



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

AFTER ACTION REPORT



Jim Butler

SOA Founder

1943-2021

SOAR XLV • 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 of \$3000/academic year (\$1500/semester) to eligible progeny of SOA members in good standing in the organization.

The Special Operations Association Foundation provides educational grants through the Special Operations Association's (SOA) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of SOA members who are current and in good standing in the organization. As of August 2021, 181 young men and women have been awarded scholarships since the grant program began in 1983. This grant 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.

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 \$695,000 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 181 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). In addition, the SOA periodically communicates with members via email blasts and newsletters which are emailed and posted on the website www.specialoperations.org.

The SOA conducted its 45th annual reunion (SOAR XLV) at The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 18-21 October 2021.

Revised: 1 November 2021
WEB SITE: www.specialoperations.org

President's Message

SOAR XLV soared! Many of our members commented that this was the Best Reunion in years!

The Orleans staff outdid itself in welcoming us back to Vegas after the COVID hiatus. Our Board, special staff and volunteers labored for months to ensure that our programs and events went off like clockwork. Our Thursday Banquet was well attended by enthusiastic members and invited friends, highlighted by our last presentation, our highest award, the James E. Butler Founder's Award to Mike Taylor, Vice President and Chair, Joint Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association POW MIA Committee. The award was presented by Jim's widow, Diane Butler. Diane and her family joined us all week.

We were blessed by the presence of a gifted speaker, Colonel Sean Berg, son of ex-SOA President Charles Berg, who spoke of China's growing and threatening military presence in Asia. A tour de force to be remembered.

Wednesday began with The Memorial Breakfast — SOA's Unreturned Heroes. Mike Taylor and Bonnie Cooper had been organizing this stupendous event for over two years, honoring the families of 86 Special Operators and 46 Airmen lost behind enemy lines. A large crowd was brought to tears with remarks by Mike and family representative Jim Suber, and Dan Thompson's moving poem.

Wednesday was a very full day. A new committee, the Women's Auxiliary, stood up by Vicki Chan and John Russell, had its first meeting. Following the General Membership Meeting, we enjoyed a special liquor tasting organized by Bill Werther and Horace Boner. And then the Foundation led by Doc Padgett held a Fundraiser at the Bowling Alley! I did not ask those who attended the Bally's "Extravaganza", a John Russell production, on Tuesday night, how they physically made it through Wednesday. Whew.

Thursday began, as it always does, with the CCS Breakfast with more remarks by our indomitable VP, Mike Taylor. And then to another remarkable event: the King Bee symposium. Our members and guests, especially my wife Cathy, were blown away by the stories of these heroic pilots and crews who saved our lives on numerous occasions. And who suffered the agony of the loss of their country and their freedom. Many thanks to Len Fein, who contributed funds to make this event happen, and to Tilt Meyer, who helped to organize this blessed happening.

We had an all too short review of the new video game-Arma S.O.G. Prairie Fire-produced by Rob Graham with the assistance of many SOA members. Rob could not travel to LV from the UK because of COVID travel restrictions. Rob will be with us next year, virus permitting — stay tuned.

Last, we moved smartly to the SFA Convention. The SFA not only had two stalwarts as featured speakers: Tilt Meyer and Wade Ishimoto, but also had the good sense to offer its highest award to Mike Taylor as well!

The Special Operations Association is busy preparing for 2022. We will push hard to produce another memorable SOAR!

Doug Godshall

Seeking Brightlight Candidates

December 2021

Fellow SOA Members,

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XLVI 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
- Tim Schaaf | 951-551-1462 | E-mail: schaafnt@msn.com
- Rick Grabianowski | 775-846-1138 | E-mail: 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

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**2022 annual dues are now due and payable.
Refer to the annual dues page 60 for additional information.**

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Early Warning Order

SOAR XLVI

17-21 Oct 2022

Who: SOA Members in good standing and their guests are eligible to register. To verify membership status contact Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman; membership@specialoperations.org, 954-448-2981.

Where: The Orleans Hotel & Casino
800 675-3267 <http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>.

Group Code: To Be Announced in the PRP

Accommodations: To Be Announced in the PRP

See You At SOAR XLVI

Tribute to SOA Founder James E. “Jim” Butler

Jim Butler was born in Portland, ME, and grew up fishing, hunting, and waterskiing on Little Sebago Lake before making the Monterey Peninsula his home. Even in his early years he was described as “larger than life” a “force of nature” and had an “infectious sense of humor”. Butler attended South Portland High School, North Yarmouth Academy and the University of Maine, he was president of his Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, and loved competing in football, baseball and the ski team. In college, Butler joined ROTC and was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer. Jim selected infantry as his military branch and graduated from Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces training.



During Vietnam, Butler served in the U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) in the elite unit MACVSOG (Studies and Observations Group). Jim was a Recon Team leader, the “one-zero”, of CCN Recon Team Python “known to pull off some of the hairiest missions conceived,” according to SOF Journal. As a recon team leader, Captain Butler spent over 500 hours and led multiple-day missions behind enemy lines rescuing downed pilots, running POW/MIA search & recovery missions, disrupting enemy supply lines, and many other covert activities. Described as a “soldier’s soldier” his awards, decorations and badges include Silver Star with 2 oak clusters, Bronze Star with “V” device and 3 oak clusters, 4 Purple Hearts, Airborne tab, Ranger tab, master parachutist badge, expert marksmanship badge, Air Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, multiple Army Commendation Medals, Airforce Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam campaign medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Vietnam service medal, VN Staff Service Medal 1st Class, and numerous other foreign service awards. Butler was stationed at the DLI several times over the years as a student and cadre, where he learned 3 fluent languages and fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula.



In 1972, Butler met the love of his life, Diane, and after a five-day courtship in Boston they eloped just six weeks later. Then he was assigned to Special Ops Europe; after a critical injury during a cold war mission, Jim chose his final assignment to be an advisor at the DLI so he and his wife could raise their family on the Monterey Peninsula. A few years after the birth of his first child he was called back to work for the Pentagon and continued to consult with them and the DOD over the next decade.

Tribute to SOA Founder James E. “Jim” Butler *(Cont’d)*

Butler and his wife, Diane, lived on the Monterey Peninsula for the past 46 years, where he was a financial planner and insurance broker with offices in Carmel and Salinas. Butler was active in the community over the years, leading boy scouts and coaching athletics for his three children in Toro Park and Carmel, steering many teams to title championships. He was a strong presence not only to his family but also their friends and peers. Butler was very involved in raising his three children pushing them to excel in athletics, academia, and incredible life experiences throughout the world. Each of his children were on local championship all-star teams and went on to play varsity and collegiate athletics at New England colleges. They all share his passion for life, fearlessness for travel and strive to master his wit and charm. He was an active community member with business associations and rotary clubs and a sought-after public speaker for officer clubs and veteran ceremonies. A member of Corral de Tierra Country Club for over 25 years, he was a true friend to many and enjoyed traveling the world playing golf with his family and his golf buddies.



Butler was born with a gift of laughter and was always the life of the party. He was an intellectual and a voracious reader of history, incredible linguist, and loved traveling, waterskiing, snow skiing, golfing, fishing, and coaching his children and their peers. He had incredible vision and foresight and not only pushed all he knew to be their best but offered a hand to make sure they succeeded. He will be deeply missed.

Butler was a devoted husband and loving father and was always committed to his comrade-in-arms. His loyalty to his men alive, missing, and deceased inspired him to create the Special Operations Association (SOA) in 1976, a non-profit organization to connect the men of Special Operations, aid in their transition to the private sector, honor the memory of their fallen comrades and award collegiate scholarships to the children of SOA members. The SOA has grown to over 2,500 living members, who convene annually to discuss special operations past and present.

Tribute to SOA Founder James E. “Jim” Butler *(Cont’d)*



History of the SOA

The early SOA composed only of recon team personnel & the personnel who worked for MACVSOG and supported their missions. Our association would encompass all four services as well as certain government entities to include the chopper pilots who flew for us, the Air Force personnel who directed and supported us, as well as the few Marines and Naval personnel that worked in SOG as well as in our operations.

We had a special kind of brotherhood...We would have given our lives for each other and in some cases, we did, and I did not want to lose those relationships that I had & we haven't to this day. Due to the highly classified nature of our SOG unit, we weren't allowed to converse with others about our missions, not even to other Green Berets, and we found that we were the only ones on this planet who understood what each other have gone through. The SOA offered a way to preserve these relationships.

At our first reunion we had 13 men get together at the Fort Devens Rod and Gun Club. The stories were great & the camaraderie was back between all of us. At this meeting on Christmas Eve, 1971 we reaffirmed our commitment to each other and knew that, regardless of where life took us, we would always be there for each other. It was this moment that I recognized the value of an “official” Special Operations Association to both the men and to the family of those lost. I felt the need to set up the SOA in order to obtain coverage for our unique veteran concerns and to take care of “Our Guys”. The Special Operations Association established a secure line of communication that was needed for me & my men.

We all agreed that we would make an effort to get together at least every five years regardless of where we were in the world. From that moment on, each and every one of us knew that we had friends closer than brothers and should the need arise all we had to do was declare a PRAIRIEFIRE EMERGENCY and a BRITELIGHT would launch immediately. These relationships are still in place today.

The second reunion grew to 28 men who flew in from all over the world. Thus the memo of our reunion continued to pass by word-of-mouth. As men sent me contact info to each of them I started building the telephone tree; then in 1976 I incorporated the SOA as a (501)c3 California charitable organization and shortly after we became a national organization. The only membership criteria was to be SOG personnel or SOG support activities personnel and we had the men on board who could attest to who were SOG and not.

Tribute to SOA Founder James E. “Jim” Butler (Cont’d)

All of these men that I contacted were to try and locate other people who were either C&C Recon or supported our activities. At first it was to be a One-Zero organization, with projects/plans and directions dictated by One-Zeros. During the course of the next 10 years other C&C/SOG personnel directly contacted me and were interested in joining the organization.

The reunion was for the Brotherhood. First, I inducted our dear friend Martha Raye as an honorary member into the SOA. Then I invited the driving forces for The League of Families, as I heard that The League was being stonewalled by the Carter Administration and was not receiving any support from the VFW and the American Legion. I allowed their driving forces to address the SOA attendees about the total lack of support for the POW/MIA issue and after they were done we decided to support them in their endeavors. ***In 1979 the SOA became the first Veterans Group to formally support the League of Families.*** In 1980 with the help of General Jack Singlaub, MACVSOG and its missions appeared for the first time in a documented history of the Vietnam War.

The Specific and primary purposes for setting up the Special Operations Association:

1. To unite fraternally all war veterans who are now conducting or supporting classified “Special Operations” deep in hostile enemy territory, or have been assigned to the United States or foreign military units which conducted such operations.

(This was our definition for membership at this time as we could not use the name MACVSOG as it was still classified.)

2. To perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps
3. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World.

Therefore in 1981 we started the “Special Operations Scholarship Fund” each scholarship would be given in the name of one of our killed or missing in action. We present these scholarships annually and read a brief bio of the circumstances of the KIA or MIA member’s last mission.

4. To educate its members and the citizens of the USA in the proper development of Special Operations and to keep them abreast of new developments in the field of Special Operations as is consistent with security regulations.
5. To create & compile communication networks for Members.
6. Our organization would first and foremost support “qualified” membership; To help those who needed it, to get on their feet on the ground and become integral parts of US Society.
7. To encourage every member of the association toward a closer personal relationship and a friendly spirit of mutual cooperation.
8. To foster and promote general welfare and prosperity of the members and to improve by all lawful means their status and condition.

Tribute to SOA Founder James E. “Jim” Butler *(Cont’d)*

9. To be a source of inspiration for all Special Operations personnel.

General Jack Singlaub gave me the greatest compliment when he approached me at one of our reunions with a rhetorical question, ***“Do you have any idea of how many men you saved just by setting this organization up?”*** This is the very essence of why I established the Special Operations Association: to recognize our special veterans & their families.

I am honored to have founded an organization with such achievement.

Jim Butler
Founder, Special Operations Association



GREEN BERET REQUIEM

His strength was his knowledge.
His skills were multiple and sustaining.
His ability was to train and to lead,
For he knew war and could bring peace.

This is his last and final roll call,
A warrior in an elite fraternity.
His name is called and the answer:
“He is gone, he has departed us.”

All bow their heads and remember:
When he was youthful and courageous,
When he went where others feared to go,
When he marched with the “Green Berets”.

He is the legend of the Special Forces.
He is the soldier who would volunteer.
He is the warrior in each girl’s heart.
He is the hero his nation does honor.

Farewell my friend, my comrade-in-arms.
Farewell the lover and husband who was true.
Farewell the father and granddad too.
Farewell the legend, farewell the hero.

Special Operations Assn Foundation Auxiliary Committee

The SOAF Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC) held its first meeting at the Orleans Hotel on October 20 at 1300 hrs during the SOAR. Over 20 women attended, and the discussions were spirited. The enthusiasm that was demonstrated only underscored the fact that this committee will fill a void that has been in the past, unidentified.

The SOAFAC decided to omit the previously included “Women’s” in their name as more diverse genders join the Special Operations community. The committee also decided that it would start collecting annual dues to help offset the projects the committee identified.

The many diverse ideas that were presented regarding where the committee should head towards were basically categorized into three major goals. The first goal is to provide survivor support for SOA members through emotional and informational means. The second goal is to provide camaraderie through active-duty spousal support, family and emotional spousal support for the SOA members, and activities for spouses at the SOAR. The third and final goal is to provide support for the SOA by providing a means to volunteer for the SOAR, financial and fundraising efforts, and recruitment. Lead volunteers were recruited to head these endeavors. An SOAFAC logo will be designed for review by the SOAF Board of Trustees

If you are interested in joining, please contact Vicki Chan-Padgett at vickichanpadgett@yahoo.com.



“Extravaganza”

The Committee would first like to report the addition of a new member, Ms. Linda Leavitt who has been authorized by SOA President Doug Godshall, to be the newest member. Ms. Leavitt also holds the position of SOA Administrator, and as a resident of Las Vegas, Ms. Leavitt was primarily responsible for locating the SOAR XLV entertainment event at the premier 5-star Bally’s Hotel Casino & Resort entitled “EXTRAVAGANZA”. We all should extend our appreciation for her efforts in making this event possible.

The Extravaganza



The Extravaganza was a tremendous hit with our member attendees. We had a total of 77 attendees who departed from the Orleans Hotel in large, air-conditioned buses to the Bally’s hotel. In accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) the buses were allowed to unload our members at the very front entrance to the resort, without encountering any vehicular or other pedestrian traffic, and with a very short and direct walk to the theatre area. Special considerations were given to our mobility challenged attendees with wheelchair/motorized scooters/



walkers and other mobility assistance devices as they were all accommodated without any negative incidents. Our members were given the special privilege of entering the theatre area well in advance of general admission to prevent competing with general admission traffic. Upon entering the theatre area, members were also given the additional special privilege of being seated directly in front of the stage area with seating as close as less than 10 feet from the stage. Members were also allowed the freedom of group seating with whomever they so desired. The hotel had staff members positioned at various locations, specifically within our group area, to assist anyone within our group with any personal or group need and/or for any possible problem(s) encountered. These accommodations were as a result of the full support and cooperation of the Bally’s staff of Ms. Ariel Kimura, Group Sales Manager, and Messrs. Robert Fejer and Dustin Principe, Entertainment Operations Managers.

“Extravaganza” (Cont’d)



As depicted in the accompanying photographs, the event show was nothing short of spectacular with numerous varieties of acrobatic performances, which included precise human target accuracy with a powerful bow and arrow weapon propelling arrows through a number of angular trajectories with the final target being an apple on the top of the shooter’s head. This was an amazing and almost unbelievable feat. The show also included three dirt bike riders, all inside a large circular steel cage, all riding at very high rates of speed while performing various breath-gasping stunts therein. There were other stand-alone comedy acts including a roller-skating duo performing on a small table, filling our group with tremendous laughter and enlightening moments. The acrobatic stunts are indescribable and can only be appreciated in the accompanying photographs.

I believe that all attendees can unequivocally say that this was one of the best offsite entertainment events the SOA has ever had. This is especially true with all the accommodations made to ensure that our members and other attendees were not only totally entertained, but also assured that our members were given VIP treatment. For all those who were not able to attend, we can only state that you missed a very good show, and we hope that you will join us in our next SOAR entertainment event.

John Russell
Entertainment Committee Chair



Unaccounted for Personnel Memorial Breakfast

1,584 US personnel remain missing (Prisoners of War or Missing in Action [POW/MIA]) and otherwise unaccounted for (Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered [KIA/BNR]) from the Vietnam War. Extensive research has been conducted by the Joint Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association POW/MIA Committee, with assistance from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and volunteer researcher Bonnie Cooper, to identify those still missing and unaccounted-for who would have been eligible to join the Special Operations Association (SOA) had they returned home. We are confident that we identified the 132 personnel that fit that category. Ground losses of MACV Studies and Observations Group (SOG), the Mobile Strike Force (Mike Force), White Star, and other eligible units account for 86 personnel still missing. Nine of those men are still carried in the category of Last Known Alive (LKA), the highest priority for accounting efforts. Air support personnel still missing total 46 (22 USAF, 3 USMC, 21 US Army).

The fact that 8.33% of those still missing and unaccounted for come from our units is clear evidence of how dangerous our missions were. Our forces were never anywhere near 8.33% of



the total US forces in Vietnam. Our losses are far out of proportion given our unit strengths versus total US forces involved in the war. Surely, men willing to knowingly undertake such dangerous missions are worthy of our remembrance and tribute.

During SOAR XLV, the Special Operations Association hosted a Memorial Breakfast for our missing and unaccounted-for brothers-in-arms, our unreturned heroes. Planning for this historic event began two years ago, prior to the oncoming, unanticipated impact of the Covid Pandemic. We had hoped to attract 500 attendees, including 100 family members of the missing. Effects of the pandemic resulted



Unaccounted for Personnel Memorial Breakfast (Cont'd)

in total attendance of 200, including 14 family members. Nonetheless, the Breakfast was a heartfelt and moving tribute. We were honored to host the following family members:

- the family of Anastacio Montez, II Corps
Mike Force: his niece Ida Trujillo
- the family of Robert Ansbach, IV Corps
Mike Force: his daughter Cynthia Baucom
- the family of Frank Badolati, Detachment
B52 (the original Delta): his daughter
Daisy Badolati
- the family of James Birchim, Command
and Control Central Recon Team
Vermont: his wife Barbara Birchim
- the family of David Mixter, Command and
Control Central Recon Team Colorado:
his sister Valerie Dove
- the family of George Green, Forward
Operating Base 2 Recon Team
Washington: his sister Liz Morris, his
sister Veronica Brand
- the family of Randy Suber, Command
and Control North Recon Team Oregon:
his brother Jim Suber and nephew James
Suber

- the family of Ray Echevarria, Command
and Control North Recon Team Arizona,
his son Ray Echevarria, Jr.
- the family of Rob Scherдин, FOB-2, Recon
Team Vermont: his cousin, John Brower
- the family of Allen Lloyd, Command and
Control North Recon Team Intruder: his
brother Marvin Lloyd
- the family of Wayne Wolfkeil, A1 Skyraider
pilot of the 6th Special Operations
Squadron: his daughter Maura Proctor
and his niece Veronica Proctor

To honor the families and inform the attendees about the current status of the accounting mission, we were honored to have guest speakers from all major organizations included in the accounting effort.

Guest speakers included:

- Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Director retired USAF Major General
Kelly McKeague
- Program Manager of Defense Intelligence
Agency Stony Beach Program Brad Taylor



*BG H. B. Gilliam, Ann Mills Griffiths, Brad Taylor, MG Kelly McKeague, Mike Taylor,
Doug & Mrs Godshall, Jim Suber*

Unaccounted for Personnel Memorial Breakfast (Cont'd)

- Ann Mills Griffiths, Chairman of the Board and retiring CEO of the National League of POW/ MIA Families of the Vietnam War
- Operations Director of the Special Forces Charitable Trust retired Special Forces Brigadier General HB Gilliam



Jim Suber, brother of Randy Suber, MIA from Recon Team Oregon, spoke on behalf of the family members about their experience of loss and five decades of hopeful waiting for answers to their questions about the fate of their missing

loved ones. Jim absolutely hit a Grand Slam home run, way out of the park. His speech was the highlight of the Breakfast and, to me personally, the highlight of the entire SOAR.

Other memorable events at the Breakfast were:

- Cliff Newman's presentation about his three trips with DPAA to assist them in pinpointing the loss location of CCN RT Intruder and their aircrew. They have succeeded in locating the site and we have high hopes for DPAA's future efforts to recover and identify our six missing brothers-in-arms from that incident.
- Dan Thompson's amazing poem "Gravediggers of Laos", about a young man's search for answers about his father's loss in Laos.
- A moving rendition of "Ol' Blue" by Deborah Sinyard and Robert "Spider" Parks. "Ol' Blue" was a lament sung in the hootch bars and clubs of SOG and the Mike Force whenever we lost someone, commemorating the new losses and those that preceded them.

Many thanks to the POW/MIA Committee, the SOA Board of Directors, Bonnie Cooper and all the other volunteers who made this long-anticipated event such a rousing success. I believe this event stands high among the history of all events of our 45 SOARs.



Election Tally Report

To: Doug Godshall, President, SOA Board of Directors

10-11-2021

From: Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2021 ELECTION.

I am pleased to report that the 2021 election for Secretary and two Directors has been completed without drama or fanfare. For those three positions, only three aspirants chose to run. Therefore, each candidate was guaranteed victory.

There were 107 envelopes containing ballots. The totals for each candidate are:

- Jensen: - 103
- Rivero: - 101
- Whitt: - 100
- Casini - 2 (write in)

In addition, three envelopes were opened having only raffle tickets or tickets and a check. The checks came from James Hamilton III (\$45.00) and from Don Bendell (\$20.00) for four tickets he purchased. Those will be forwarded to our administrator, Linda Leavitt.

There seems to be nothing that can be done to dissuade people from sending raffle tickets to the tally committee, but since we have nothing else to complain about, life is good.

My son happened by during the count, and said something to the effect: “why are you doing that stupid #\$\$%7 by hand? He is a high school teacher, schooled in the Humanities and Fine Arts. He dragged me to his house, and within ten minutes, had made a sample ballot that could be sent to everyone with a smart phone or computer. It was, for him, that easy. Those who vote by mail-in ballot may do so, but those voting by electronic media can do so from anywhere they happen to be, and the voting would be tallied daily. Just a thought.

The ballots, tabulating notes and envelopes will be conveyed to Secretary Jensen at SOAR, or shipped to his home for appropriate storage.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Keele, Chairman of the Tally Committee

General Membership Meeting



President Godshall presided over 75 of the 262 registered SOAR participants that were present for the General Membership Meeting at SOAR XLV. In addition to various committee reports and the annual pinning ceremonies, the oath of office was administered to incumbent Secretary Jensen and Director RT Rivero as well as new Director Marcus Whitt.



Treasurer Devon gave an overview of an excellent balance sheet which was driven by \$188,000 in contributions and fundraising proceeds through September 2021. He noted however, that none of the expenses associated with SOAR were entered yet.

Denise Groll, winner of the “America Remembers” raffle prize, was not present at the GMM but was in attendance at SOAR.



Financials

**Special Operations Association, Inc.
Balance Sheet - Cash Basis
As of December 31, 2021**

	<u>As of Dec 31, 2021</u>	<u>As of Dec 31, 2020</u>
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts		
Checking Operations *4345	4,901	6,763
WF Operating Savings *0541	177,060	59,045
Total SOA Non-Restricted Accounts	<u>\$ 181,961</u>	<u>\$ 65,809</u>
SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543		
Brightlight Restricted Acct.	31,974	18,532
George C. Morton Scholarship Restricted Acct.	49,224	42,138
LifeMbrship Fund-Board Restricted	54,038	43,563
POW/MIA Restricted Savings	11,987	9,738
SOA Warriors Family Fund-Restricted Acct.	9,204	2,368
Video/Archives Restricted	20,009	20,924
Total SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543	<u>\$ 176,436</u>	<u>\$ 137,263</u>
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 358,396</u>	<u>\$ 203,072</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 358,396</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 203,072</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Temporary Liability-Restricted Scholarship Funds	19,500	16,500
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 19,500</u>	<u>\$ 16,500</u>
Equity		
Net Assets (Retained Earnings)	186,572	204,614
Net Income	152,324	(18,042)
Total Equity	<u>\$ 338,896</u>	<u>\$ 186,572</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 358,396</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 203,072</u></u>

Financials (Cont'd)

**Special Operations Association, Inc.
Profit and Loss Comparison 2021 - 2020 - Cash Basis
January - December 2021**

	Jan - Dec 2021	Jan - Dec 2020
Income		
Contributions	221,273	30,236
Fund Raising	14,665	16,975
Membership Dues	25,450	24,110
Quarter Master Sales	53,633	12,516
Reunion Income	115,492	380
Miscellaneous Income	1,028	818
Total Income	\$ 431,541	\$ 85,035
Expenses		
AAR/PRP Production	22,435	21,693
Administrative Expenses	33,322	37,764
Advertising/Promotional	6,840	4,455
Bank Fees	6,694	1,522
Donations to Others	2,000	0
Fund Raising Expenses	1,679	272
Purchases	0	2,467
Quarter Master Cost	40,571	10,713
Reunion Expense	135,225	4,247
Scholarship Expenses	24,000	15,000
Storage Units	3,997	3,998
Travel	2,453	946
Total Expenses	\$ 279,217	\$ 103,077
Net Income	\$ 152,324	\$ (18,042)

Financials (Cont'd)

**Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis
As of December 31, 2021**

	As of Dec 31, 2021	As of Dec 31, 2020
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Foundation Checking BOA	10,073	14,312
SOA Foundation savings	12,157	3,302
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 22,230	\$ 17,613
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 22,230	\$ 17,613
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Liability for Member Interment	0	9,145
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ 9,145
Equity		
Retained Earnings	8,468	5,710
Net Revenue	13,762	2,758
Total Equity	\$ 22,230	\$ 8,468
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 22,230	\$ 17,613

Financials (Cont'd)

Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc. Statement of Activity 2021-2020 Comparison - Cash Basis January - December 2021

	<u>Jan - Dec 2021</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2020</u>
Revenue		
Contributions Income	35,733	5,127
Total Revenue	\$ 35,733	\$ 5,127
Expenditures		
Bank Charges	322	206
Charitable Contributions	20,500	0
Meals and Entertainment	40	0
Office Expenses	430	430
WEB Expenses	680	1,734
Total Expenditures	\$ 21,972	\$ 2,370
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 13,761	\$ 2,758
Interest Earned	1	1
Net Revenue	\$ 13,762	\$ 2,758

SOAR GMM Minutes

**Special Operations Association, Inc.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
20 Oct 2021
The Orleans Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada**

- I. Call to Order 1332 PDT President Godshall
- II. Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms – Spider Parks, Clete Sinyard, Ron Owens, and George Sternberg President Godshall
- III. Pledge of Allegiance Director Padgett
- IV. Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs, and POWs Chaplain Padgett
- V. Roll Call SOA Board of Officers/Directors Secretary Jensen
President Godshall, VP Taylor, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Padgett, Director Leites, Director Rivero, Director Haase
- VI. SOA Special Staff Members Present. President Godshall
- VII. Introduction of Guests President Godshall
- VIII. Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, President Godshall
and if a quorum present
75 attendees of 262 members present at SOAR represents a quorum
- IX. General Member’s Approval of GMM Agenda. President Godshall
President Godshall called for a motion to approve the Agenda for the General Membership Meeting. Clyde Sincere so moved, Marcus Whitt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- X. Business Meeting:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Adopt Standing Rules of Order published in SOAR XLV PRP President Godshall
President Godshall asked for a motion to adopt the Standing Rules of Order. VP Taylor so moved, Rick Grabianowski seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
2. Approve SOAR XLIV General Membership Mtg Minutes President Godshall
(SOAR XLV PRP)
President Godshall called for a motion to approve the minutes of the SOAR XLIV General Membership Meeting. Treasurer Devon so moved, Director Haase seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

SOAR GMM Minutes (Cont'd)

3. Financial Report Treasurer Devon

SOA – Treasurer Devon reported a very good year with \$175,000 in donations and \$32,000 in quartermaster sales. However, he observed that SOAR expenses were yet to be figured into the financial picture.

SOAF – Treasurer Devon again reported a healthy financial picture for the resurrected SOAF.

He then explained the purpose of the two organizations – 501(c)(19) vs. 501(c)(3). The Foundation, as a 501(c)(3), is a more attractive vehicle for large corporate donors.
4. Special Operations Association Foundation Director Padgett

SOAF Executive Director Padgett reported that there is a major effort underway to revitalize the Foundation and seek out corporate donors.

He also reported a restructuring of the Board to include two community members in addition to the existing nine board members of the SOA.
5. Fundraising Committee Chair Mallowney

Co-Chairman Mallowney reported that the relationship with SOG Specialty Knives & Tools remains lucrative. In addition to the extremely good deal they made on the SOG Bowie 2.0 knives for sale through the SOA QM Store, they also make quarterly donations to the SOA.
6. Membership Report Chairman Wilson

Chairman Wilson reported that during his time as Chairman, approximately 60% of new members are post-Vietnam era warriors. He observed that many of the new members had learned of the SOA through recent recruiting efforts in the SFA The Drop and the Air Commando Journal.

Member Ed Wolcuff suggested the SOA relax eligibility requirements to allow ‘other’ governmental agencies and para-military personnel to join the SOA. President Godshall said he would entertain the discussion outside of the General Membership Meeting.
7. Scholarship Committee Report. Chairman Yevich

Chairman Yevich was not in attendance. President Godshall announced Dr. Steve Yevich as the new Chair of the Scholarship Committee. He then reported that the committee received 15 outstanding applications of the 2021-22 academic year and 8 scholarships were granted.
8. Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Padgett

Chairman Padgett reported that the Brightlight Committee received no applications this year. He reminded the membership that all applications are confidential and the Brightlight Committee is well funded.
9. Warrior’s Family Fund Chairman Boner

Chairman Boner reported 5 applications for assistance, two of which were denied due to eligibility.

SOAR GMM Minutes (Cont'd)

10. Personal Video History Committee Report Chair Cummings
President Godshall reported that VHP interviews are ongoing. Dennis Cummings was able to raise \$5,500 despite the pandemic.
11. QM Sales Report QM Strange
Quartermaster Strange reported that the newly revamped SOA website has led to increased sales overall and that sales at SOAR were strong. He reported that only 20 of the 150 SOG Bowie 2.0 knives remain.
He also stated that he is looking to step down as quartermaster.
12. Riders Committee Chairman Whitt
Chairman Whitt began by saying that the SOA Riders annual ride is in memory of our MIA. The ride culminates with placing 132 carnations at a local War Memorial. This year's ride raised \$1,087 which was donated to the Scholarship Fund.
In addition to this year's annual ride, there was a 'Last Ride' for Ron Gravett which was well attended.
Next year's ride will be in Morristown, TN and all 89 members of the SOA Riders are encouraged to participate.
13. Chaplain's Report. Chaplain Padgett
President Godshall reported Chaplain Padgett has had a busy year making condolence calls and praying with the family members of our fallen SOA brothers. This morning he gave the invocation and benediction at the Memorial Breakfast for our Unreturned Heroes and also the invocation for our gathering here this afternoon. He will finish his week with the invocation and blessing of our Banquet tomorrow evening.
14. Nominating Committee Chairman Meyer
President Godshall stated that three BoD positions are up for election each year. In 2022 the Treasurer and two Director positions will be elected. Please send nominations to the Nominating Committee NLT 30 Apr 2022.
The Nominating Committee Chairmanship is an open position with an interim Chair. Anyone interested in filling the position, please reach out to the BoD.
15. Tally Committee Report Chairman Keele
President Godshall reported that each BoD position was uncontested.
16. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Godshall
President Godshall thanked departing Director Bobby Leites for his contributions to the SOA.
17. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Godshall
Secretary: Duffy Jensen
Director Position 2: RT Rivero
Director Position 3: Marcus Whitt

SOAR GMM Minutes *(Cont'd)*

18. Non-Valor Award Presentation

President Godshall – Member chair

- a. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members:
- b. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members:
- c. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members:
- d. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members:
- e. Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members:

XI. Meeting Adjournment: 1459 PDT

Respectfully Submitted by

Duffy Jensen

DUFFY JENSEN

Secretary, Special Operations Association

Membership Report

It has been a sad as well as an interesting year for the SOA and particularly for the Membership Committee. The sad part for the committee was finding out that so many of our Inactive members had died over the previous years without the SOA being notified. It took much investigation, mostly by Bonnie Cooper, to find out that members had passed as early as 1984. In total, with those from 2021, the total was 220 of our brothers were reported deceased in 2021 as of this writing on December 28, 2021.

On the interesting side, the SOA added forty-nine new members in 2021 of which 32 are post 9/11 and one of whom is a veteran of the invasion of Panama in 1989. This increase in the number of younger members bodes well for the future of the Special Operations Association.

Despite not having an in-person SOAR in 2020, approved membership applications continued with about the same number as in the previous two years with a slight increase in 2021. SOAR XLV followed at once by the Special Forces Convention in the same location aided in the number of applications with several SFA members asking about and then applying for membership.

Lastly, being able to address the annual Membership meeting at SOAR XLV to again ask the membership to continue to be ambassadors for the SOA was greeted with some enthusiasm. But, advising the membership that they would be requested in the future to deliver to the new members their membership packets seemed to be more enthusiastically received. This new program initiated by the Membership Committee will begin in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Wilson
Chairman, Membership Committee

Registrar's Report

The headcount was lower than anticipated this year. I believe this was due to the COVID-19 virus. We experienced a large number of cancellations and no-shows due to the virus. The final tally for SOAR XLV registrations is as follows:

Member Type	Count
General	217
Associate	14
Operational Associate	1
Honorary	12
Widow	10
Total Members	254
Non-members, organizations, and vendor	339
Total Attendees	593

Approximately 560 joined together for the SOAR XLV Banquet.

This year, the Volunteers listed stepped up and contributed 150% at the registration desk. They went above and beyond in assisting me to keep the Registration Desk running as I dealt with a major side issue. I hope this volunteer list is accurate. So much was going on, I may have missed some names. If so, I apologize.

Thank you to Ron Mansour, Chris Sorenson, Ben Frevert, Phil Kozlowski, Tom Halligan, Chris McClure, George Sternberg, Sally Downs Sternberg, Jean Thong, Katy Leites, Becki Davis, Ray and Ronnie Frovarp, and nephew Johnnie.

Fraternally,
Ivan Davis, Registrar



Special Operations Association Foundation Report

Earlier this year, after considerable discussion and revision, the Foundation governing board was reorganized from a Board of Directors to a Board of Trustees that includes the SOA BOD, Special Operations community members, and an Executive Director to address day to day operations. It was felt that the term “Trustee” better reflects the duties of the Board that is entrusted with the assets of the Foundation. The Foundation will be active at SOAR and throughout the year with fundraising activities and support of our Special Operations community.

In addition to the SOA BOD assuming leadership on the Foundation Board of Trustees, we are pleased to welcome MAJ GEN (Ret) Ken Bowra and COL (Ret) Mark Mitchell as community Trustees. We are looking forward to the leadership and guidance of these two distinguished Special Operators. The Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF) is resuming its role as an active participant in support of Special Operations troops, veterans, families, and surviving families members.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION MISSION: To assist members of the Special Operations community in fostering the wellbeing of its members, families, and survivors.

The SOAF this year contributed to the Warrior Family Fund to enable family members of our MIA to attend the “Unreturned Heroes” Memorial Breakfast and will assist in financing SOA scholarships.

Another exciting development this year was the formation and authorization of the SOAF Women’s Auxiliary Committee (WAC). This group has the mission of providing support to the SOA through the engagement and camaraderie of members’ spouses, widows/widowers, and families. The WAC has already been active in providing assistance to some families of deceased SOA members. The WAC will have an organizational meeting during SOAR XLV.

The SOAF remains active in soliciting donations to enable us to continue our mission.

For more information about the Foundation, see our web site at soafoundation.net or contact the Executive Director at Bacsi10@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,
John “Doc” Padgett
Executive Director

George C. Morton Scholarship Report

SOA Scholarship Reminder:

For the Academic year 2021-22, SOA was able to award eight scholarships to applicants who were relatives of SOA members who met the criteria as outlined in Annex J of the SOA by-laws. As a reminder, these awards of \$1500/semester (\$3000 per school year) are available for children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren of SOA members in good standing in the organization, and who are 21 years of age or under. (On 17NOV21, the SOA Board of Directors approved expansion of eligibility to GREAT-grandchildren of SOA members.) Eligibility also includes progeny of MIA/KIA servicemembers who WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE for SOA membership.

The award is based on numerous criteria that form a favorable composite picture of the applicant, to include: career goals, attitude, contributions, achievements and awards, community service, other significant life experiences, past academic performance, evidence of perseverance and motivation to succeed, hardships, need, and likelihood for career success. We WANT to give our talented and motivated young relatives a boost to help them succeed in life!

The 2022-23 scholarship application will be available at the end of DEC 21, downloadable from the SOA website, or by contacting the Committee Chair, Steve Yevich, at syevich@hotmail.com. The absolute no-excuses deadline for email submission or postmark is Friday, 15APR2022. Go for it!



SOA Riders Report

After the cancellation of our ride in 2020 due to COVID, it was a treat to get together in 2021. Our ride this year was held in Baron, WI and hosted by SOA Rider Red Surgenor and his wife Sue on June 9-12, 2021. Our Ride HQ was the Cobblestone Inn in Baron. We held our orientation meeting at 1800 hrs on Wednesday, June 9. Kathleen Hayduk recorded all of those present and their introductions via her cell. This will be distributed to all our members at a later date. Members and others present included Red & Sue Surgenor, Bob Strange & Nancy Blair, Mike & Carol McGowan, Steve & Kathleen Hayduk, Stacy Buscetto, Ralph Keith, Tom & Sherry Collier, Ron Gravett, Johnnie & Evelyn Haynes, Melvin Wick, Robert Tate, Woody Woodbury, Ray & Shirley Williams, Bill Norden, Beverly Simpson, Keith & Monica Reynolds, Robert Tate and Director Marcus Whitt.

Day 1 was spent riding the roads to New Richmond, WI where the group stopped and participated in Huey rides. Day 2 was spent riding the roads to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, WI. We returned to the Cobblestone Inn where we held our annual raffle to raise money for the SOA Scholarship Fund. Over \$1,000 was raised by our members.



Summer Ride — 2021



SOA Riders — SOAR XLV

Saturday, June 12 the Riders and others held our annual MIA Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial and Cemetery in Baron, WI. Sherry Collier organized the support group and was responsible for reading the names of all 132 SOG members and support personnel that are still unaccounted for. Red had arranged for the American Legion to provide an Honor Guard. After the ceremony, a number of our members headed to Red and Sue's home for a cookout. This was a very successful event, and everyone is looking forward to next year.

Our year continued with the sad news that one of our own, Ron Gravett, had made his last extraction on September 3, 2021. Ron died of Covid complications. The SOA Riders were asked by his wife Vickie to perform a "Last Ride" for Ron and of course, we responded. Those of our members that were able to participate in Ron's Last Ride included Bob Strange &

SOA Riders Report (Cont'd)

Nancy Blair, Mary Carrell, Tom & Sherry Collier, Johnnie & Evelyn Haynes, Red & Sue Surgenor, Robert Tate, Woody Woodbury, Mike McGowan, Steve Hayduk and Marcus & Pam Whitt. Also in attendance was SOA member Dan Ster who served in SOG with Ron. Ron's memorial service was held at the First Baptist Church of Ellijay and he was laid to rest at the National Cemetery in Canton, GA. The Riders led the procession from Ellijay to Canton with the assistance of multiple law enforcement agencies.

Last but not least, the Riders were in attendance at SOAR 2021. Our own Bob Strange is the SOA Quarter Master and he and Nancy Blair spent many hours setting up the store, manning the store and packing up the store. They were assisted by Johnnie and Evelyn Haynes throughout the event. Our own Marcus Whitt was elected to the SOA Board of Directors but will continue to serve as the SOA Riders Director until someone throws him out!!! Those SOA Riders in attendance included Terry & Liz Curry, Johnnie & Evelyn Haynes, Ralph & Karin Keith, Mike & Carol McGowan, Ron Owens, Red & Sue Surgenor, Larry Trimble, Marcus & Pam Whitt, and James & Sheryl Woodbury. The Riders did pick up two new members; Skip Cantwell and James "Sneaky" White.

The Special Forces Association held their convention immediately following the SOA. The SFA sponsored a ride through Death Valley. Bob Strange and Nancy Blair along with Marcus and Pam Whitt represented the SOA Riders on this awesome ride.

The 2022 SOA Riders Ride will be held June 8-11, 2022 in Morristown, TN. This ride will be hosted by Director Marcus Whitt and his wife Pam. I hope all the Riders can make this one.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcus Whitt
12/7/2021



Ron Gravett's Last Ride



Ron Gravett's Procession

Video History and Archive Report

It was good to see everyone this year at SOAR. The reunion was great in many ways. Seeing old friends is always a great thing. In the past year, the Video History Project had a lot to be grateful for. Donations to the project were good. Marshall Hall sent in a generous donation and Norm Jennings donated \$500.00 to the project. Prior to SOAR, Shirley Williams donated \$5000.00 and presented us with another check for \$1000.00 when she arrived at the reunion. Shirley has been a very strong supporter of our efforts to capture and preserve the history of Special Operations for many years. The donation during SOAR was a surprise, but this year we had a couple of surprises for Shirley. During the banquet Shirley was made an Honorary Life Member of the SOA as well as being recognized with a second award for her generous donations. Because of the generosity of our donors, we were able to record 14 interviews this year. My thanks go out to all our donors for helping to keep this important project alive.

If you have been a part of Special Operations and would like to record your history, please let us know. While the majority of our work has been focused on the Vietnam War era we also preserve the history of Special Operations from any conflict. Please contact me using the information below to discuss setting up an interview. We do interviews during SOAR, but we also do interviews with people who are traveling through the St. Louis, Missouri area.

During SOAR, the SOA Archive had numerous items of interest and historical importance donated for the enjoyment of our members and to help preserve the history. I will try to display as many of these artifacts as possible at the next reunion, so please stop by the archive tables at the next SOAR and see what's new. We still need items to preserve in our archives, so please keep the donations coming in.

As always, I want to thank everyone who works so hard to keep the Video History Project and Archives running smoothly at SOAR. Lisa Allen, SOA Videographer, as well as Kenyon Smith and Shirley Williams, who give a lot of time and effort to our projects at SOAR and throughout the year. We all owe them our gratitude.

Dennis Cummings
SOA Archivist, Chairman of the SOA Video History Project
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.

For SOAR XLV 2021, the Warrior Family Fund (WFF) Committee received five (5) assistance applications. Two (2) applicants withdrew requests for support. Two applications were referred to the POW/MIA Committee for consideration as the applicants were non SOA member relationships. IAW WFF support criteria, those applicants could not be supported by the WFF. In the end, the WFF supported a single applicant. As always, applicant names, and level of support, are confidential and known only to the WFF Committee, the SOA BOD, and necessary special staff.

Through several generous, individual donations; a donation from the SOA Foundation (SOAF); and, a decision by the BOD to reallocate funds from the Melvin Hill GoFundMe account were redistributed with a portion allocated to the WFF. The WFF is presently amply funded and able to assist SOA Family members.

Horace Boner
Warrior Family Fund Chair

Warrior Family Fund Committee:
Horace Boner
Art Driscoll
Bill Barclay

Brightlight Committee Report

The Operation Brightlight (BL) mission is to provide financial assistance to SOA members in good standing who, without monetary help, would not be able to attend the annual Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR). Members proposed and considered for BL grants are kept anonymous as far as possible, with names being revealed only to the BL committee and special staff.

Costs eligible for assistance are round trip transportation, hotel accommodations, SOAR registration, and an allowance for cab fare, meals, and incidentals. Assistance also extends to a family member who is the member's primary care giver, if required.

The Brightlight (BL) Committee received no applications during the last year for SOAR 2021.

In consideration of numerous requests from families of our MIA for funding to the MIA Memorial Breakfast, the Brightlight Chair requested that those considering contributions to Brightlight this year instead donate to the SOA Warrior Family Foundation, as Brightlight funding is for SOA members only. The Warrior Family Foundation is assisting non-member families in attending the memorial.

The Brightlight Committee welcomes applications from SOA members who, due to extenuating circumstances, cannot afford to travel to Las Vegas for SOAR. Brightlight traditionally funds air transportation, SOAR registration, hotel room, meals, and any SOAR events, such as the Memorial Breakfast; any or all of these, depending on the review of the candidate's information at the time of the application. The Committee will also consider funding care givers for members requiring ambulatory or other assistance on a case-to-case basis. Contact information is below. The Committee will provide you with all requirements. It is a painless process. The names of all candidates are kept confidential and known only to the Brightlight Committee and necessary special staff.

The Brightlight Fund is well funded and prepared to assist our brother warriors.

Respectfully submitted,
John "Doc" Padgett
Committee Chair

Brightlight Committee contact information:
John "Doc" Padgett, Bacs10@yahoo.com
Rick Grabianowski, rick@grabianowski.com
Tim Schaaf, schaaft@msm.com

Nominating Committee Report

The report from the Nominations Committee for SOAR XLV was an easy task this year as SOA Secretary Duffy Jensen ran for reelection — thank you again Mr. Secretary, and Director Alfonso RT Rivero — and thank you RT. The secretary's slot and two director slots were open for election.

By the summer of 2021, we had three SOA members ready to throw their hats into the ring, the first and foremost being CSM Marcus Whitt, and a CCC recon man from Kontum — who withdrew his name from consideration due to family-emergency issues.

We also had SOA Associate Member William C. Hoopes, # 2254, who prepared a nomination form, which was promptly rejected by Ray Frovarp because associate members can't run for office — an obvious fact that had slipped my shrinking mind. As the SOA moves forward looking for men who want to serve the SOA in leadership positions, I sincerely hope the SOA BOD will review Hoopes membership status under the revised membership criterion. He's in the process of formally requesting that review. He's been an SOA AA member for nearly 20 years. While he was still on active duty, Rick Estes and I rode to SOAR with Billy for a few years back during my time as BOD director. Billy is currently working with SOA Member Jim Shorten Jones on recruiting members from 10th SFG — where he currently is employed as a civilian employee specializing in dive team equipment, training, and logistics. I've submitted a note to the BOD regarding this issue already, thus no need for me to write anything further, except to say, here's a young SF troop who cares about the SOA, has attended many reunions because he's impressed with the SOA's mission, he knows and appreciates our history and wants to help in any way possible.

For SOAR XLVI, Secretary Duffy assured me that our hard-working treasurer will seek reelection this year — thank you Phil, and thank you for all of the behind-the-scenes work you did filling in for the reunion chairman at SOAR XLV. In addition, there are two director slots open. At this time, I have serious commitments from SOA Member Ron Owens — who finally retired this year, and SOA Member David Gordon. Both are in good standing with the SOA, both attended SOAR this year and both are willing to step forward. I have a third SOA member from CCN who is considering running for the BOD. I shall begin processing the two definite candidates nominating submissions to the BOD sooner than later.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Meyer
SOA#492
SFA # 238

Tenure Pins

Having achieved a benchmark year as a Member of the Special Operations Association, the following members received their pins during the General Membership Meeting at SOAR XLV.

20 Years



Augustin, Donald
Billings, John J.
Boyd, Steven T.
Frovarp, Raymond M.
Inscore, Robert C.
Keith, Ralph L.
Kennedy III, Charles W.
Kozlowski, Philip M.

Larson, Keith A.
Marriott, Henderson R.
Morris, Robert E.
Orms, Robert J.
Owens, Ronald E.
Pope, Reinald
Whitt, Marcus
Woodham, Robert B.

Tenure Pins (Cont'd)

25 Years



Dang, Win Phuoc
Elliot, Sheridan S.
Gates, William C. B.
Heckert, Ross
Holmes, Louis I.
Nuqui, Roland

Pugh, Eugene H.
Walcoff, Edward
Whitt, Marcus
Woodham, Robert B.
White, James

30 Years

Augustin, Donald C.
Eiland, Michael D.
Whitt, Marcus
White, James



Tenure Pins (Cont'd)

35 Years



Day, James M.

Gravett, Ronald C. (May he RIP)
Received by Marcus Whitt

40 Years



Garrison, John A.
Laurence, Peter A.
Padgett, John E.
Parks, Robert J.

Tanqueray Liquor Tasting

As many are aware, Bill Werther had to back out of SOAR this year due to surgery. Horace Boner graciously accepted the task of riding herd on this event on short notice.

His challenge was to overcome the inexperience of a whole new cadre of Orleans event staff who apparently knew nothing of the event...nor, apparently, did the vendor. However, Horace persevered and brought Tanqueray to the table Wednesday afternoon. He acknowledged that the tasting wasn't up to the usual standards the SOAR members have become accustomed to, but given the obstacles, a tip of the beret to Horace Boner.

Following the General Membership Meeting, 30 SOAR participants enjoyed the Tanqueray Tasting event consisting of a brief description of the liquor and tasting of the liquor. In addition, the Horse Soldier Bourbon was presented to the attendees.



Southern Brotherhood Breakfast

Following a year hiatus, SOAR XLV saw a modest turnout of 58 for breakfast this year.

Following breakfast and the traditional reading of the names of our lost brothers, Manny Beck walked the group through an overview of the elements that ultimately became CCS. Sherill Woodbury and RT Rivero photographed the participants of the various elements.



The Southern Brotherhood



CCS — Amello Esquada, Mike Taylor, Jim Day, Alex Saunders, Dennis Potts, Tony Aquiningoc, Ed Madson, Ed Gleason. Front — Art Dolph, Doug Godshall, Marcus Whitt, Manny Beck, Bill Ortman



*Art Dolph & Jim Day,
5th SFG(A) B-50 Project Omega*

Southern Brotherhood Breakfast (Cont'd)



20th SOS — Joe Roman, Woody Woodbury, Chip Cantwell, Chuck Stricker, Kevin Byrne, Snake Shepley, John Thompson. Front — RT Rivero, Leroy Milton, Terry Curry



155th AHC — Roland Jarvis



Ed Gleason, 1st SFG(A) TDY



Rand Binford, Post 9/11 Operator



OP-35 — Mike Taylor, Tony Aquiningoc, Manny Beck



195th AHC — Red Surgenor, Julius Yoder, Jim Brunn, Don Haase, Duffy Jensen, Bill Norden, Jim Werner. Front — Paul Fitch, Doc Dougherty, Joel McDaniel



Manny Beck, Bill Ortman, & Nick Godano, 5th SFG(A) B-56 Project Sigma

VNAF 219th Kingbees



MACV-SOG was supported by the bravest pilots in the world, including members of the South Vietnamese Air Force 219th Special Operations Squadron — the Kingbees — an elite unit whose pilots would fly ancient helicopters near the end of their service lives into any danger to rescue SOG reconnaissance teams in South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. They were the epitome of skillful and courageous aviators who saved many SOG lives.

On 27 September 1966, the Secretary of Defense authorized the transfer of 39 H-34s to VNAF from the US Navy Ready Reserve. The Kingbees got 18 and the other 21 went to four other VNAF Squadrons operating inside Vietnam. By September 1967, due to combat losses, the Kingbees were down to 14 of their authorized 25 H-34s. The 219th had an average “operationally ready rate” of 70%, resulting in an average of 10 combat-ready aircraft on any given day. This critical shortage of 11

helicopters, plus a prediction of a loss of 21 helicopters (at a predicted rate of 1.4 helicopters per month over the next 15 months) equated to a need for an additional 32 helicopters. This shortage of Kingbees had two results: reducing the number of SOG operations and/or requiring augmentation from US aviation units, reducing assets available within Vietnam. In October 1967, HQ, US Commander in Chief, Pacific, proposed bringing in more H-34s from outside Vietnam. CINCPAC proposed the immediate transfer of 16 H-34s from US Army assets in Europe and 16 from the US Marines in May 1968. The services, naturally resisted; but CINCPAC prevailed and the Kingbees finally started getting the airframes they needed to support SOG operations.

First SOG Cross-Border Mission: On 18 October 1965, as part of Operation SHINING BRASS, the Kingbees inserted the first American-led recon team into Laos near Kham Duc. RT Iowa was led by one-zero, team leader, MSG Charles

VNAF 219th Kingbees (Cont'd)

“Slats” Petry and the one-one, assistant team leader was SFC Willie Card. There were seven Nungs and one ARVN Lieutenant on the team. Their mission was to recon part of Target D-1, about 20 miles NW of Kham Duc where Laotian Highway 165 almost reached Vietnam. The USAF COVEY FAC, was USAF MAJ Harley Pyles with a SOG air liaison officer, USMC CPT Winfield Sessions. Three KINGBEE CH-34s from the 219th VNAF Squadron were escorted by at least two Huey gunships (thought to be USMC). The weather was marginal, with clouds below the mountaintops and increasing ground fog. At 6 pm, the helicopters left Kham Duc and inserted RT Iowa into a slash-and-burn area selected as the Landing Zone. After the insertion, CPT Larry Thorne, from SOG HQ Operations, a veteran of three wars including WWII where he won the Iron Cross fighting for the Germans opposing the Russians in his native Finland, was the lone passenger of the third Chase KINGBEE. He sent the other helicopters back to Kham Duc and stayed until the Recon Team radioed they were safe. Cowboy and Mustachio (American nicknames for two VNAF pilots who would become SOG legends) in the other CH-34s returned safely to Kham Duc. They reported the weather was so bad they had to climb to 8,500 feet to get over the clouds. CPT Thorne radioed that they were returning. However, the KINGBEE crashed killing CPT Thorne and the VNAF crew of two pilots and one door gunner. After the COVEY FAC left Kham Duc for Da Nang, they too went down killing both occupants. In its first day, SHINING BRASS generated three Kingbee and three US MIAs.

In 2020, Kingbee Pilot Captain Nguyen Ky An and frequent Kingbee passengers John Stryker “Tilt” Meyer and Mike Taylor got approval from the SOA Board of Directors to hold a “Tribute to the Kingbees” at SOAR XLV. We were concerned about how many Kingbees we could find and how many could come. Thank goodness we found Kingbee Sam Pham who took on the heavy lifting of contacting Kingbees and providing us names for registration. We had hoped to get 6 or 8 Kingbees, we got 13 with many family members. Kingbees who attended included Cang Luong, An Nguyen, Thu Huynh, Thanh Tran, Sam Pham, Hue Dinh, Nhu Duong, Quynh Dang, Anh Luong, Ve Tran, Tong Nguyen, Hong Pham, and Thieu Phuc Nguyen.



VNAF 219th Kingbees (Cont'd)

We received a tremendous thank you and compliment from one of the Kingbees when he tearfully thanked me for having this event. I told him it was entirely our pleasure to express the love, respect and admiration we have for them. He said, “No, that is not what I mean. Those feelings are mutual. I am referring to your creating an opportunity for us to see each other. We are old. We live in FL, CA, ID, etc. Who knows when or if we will ever see each other again?”

The “**Lá Vàng Rơi**” maneuver — which translates to “**The Falling Yellow Leaf**” as recounted by Kevin Duong, son of Kingbee pilot Steve Duong.

The Pilot would roll off the Throttle — shifting the Engine to Idle and entering “Full Auto-Rotation.” Dropping from the sky, he would manually maneuver the helicopter in a downward spiral.

Getting as low as possible, he would then perform a Flare maneuver (which will rock the nose upward and the tail downward). Eye-balling the remaining distance, he would time the Flare, leaving enough room to prevent the helicopter’s tail from colliding with the ground or barrier, i.e. tree canopy or buildings.

Simultaneously, he would hit the Throttle, restoring power to the Engine. Using the Collective Pitch (up and down movements), the Cyclic (frontal, back, and side movements), and Pedal (controls horizontal spinning) the Pilot would Level off the helicopter into a Hovering maneuver before finally Landing in the LZ.

Kingbee pilots preferred the **UH-34 Sikorsky** over the **UH-1 Huey** during this signature maneuver because due to its excess size and weight, the UH-34 would plummet faster, which minimized the window the enemy had to shoot down the helicopter. That, combined with the fact that the Sikorsky could absorb more shots from small arms fire, ultimately resulted in a quicker and safer insertion and/or extraction of Strike Teams and Ground Infantry.

My Dad mentioned that after 1971, the 219th Squadron shifted to only flying for ARVN, where he and other Kingbee pilots would be reprimanded for performing the “**Lá Vàng Rơi**” maneuver during operations, because their Superior Officers thought it was too dangerous and maverick! Despite this, Kingbee pilots continued to perform this maneuver throughout the entire Vietnam War, saving countless lives.

“This note exquisitely describes the Kingbee’s unique — and for first time participants, terrifying, insertion method”. – Tilt Meyer



SOAR Banquet

After a year's hiatus due to COVID-19, approximately five hundred and sixty members and guests joined together for an evening of camaraderie and fine dining.



SOAR Banquet (Cont'd)

As is the case all too often these days, this gala event had an air of melancholy as the SOA said farewell and Godspeed to another prominent member. This year it is none other than SOA founder James E. "Jim" Butler. Jim passed away June 24th. With his family in attendance, retired CSM Les Chapman, SOA #2 and Jim's one-one, paid homage to his old one-zero.



Butler Family — daughter Stephanie, wife Diane, daughter Lindsay, and son Brett



CSM (Ret) Les Chapman

Following a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem by Debra Sinyard, SOA Chaplain Doc Padgett gave the invocation and Jack Kull narrated the symbolism of the Missing Man Table.

President Godshall led the toasts to the Command in Chief, all branches of the military, our allies, MIAs, and, of course, the Ladies.



*Passing of the Mantle
Ron Mansour and Glenn Lane*



Kevin Duong introducing the 219th Kingbee Pilots

SOAR Banquet (Cont'd)

45 Year Pin Ceremony



David Gordon, Larry Kimmel, Clyde Sincere, Bob Daniels, John Fryer, Swede Ashton, Les Chapman, Cliff Newman, Mike Taylor. Frank Moore (In attendance but not pictured).

Others who achieved 45-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association.

Butler, James E.	1	Elliott, Kent M.	77	Myers, Daniel R.	3
Craft, Roger F.	50	Lyons, Brendon	8	Robinson, Raymond	496
Cunningham, Thomas M.	79	Manes, Larry T.	64	Waugh, William D.	5
Darnell, Charles B.	13	Martin, James R.	23	Worley, Morris G.	1698
Duffy, John J.	9	Messinger, Keith J.	90		

SOA Awards



Shirley Williams — Honorary Membership



Jim Shields — Honorary Membership



MG (Ret) H.B. Gilliam (SFCT) — President's Award



Bob Strange — President's Award

SOAR Banquet (Cont'd)



Shirley Williams — Generous Donor Award



Doc Padgett on behalf of Greg Galanos — Generous Donor Award



Bob Leites — SOA Board of Directors Service Award



James E. Butler Founder's Award presented by Diane Butler — "Presented to SOA/SFA POW/MIA Chairman Mike Taylor 006-GL for many years of dedicated service". It is also noteworthy that Mike Taylor received the Saint Philip Neri Gold Medallion at the SFA Convention.

— Recipients Not Present —

- Jeff Stone – Honorary Membership
- Bill Lueders – President's Award and Generous Donor Award
- John Michael Holder Family – Generous Donor Award

SOAR Banquet (Cont'd)



Keynote Speaker COL Sean Berg, son of ex-SOA President Charles Berg, on the topic of China's growing military presence in Asia.



See You At SOAR XLVI

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. Thessalonians 1:2-3

Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death	Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death
Anderson, John C.	352-G	18-Sep-21	Gache, Marius A.	394-G	6-Mar-19
Anthony, Billy J.	1766-G	22-May-21	Graves, James W.	1664-G	6-Jun-21
Berry, Johnny K.	110-G	13-Oct-21	Gravett, Ronald C.	707-G	4-Sep-21
Bizzell, Word	1298-A	19-Sep-20	Gurganus, Larry I.	479-A	31-Jan-86
Blair, Robert H.	1272-G	16-Jan-17	Hass, James D.	481-A	24-May-97
Book, William	677-G	7-May-18	Hays, Jay	2166-G	13-Dec-21
Brande, Harvey G.	2380-G	7-Aug-21	Hicks, Avrill	2507-G	23-May-21
Brown, William O.	1278-G	11-Jun-21	Hitchings, Owen	932-A	3-Feb-98
Burr, Jerome O.	1286-G	6-Sep-21	Holland, James D	2546-G	22-Oct-21
Butler, James "Jim"	1-G	24-Jun-21	Holloway, Rex L.	2527-A	12-Jul-15
Campbell, Jesse	1663-G	11-Aug-21	Hughes, Jerry L.	590-G	29-Jul-13
Carrell, Jacklyn	483-A	20-Sep-05	Ibarra, Jose	1273-G	12-Apr-14
Castello, John V.	2209-G	17-Jun-21	Irons, Frank S.	1988-G	17-Apr-21
Clark, Norman L.	313-G	4-Mar-05	Johnston, David W.	2259-G	29-Jan-19
Cocke, Robert B., Jr.	2505-G	21-Feb-16	Kelly, Jeffrey R.	477-A	21-Sep-99
Cramer, Stewart S.T.	1019-A	30-Sep-13	Kemp, Rocky W.	1436-G	5-Nov-98
Danio, Roger G.	2368-G	16-May-13	Landon, Peter E.	1529-G	27-Oct-21
Durant, Henry O.	1438-G	24-Jul-19	Laycock, Paul G.	525-A	3-Sep-91
Durham, Robert E.	2084-G	11-Jun-15	Luczyncki, Charles E.	1714-G	14-Oct-17
Enloe, Donald R.	1967-G	27-Feb-12	Magsby, Ray D.	2004-G	3-Sep-21
Fraker, William W.	2072-G	7-Nov-21	Mann, Thomas C.	2219-G	10-Nov-21
Gabbard, William F.	1808-G	12-Aug-21	Martinez, Phillip J.	363-A	24-Dec-14

TAPS (Cont'd)

Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death	Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death
Marusiak, George M.	787-G	19-Jul-21	Roush, Jerry R.	591-A	20-Dec-11
McGowan, Edgar	748-G	16-May-15	Schmidt, Marlin	1294-A	9-Jul-20
Miller, Wayne A.	466-G	18-Nov-10	Schroeder, Robert E.	445-A	3-Nov-88
Moffett, Roy E.	1622-G	20-Dec-07	Scott, Michael G.	2788-G	14-Nov-10
Moley, David E.	723-G	17-Jun-21	Sharp, David	1171-G	13-Nov-21
Morton, James E.	543-G	21-Apr-07	Shear, Allen N.	662-A	8-Jul-05
Nunn, James A.	2775-G	14-Jan-21	Sills, Harvie	945-A	6-Oct-96
O'Connell, Daniel	430-A	11-Jan-04	Spitler, Lawrence A.	1847-G	2-May-21
O'Connor, Brian T.	2577-G	26-Apr-21	Smith, Harold	690-G	24-Mar-14
Olson, Norman H.	610-G	29-Oct-20	Strout, Robert P.	3097-G	30-Aug-19
Peters, John	2002-H	19-Jun-21	Tobin, John N.	509-G	16-Nov-21
Pipas, George	675-A	23-Jul-08	Touch, Sambath	2497-O	5-Apr-14
Rabdau, James	1326-A	1-Aug-13	Urbelis, Thomas F.	336-A	4-Dec-06
Rodriguez, Ricardo	16-G	23-Jul-11			

***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 nor 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

Front Outside Cover	Not Available
Back Outside Cover.....	\$1700
Front and Back Inside Cover	\$1500
Interior Full Page	\$1400
Interior 1/2 Page	\$400
Interior 1/4 Page	\$275

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.
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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, or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR.

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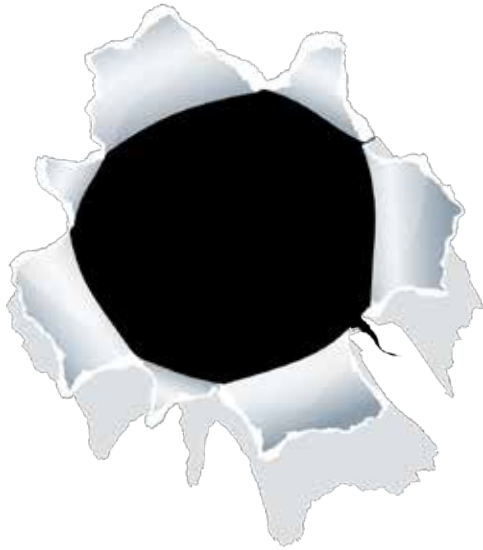
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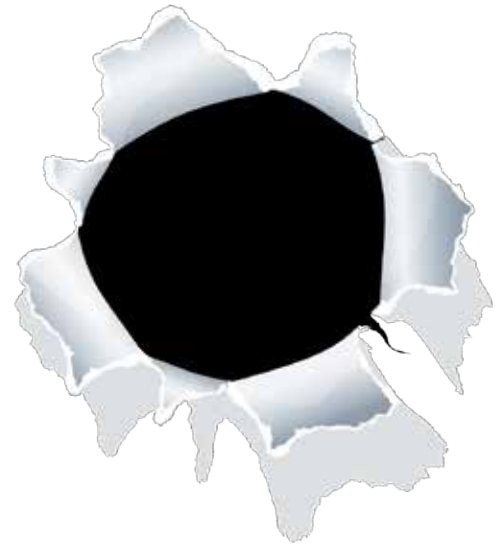


SOA ANNUAL MEMBERS

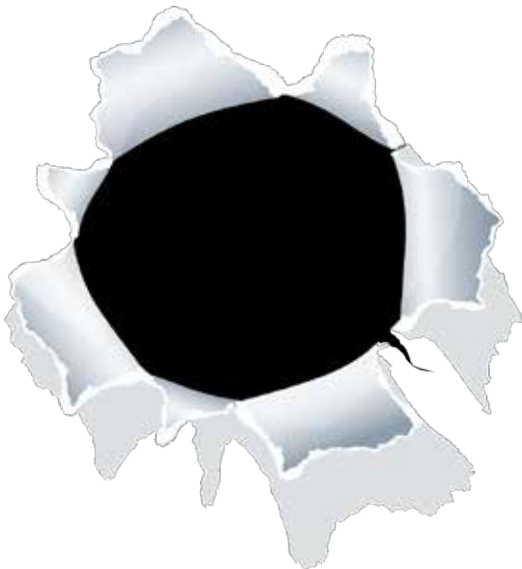
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY:

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,

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
954 448-2981
email: membership@specialoperations.org

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: _____

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
email: membership@specialoperations.org
954 448-2981
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.
- Visit the SOA website, get familiar with membership qualifications and documentation requirements and volunteer to represent the SOA at conventions, or meetings.
- Attend SOAR, 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,

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
954 448-2981
membership@specialoperations.org

Jim Shorten
520 249-6692
TheEmeraldSea@aol.com

www.specialoperations.org



SOA QUARTERMASTER SALES



Internet Sales: www.specialoperations.org

Quartermaster: Bob Daniels (772-804-0481) EMAIL: rmd3793@yahoo.com

All 2X and above add \$2.00 3X are special order

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	#	TOTAL
Ring, SOA 10ct gold, W/design options (plus shipping & insurance)	\$2,350.00		Approximate
Ring, SOA Sterling Silver, w/design options (plus shipping & insurance)	\$600.00		Approximate
Rings are Special Order through Quartermaster please call or email			
SOG Bowie 2.0 Serial # Knife by SOG Knives & Tools, LLC	\$180.95	_____	_____
Tie, Official SOA	58" <input type="checkbox"/> 64" <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	_____
Vest, Fleece, Nylon Reversible, Black W/SOA logo	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	60.00	_____
Vest Concealed carry W/SOA logo Black _____ Tan _____	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	75.00	_____
Jacket, Polyester shell, front & back vents	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	65.00	_____
Denim Shirt, Long sleeve, W/SOA logo Embroidered	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	36.00	_____
Denim Shirt, Short sleeve, W/SOA logo Embroidered	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	33.00	_____
Polo Shirt, Dry fit W/SOA logo Embroidered,	White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/>		
	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	_____
Sweatshirt, black W/SOA logo Embroidered	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$27.00	_____
T-shirt, Black W/ SOA Red Shield logo on back	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield logo on back W/pocket	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$18.00	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest W/pocket	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$18.00	_____
T-shirt Camo dry fit W/SOA logo left chest	Gray <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/>		
	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/>	\$22.00	_____
Baseball Hat suede W/SOA logo Embroidered	Black <input type="checkbox"/> Khaki <input type="checkbox"/> Camo <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____
Field Hat, Short billed	Khaki <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Rider <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____
Patch Blazer-Bullion w/SOA Crest		\$25.00	_____
License plate	Black <input type="checkbox"/> Camo <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____
SOA Bullet glass	1-\$20.00 2-\$36.00		_____
Belt Buckle Brass w/raised skull		\$35.00	_____

SOAR XLV AAR — DECEMBER 2021

Presidential Unit Citation — certificate set	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin, Jim Butler Commemorative	\$14.00	_____	_____
Coin, POW/MIA Commemorative	\$14.00	_____	_____
Coin, Official SOA	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin, 50th Anniversary MACVSOG	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin, FOB# 4 Commemorative 50th 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Pewter <input type="checkbox"/>	\$6.00	_____
Hat Pin SOA Red Shield 1½ inches		\$7.00	_____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield		\$6.00	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 2¼ X 3¼ inches		\$4.00	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 3 x 4½ 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 _____
HANDLING _____
TOTAL _____

SHIPPING, Flat rate USPO — Sm \$9.20, Md \$16.25, Lg \$22.65

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
4772 E. Old West Rd.
Kingman, AZ 86401



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 \$695,000 has been awarded, or committed to 181 deserving young scholars

**Your Donation will be displayed for Auction at our
Special Operations Association Annual Reunion. In advance of the
Silent Auction your Company's Donated Item(s) will also be marketed on
our Facebook Site to over 5,000 Special Operations members and Facebook
Community at large as our Thank You.**



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: _____

Number of Prints X \$150.00 per print: \$ _____

SHIPPING: \$ _____ \$15.00 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____



Payment Options:

Check or Money Order #: _____

(Please Print Check or Money Order Number)

Please make payable to: "Special Operations Association" or "SOA"

Credit/Debit Card: VISA _____ M/C _____ AMEX _____ DISC _____

ACCOUNT: _____ EXPIRATION: _____

NAME AS PRINTED ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: STATE: ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE (DAY): EVENING: _____

CELL: _____

Submit Completed Order Form to:

Robert Daniels

Attention: Special Operations Association (SOA QM Sales)

4772 E. Old West Rd.

Kingman, AZ 86401

rmd3793@yahoo.com



DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTE: Administrative Use Only

Date Order Received: _____

Date Payment Processed: _____

Date Shipped: _____

Print # Requested and/or Available: _____

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



**HONORED TO SERVE
THOSE WHO SERVE.**

**PAST, PRESENT AND
FUTURE.**

For 35 years, SOG's mission has been to create knives and tools for those who would go into harm's way in defense of the country.

SOG is proud to continue to support these elite warriors through the Special Operations Association, SOA Charities, their members and their families.

SOG

RELENTLESS BY DESIGN.
SOGKNIVES.COM



The Orleans is proud to present

SOAR XLVI

October 17-21, 2022



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