U.S. and North Vietnamese leaders on the eve of the first Paris Peace Talks. BAIT is endorsed by a 4-star former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by a 2-star Army Medal of Honor recipient, by a 2-star Air Force fighter pilot, by a former Marine Corps colonel, and by an Emeritus Professor of the Army Command and General Staff College. It was a finalist for the 2019 Distinguished Book Award of the Army Historical Foundation. Of the 116 reader ratings on its Amazon web site 64% are 5-star and 19% are 4-star.

*Bait: The Battle of Kham Duc* by James McLeroy and Gregory Sanders is available on Amazon.



Why are “10,10,10” and “The Secret” only pieces of the puzzle? Why have Kirstie and Oprah struggled with weight loss? Look at the whole puzzle and find the answers to these questions and more. There is a relationship between personality and performance for the individual as well as for an organization. Personality is the sum of all beliefs that an individual holds about themselves and manifest in their performance. The beliefs that people hold about themselves determine where those people are and why, just as the beliefs that an organization holds about their organizational community determine how that organization performs and why.

If we understand the elements of personality, or organizational behavior, we can take control of those elements and change the personality and/or the organization. This book will introduce you to those elements and a system that combines them so that the user can intentionally cause change in the direction that they choose. The system illuminated in these pages will not only apply to personal and organizational change, but may be applied to environmental changes as well.

*Simple Truth* by Ralph Morgan is available on Amazon.

## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)

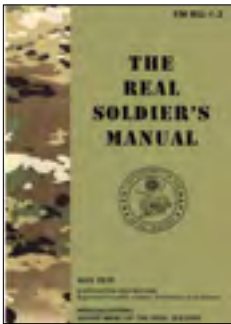
### “When Terror Comes to Main Street”



*When Terror Comes to Main Street* delivers the straight scoop about terrorism, the worst attacks yet to come, and what common citizens must do now, individually and collectively, to prepare for and even prevent terror attacks in their communities.

This book is the blueprint for citizen understanding, preparedness, and prevention.

### “The Real Soldier’s Manual, FM RU 1-2”



Funny, irreverent and satirical view of military life as seen through the eyes of a career Army Soldier and his dutiful Army spouse. Featuring Real Soldier Language, Real Soldier Food, Battle of Camouflages, If You Have a Phone, You Have a Drone, Bumper Sticks for Combat Vehicles, and much, much, more.

*When Terror Comes to Main Street and The Real Soldier's Manual* by Joseph Ruffini are available on Amazon.



The tale of a young Green Beret medic, Vietnam combat veteran with the top secret Studies and Observations Group (SOG) who was recruited by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Schofield worked 5 1/2 years providing medical support for the Hmong and other Hill Tribes who fought the CIA's secret war in Northern Laos, and was among the last Americans to leave SE Asia in May 1975. It was a surreal time and place that would be impossible to even imagine today.

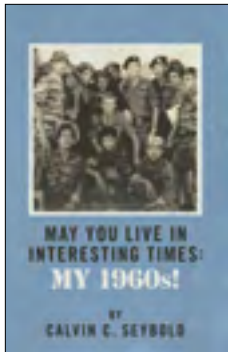
*“Schofield’s book reflects a genuine love for the Hmong and their culture, as well as a vast knowledge of their efforts during our ‘secret war’ in Laos in the 1960s and 1970s. Read and learn some actual facts; not overblown rhetoric from another barstool hero.”* —Stephen R. Leopold is Colonel, SF, USA (Ret)

*“Schofield’s book will be a welcome, informative addition to recent books released on the early days of Green Beret history in Southeast Asia. De Oppresso Liber.”* —John Stryker Meyer is author of *SOG Chronicles, Across the Fence and On the Ground*.

*Secret War* in Laos by Steven Schofield is available on Amazon.



## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)



“May You Live in Interesting Times” is a collection of short stories of my humorous “War Stories” as a 2LT of Infantry in 1964-65 Korea and then two tours in Vietnam as a U.S. Army Special Forces junior officer; I was a 1LT in 1966, as an A-Team XO at Binh Thanh Thon (BTT), in IV Corps, and then CPT in 1968- 69, as B-36 Operations Officer and A-361 Commander in III Corps in the Republic of Vietnam. The short stories do not deal with the horrors of warfare, but with the events and escapades of a junior officer; the stories are a lot funnier now than they were when they transpired.

**Book Available from:** BookBaby eBook Publishing. Also available on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and many other eBook Publishers



Berlin, 1979.

When the CIA’s most valuable spy is compromised, the Agency realizes it does not have the capability to bring him to safety. If he cannot evade the dreaded East German security service, the result will be chaos and a cascade of failures throughout the Agency’s worldwide operations.

Master Sergeant Kim Becker lived through the hell of Vietnam as a member of the elite Studies and Operations Group. When he lost one of his best men in a pointless operation, he began to question his mission. Now, he is serving with an even more secretive Army Special Forces unit based in Berlin on the front

line of the Cold War.

The CIA turns to Becker’s team of unconventional warfare specialists to pull their bacon out of the fire. Becker and his men must devise a plan to get him out by whatever means possible. It’s a race against time to prepare and execute the plan while, alone in East Berlin, the agent must avoid his nemesis and play for time inside the hostile secret service headquarters he has betrayed.

One question remains — is the man worth the risk?

*“More than a good story, this tale is action packed yet firmly grounded in the real history of the Cold War. A Question of Time will grab you, immerse you in the times, and leave you ready for more.” —Lieutenant General Charlie Cleveland*

*“A thrilling, riveting, and whip-smart novel that feels as though you are being served a slice of Cold War military history. I didn’t question, I quite simply read and believed. A Question of Time is a fabulous start to a series that promises to deliver in spades, and it comes with a whopping thumbs up.” — Liz Robinson, LoveReading*

**A Question of Time** by James Stejskal is available on Amazon.

## SOA Author's Event (Cont'd)

### "Indochina in the Year of. . ." Series by VVFH



### The Complete Set (14 Volumes)

Plus a Thumb Drive with a complete set of Searchable .pdf files

~~\$250.00~~

including US Postage

If you already have **SOME** paper volumes, let us know what you **HAVE** when you order and we will **CREDIT** you with \$12.50 for each book we do **NOT** ship to you.

For a limited time only!

**\$200.00**

including US Postage

Steve Sherman described his nearly completed 14 book collection on the Second Indochina War 1963-1975. Each book contains about a dozen essays on important events of the year or the adjacent years. While there are still two more articles due in to complete the series, it is expected that the series will be available before the end of the year. The special offer noted above includes a credit for those who have already purchased some of the series.

Steve also noted that PDF copies of five of the VVFH magazines that he edited are available as free downloads at [www.VVFHMag.org](http://www.VVFHMag.org). Also available is a \$2900 tablet containing a huge collection of his publications including the SF CD's and booklets, the VVFH products and SE Asia maps. Three more of these tablets are available to those who wish to participate in the beta test and there will be only 45 more tablets produced after beta testing is completed. **BETA TEST TABLETS WILL BE UPGRADED FOR FREE.**

# POW-MIA Symposium



On Wednesday, October 21, 2020, the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee hosted a virtual POW/MIA Seminar. We were pleased and honored to feature the three top leaders in the mission to account for our missing and unaccounted-for brothers-in-arms:

- Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director of the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)
  - Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths, Chairman and CEO, National League of POW/MIA Families (the League)
  - Mr. Brad Taylor, Director, Stony Beach (SB) Program, Defense Intelligence Agency
1. Mr. McKeague began by thanking the SOA and SFA for our “steadfast advocacy and friendship”. He stated that DPAA funding from Congress has been good, but only because of Congress’ healthy program increases (+\$24M last year, potential +\$25M this year), all of which go to operations. COVID restrictions have prevented investigations and recoveries since March 2020. The first DPAA mission to resume will be a mission to the Solomon Islands in late October 2020. Despite teleworking limitations, 120 missing and unaccounted-for personnel were identified by DPAA in FY20, which included two from the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War will remain DPAA’s operational priority in FY21 and FY22. Cooperation with and from our counterparts from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia continues to improve. During DPAA’s COVID operational pause, Vietnam will have completed nine unilateral excavations by December 2020. Cooperation with private partnerships has been adding vital capacity and capability, while achieving successes worldwide, and are being introduced in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
  2. Ms. Mills Griffiths reflected on her 50 years of experience with the bureaucracies, processes, and people involved in the accounting mission — especially the leaders of our Southeast Asian counterpart governments. This gives her a distinct advantage that few government officials can develop in their limited tenures. She reflected upon the League’s January 2018 delegation to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, the first time the League had ever invited a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to accompany them. Mike Taylor represented the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee and met with Vietnam War veterans of the other side, including NVA anti-SOG sapper veterans. Ann referred to a paper presented to the counterpart governments entitled, “Concept for the Future” which was welcomed by them. The intent of the paper is to serve as a baseline for realistic expectations of what achieving the “fullest possible accounting” really means. Ann portrayed the Vietnamese as having welcomed the concept laid out in paper, indicating they were already working on meeting expectations in those categories. She also expressed the hope that DPAA will accelerate its objective analysis of where the issue stands as measured against initial expectations and move forward on the categories identified in the

## **POW-MIA Symposium (Cont'd)**

paper. Ann is encouraged by the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between DPAA and DIA regarding full integration of Stony Beach specialists' activities into DPAA field operations and beyond. Ann expressed appreciation for assurances by DPAA Director Kelly McKeague that the Vietnam War will remain DPAA's operational priority for at least the next two years, but reminded us that time is running out due to the extreme acidity of Southeast Asian soils (many recent recoveries are limited to teeth), aging and dying witnesses, etc.

3. Mr. Taylor is delighted with the new DIA-DPAA MOU regarding Stony Beach (SB). There are differences between the programs: DPAA covers all previous conflicts while SB has been solely dedicated to Vietnam War accounting since 1986. SB gathers and reports information while DPAA conducts analysis, recoveries, and identifications. SB personnel are professional-level linguists and trained strategic debriefers. There are eight SB personnel: two in Washington, DC, three Vietnamese specialists in Hawaii (who rotate TDY into VN), and one each stationed with the Defense Attache Offices in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. The US has been working with the Vietnamese since 2007 to gain permanent presence in VN but has not yet obtained agreement.
  - COVID 19 effects on SB: two VN specialists from Hawaii and one person each from Laos and Cambodia were recalled to DC. Only the Thailand representative remained in place. Field operations were shut down for five months. The time was used to translate documents and publish 76 reports (half of normal). In August 2020, the SB personnel were permitted to return to Cambodia and Laos. Visas have been approved for SB personnel to return to VN.
  - During recent virtual technical talks, the Vietnamese requested a single dedicated point-of-contact for them to coordinate with SB, rather than going through the DPAA detachment in Hanoi. SB is hoping to obtain authority for direct field operations independent of DPAA field teams, like they obtained in Laos and Cambodia.
  - The Vietnamese have recently opened new SB access to the National Vietnamese Archives and the Peoples' Army of VN Library, both of which contain many holdings regarding US MIAs.
  - In Laos, bilateral diplomatic relations are strained, but the Lao have cooperated well with SB over the last year. They have dedicated two personnel to accompany SB field operations separate from DPAA Joint Field Activities.
  - Operations have returned to normal in Cambodia, where only 48 Americans remain MIA. Cambodia remains the "gold standard" for cooperation.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. Mr. McKeague, where do you see Vietnam War accounting and DPAA in five years?

*Vietnam has been the number one operational priority for the past four years and gets the most budget and investigation and recovery teams. While that will remain the case for the next two years, as Ann reminds us, we are running out of time. DPAA was formed by combining several predecessor organizations and basically inherited their funding levels of \$130M. That is insufficient. After fixed costs, only 45% remains for operations, teams, laboratories, etc. In FY2021, DPAA will conduct a "Bottom-up Review" to determine and pursue a justifiable funding level. We believe our FY 23-26 funding requirements will be in the range of \$160M per year.*



## **POW-MIA Symposium (Cont'd)**

2. Ms. Mills Griffiths, how do you see the future of the League and your eventual successor?

*I believe the League is in as good a position as possible for now. As for the future, I am hopeful for the issue to proceed as outlined in our "Concept for the Future" paper which was coordinated in advance with DPAA, so comes as no surprise to them. As far as my successor, I have sought someone to "fill my shoes" for many years, and so far, no one has been willing, realizing they won't really have a normal life outside the issue. In reality, it would be difficult for anyone without years of direct involvement to be as straightforward with foreign and USG officials due to Ann's five decades of experience and relationships. When she retires, she promises to write her book.*

3. Mr. Taylor, What do you see as the future of Stony Beach? Can you interview Montagnards regarding our cases?

*We anticipate significant lead development flowing from the Vietnamese allowing SB access to their important archives. The new MOU should lead to a terrific symbiosis between SB and DPAA regarding lead development. The Vietnamese have recently allowed us access to any location in VN and the ability to talk to anyone we choose, to include Montagnards.*

4. Mr. McKeague, what is the meaning of the term "fullest possible accounting initiative"?

*It means providing answers to families where recovery of remains is not possible (deep sea losses, an area lost by the flooding from a dam being built, etc.) Sometimes the best we will ever be able to do is provide analytically-based answers without r*The seminar concluded with all three guest presenters thanking SOA and SFA for the opportunity to participate in the virtual seminar and our devotion to achieving the fullest possible accounting for our missing and unaccounted-for personnel.

### **Joint Special Operations Association/ Special Forces Association POW/MIA Committee**

Wade Ishimoto  
Jack Kull  
Jim Latham  
John "Tilt" Myer



Cliff Newman  
Robert "Spider" Parks  
Mike Taylor  
Jim "Kimo" Wheeler

**SFA Point-of-Contact: Executive Director Mike Goodrich**  
**Special Forces Charitable Trust (benefactors): Terry English**

# Election Tally Report

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION TALLY COMMITTEE REPORT OF 2020 VOTE COUNT

To: Rick Estes, President, SOA Board of Directors

10-11-2020

From: Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2020 ELECTION.

On Friday, October 9, 2020, President Rick Estes and I met at Annie's Café in Lake Elsinore, CA where we counted the ballots for positions of: President, Vice President, and one Director. Oddly enough, none of the positions was contested.

During the lead-up to the ballot count, the ballots were collected from the U.S. Mail and retained by me until the count could be effected. These ballots were vetted by Chairman Ray Frovarp for eligibility to vote. Approximately six or eight ballots were set aside as ineligible due to associate membership. Two additional ballots were disqualified, as widows of deceased members have no voting right.

In this election, none of the voters chose to "write in" a member's name for any position. The results were:

For the position of PRESIDENT, Doug Godshall received 122 votes.

For the position of VICE PRESIDENT, Mike Taylor received 123 votes.

For the position of DIRECTOR, Don Haase received 124 votes.

The ballots will be mailed to SOA Secretary Duffy Jensen, to be held the prescribed period directed by the SOA By-Laws, and then disposed of.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Keele, Chairman of the Tally Committee

### **Virtual SOAR comment from Bruce Maine:**

*"I certainly was unfamiliar with "Zoom" and I tried it out on Captain Mikes' seminar, but I could not be seen, which was probably a good thing! But his seminar was truly very interesting! These gentlemen told some heartfelt stories, some emotional and I hope that I wasn't intruding"..." I couldn't be seen for your meeting as well, but I was the guy behind "door number three!" ..." All in all, it was the "next best thing" minus the slots! Thanks for listening! With good wishes, "The Guy behind Door Number three!"*

# SOAR from the TOC & Team Houses

**Notes from the TOC** — The Special Operations Association Reunion, like so many other annual traditions, was a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic that gripped the world in 2020. The Board of Directors began discussing the wisdom of convening SOAR XLIV during the March Board Meeting as the pandemic was unfolding. After several months of yea and nay, the Board voted unanimously on June 18th to proceed with a traditional SOAR given the situation at that moment in time. Of course, immediately following the Board's decision, the COVID-19 data took a turn for the worse, and the State of Nevada implemented protocols that would have made a gathering the size of SOAR impractical. SOAR, in its traditional sense, was canceled.

Discussions on how to conduct the required General Membership Meeting and the swearing in of newly elected officers/directors gave rise to the idea of a virtual SOAR, and planning began in earnest mid-August. Over the next two months, the SOA Officers began with weekly meetings which became daily discussions as the technical/content aspects were worked out in conjunction with various contributors. In the final days of preparation, SOA member Steve Sherman operated a virtual "Help Desk" and conducted numerous familiarization training sessions for webinar moderators, panelist, and attendees.

Early October 19th, President Estes, President-elect Doug Godshall, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Directors Leites and Rivero, and Administrative Assistant Linda Leavitt gathered in the LaSalle conference room of The Orleans to launch the SOAR XLIV Webinar which ran all day, every day, Monday through Wednesday. While Monday was an organizational day, the Army Heritage Center held a webinar that paid tribute to the men who endured the siege of Plei Me which had begun exactly 55 years earlier — October 19-25, 1965.



*The TOC*

Tuesday's highlights were the organizational meeting of the newly formed Special Operations Association — Women's Auxiliary Committee (SOA-WAC); eleven author's spent nearly 3 hours discussing their literary works and answering questions; and, a COVID Health & Welfare presentation by Doc Padgett.

Wednesday's key features were a POW/MIA symposium hosted by Mike Taylor (see POW/MIA Report elsewhere in the AAR), and SOA's first ever virtual General Membership Meeting. President Estes chaired the event from deep within a bunker on the second floor of The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. The highlights: Pledge of Allegiance led by President Estes; Invocation by Chaplain Doc Padgett; financial and membership reports; the swearing in of President-elect Doug Godshall, Vice President Mike Taylor, and Director Don Haase; and awards. Without all the fanfare associated with presenting awards, the meeting was a scant 48 minutes.



# SOAR from the TOC & Team Houses

## (Cont'd)

Each day closed with an open hospitality suite beginning about 1600. Thursday, the final day of Virtual SOAR XLIV, was dedicated to hospitality suites only throughout the day. From their distant locations in Texas and Florida, Steve Sherman and Bonnie Cooper were on deck all day, every day throughout Virtual SOAR XLIV.

The hospitality suites scheduled for all day Thursday were originally setup to be individual stand-alone events with its own unique web address. In retrospect, they could have been conducted at one web address with individual “breakout suites” dedicated to each unique group such as CCN, NKP, Mike Force, etc. Lesson learned...

### Notes from the Team Houses:

- **Safe House** — The Open Hospitality Suite on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings was open until about 10:00 PM PDT. The mid-west and east coast guys dropped off usually around 6:30-7:00 PM PDT.

On Tuesday I was about to end the session at 7:00 PM as I was by myself, when Ivan Davis showed up soon followed by Gene Pugh. They quickly discovered they were both commo guys in I Corp at about the same time. The stories began to go back and forth between them and occasionally myself until 10:00 PM when we ended the session.

The Wednesday session had people coming and going all evening long. At various points there were as many as 18-20 people in attendance. Some were just listening, and some sharing pictures and videos with the screenshare application to go along with their stories.

On Thursday at about mid-day, my curiosity got the best of me, there was one gentleman who had been sitting at his desk all day Wednesday and Thursday and hadn't said a word, and even appeared to be napping at one point on Wednesday. During a lull in the conversation I asked, “Gene you haven't said a word for two days”, he turned to face his camera and said “I'm not a member, I have been listening to the great stories you people are telling.” Come to find out he was a retired Vietnam veteran. He served in an engineering battalion and had built many base camps in Vietnam. Shortly afterward, the CCN Team House participants started joining us. With them came Rob Graham of Savage Games in the UK. Mr. Graham and team are developing a video game based on SOG and wanted input from those who were there. Rob then gave a demonstration of their new Prairie Fire game for the ARMA 3 platform. — **Don Haase sends**

Overall, in my very humble opinion, I was somewhat disappointed in the turnout we had with the Virtual SOAR. What we did have, again in my opinion, was very well received. From my perch, I was able to get one person up on the hospitality room that is unable to travel and cannot attend anything but very local events. That, in-itself, was a great accomplishment and I know that seeing a few names and faces was a benefit for him. I do believe that the virtual arena has some limited applicability to future SOARs, particularly for those who are unable to travel. I do not think the virtual path though is good for a larger audience. During the run-up to SOAR, based on e-addresses from Steve Sherman, I established contact with several folks, one in particular being in Thailand Based on conversations I had with him, he was



# SOAR from the TOC & Team Houses

## (Cont'd)

interested in the virtual aspect because he was unable to travel due to the COVID, but I do not recall that I ever saw him actually come online during the actual SOAR.

As for how to do it better, think the idea of the Main meeting room setup with the subordinate, specific sub-rooms is the best approach. If done in the future, I am sure it will go much smoother than this original foray. There is always hiccups in using technology; the best thought-out plan rarely survives the first magazine! —

***Horace Boner sends***

- **Mike Force** — The Mike Force Hospitality Suite generally worked ok, with a couple of technical glitches. We did not have a large turnout of participation, but those who did attend I think generally found it a great way to catch up with folks that they had not seen in a while. We even had a couple of non-MSF vets who enjoyed it as well. — ***Chris McClure sends***

I was representative for the I CORPS Mike Force, via ZOOM. I was disappointed in that there were not many of the 5 different Mike Force participating. That would be I, II, III, IV, and Nha Trang Mike Forces. I believe 15 +/- to be an accurate figure. I don't think many of the Mike Force personnel are involved with the SOA for some reason. —

***Ivan Davis sends***

- **CCS** — Don Haase and I shared time in the CCS hospitality room. The system glitches we had seemed to work out as the days slipped away with only minor stresses to some looking to get linked into the appropriate room. I am not sure of numbers entering our little corner, but I would guess 40-50 or so total. Many seemed to enjoy short visits and updates with others stopping by. — ***Alex Saunders sends***

- **SOA Riders** — I hosted the SOA Riders Hospitality Room and Bob Strange acted as our co-host. We only had 7 participants, but we all spent good quality time together discussing our past rides and the ride scheduled for 2021. We did come to an agreement that you don't necessarily have to ride a motorcycle to participate in our group. We realize that we are all getting up there in age and not everyone is still riding. One will still have to be vetted by SOA and fill out one of the SOA Riders applications. The limited participation may have been due to the fact we were the last agenda item on the last day of the conference. — ***Marcus Whitt sends***

- **NKP** — The Hospitality Room for "Heavy Hook", the MACV-SOG launch site at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, was an enjoyable event that lasted approximately two hours. Thanks to the terrific preparatory work of Duffy Jensen, Bonnie Cooper and Steve Sherman, the Hospitality Room event went off without a hitch. We had over twenty attendees, including launch site personnel (all of whom were former SOG recon men), Prairie Fire Forward Air Controllers, and A-1 Skyraider pilots. We were hoping for a larger turnout, but our first effort with a target audience above the age of computer and social media aficionados, did not deter us from having a really good time. We started with a slide show which got the conversation and storytelling going nicely. It was truly great catching up with old comrades-in-arms. The absolute highlight of the session was the attendance of recon and Special Forces legend, Larry Manes. Still in a nursing home due to a stroke two years ago, Larry was assisted in logging in by the Recreation Department of his facility. We loved seeing and talking to Larry and we could tell he

# SOAR from the TOC & Team Houses

## (Cont'd)

got a huge kick out of joining us. — **Mike Taylor sends**

I do not recall exactly, but we probably only had 15 - 20 participants once we got the kinks worked out. The highlight of the session was when we got Larry Manes online with the aid and assistance of his nursing staff. It was a good opportunity for all to briefly reminisce and I know that it certainly brought a brief, bright spot to Larry. Congratulations go out to Mike Taylor for being the comms engineer/coordinator to make that work. — **Horace Boner sends**

- **Air Assets** — The meeting went fairly well considering we had some unexpected

scheduling difficulties. At its peak about 10 members joined the conversation: mostly Green Hornets, Gunship, and FAC veterans. Perhaps the word did not get around to members of our Army Air units. In any case we had a great time reminiscing about our experiences during our Combat tours and catching up with current events in our lives. Perhaps some excerpts from comments sent to us by a few members in attendance might better sum up the experience (see text boxes throughout the AAR). — **“RT” Rivero sends**

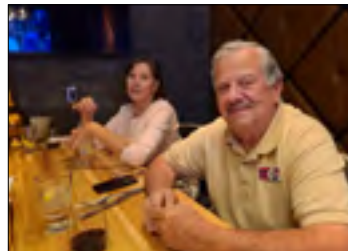
- **CCN — Lost Comm**
- **CCC — Lost Comm**



*Hospitality Suite hosted by Estes Family Vineyard*



*SOAR XLIV Banquet at Bailiwick*



*Photos courtesy of “RT” Rivero*

A debriefing was conducted the week following SOAR. The general consensus is that Virtual SOAR XLIV was a success from the execution standpoint...there were no observable technical glitches despite on-going connectivity issues at The Orleans and a computer crash, the forums went off as planned, and there was no dead air thanks solely to the efforts of Bonnie Cooper. A late Wednesday afternoon cross-

communications nearly derailed the Thursday hospitality suites, but several hall monitors made the rounds on Thursday morning and got everyone where they wanted to be.

Efforts are underway to evaluate the feasibility of incorporating virtual elements into future SOARs. The first objective is to explore live streaming the POW/MIA Memorial Breakfast scheduled for SOAR XLV in 2021.

# Profit and Loss Comparison

**Special Operations Association, Inc.  
Profit and Loss Comparison 2020 - 2019 - Cash Basis  
January - December 2020**

	<u>Jan - Dec 2020</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2019 (PY)</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions	30,236	48,830
Fund Raising	16,975	17,170
Interest Income	86	184
Membership Dues	24,110	24,745
Miscellaneous Income	606	857
Quarter Master Sales	12,516	29,746
Reunion Income	380	116,445
Royalty Income	126	132
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 85,035</b>	<b>\$ 238,108</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
AAR Production	9,581	10,121
Administrative Expenses	43,918	47,720
Advertising/Promotional	4,455	0
Fund Raising Expenses	272	3,938
PRP Production	12,112	11,758
Purchases	2,467	0
Quarter Master Cost	10,079	18,117
Reunion Expense	4,030	105,557
Reunion Expense Supplies	217	0
Scholarship Expenses	15,000	15,000
Travel	946	11,931
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 103,077</b>	<b>\$ 224,143</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (18,042)</b>	<b>\$ 13,965</b>

# Balance Sheet

**Special Operations Association, Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet - Cash Basis**  
 As of December 31, 2020

	<u>As of Dec 31, 2020</u>	<u>As of Dec 31, 2019 (PY)</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts		
Checking Operations *4345	6,763	17,419
WF Operating Savings *0541	59,045	88,544
<b>Total SOA Non-Restricted Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 65,809</b>	<b>\$ 105,963</b>
SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543		
Brightlight Restricted Acct.	18,532	18,706
George C. Morton Scholarship Restricted Acct.	42,138	41,545
LifeMbrship Fund-Board Restricted	43,563	39,194
POW/MIA Restricted Savings	9,738	7,543
SOA Warriors Family Fund-Restricted Acct.	2,368	1,896
Video/Archives Restricted	20,924	22,942
<b>Total SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543</b>	<b>\$ 137,263</b>	<b>\$ 131,825</b>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 203,072</b>	<b>\$ 237,789</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 203,072</b>	<b>\$ 238,264</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Temporary Liability-Restricted Scholarship Funds	16,500	30,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>	<b>\$ 35,150</b>
Equity		
Net Assets (Retained Earnings)	204,614	189,149
Net Income	(\$18,042)	13,965
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 186,572</b>	<b>\$ 203,114</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 203,072</b>	<b>\$ 238,264</b>



# Statement of Activity

**Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.**  
**Statement of Activity 2020-2019 Comparison - Cash Basis**  
 January - December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 2020</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2019 (PY)</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contributions Income	5,127	5,432
Quartermaster Sales		85
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,127</b>	<b>\$ 5,517</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Bank Charges	206	220
Legal & Professional Fees	0	130
Office Expenses	430	482
Other General and Admin Expenses	0	312
Quartermaster Inventory Expense	0	2,137
Stripe Fees	0	3
Subcontractors	0	470
WEB Expenses	1,734	700
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,370</b>	<b>\$ 4,454</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,758</b>	<b>\$ 1,063</b>
Interest Earned	1	0
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,758</b>	<b>\$ 1,063</b>

# Statement of Financial Position

## Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc. Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2020

	As of Dec 31, 2020	As of Dec 31, 2019 (PY)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Foundation Checking BOA	14,312	15,773
SOA Foundation savings	3,302	252
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 17,613	\$ 16,025
Pledges/donations Receivable	0	260
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 17,613</b>	<b>\$ 16,285</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (A/P)	0	575
Liability for Member Interment	9,145	0
Other Current Liabilities	0	10,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,145	\$ 10,575
Equity		
Retained Earnings	5,710	4,647
Net Revenue	2,758	1,063
Total Equity	\$ 8,468	\$ 5,710
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 17,613</b>	<b>\$ 16,285</b>

# Membership Report



## **2020 STATE OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

After becoming Membership Chairman in 2018, I challenged all SOA members to familiarize themselves with membership criteria to better support SOA's mission and grow the SOA membership.

I am pleased to report that 90% of the new members added to our rolls, report they heard about the SOA from contact with SOA members. On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your efforts.

Even though we have had success with recruitment, our ranks continue to thin. In 2020 we added 43 new members; however, 88 members have been reported deceased.

Beginning January 2021, the Membership Committee will start a media campaign using the internet and small group meetings to recruit new members.

Recruitment ads have been placed in SFA's DROP, ACA Journal and posted online. All members are encouraged to distribute the ad (see insert) and help get the word out to all qualified Special Operations combat veterans.

I look forward to seeing everyone at SOAR XLV to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the SOA, celebrate our members, and honor our fallen.

It has been my pleasure to serve the SOA Board and membership. Thank you for your service to our country and your continued support of the SOA.

Fraternally,

Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman  
email: [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)  
910 425-1425

## Awards

Unlike previous years when recipients weaved their way through the Banquet fanfare and up on stage for the award presentation, President Estes sat in an annexed storage area and “presented” each award via computer video during the General Membership Meeting. As fortune would have it, both recipients were in attendance via Zoom.

The President’s Award was presented to Luke Dove for his many years of outstanding volunteer service as the SOA Judge Advocate General.

SOA Member John Russell was presented with a Major Donor Award for his substantial financial contribution to the SOA last year.

Following opening remarks, newly sworn in President Godshall’s first official act was presenting outgoing President Estes with the James E. Butler Founders Award. The Founders Award recognizes extraordinary achievements and service to the Special Operations Association. The award citation reads *“Awarded to Richard L. Estes, SOA #567, for 6 years of exceptional and dedicated service to the Special Operations Association and its members. 6th Award, SOAR XLIV, October 20, 2020.”* Previous recipients of the SOA’s highest award are — Jim Butler (Founder), Clyde Sincere, Jake Jacobson, Jim Hetrick, and Pat Hephner. President Godshall’s nomination of Rick Estes received unanimous support from the SOA Board.

President Estes was also presented with an award from the POW/MIA Committee for his tireless support of that committee.

A “well deserved” to this year’s recipients!





# SOAR XLIV GMM Minutes

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 21 October 2020**

- I. Call to Order: 1300 PDT President Estes
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs, and POWs Chaplain Padgett
- IV. Roll Call Secretary Jensen
- President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Padgett, Director McClure, Director Rivero, Director Haase*
- V. Introduction of Guests President Estes
- In addition to the Board of Directors and guests, fifty-one attendees were identified as present for the meeting. Director Padgett asked that the membership recognize guest Vicki Chan-Padgett who was elected Chair of the newly formed SOA Women's Auxiliary.*
- VI. Announce GMM Agenda. President Estes
- VII. Business Meeting:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Approve SOAR XLIII General Membership Mtg Minutes President Estes  
(SOAR XLIV PRP)
- President Estes stated that the minutes of the previous General Membership Meeting were published in the SOAR XLV Pre-Registration Packet and called for a motion to approve. Director Padgett made the motion to approve, Director Haase seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
2. Financial Report(s) SOA and SOAF Treasurer Devon
- Treasurer Devon began with a comparative analysis of 2019 and 2020 Profit and Loss Statements. He pointed out the only significant deviations were found in items related to reunion income and expenses due to the cancelled 2020 SOAR.*
- Treasurer Devon moved on to a comparative analysis of the SOA Balance Sheet and again observed that all significant variations are directly related to a lack of reunion income for the year 2020. He directed attention to the 2020 Total Assets of \$221,000 which is all cash and contrasted that against the Total Liabilities of \$28,000 which he considers a healthy financial position.*
- SOA Foundation financial reports show limited activity and comparable to 2019. The SOAF Balance Sheet shows \$7,400 in Total Assets (all cash) and \$0 in Liabilities. The Statement of Activity shows a modest increase in profit.*

## **SOAR XLIV GMM Minutes (Cont'd)**

*The Treasurer acknowledged that questions from the membership would be difficult to address in the virtual forum and gave out his email address and encouraged members with questions to contact him in that manner. He also noted that the financial statement is posted on the SOA Website immediately following approval by the Board of Directors.*

### **3. Membership Report**

Chairman Frovarp

*President Estes introduced the Membership Report by advising that the Chairmanship of the SOA Membership Committee would be changing in the coming months.*

*Chairman Frovarp reported the status of the SOA membership as of 21 Oct 2020.*

*Since January 1, 2020: 38 new members, 31 general and 7 associates. The active roster shows 1,381 members which is slight increase from last year – 1,236 general, 124 associates, and 21 operational associates. Deceased members – 57 members have been reported deceased. Experience suggests that the total number of deceased is likely higher. The Chairman prompted the membership to report any deaths to the Membership Committee or the Board of Directors.*

*Chairman Frovarp addressed the matter of annual dues and reminded everyone that dues are due no later than January and are necessary for the welfare of the SOA programs.*

*With respect to the annual award of tenure pins, he reported that due to Covid-19 the pins were mailed to the recipients in lieu of the traditional presentation at SOAR. He noted that over 200 members achieved membership of twenty years or more. He advised that a listing of the recipients was available for review on events page.*

*The Chairman began his early promotion of next year's reunion by observing that it would be a milestone year – SOAR 45. He sweetened the pot by noting that SOAR and the SFA's convention would be back to back events in Las Vegas.*

*Chairman Frovarp concluded his report by reminding the membership that everyone must continually do ambassadorial work for the SOA and recruit new members, especially post 9/11 personnel, in order to sustain the SOA. That said, he introduced SOA Member Gary Seideman, a post 9/11 warrior, as the incoming Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mr. Seideman will assume Chairmanship in January 2021. Departing Chairman Frovarp will continue as a Committee member.*

### **4. Award Presentations**

President Estes

*President's Award presented to Luke Dove for his many years of outstanding volunteer service as the SOA Judge Advocate General.*

*SOA Member John Russell was presented with a Major Donor Award for his substantial financial contribution to the SOA last year.*

## **SOAR XLIV GMM Minutes (Cont'd)**

*President Estes also acknowledged that he was the recipient of an award from the POW/MIA Committee for his tireless support of that committee.*

5. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Estes

*As the only departing member, President Estes said it had been a great honor to serve as president of the SOA and thanked the men and women with whom he has worked over the years, in particular, Clyde Sincere and Jim Hetrick.*

6. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Estes

President: *Doug Godshall*

Vice President: *Mike Taylor*

Director: *Don Haase*

B. New Business:

- VIII. For the Good of the Order President Godshall

*As his first official act, newly elected President Godshall presented outgoing President Estes with the James E. Butler Founders Award on behalf of the SOA Board of Directors. The Founders Award recognizes extraordinary achievements and service to the Special Operations Association. The award citation reads "Awarded to Richard L. Estes, SOA #567, for 6 years of exceptional and dedicated service to the Special Operations Association and its members. 6th Award, SOAR XLIV, October 20, 2020." Previous recipients – Jim Butler, Clyde Sincere, Jake Jacobson, Jim Hetrick, and Pat Hephner.*

*President Godshall expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to once again serve the SOA in an official capacity. He recognized the many people responsible for his commitment to the special operations community...his wife Kathy, Steve Bric (son of Bill Bric, KIA 23 Aug 68), and Ann Mills-Griffith to name a few.*

*President Godshall then announced the winners of this year's raffle drawings. AAR – Roger Hill, and PRP – Mr. Maranda SOA #2948*

- IX. Meeting Adjournment: *President Godshall asked for a motion to adjourn. Director McClure so moved, Director Rivero provided the second, and the motion carried unanimously at 1348 PDT.*

Respectfully Submitted by

*Duffy Jensen*

DUFFY JENSEN

Secretary, Special Operations Association

## SOA Members Achieving 20 Year Status

**The following have achieved 20-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 20-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

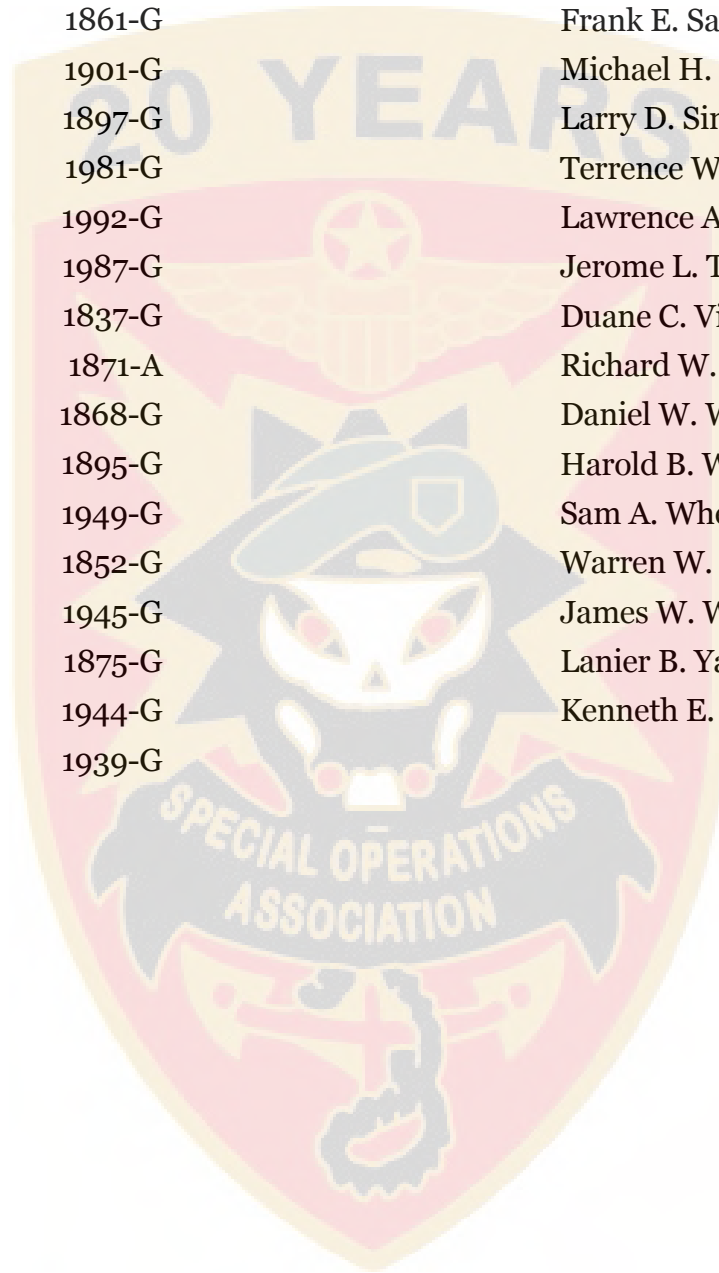
Jose Anorga	1913-G	Richard A. Hendrick	1845-G
Don Bendell	1920-G	George W. Hewitt	1865-G
George E. Boehmer	1843-G	Brian S. Holcomb	1936-G
Francis G. Boisseau	1917-G	Roger M. Houston	1899-G
George E. Boyer	1873-G	Thomas O. Humphus	1919-G
Joseph J. Brock	1996-G	Jack L. Kaplan Jr	1864-G
Dale R. Brown	1831-G	Don Kelly	1924-G
Paul E. Cahill	1974-G	Alexander D. Kendris	1956-G
Rudolph Calderon Jr	1935-G	Stephen T. Kirk	1880-G
William S. Case	1952-G	Philip M. Kozlowski	1990-G
John K. Collier	1859-G	Michael J. Krawczyk	1872-G
Dennis W. Crowe	1857-G	Michael R. Leonard	1844-G
Gary L. Daugherty	1912-A	Robert D. Leonard	1955-A
Hampton Dews II	1934-G	William F. Lewis	1963-G
M. Eugene Edwards	1881-G	John A. Lipski	1828-G
Raymond L. Fratus	1923-G	Robert D. Little	1870-G
Ronald J. Frigstad	1842-G	Gordon B. Low Jr	1929-G
Nathaniel Frost	1866-G	Louis A. Lucero	1876-G
Hiram Garcia	1947-G	Paul H. Maledy	1957-G
David W. Gollem	1977-A	Stephen A. Matthews	1854-G
Michael Gouch	1826-G	Russell A. Maxson	1961-G
Troy E. Graham	1869-G	Patrick G. Maxwell	1891-G
Roger C. Green Jr	1863-G	Joseph McCammond	1879-G
Larry A. Greene	1850-G	Francis J. McCloskey	1932-G
Thomas J. Halligan	1839-G	Douglas McCready	1940-G
Kenneth R. Hamilton	1902-G	Owen C. McDonald	1908-G
Allan W. Hawkins	1827-G	Charles L. McDowell	1910-G



## **SOA Members Achieving 20 Year Status (Cont'd)**

**The following have achieved 20-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 20-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

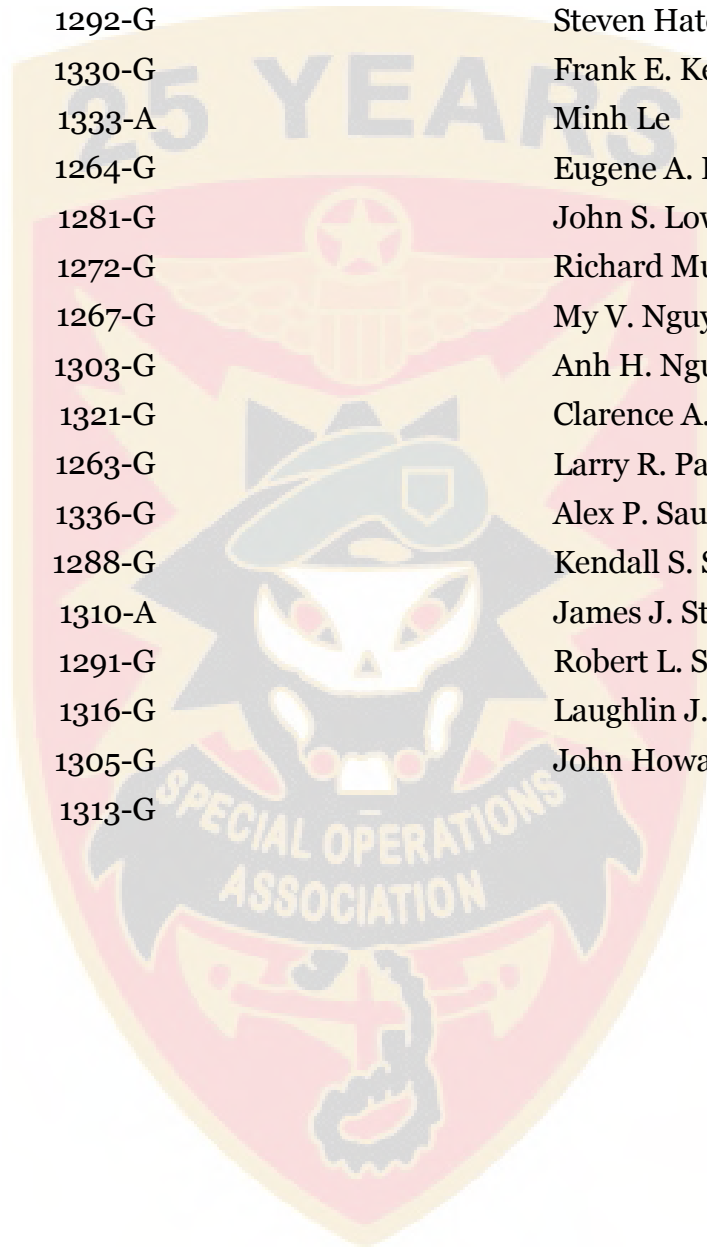
William S. Meyer	1861-G	Frank E. Sangillo	1853-G
Jack A. Miller	1901-G	Michael H. Sheuerman	1900-G
Pat W. Mitchel	1897-G	Larry D. Simon	1835-G
Alton E. Monroe	1981-G	Terrence W. Smith	1984-G
Steven A. Mozian	1992-G	Lawrence A. Spitler	1847-G
Gary G. Nichols	1987-G	Jerome L. Teeters	1970-G
Ray L. Oden	1837-G	Duane C. Vierk	1953-G
Robert L. Ohmes	1871-A	Richard W. Wall	1894-G
Terry G. O'Kelley	1868-G	Daniel W. Wall	1896-G
Michael O'Neill	1895-G	Harold B. Watson	1911-G
Ralph D. Ormes Jr	1949-G	Sam A. Wheeler	1973-G
William T. Ortman	1852-G	Warren W. Williams	1948-G
Charles D. Petty	1945-G	James W. Woodham	1999-G
Joseph J. Pollace	1875-G	Lanier B. Yarbrough	1885-G
Seth Robertson	1944-G	Kenneth E. Yoder	1991-G
Dean G. Roesner	1939-G		



## SOA Members Achieving 25 Year Status

**The following have achieved 25-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 25-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

J. Barry Archer	1292-G	Steven Hatch	1343-G
John P. Baca	1330-G	Frank E. Kennemur	1329-G
John J. Balanco	1333-A	Minh Le	1346-G
Robert C. Barrett	1264-G	Eugene A. Leonard	1317-A
Newell W. Bernard	1281-G	John S. Lowry III	1339-A
Robert H. Blair	1272-G	Richard Mullowney Jr	1319-G
Charles V. Clayton	1267-G	My V. Nguyen	1322-G
William J. Deacy	1303-G	Anh H. Nguyen	1347-G
John J. Deacy	1321-G	Clarence A. Page	1270-G
Philip F. D. Devlin	1263-G	Larry R. Payne	1312-G
Dinh Huu Doan	1336-G	Alex P. Saunders	1269-G
Robert E. Dobbins	1288-G	Kendall S. Schaefer	1287-G
Lucien L. Edmonds	1310-A	James J. Stanford	1344-G
Luke R. Emanuel	1291-G	Robert L. Strange	1304-G
David L. Fritz	1316-G	Laughlin J. Todd	1266-G
Kestutis J. Gedmintas	1305-G	John Howard White	1340-G
Rick Grabianowski	1313-G		



# SOA Members Achieving 30 Year Status

**The following have achieved 30-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 30-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

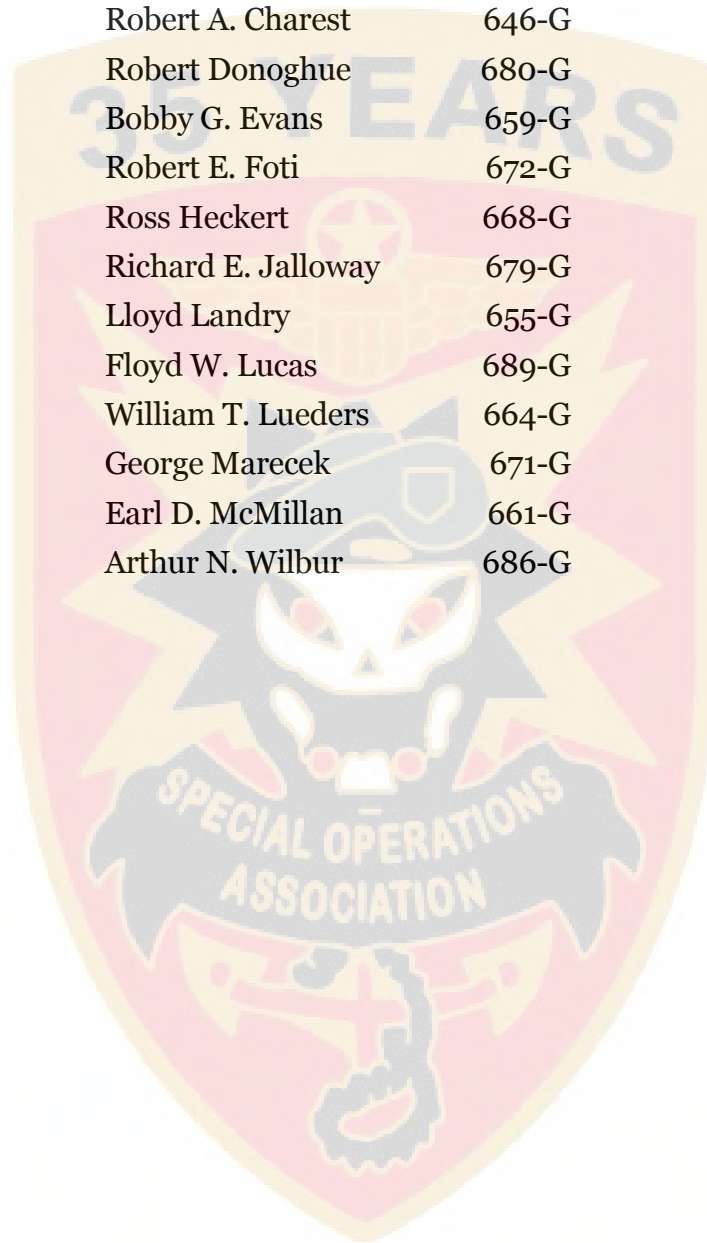
Geoff T. Barker	919-G	Stephen G. Hayduk	946-G
Thys K. Bui	904-G	Phillip M. Herbert	926-G
Charles A. Cantwell	956-G	Frank Hudson	944-A
Claude D. Clifford	936-G	Michael S. Kearns	949-A
Ronald C. Davidson	929-G	Chieu N. Lam	947-G
Michael Davis	928-G	Leonard D. Moreau	937-G
Robert E. Dimond III	916-G	Alexander D. Newman	952-A
Elden F. Edmonds	911-A	Henry F. Schriks	951-G
Skip Ettinger	923-G	Michael J. Walsh	896-G
Ken Gaudet	964-A	Robert W. Weller	948-G
Lyle E. Goodin	898-G	Melvin L. Wick	958-G
William P. Harlow	906-G	Curtis J. Williams	909-G



## **SOA Members Achieving 35 Year Status**

**The following have achieved 35-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 35-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

Robert A. Charest	646-G
Robert Donoghue	680-G
Bobby G. Evans	659-G
Robert E. Foti	672-G
Ross Heckert	668-G
Richard E. Jalloway	679-G
Lloyd Landry	655-G
Floyd W. Lucas	689-G
William T. Lueders	664-G
George Marecek	671-G
Earl D. McMillan	661-G
Arthur N. Wilbur	686-G





# SOA Members Achieving 40 Year Status

**The following have achieved 40-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAR XLIV was conducted virtually. The 40-year SOA pins were mailed individually to each member listed below.**

Jack Abraham	365-G	Peter C. Jackson	298-G
Joseph L. Alford	282-A	Frederick W. Jackson II	230-G
John C. Anderson	352-G	Clark R. Karell	235-G
Jay Anthony	343-A	George F. Le Blanc	314-G
Mark E. Berent	274-G	Ernest J. Mallet	362-A
William L. Bray	228-G	Roland G. Marquis	294-G
James D. Brunni	302-G	Richard McNatt	369-G
Paul Brunton	285-G	Robert Sean McNiff	349-G
Virgil S. Byers	375-A	John F. Mullins	240-G
Charles T. Cadenbach	339-G	Mike A. Nelson	253-G
Daniel V. Chapa	245-G	Thomas F. Ratcliffe	351-A
William Coughlan	322-G	Gary J. Rohen	259-G
Kenneth F. Courage	281-G	William H. Sage	266-G
James Craig	346-G	Albert Slugocki	278-G
Harold J. Doeberiner	241-G	Stephen J. Spoerry	329-G
Wilbur G. Ellis	295-G	Michael C. Stern	324-G
Karl M. Federer	328-A	Richard C. Thompson	268-G
James Fry	288-G	Greg A. Walker	318-G
Edward J. Gleason	358-G	Thomas R. Waskovich	366-G
Henry G. Gole	291-G	Carl G. Winkler	232-G
Kestutis Griskelis	271-G		

## Registrar's Report

The SOA Board of Directors cancelled SOAR XLIV's physical reunion due to the COVID-19 virus. However, appreciating the importance of communicating with the SOA membership, the Board opted to host the first SOAR on a virtual platform.

Thanks to the expertise and dedication of key volunteers, Steve Sherman, Duffy Jensen and Bonnie Cooper along with the Committee Chairmen, and Special Staff, it proved to be a successful reunion. In fact, the Board has tasked a committee to develop a virtual component for future SOARs.

The virtual SOAR was well attended. To compare, in 2019, 289 members attended SOAR in Vegas.

### **2020 VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE**

- 101 — members logged onto the virtual site.
- 149 — Total attendance, members + guests
- 677 — Online hours were logged during the 4-day event.

One of SOAR's goals is to foster an environment for camaraderie and fellowship to renew old friendships and make new ones. This was validated by the overwhelming emotions when Larry Manes, 64-G, logged in from his room in rehab in Hawaii. Larry is one of our original members, joining in 1977.

I look forward to seeing everyone at SOAR XLV to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the SOA.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ivan Davis, Registrar



# George C. Morton Scholarship Report

The SOA Board of Directors approved the appointment of SOA member Steve Yevich as Chairman of the George C. Morton Scholarship Program following the retirement of Chris McClure which is effective as of this report.

*Incoming Chairman Yevich writes: The Chair position of the SOA Scholarship Committee has been transferred over to me, Steve Yevich, after Chris McClure's dedicated stewardship developing and refining the program for over 12 years. I will be the POC for these scholarships for the next term.*

*The scholarship program policies will be continued as Chris developed over his tenure, but I will take suggestions for any alterations that might be needed to reflect the changing nature of post-High School training as a result of the impacts of both COVID-19 as well as the increasing prevalence of internet-based universities.*

## **Recipient Status**

- Three Class of 2020 students, Ms. Mikayla H. D'Anna, Mr. Alex E. Shumate and Ms. Sydney A. Shank remain in the program.
- One Class of 2021 student, Mr. Christopher J. Berg remains in the program.
- Five new Class of 2023 students, Ms. Josephine D'Anna, Mr. Jackson Kincaide, Mr. Bernard Lacey, Mr. Malcom Olson and Ms. Reagan White, who have been awarded one-year scholarships remain in the program.
- Nine scholarship recipients therefore are currently active and remain eligible in the program this semester. The following is an overview of recipients by class:
  - Seniors      3
  - Juniors      1
  - Freshmen    5

Spring 2021 checks will be issued as soon as confirmation of continued eligibility is received from the students listed above. Confirmation of eligibility includes proof of enrollment and a copy of the student's grade report, showing GPA and credit hours received after the Fall 2020 semester, per the SOA Bylaws and Scholarship rules.

## **2020 Financials**

- The SOA's total outstanding scholarship obligation at this time is \$16,500. The following is the current outstanding liability by class:

➤ Seniors (Class of 2021)	\$4,500
➤ Juniors (Class of 2022)	\$4,500
➤ Freshmen (Class of 2023)	<u>\$7,500</u>
Total	\$16,500

# George C. Morton Scholarship Report

## (Cont'd)

- The SOA's total outstanding scholarship obligation, plus required contingency at the present time is \$19,800.
- The total amount of funds in the designated scholarship account as of 31 December 2020 is not less than as follows:
  - o Total Scholarship assets      \$42,138

Final information may be found in the current Treasurer's Report.

### Summary:

- Stipend checks are \$1,500 per semester for recipients. The total scholarship value is \$3,000 for one year, at \$1,500 per semester. The amount of funds available for new awards in any given year has generally been based upon the amount raised from all sources, less program expenses (generally minor over the last several years), between the previous two SOAR's (for the 2021 academic year's awards, that means from the end of SOAR 2019 through the end of SOAR 2020), with award recommendations being limited by that amount, plus additional funds as authorized by the SOA Board, if the Board deems it necessary or desirable. This year we determined the amount available for award based upon uncommitted funds on hand plus the twenty percent required contingency. Some additional funds were also placed in the contingency due to there not being enough to award one more scholarship and have the required contingency for that award.
- The SOA takes a fiscally conservative approach to funding of the SOA Scholarship program. A minimum funding reserve of committed funds **plus** not less than 20% of the amount of funds committed to scholarships is required to be maintained in our scholarship account. These funds are kept in a Federally insured restricted account, which ensures that SOA will always have the amount of committed scholarship funds available. The amount in our reserve is occasionally increased by students not remaining in the program for one reason or another, by suspension for academic reasons, by students accelerating their academic programs, by our not having an "even" amount for scholarships or by not having enough qualified applicants for the amount raised in the previous year (that has not happened in recent years!). Excess funds in the scholarship account also enables the SOA Board of Directors to occasionally have the flexibility to award additional scholarship money in any given year to deserving recipients beyond what was raised between the previous SOARs. The program remains fiscally sound.



Christopher E. McClure, AIA

Scholarship Committee Chairman



## SOA Riders

Hope this email finds all of you doing well. James “Woody” Woodbury and Mike McGowan showed up in Morristown, TN on Sunday, September 13th. They started from their homes in Kokomo, IN and visited Mary Carrell. They said she was doing well and missed everyone. They then rode to Kentucky for a visit. On Sunday, I met them at the Colbock Harley-Davidson here in Morristown. We rode all afternoon and found a great curvy ride for the Riders in June of 2022. Mike and Woody spent the night with us before heading out Monday morning for Nashville and then on to home. We had a great visit and are all looking forward to Red’s ride in June of 2021.

I hosted the SOA Riders Hospitality Room and Bob Strange acted as our co-host during Virtual SOAR XLIV. We only had 7 participants, but we spent good quality time together discussing our past rides and the ride scheduled for 2021. The limited number of participants may have been due to the fact we were the last agenda item on the last day of the conference. We did come to an agreement that you didn’t necessarily have to ride a motorcycle to participate in our group. We realize that we are all getting up there in age and not everyone is still riding. One will still have to be vetted by SOA and fill out one of the SOA Riders applications.

I did expect more participation by our Riders in the hospitality room. We have 82 confirmed members at this time. I was originally given a roster with 118 names but after emailing then calling each of those names, I deleted those that I was unable to contact via phone or email. I email all our “active” riders (82) at least every other month to “keep them in the loop” on Rider and SOA business.

Red Surgenor will be the host for our 2021 ride scheduled for June 9-12, 2021. He will block off 20-24 rooms depending on the number of Riders that want to attend our annual ride. Additional information on the specifics of the ride will be distributed at a later date. Confirmation on the hotel will be accomplished by Red after the first of the year. He is looking at a couple of different possibilities for us, so keep watch for further information regarding our 2021 Ride.

As always, we will hold our annual fund raiser for the SOA Foundation and our Laying of the Wreath and reading of the Missing in Action names during the Rides activities. We hope to see all of you this next year at our Ride and the SOA Convention in Vegas. Hope that evil COVID has disappeared by then.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me by email or cell.

Marcus  
SOA Riders Director



# Video History and Archive Report

This year the Novel Corona Virus has had an impact on all of us. As a result, the Special Operations Association had to cancel the 2020 reunion in Las Vegas that all of us look forward to every year. However, we were fortunate to have a number of dedicated people who pulled off the first virtual SOAR in the organization's history. By all accounts it was a success. Hopefully, we will all be able to see each other next year at SOAR in Las Vegas, but if not, then we now have the experience to conduct reunions online. We owe our thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make the virtual reunion happen this year.

The virus also affected the Video History Project. Because we could not congregate at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, we could not record any new interviews. This put us farther behind in the important work we do. It also kept me from having face-to-face meetings with potential donors, which is how we get much of our funding. Knowing the importance of the work the VHP does, two family members of mine stepped forward to help. Kathy and Steven Felstein were very generous in their giving and did so twice to make sure we have funds to continue our work. It is because of donors like them, and those who have given in the past, that we have been able to keep the Video History project alive and moving forward. Donations are always gratefully accepted, so please donate if you can so that we can continue to expand the program. We are very grateful for the Felsteins support of our project.

An overhaul of the SOA website is in progress and the Video History Project will have its own landing page. Once it is live, members will be able to go to the Members Only side of the website and log in to view some of the interviews we have done. We will add new content on a regular basis, so once it is live check back often to see which new interviews have been posted. This content will not be available on the public side of the website.

As always, the archive is looking for historical Special Operations items for our display at SOAR. Please look through your collection for anything that would be of interest to the SOA and our members. The Archive table draws a lot of attention at the reunions and everyone enjoys the displays. We would love to add your donated items to what we currently have. It will make the display better for everyone.

Hopefully we will all be able to meet in Las Vegas in 2021. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Dennis Cummings  
SOA Archivist  
3649 Taylor Ave.  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-303-9156  
djc106@aol.com



# Warrior's Family Fund Report

*The SOA Warrior's Family Fund was established in 2012 to assist SOA family members who cannot afford to attend SOAR. In addition, the Warrior Family Fund Committee can approve up to a \$500.00 cash stipend for widows and family members to cover funeral expenses following the death of a SOA member. Family members in need of assistance are encouraged to apply.*

---

While SOAR XLIV was cancelled due to the pandemic and there were no traditional requests for family assistance, the SOA WFF continued to provide Family member assistance. The WFF provided a modest monetary stipend to secure adequate transportation for the funeral party for the internment of a fallen SOG Veteran.

Respectfully submitted by,

Horace Boner, Chair

**Virtual SOAR comment from Karol Franzysheh:**

*"I found the Air Assets Hospitality room a great opportunity to chat with a few of the BMTE 20 SOS guys I haven't seen since Las Vegas or Kokomo" ... "In summary, I would say the virtual SOAR went very well with the small groups we had. Not sure how well it would work with hundreds of players unless all hospitality rooms were active. I have a feeling if we go virtual next year and the word gets around soon enough, we will have many more players. Thanks for all you guys did to put together the virtual SOAR" ... "A slow hand salute, Karol".*

**Virtual SOAR comment from Joe Roman:**

*"I would agree with Karol Franzysheh's comments about the Air Units Group. I could not have said it any better. For me, it was a mental up lifting, badly needed at the time" ... "I was a little disappointed that more people didn't log in. The whole SOAR reunion went well after all the bugs were worked out, Thanks to Bonnie Cooper."*

## Brightlight Report

The BrightLight (BL) Committee was not activated for the 2020 SOAR as it was a virtual activity, not necessitating travel. No BL funds were requested or expended in 2020 and the Committee does not expect to spend any BL money for the balance of 2020. The Special Operations Association (SOA) BL fund is well funded and secure.

As a reminder, the BL program has been established by the SOA to assist members who, due to life circumstances, do not have the funds to travel to a SOAR. The BL Committee reviews all requests and votes on the award. The Committee's policy is to fund a member for one SOAR, but extenuating circumstances are reviewed on a case by case basis.

The BL Committee is standing by for requests for funding of SOA members in good standing to SOAR XLV, planned for October 2021. Nominations for Bright Light funding may be sent to the BL Chairman John "Doc" Padgett at Bacs110@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Padgett  
MAJ, USSF (Ret), DMOR

### **Virtual SOAR comment from Jess Rowland:**

*"Given that this year's SOAR was a "virtual" first, I'm actually surprised that it worked. I have to give attaboys to Steve Sherman and the rest of the technical folks that put it all together" ... "The whole "virtual" experience was interesting and a reasonable substitute during these tough times. I have to say that having more folks join in would have made it better" ... "I could see this technology working at a live Vegas SOAR reunion. Maybe each event could be zoomed and those in the SOA that could not attend that year could at least tune in, watch and listen" ... "I would give the experience a C+...seeing my brothers A++."*



# **SOA Nominating Committee Election Announcement**

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION OFFICER & BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION — 2021**

1. The SOA will elect a Secretary, and two Directors to three (3) year terms effective as of the SOAR XLV General Membership Meeting.
2. SOA Members competing for an open position must agree to serve as a Director on the Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF).
3. In order to run for any Board position, a member must be either an Annual or Life General member in “good standing”, and have attended at least one (1) of the last three (3) SOARs, including the day before the General Membership Meeting, the General Membership Meeting, and the Banquet prior to competing for office.
4. Interested candidates should submit a digital picture and a short bio (no more than 150 words) to any member of the Membership Committee NLT 30 April 2021.
5. The SOAR XLV Pre-Registration Packet (PRP) will contain the bio/photo data and the official SOA Election Ballot with space below each category position for any write-in candidates. Ballots must be mailed to the Chairman of the Tally Committee NLT 30 September 2021 for tabulation and presentation at the 2021 SOAR General Membership Meeting.
6. Queries may be addressed to any member of the Nominating Committee.
7. Nomination Committee Chairman – John Stryker Meyer, P.O. Box 681622, Franklin, TN 37068-1622. [idahoonzero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:idahoonzero@sbcglobal.net) (619) 892-5983

Committee member — Clyde Sincere, 661 W. Calle Torres Blancas, #5108, Green Valley, AZ 85614, (435) 680-4476, [cjrsincere@gmail.com](mailto:cjrsincere@gmail.com)

### **Virtual SOAR comment from Charles “Skip” Cantwell:**

*“I think this format is a great idea and the technical problems can all be rectified after the experience gained from this first one! It was great to see those of you that I know to catch up and to meet those I didn’t know!” ... “I think this format will be great in the future especially for those folks who can’t make it in person to SOAR — we just need to figure a way to get the free Crown Royal to them!! Personally, I really enjoyed the experience and thought all of those who put it together did a great job and I heartily thank all who participated!! ’Til next SOAR — take care.”*

# MACV SOG

## TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY

### NOW AVAILABLE FROM HARDY PUBLICATIONS

The Award-Winning Series Chronicling The Team History Of Ops-35



#### VOLUME 1

RT Arizona (CCC)  
RT California (CCC)  
RT Iowa (CCC)  
RT North Carolina (CCN)



#### VOLUME 2

RT Krait (CCN)  
RT New Mexico (CCC)  
RT Ohio (CCC)  
RT Washington (CCC)



#### VOLUME 3

RT Crusader (CCN)  
RT Sidewinder (CCN)  
RT Texas (CCC)



#### VOLUME 4

RT Auger (CCS)  
RT Illinois (CCC)  
RT Le Loi (CCN)  
RT New Hampshire (CCC)



#### VOLUME 5

RT Alabama (CCN/CCC)  
RT Habu (CCN)  
RT Michigan (CCN)



#### VOLUME 6

RT Adder (CCN)  
RT Louisiana (CCN)  
RT Nebraska (CCC)  
RT Wyoming (CCC)



#### VOLUME 7

RT Nevada (CCC)  
RT Oklahoma (CCN)  
RT Pick (CCS)  
RT Intruder (CCN)



#### VOLUME 8

RT Delaware (CCC)  
RT Hawaii (CCC)  
RT Intruder (CCN)



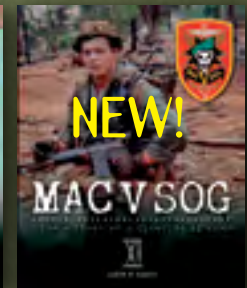
#### VOLUME 9

RT Arkansas (CCC)  
RT Moccasin (CCN)  
RT Ohio (CCN)  
RT Rattler (CCN)



#### VOLUME 10

RT Alaska (CCN)  
RT Asp (CCN)  
RT Diamondback (CCN)  
RT Virginia (CCN)



#### VOLUME 11

RT Florida (CCC)  
RT Hotcake (CCC)  
RT Kentucky (CCC)  
RT New Jersey (CCN)  
RT Oregon (CCN)

From Jason Hardy, MACVSOG, Team History of a Clandestine Army delves into the murky world of OPS-35 and the Recon Teams that manned this project. Rare, full color photographs, team members in chronological order, notable missions, equipment, knives, weapons, uniforms, and of course insignia are all explored in exacting detail.

## THIS IS A LIMITED EDITION SERIES

VISIT [WWW.SPECIALFORCESHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.SPECIALFORCESHISTORY.COM) FOR MORE INFO AND TO ORDER





# TAPS

The following are our brothers who have passed since the last TAPS, and those who departed earlier, but were not previously identified.

The SOA has attempted to list our fallen as accurately as possible. Should any member have information of a deceased brother who has not been identified here, please contact a BOD member and the information will be published in our next report.

***We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3***

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>SOA#</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
Robert D. Allen	3045-G	9/30/2020
Michael R. Armstrong	2930-G	6/2/2016
Henry M. Bailey, Jr.	2616-G	4/2/2016
Donald E. Bennett	1707-G	5/22/2019
William A. Birkla	2661-G	3/31/2012
George Boehmer	1843-G	3/3/2019
Joel Russell Bowman	2243-G	10/3/2019
Edwin O. Brown	1223-G	11/1/2020
Peter L. Camp	643-G	9/10/2010
Richard F. Carvell	1236-G	9/8/2020
Dean R. Coder	1499-G	11/1/2019
Victor N. Cuneo, Jr	2235-G	6/26/2020
Vincent D'Angelo	2807-G	8/4/2020
Charlie V. Denson	1295-A	12/14/2017
Hampton Dews, II	1934-G	11/28/2020
Don Dougan	252-G	1/27/2019
H. Ted Ellison	1349-A	7/10/2020
Ronald Gearhart	455-G	6/22/2020
Harry C. Gill III	386-G	10/16/2008
Joseph P. Gillespie	642-A	1/3/2014
Harry Godsey	2685-G	9/12/2020
Manuel Gonzales Jr	131-G	1/22/2020
John W. Grow	3122-G	11/20/2020
Eugene Hall	722-G	11/9/2020
Ferdinand Hanczak	35-G	9/17/2019
Bruce V. Hanley	1533-G	10/9/2020
George W. Hartzell	2502-G	8/5/2020
Jim D. Helm	1806-G	8/28/2011

**TAPS (Cont'd)**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>SOA#</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>
Melvin Hill	832-G	8/12/2020
Andrew A. Hyman	1829-G	5/01/2010
Roy L. Jacobson	296-G	5/5/2012
Laurens J. Jansen	1327-G	1/02/2009
Ronald W. Jungling	2104-G	12/27/2020
Steven C. Kalvelage	2335-G	10/31/2019
Clark R. Karell	235-G	2/18/2008
John F. Koshinsky Jr	1256-G	4/17/2014
Robert R. Liesy	1525-G	3/28/2014
Benjamin Linschotem	3351-G	11/26/2020
Toan Lu	2462-A	12/24/2020
Hilary D. Mahin	2188-A	6/5/2007
George Marecek	671-G	10/3/2020
Robert J. McClancy	370-G	5/16/2006
William McGonigle	316-G	11/27/2017
Ralph E. Miller, Jr	108-G	8/5/2020
William G. Miller Sr	1979-G	3/20/2018
Ronald Mullins	1191-G	7/11/2011
My V. Nguyen	1322-G	1/1/2013
Thong Cuu Nguyen	1380-G	6/16/2004
Ralph D. Ormes, Jr	1949-G	2/20/2019
Donald I. Paquin	2583-A	8/10/2020
William H. Phillips	2266-G	5/5/2009
Emmett W. Porter	2542-G	5/5/2001
William L. Prout	1248-G	1/23/2009
Walter G. Reiner	1814-G	9/30/2018
John W. Roy	1328-G	9/2/2020
Thomas C. Schalk	3064-G	10/27/2020
Cecil B. Smyth	193-A	1/4/2014
Earl L. Thieme	688-G	8/21/2020
William A. Thomas	63-G	1/16/2014
Duane C. Vierk	1953-G	11/23/2020
Donald R. Weichold	755-G	2/5/2020
Albert Wilson	2419-G	2/5/2006
James O. Wisecup	1789-G	7/30/2020

***May the souls of our departed brothers, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
May eternal light shine upon them.***



# SOA Policy Statement Reminder

The following applies to members and guests desiring to maintain a Vendor Table(s) and/or place Advertisements in either the SOAR After-Action-Report, (SOAR AAR) or SOAR Pre-Reunion Packet, (SOAR PRP):

- a. **VENDOR/EXHIBITOR:** The SOA has a policy relating to items sold to attendees at any SOAR. Vendors and/or Exhibitors must ensure that all items offered, are in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value” and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA”. Vendors and Exhibitors agree to withdraw from display and/or sale of any items deemed unacceptable and/or not in good keeping with SOA policy. Unless previously approved, items bearing the SOA Logo will not be displayed, nor offered for sale. No Vendor or Exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or share allotted space with another Vendor or Exhibitor unless prior approval has been obtained. Vendors and/or Exhibitors are solely responsible for their wares. Neither, the Orleans Hotel/Casino or the Special Operations Association will assume responsibility for any lost or stolen items.
- b. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** The SOA has a policy relating to any Advertisement placed in either the SOAR AAR or SOAR PRP. Any prospective Advertiser desiring to place an Advertisement in either the AAR or PRP must ensure that the Advertisement is in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value”, and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA, or any of its members”.
- c. **SOA RESPONSIBLE AGENT:** The Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee is the responsible “Agent”, acting on behalf of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in all matters relating to acceptance, or rejection of prospective Vendor/Exhibitor requests, or Placement of Advertisements in either SOA annual publications.
- d. **SOA BOARD:** Finally, in the event a prospective Vendor/Exhibitor or Advertiser does not agree with the decision of the Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee, the SOA Board is the final arbitrator. Anything that it deems is inappropriate will not be allowed for display or publication.

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION ADVERTISING RATES

<b>Front Outside Cover .....</b>	<b>Not Available</b>
<b>Back Outside Cover.....</b>	<b>\$1700</b>
<b>Front and Back Inside Cover .....</b>	<b>\$1500</b>
<b>Interior Full Page .....</b>	<b>\$1400</b>
<b>Interior ½ Page .....</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>Interior ¼ Page .....</b>	<b>\$275</b>

*All Ads are full color. Camera Ready Artwork is furnished by advertiser. Ads must be approved by publication manager in advance. Ads must be consistent with current SOA guidelines. Ads are based upon space availability.*

For more information contact:  
Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
661 W. Calle Torres Blancas, #5108,  
Green Valley, AZ 85614  
cjrsincere@gmail.com

# Endowments, Bequests and Wills

*A number of SOA members have expressed an interest in including the association as a beneficiary on their wills, or other estate planning. The SOA has been requested to provide some information on what would be necessary to accomplish this task.*

First — It is imperative that the membership understand that the SOA cannot provide any legal advice, or, can any information imparted to the membership be relied upon as “legal advice or legal language sufficient for all persons, jurisdictions and circumstances.” Prospective benefactors must realize that laws on descent and devise, wills, trusts and estates vary from state to state. Typically, the laws of the state in which the benefactor was domiciled govern the administration of his estate, though even this can be affected by property in other states.

Second — Any member considering the SOA as a beneficiary in his will must consult an attorney or licensed estate planner to ensure compliance with the laws of his state. For example, one aspect of trust and estate laws that does vary significantly is the number of witnesses necessary for a codicil or an amendment to a will (or for the creation of an entire will itself) to be validly created and recognized by the courts and law, and whether the document must have each of the witnesses’ signatures notarized. Despite those variations in law, having at least two witness signatures notarized should ensure legal validity in most cases. Nevertheless, everyone is encouraged to consult an attorney to ensure that all laws and requirements have been met in all estate planning.

Third — The Special Operations Association will accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for harm, difficulty, or invalidity of any will or other estate planning document which is adversely affected by a member (or his family’s) sole reliance on this language without consulting a qualified attorney, licensed in the state in which the member is domiciled.

Fourth — The following is provided as possible language that could be included in a will where the testator wished to leave something to the Special Operations Association:

I. General language for a Bequest:

- A. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for its unrestricted use.” Or,
- B. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for the specific purpose of supporting (one of the following specific projects):
  - 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
  - 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
  - 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
  - 4. The SOA Warrior’s Family Fund.
  - 5. The SOA General Fund.

## **Endowments, Bequests and Wills (Cont'd)**

### II. Specific Bequest language:

- A. “I give \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property — home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for its unrestricted use.” Or,
- B. “I give \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property — home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for the specific purpose (one of the following specific projects):
  - 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
  - 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
  - 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
  - 4. The SOA Warrior’s Family Fund.
  - 5. The SOA General Fund.
- C. If at any time in the judgment of the governing body of the Organization, it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the stated purpose of the bequest, the governing body of the Organization shall determine a purpose as near as possible to the purpose stated in the bequest.

### III. There are a multitude of other possibilities, some of which are:

- A. Giving all or a percentage of what remains of an estate after all specific bequests having been satisfied and debts and expenses have been paid (the “rest, residue and remainder of the estate”).
- B. Give all or a portion of your estate in the event that a named beneficiary is not alive when the testator dies.
- C. Establish a testamentary charitable trust in one’s will, with a “pour-over” clause to designate which assets are to be placed in a trust with income paid to one or more beneficiaries for their lifetime, with the trust going to the veteran’s organization upon the death of the last income beneficiary. Establish a trust in perpetuity in one’s will, funded by some asset(s), (e.g., Life Insurance) with the beneficiary being the veteran’s organization and the net income to be paid to the veteran’s organization and to be disbursed by the governing body of the veteran’s organization either for a specific purpose or in their sole discretion.

Note — For your planning purposes, the Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense (DOD), and by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a non-profit veterans organization 501 (c) (19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Should you have any questions whatsoever, at anytime, always consult with your attorney.



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**Planned Monthly Giving Program  
Registration Form**

Special Operations Association Charities and Operations depends on the generosity of our members, their families, friends and the Public to help those in need and who are most deserving of our assistance. The Planned Monthly Giving Program is an opportunity to schedule your donations in monthly increments that best fit your personal situation and doesn't create a financial strain on your own budget.

To participate, fill in this form and return it via mail C/O Linda Leavitt, P.O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, or email to the Treasurer at [soatreasurer@specialoperations.org](mailto:soatreasurer@specialoperations.org), or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR.

**MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE BY:**

**Payment by Check (Personal or Corporate):** Checks Mailed to SOA Treasurer: P.O. Box 335461 N. Las Vegas, Nv 89033  
If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely.

**Payment by Credit Card:**  Visa  Master Card  American Express  Discover Card



**Monthly donations by credit card can be made on the SOA WEB-SITE: [www:specialoperations.org](http://www:specialoperations.org).**

**Date Credit Card to be charged/Automatic Withdrawals made each month\*:** Please check only one box

- 1st of Billing Month
- 10th of Billing Month
- 15th of Billing Month
- 20th of Billing Month
- 25th of Billing Month
- 30th of Billing Month

*\*The bank will charge your credit card or make the automatic withdrawal from your checking/savings*

Please use the SOA website for recurring payments. Contact the SOA Treasurer if you need help setting up recurring payments at [soatreasurer@specialoperations.org](mailto:soatreasurer@specialoperations.org).

**PAYMENT BY AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS:**

You can set up automatic payments to the SOA. Please contact the Treasurer by email with contact information so he may call you.

**IMO (IN MEMORY OF) ASSIGNMENT:**

Please check the appropriate box to identify which fund your donation is to be assigned and in whose name you wish to memorialize. Please include the entire name of the person you want remembered: (Please Print Neatly)

- George C. Morton Scholarship Fund IMO: \_\_\_\_\_
- Brightlight Fund IMO: \_\_\_\_\_
- SOA Warrior Family Fund IMO: \_\_\_\_\_
- Video History Fund IMO: \_\_\_\_\_
- General Fund IMO: \_\_\_\_\_
- Special Operations Association Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY CHARGE/WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION:**

By signing below, you are authorizing the Special Operations Association to charge your credit card or make automatic withdraws from your checking/savings account in the amount specified on the designated day, below. Withdrawal/charges will continue monthly until written notice to stop or suspend charges/withdrawals is submitted to the Treasurer.

My authorization to charge my credit card shall remain in effect until I notify the SOA Treasurer in writing that I wish to end this agreement and the SOA has had reasonable time to act on it.

A record of each payment will be included on my card statement and will serve as my receipt. In the event of an error, I have the right to instruct my credit card corporation to reverse any charge. I understand I must do this by written notice within 15 days of the date of the credit card statement, or within 45 days after the charge was made.

Authorizing Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**SOA ANNUAL MEMBERS**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY:**

**January 31**  
(EVERY YEAR)

**AND NOBODY GETS HURT**



*A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE*







## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **SOA FEE SCHEDULE**

Fees can be processed online on the public side of the SOA website by clicking the Membership tab. It is not necessary to logon to the members' side.

#### **ORDER REPLACEMENT LIFE OR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARD**

\$20 Life Members  
\$10 Annual Members

#### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

\$30 If paid before January 31  
\$35 If paid after January 31

#### **REINSTATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

\$25 Add fee if you have not renewed in more than 12 months

If you are applying for reinstatement or a change in status from annual to life, contact the Membership Committee in advance to verify status.

Fraternally,

Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman  
910 425-1425  
email: [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)

**[www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)**

V 12/2020



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM**

Indicate below the changes you would like to make on your record. All information is confidential and will not be shared without consent.

This information can be processed on the SOA website by clicking Membership tab or mailed.

### **MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of change \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **NEXT-OF-KIN CONTACT INFORMATION**

Relationship to Member (wife, Son, Daughter, Brother, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman  
email: [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)  
910 425-1425  
PO Box 335461  
N. Las Vegas, NV 89033

V 12/2020

# MEMBER RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

## UNCONVENTIONAL WARRIORS, THE LEGACY ENDURES

Capt. Jim Butler founded The Special Operations Association in November 1976 with a primary mission to ***unite fraternally all past and present American and Allied military personnel who have conducted special operations in a combat environment***, to continue the close relations forged in combat while serving on recon team RT Python.

*We have a special kind of brotherhood. We would have given our lives for each other and in some cases, we did.*  
- Jim Butler, SOA Founder



Jim's poignant comments still resonate with today's combat warriors who continue to carry forward our mission.

We continue to have successful recruitment years; however, attrition continues to take its toll and we still have work to do.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Help the Committee create a list of websites, newsletters, publications, etc., to post recruitment ads (see insert).
- Visit the SOA website, get familiar with membership qualifications and documentation requirements and volunteer to represent the SOA at conventions, or meetings.
- Attend SOA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2021; bring guests and encourage other SOA members to attend.

Jim Shorten, Chair of the recruitment initiative and I ask all SOA members help to recruit qualified Special Operations combat veterans, especially the modern-day Post 9/11 warriors.

Fraternally,  
Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman  
910 425-1425  
membership@specialoperations.org

Jim Shorten  
520 249-6692  
TheEmeraldSea@aol.com

[www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

Presidential Unit Citation -- certificate set		\$12.00	___	_____
Coin, Official SOA		\$12.00	___	_____
Coin, 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary MACVSOG		\$12.00	___	_____
Coin, FOB# 4 Commemorative 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary		\$12.00	___	_____
Coin, MACVSOG PUC Commemorative edition		\$12.00	___	_____
Patch, Prairie Fire gold embroidered on black background		\$5.00	___	_____
Patch square SOA logo embroidered on black		\$5.00	___	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 4" tall		\$15.00	___	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 9" tall		\$30.00	___	_____
Life Member Pin SOA round	Gold__Pewter__	\$6.00	___	_____
Hat Pin SOA Red Shield 1 ½ inches		\$7.00	___	_____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield		\$6.00	___	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 2 ¼ X 3 ¼ inches		\$4.00	___	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 3 x 4 ½ inches		\$5.00	___	_____
SOA 3D Red Shield logo car badge w/3m backing		\$14.00	___	_____
Flag, Special Operation Association—3' x 5' Single/reverse black flag w/grommets		\$50.00	___	_____

SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING, Flat rate USPO - Sm \$7.90, Md \$14.35, Lg \$19.95      SHIPPING \_\_\_\_\_

HANDLING \_\_\_\_\_ \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER INSTRUCTIONS:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST. \_\_\_\_\_ ZC \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT: Check/Money Orders/Credit Card (US currency only) payable to: Quartermaster SOA**

CARD INFO: MasterCard \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_ (check one) CC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit code on back \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to:

**Quartermaster SOA 1492 Lake James Dr., Prudenville, MI. 48651**





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SILENT AUCTION DONATION



## THE MISSION

Please consider donating an item from your display inventory to the **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SILENT AUCTION** to support the Special Operations Community and the Special Operations Soldiers and Sailors from ALL Services.

*Our Mission is to help active duty, separated, retired, and deceased Special Operations Warriors and their families by providing free educational, well-being, suicide prevention, and survivor assistance.*

## ABOUT THE SOA

**The Special Operation Association (SOA)**, established in December 1977 is a fraternal veteran's organization of past and present American and Allied military personnel who conducted special operations in a combat environment. SOA includes veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq. Membership is limited to Free World forces that supported or participated in missions inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

SOA includes active duty and recently retired Special Forces (Green Berets), USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy SEALs, Marine Raider (MARSCOM), U.S Army Rangers, Force Recon personnel and other elite military organizations that are an integral part of Special Operations.



# ABOUT YOUR DONATION

## **Your Silent Auction Item Donation Supports our Charitable Organization, The Special Operations Association Foundation, a 501 C3 entity:**

- The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and the IRS as a non-profit veterans' organization, 501 (c) (19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854)
- Mission is to help active duty, separated, retired, and deceased Special Operations Warriors and their families by providing free educational, well-being, suicide prevention, and survivor assistance
- Is an All-Volunteer Organization with one Part-Time Paid Administrator
- Contributes over 95% of Funds Collected to Charitable Programs
- Supports the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$564,500 has been awarded, or committed to 159 deserving young scholars

**Your Donation will be displayed for Auction at our  
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our Facebook Site to over 5,000 Special Operations members and Facebook  
Community at large as our Thank You.**



# COVID-19 and You – Now What?

*John Padgett, PA-C Emeritus, PhD*

In this presentation, we will not discuss handwashing, masks, social distancing, theories on lockdown, political motives for the shutdown, etc. These topics have been discussed ad nauseum elsewhere and it is not the purpose here to repeat them.

Most of our membership is at greater risk for mortality with Covid-19 because of age and comorbidity (other medical conditions that make us vulnerable).

It is *essential* to seek care if you have symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough, Shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

These symptoms may or may not indicate that you have CV-19, but better to be safe. Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

**YOU HAVE SELF-ISOLATED FOR MONTHS WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?**

- Loneliness
- Depression/Suicidal Thoughts
- Alcoholism/other substance abuse
- Poor Health
- Neglecting or unable to obtain preventive health requirements
- Poor Nutrition
- Lack of exercise
- Financial Problems

There is help and solutions for these problems.

# COVID-19 and You – Now What? (Cont'd)

**Loneliness** can be addressed by buddy checks and virtual visits and activities

**Depression** and suicidal thoughts in our group can be especially dangerous because of our character as combat veterans.

- We tend to react to real or perceived threats, including those we bring on ourselves, quickly and decisively
- Our access to firearms and drugs makes us at high risk for **Bad Things To Happen**
- *Suicidal Thoughts, especially a plan and voicing a desire for self-harm are a medical emergency!* Call 911 and self-report or report someone you know who is threatening suicide
- *Veterans suicide help line:* 1-800-273-8255, then press 1 for a fellow vet or text 838255
- How do I know if I have depression? Here are some tools:
  - o On-line surveys, such as <https://adaa.org/living-with-anxiety/ask-and-learn/screenings/screening-depression>
  - o VA tool: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/depression-screening> (**anonymous; no data collected or stored**)
  - o SEEK HELP – family and medical professional – this is NOT a sign of weakness

**Alcohol & drugs:** Isolation increases the availability and opportunity for use

- Alcohol and /or drugs “take the edge off”
- Isolation and lockdown inevitably lead to increased consumption
- How do I know if I’m having a problem?
  - o Try the C.A.G.E. test: short & simple, online (Cut down, Annoyed, Guilty, Eye-opener) – just type in CAGE test in Google
  - o Anonymous; No data is collected or stored
- How do you prevent or mitigate increased consumption?
  - o Activities that you enjoy and that involve stimulation and/or outdoor activity
  - o Exercise/sports
  - o Don’t resupply alcohol, don’t refill drugs that can be abused
  - o Replace alcohol with water, low calorie soft drinks
  - o Real men seek help

**Poor health & nutrition** due to

- Lack of exercise
- Increased alcohol/drug intake
- Inability to access preventive and/or routine care
- Disruption in medication shipments & pharmacy services
- Inability to pay co-pay for Rx
- Depression
- Poor Nutrition due to
  - o Decreased access to food supply
  - o Quick meals & fast food
  - o Junk food



## **COVID-19 and You – Now What? (Cont'd)**

There are many resources available, to include Meals On Wheels, community food banks and other charities that have feeding programs. Many grocery stores will deliver or gather your selection for pick up. Check with local store web sites or phone them.

**Neglecting or unable to obtain preventive health requirements?** Consider:

- Many physician offices, dentists, & clinics are closed or have limited hours
- Hospitals will not allow routine procedures or elective procedures
- Some VA facilities have limited access

Patients in our age group have certain essential preventive health requirements, to include colonoscopy, endoscopy, mammography (ladies), blood tests, elective surgeries (hernia repairs, skin lesions, wound repair, etc.), immunizations, medical devices (hearing aids, glasses, dentures, orthopedic devices, etc.), physical therapy, and more. Medical facilities, including the VA, are now returning to offering routine and preventive care. It is essential that we keep up with our preventive and routine care. You are encouraged to be aggressive in scheduling and following up with your health care providers.

- Re-schedule electives ASAP — constantly check availability
- Be flexible with your schedule
- Seek alternatives for non-medical provider procedures
- Immunizations
- B/P checks
- You may have access to an open facility in another area (across state lines)
- DO NOT neglect or cancel your health maintenance procedures indefinitely. Cancer doesn't take a vacation

**Mental health problems** such as anxiety, depression and substance abuse can be intensified during isolation. There are resources that can be used for screening

- VA and depression screening (previously mentioned)
- Mental Health America: <https://screening.mhanational.org/> — this resource has 14 screening tools for varied conditions (recommended)

Self-referral to a mental health professional is also an option: your physician, counseling, VA, etc.

It is hoped that this presentation may have offered you some tools and resources for help, should you require it. Do not hesitate to reach out to the resources above or your SOA brothers. You are not alone.





## **THE SOA's MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT**

To honor and memorialize MACVSOG's Medal of Honor recipients and the men of MACVSOG  
**Limited Edition of 250 prints**  
**Creative Work of Robert L. Noe, CCN 69-70 and Artist Frank Allen**



**Certificate of Authenticity certifying that each signature on the print is original.**

Each print is 20 x 24 inches and contains the names of all of MACVSOG's Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients and the original signatures of the five surviving MACVSOG MOH recipients.

Col Robert C. Howard, US Army Special Forces, CCC, Hatchet Force Rescue (Most decorated serviceman in U.S. History, submitted for the MOH three times in 13 months and appearing on the cover of the Green Beret Magazine October 1969).

**NOTE: Colonel Howard passed away on 23 December 2009.**

Col James P. Fleming, US Air Force 20th Special Operation Squadron's Green Hornet for rescuing RT Chisel, CCS, from imminent annihilation.

Lt Michael E. Thornton, US Navy SEAL, STOAT, for saving the life of Lt Thomas Norris an MOH recipient (The only time in US History when a recipient is awarded a MOH for saving the life of another MOH recipient).

Lt Thomas R. Norris, US Navy SEAL, STOAT, for the famed 4 day "Bat 21" rescues of two downed pilots. Six months later, he sustained a near-fatal head wound in action and was rescued by his fellow Navy SEAL, Michael Thornton.

SGM Jon R. Cavaiani, US Army Special Forces, CCN, for his two day defense of Radio Relay Site Hickory. He was captured during the battle and was a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam for 1 year and 8 months.

**NOTE: SGM Cavaiani passed away 29 July 2014.**

### PRINT IMAGES

Upper Left: Lt George Sisler, FOB 2, Hatchet Force, was Killed in Action (KIA) in Feb 1967 during a bomb damage assessment (BDA). He was the first MACVSOG Medal of Honor recipient and the first intelligence officer ever to receive the MOH.

Lower Left: Major Larry A. Thorne was lost, Missing in Action (MIA), on MACVSOG's first mission, 18 October 1965. A native of Finland, he was a recipient of the Finnish Mannerheim Cross, the equivalent of the US Medal of Honor, while serving in the Finnish Army against Russia during WWII. His remains were recovered in Laos 37 years after being declared MIA.

Right Center: On strings, during a STABO extraction in 1968, are SFC Walter Hawley, SFC Agostino Chiarello, and SFC Clifford Roberts.

Bottom Center: At Kham Duc, RVN, a Special Forces "A" camp on the Vietnam-Laotian border and a MACVSOG training and launch site, Recon Team Iowa stands in front of a Vietnamese H-34, "King Bee" helicopter prior to the launch of MACVSOG's first mission on October 18, 1965.

Top Left, SFC Jim "Halo" Smith; 4th from left, top, One-Zero (1-0), Team Leader SGM Charles L. "Slats" Petry, and bottom left SFC Steven W. Comerford. Upper Right: The Radio Relay Site "Leg Horn" located in Laos.

Lower Right: A Navy SEAL Recon Team.

## MACVSOG Medal of Honor Print Order Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SOA Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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SHIPPING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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Form available on SOA website: [wwwSpecialOperation.org](http://www.SpecialOperation.org)

# SOG Bowie 2.0



**\$180.95**

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**A special thank you to SOG Specialty Knives and Tools, LLC  
for acknowledging the elite warriors  
of the Studies and Observation Group,  
and their support of the Special Operations Association.**





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