

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**SOAR XXII PRE-REUNION PACKET (SOAR XXII PRP)**



**PLAZA HOTEL/CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**30 September - 04 October 1998**

*You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it,  
life has a special flavor the protected will never know*



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## SOAR XXII SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 30 September - 04 October 1998

### WEDNESDAY, 30 September 1998

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

### THURSDAY, 01 OCTOBER 1998

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

1430- 1700 - BOD Meeting

### FRIDAY, 02 OCTOBER 1998

0730 - 1200 - Weapons Firing

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

1200 - 1330 - Lunch(Hosted By SOA)

1330 - 1500 - POW/MIA Issues,  
Norm Doney/Frank Anton.

1500 - 1615 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited  
Bob Donoghue/David Smith

1630 - 1730 - "SOG" Sequel,  
John Plaster

### SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 1998

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite

0900 - 1000 - Late Registration

1000 - 1200 - General Membership  
Meeting.

1230 - 1330 - Lunch(Hosted By SOA)

1330 - 1430 - CAS in Support of  
Special Operations,  
Jim Parker.

1430 - 1530 - "Korean Era Air and Ground  
Special Operations:  
Mike Haas.

1530 - 1630 - "Potpourri of War",  
Noonie Fortin

1800 - 1900 - Cocktails (Hosted By  
SOA).

1900 - 2015 - Posting of Colors/  
Banquet.

2015 - 2030 - Introduction of VIP's and  
Guests.

2030 - 2045 - Introduction of Newly Elected  
Board of Officers and Directors,  
1999-2000.

2045 - 2100 - Retirement of Colors

2100 - NLT 0200- Hospitality Suite

### SUNDAY, 4 OCTOBER 1998

0800 - 1200 - Hospitality Suite

NLT 1200 - HOSPITALITY SUITE  
CLOSED.

NLT 1200 - Hotel Check- Out.



**SOAR XXII**  
**30 September - 04 October 1998**

**PRE-REUNION INFORMATION**

**SOAR XXII: 30 September - 04 October 1998:**

1. Have you marked your calendars? If not, do so immediately. Jack Abraham and his Reunion Committee have completed all arrangements. All that is left is for you to turn in your Hotel Reservations and SOAR XXII Advance (Discount) Registration forms. Now! Who will be first? Who will be last? Who is not coming? Why? Remember, those SOA members who attended SOAR I and SOAR II that have not as yet received their 20-year SOA pins - you can receive your pin at SOAR XXII. Be there. SOAR XXII also marks the 20th Anniversary for those SOA members who attended SOAR III for the very first time. I look forward to presenting their 20-year SOA pins at the General Membership Meeting..

2. Registration rates for SOAR XXII remain at \$80. for early registration - the very same rate as the past four (4) years. In order for you to take advantage of the Advance (Discount) registration, mail your registration form and fees to Ralf M. Miller, SOA Treasurer, NLT 16 September 1998 - **but, why wait till then, do it now!** All registrations received after 16 September or at SOAR XXII will cost you \$120. per person. This is the first fee raise at the door, ever. But, it had to be initiated in order to be better able to compensate for over predicting attendance at catered functions. Hotels insist on knowing exactly how many they are catering to at an event or you pay a penalty. In the past the SOA Reunion Committee has had to estimate up to 10% and more to compensate for late registrations in order to ensure that sufficient catered items would be available to satisfy the entire reunion gathering. In addition to paying your registration fees by check, you also have the option of using your MASTERCARD or VISA charge cards. As in past years, the SOA Board has structured the registration fees in order that the reunion will pay for itself. Be advised, should any individual members personal check be returned due to insufficient funds, the SOA will assess a \$25. penalty and place the issuer of that check on a cash basis for any subsequent reunion. (See the enclosed Advance (Discount) Registration Form for additional details).

3. Room rates at the Plaza Hotel are \$36.00+ tax per nite. Again, in order for you to take advantage of this special SOA negotiated rate you must provide the Plaza Hotel your reservation request to include your check or money order for your first night's stay. No credit card data will be accepted, although once you arrive in Las Vegas you can use any of your various credit cards to pay for your accommodations. Your accommodation request must be received by the Hotel NLT 31 August 1998. If you require handicapped

facilities and/or desire a non-smoking room, you must specify this when making your reservations. If you have been one of the few in the past who neglected to meet the deadline for one of the SOA reserved rooms and had to arrange accommodations at another hotel - do yourself a favor, sit down and make your reservation request now. Don't wait until it is too late. (A Plaza Hotel/Casino registration envelope is enclosed for your use).

**SOAR XXII VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE:** As in the past, volunteers are required to assist in the conduct of the reunion. Specifically, assistance is required in the management of the hospitality suite, VIP escort duties, Memorabilia Sales and on a "as needed" basis. Can you assist for a shift or two? Request you indicate your availability on the Advance (Discount) Registration Form. Your assistance will be appreciated by all. Thank You.

**REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY SUITE:**

1. The SOAR XXII Registration area and Hospitality Suite are located on the third floor of the Plaza Hotel/Casino. You will experience no difficulties in locating both areas - in that they are located exactly where they have been for the past few years. You are requested that when you complete your registration form, you fill in that space that reflects your estimated time/date of arrival and departure time/date. This info assists the SOA Reunion Committee and SOA registration desk personnel in their overall reunion planning

2. Guests of members are more than welcome. However, guests will not be permitted to attend any reunion function without the attendance of the sponsoring SOA member. There have been a few instances in the past where a guest arrived - expecting their SOA sponsor and he did not show up. Embarrassing to say the least, for all concerned. Be advised that all attendees, members and guests alike must wear their SOA Reunion Badge to all SOAR XXII activities.

3. All SOAR XXII activities will cease as of 1200 hours, Sunday, 04 October 1998. FYI, the Hospitality Suite and Registration Area revert to the Plaza Hotel/Casino for their use as of 1200 hours, 4 October. Members are requested that they ensure that no personal belongings, e.g. luggage, briefcases, etc. are left in the Hospitality Suite after 1200 hours. Sorry, No exceptions.

**SOAR XXII GUEST SPEAKERS:** FYI, a number of individual guest speakers have already been programmed to address interested SOA members and their guests on Friday, 2 October and Saturday, 3 October 1998.

**NORM DONEY: POW/MIA Briefing Update.**

**FRANK ANTON: Former POW: "Why Didn't You Get Me Out".**

**JOHN PLASTER: SOG Sequel.**

**MIKE HAAS: "Korean Era Air and Ground Special Operations".**

**JIM PARKER: Sequel: "CAS in Support of Special Operations".**  
**BOB DONOGHUE/DAVID "Bulldog" SMITH: "Lang Vei/Khe Sanh".**  
**NOONIE FORTIN: "Potpourri of War" and "Memories of Maggie".**

**NOTES:**

a - Reference SOAR XXII Guest speakers: You are requested to review your SOA Reunion Agenda for specific briefing dates and times.

b - If there are any other members that desire to address interested members and their guests at SOAR XXII you are requested to contact Clyde Sincere, NLT 1 September 1998 by phone, E-Mail or mail in order that the topic may be added to the SOAR XXII Reunion Agenda that will be provided each SOA member and guest during registration check in. You are also requested to advise/specify if you have any special support requirements required to support your presentation. <sincere@patriot.net>.

**SOAR XXII VENDING ACTIVITIES:** Vendors are reminded that the Vendor fee will remain as in previous years, \$75. per table for the entire reunion. Members desiring to offer items for sale at SOAR XXII must contact Jack Abraham, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee NLT 31 August 1998 at (512) 930-2765.

**SOAR XXII RANGE FIRING:** On Friday, 02 October 1998 the SOA will again operate for the benefit of SOA members and their guests a weapons firing range in the Nevada desert. SOA members and their guests will have the opportunity to fire a number of various weapons. Members and guests are requested to contribute a reasonable monetary donation to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund based on their total ammunition expenditure following the weapons firing activities. All monies collected are "earmarked" directly to the fund. No monies are used to defray the cost of the ammunition. All weapons and ammunition are donated by various SOA members for the enjoyment of reunion attendees.

**NOTES:**

a - Range Safety is of paramount interest to the SOA Board and the SOA Membership.

b - Participants must be 14 years of age or older to fire any weapon on the range. Young adults between the age of 14 and 17 must be accompanied by an adult sponsor while participating in range activities.

c - Buses/Vans will depart the Hotel/Casino at 0730 hours sharp. You can expect to be returned to the Hotel/Casino at approximately 1230-1300 hours.

**TRAVEL NETWORK- RESTON, VIRGINIA:** Travel Network continues to support the SOA and its goals by providing a percentage of their commission to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund on all travel performed by SOA members and their guests, not only to and from a SOAR, but, any travel, at anytime, anywhere - year in and year out. It is up to you the members to take advantage of Travel Network's offer to provide SOA members and their guests the lowest fares possible at the time of booking along with their 24-hour service. SOA members residing in a state other than Virginia or the local Virginia area code may contact Travel Network at (800) 892-6470. Members living within the (703) area code are requested to utilize the local number, 620-3001 and inform any of Travel Network's staff that you are a member of the **Special Operations Association, (SOA)** desiring to purchase airline tickets. Travel Network will insure your tickets will arrive at your desired location at the time you require them. Again, help them, help you by requesting your tickets in a timely fashion in view of the fact that the earlier you order tickets, normally you will receive a lower fare.

**THE GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE:**

Enclosed within the PRP are ten (10) tickets, (costing \$5.00 each) for The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. As in past years, the SOA will be raffling three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds valued at \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 respectively. The raffle will be conducted following the banquet on Saturday evening, 03 October 1998. Everyone is requested to support this all important scholarship program - buy, sell, as many tickets as you can. If you require additional tickets, contact Jon Cavaiani, Ralf Miller or Clyde Sincere. Also, additional tickets for the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle will be available at almost anytime at the registration desk, the two (2) SOA sponsored luncheons and at the banquet just prior to the announcement of the three (3) lucky winners. Ticket sales are not restricted to SOA members. All ticket monies collected directly support the many super scholarships the SOA provides annually to our young men and women. **Ticket stubs, along with your check for tickets sold, (made payable to the SOA) should be returned to the SOA Treasurer, Ralf M. Miller, 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, Texas, 78244-1516 NLT 16 September 1998 or turned in at SOAR XXII, prior to the awarding announcement at the banquet. (You are also requested to return to Ralf any tickets not purchased in order that they can be provided to someone else desiring additional tickets). Thank You.**

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION: (MacDill AFB, Florida):**

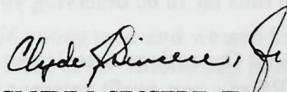
The SOA and the Special Operations Memorial Foundation have enjoyed a successful "marriage" in support of the Special Operations Memorial being constructed at MacDill AFB. Last year the SOA contributed a separate check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Foundation. That figure does not include the many, many individual contributions provided by a number of SOA members directly to the Foundation for the purpose of purchasing an engraving to be placed in the memorial area commemorating the past, present and future Special Operations personnel, their units and/or activities. In this PRP

is a Special Operations Memorial Brochure for your consideration in purchasing an "engraving" reflecting your desires. Take a moment to review the list of SOA Honor Roll Donors to the Special Operations Memorial. Is your name present? Additionally, Larry Trimble, Chairman of the SOA Memorial Committee has earned a special "**Tip of the Beret**" from the SOA membership for his efforts and that of his committee members in raising the initial 1997 \$10,000 contribution. Now, Larry is attempting to surpass last years goal that was achieved thru the sale of 20 raffle tickets at \$1.00 each and other fund raising activities. This year he has made it much easier for you to participate. He has mailed each of you four (4) raffle tickets at \$5.00 each. He stated to me he knows individuals were tired of filling out 20 different tickets. He honestly believed that they were willing to fill out only four (4) raffle tickets rather than the previous 20 tickets. Have you mailed your \$20.00 winning raffle donation to Larry as yet? He is waiting. Don't be left out on this very worthwhile project that will be completed this year.

**RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS:** If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXII for either the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program or the Special Operations Memorial Foundation at MacDill AFB and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the item (s) with you and provide it/them to Clyde Sincere as early as possible in order that he can display the items and members may then have an opportunity to purchase tickets against as many different raffle items of their choice. If you cannot attend SOAR XXII and you wish to donate either a door prize or a raffle item, you are requested to mail the items directly to the Plaza Hotel & Casino, at Number One Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89125-0760, c/o SOAR XXII, Attn: Jack Abraham/Clyde Sincere. Again, if timing becomes a problem, contact Clyde Sincere. He will insure that your gift gets to the reunion. Raffle/Door prize items are tax deductible. Your support in this area keeps our scholarship program financially viable. Thank you.

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS:** In summary, if you have any questions - please give me or any SOA Board member a call. (The SOA Board is listed on Page I of your 1998 SOA Membership Directory). On behalf of the SOA Board I look forward to seeing ALL OF YOU at SOAR XXII. Time is flying - The 30th of September is almost upon us.

Regards,



CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **FACT SHEET**

The SOA is a 1500+ member fraternal organization of American and Foreign participants of special military operations in combat theaters, primarily during the Southeast Asian conflict. The group includes World War II and Korean Veterans as well as those from the more recent conflicts. Membership is limited to Free World forces who aided or personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider and Force Recon Marine personnel and veterans of other elite military and civilian organizations who were a 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; and,
- 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; and,
- d. To perpetuate the memory of Colonel George C. Morton, the first Commander of U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Over \$200,000 has been awarded thus far to 66 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veterans organization operating on tax deductible donations. Annual membership dues are \$25 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$250 U.S. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Spring Newsletter, the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and the Special Operations Reunion After-Action Report (SOAR AAR).

The SOA will hold its twenty-second annual reunion (SOAR XXII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 30 September - 04 October 1998. We anticipate in excess of 500 members and guests.



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

**FACTS:** The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship grants awarded by the SOA are used only for the "studies" leading towards a Bachelor's Degree. Each grant is for not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 per year. (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at a rate of \$100 per month for ten months per year).

**BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND 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. Preference will be given to a son or daughter, natural or adopted, of (1) an individual who served in a Special Operations Unit during the Vietnam War (includes POW/MIA status), or (2) who is currently a member of the SOA in good standing, and (3) others that meet the grant criteria.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The "announcement" of the availability for this George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship grant is made through various educational institutions, the news media and fraternal organizations.

**APPLICATIONS:** The deadline for all informal inquiries and application information is 15 March of the year that the grant is intended to be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year the grant is intended to be awarded.

**AWARDS:** Approximately 1 May of that year, selectees/recipients of a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** As of August 1997, 66 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the scholarship program in 1983.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**JAMES HAWKE**  
Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee  
7801 Southmoor Circle  
Reno, Nevada 89502-8679  
(702) 857-3477

**SOA CANDIDATES FOR THE 1999-2000  
BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**FOR PRESIDENT:**



*Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-L*

I AM READY. I have served as your Vice-President (1980 and currently). I have served in several officer positions in Chapter XXIII, SFA. I am on the Board of Directors, Khe Sanh Veterans Association and a Special Consultant to the National Special Forces Association Headquarters. I am a Life member in these organizations and also the U.S. Army Ranger Association. During these periods I have had the privilege to work with outstanding individuals who are familiar to many of you. I have had the honor to serve on the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee and have been selected as a SOAR Sergeant At Arms. During all of these opportunities, I believe I have gained the necessary skills to continue the fine work that Clyde Sincere has accomplished. I look forward to the SOA expanding its services to the membership and to representing the SOA at any invited national forum or event. I have had the honor of knowing all of the outstanding individuals that are "running" for the new SOA Board of Officers and Directors term. If elected, I know that I can and will work well with them. Thank you.



*Ralf M. Miller, SOA # 060-L*

I have been a member of the SOA for the past 20 years. I have served as your Treasurer for the past eight (8) years raising our cash/assets "today" to over \$172,900 (up 500%). This does not include the \$150,000 already paid to past SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship recipients, nor the thousands of dollars committed to pay out over the next four (4) years. I had the honor of serving as the Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee for 15 years overseeing the selection and monitoring of over 50 scholarship recipient students prior to James P. Hawke assuming that role. I will continue to insist on frugal, common sense, no-frills approach in the management of SOA funds to "maximize funding of the Scholarship program, keeping at minimum the administrative and non-essential costs of the SOA".

### FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jack B. Abraham, SOA # 365-L



I have been a member of the SOA since 1981 and have served as your second Vice-President, first Vice-President, President and Director since 1986, for a total of 13 consecutive years. Additional duties have included Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee for the past eight (8) years, and SOA Board "oversight" responsible for SOA Memorabilia Sales for six (6) years. I seek your vote, to serve as the SOA Vice-President because I am a worker, not a "title seeker". I am totally dedicated (as demonstrated) to the best managed operation of the SOA that experience and long hours can provide. Your vote and support for me among other members will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### FOR TREASURER:

John R. McClaskey, SOA # 621-L



I have been a member of the SOA since 1985 and have attended every SOAR since joining. I have had the honor of serving the SOA in several capacities, which include, your Vice-President (1993), President (1994-'96), and SOA Director (1997-Present). Additionally, I am serving as a SOA Representative on The Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board of Directors (1996-Present). After retirement from the U.S. Army in 1983, I established a Tax and Accounting Firm in Michigan, which has expanded to six (6) offices. I look forward to the opportunity to further serve the Association if elected, as your new Treasurer, SOA. I will do my very best in managing and accounting for all SOA resources. Your vote will be appreciated.

### FOR ADMINISTRATOR:

David C. Smith, SOA # 1242-L



I have been a SOA member since 1994 and attended the last four (4) SOAR's.. I am honored, willing and able to serve as the Administrator of the Special Operations Association commencing 1 January 1999. I was involved with MACVSOG

in Vietnam in 1968. Additionally, I had the good fortune to command and deploy a modified "B" Detachment to Jordan for seven (7) months. I am now involved with the General Coactive Montagnard Association (GCMA) assisting where possible the Montagnards residing here in the United States and those currently living in Vietnam. I have traveled to Vietnam for the past three (3) years in order to assist in the overall improvement of the Montagnard's basic standard of life. I believe I can be a positive asset to the Association and have the time and assets available to insure a complete and satisfactory maintenance of records. If elected, I look forward to the challenge of the next two (2) years serving the SOA.

### **FOR DIRECTOR:**



*Donald C. Benjamin, SOA # 899-L*

I have been a member of the SOA since 1991 and have participated in SOAR activities since that time. I have worked as a member of the SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee including serving as its "oversight" member for the SOA Board. Additionally, I had the honor of previously serving as a Director on your SOA Board of Officers and Directors for a two (2) year period in 1995-'96. Retiring from the U.S. Army after 20 years consisting of both enlisted and commissioned service, I established my own brokerage firm serving as its President and CEO for 17 years, retiring in 1991 for a second time. If elected to the Board of Officers and Directors for the term commencing 1 January 1999, I will do my utmost to serve the SOA and its membership in any capacity that I am asked to serve. Thank you.



*Lee C. Dunlap, SOA # 559-G*

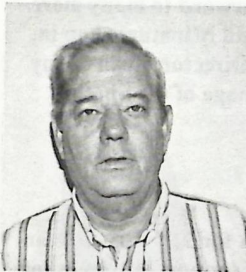
I have been a member of the Special Operations Association since 1985 and have attended three (3) of the past four (4) SOAR's. I am a retired commissioned officer, serving in the U.S. Army for 22 years. I am currently serving as the Assistant Treasurer for the Special Operations Memorial Foundation at MacDill AFB. I am a Life Member of both the Special Forces Association and the Khe Sanh Veterans Association. For the past 10 years I have been employed as a civilian operations officer, Center for Operations, Plans and Policy, United States Special Operations Command located at

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. If elected, I look forward to serving as a Director on the SOA Board of Officers and Directors during the next term of office.



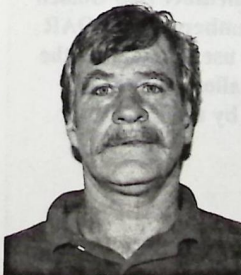
Thomas M. Henry, SOA # 993-G

I've been a member of the SOA for eight (8) years, attending six (6) of the last seven (7) SOAR's. My 33 years of service included EM/Officer, Inf/Abn/Rngr/SF assignments in the U.S., WWII Asiatic/Pacific Theater, Korea, RVN, Laos, Africa and Iran. Prior to retiring in 1978 as SWC Director of Combat Developments, I orchestrated DA approval for Delta Force. I'm currently serving as a military/veterans affairs advisor for Riverside County, California and our newly elected Congresswoman, Mary Bono. I was pleased to assist her deceased congressman husband on the Nung refugee problem and assisted him in selecting Service Academy nominees. I have the experience, time, interest and earnest desire to serve you the membership, if elected to the SOA Board of Officers and Directors as one (1) of the SOA Directors. Thank you.



James Hetrick, SOA # 036-L

I have been a member of the SOA since 1978. I have attended 15 of 21 SOAR's including the last three (3). I have had the opportunity to serve on three (3) RT's, (Idaho at Kham Duc), (Colorado at Kontum) and (Oklahoma at Khe Sanh). Additionally, I was an instructor twice at the Long Thanh "10" Course; served as a team monitor for Op 34 at Monkey Mountain in Da Nang and as a Team Sergeant/Instructor for FANK at Phouc Thuy during three (3) tours in Vietnam between 1966 and 1972. I retired from the USASF in April 1980. Currently, I am attending a course in Computer Networking through the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program in Las Vegas, Nevada. If elected, I will continue to support the SOA in all of its goals. Thank you.



Brendon "Ben" Lyons, SOA # 008-L

I have been a member of the SOA since its inception in 1977. Additionally, I have had the honor of serving the SOA in 1984 and 1985 as Chairman, SOA Membership Committee. I still maintain a keen interest in the heart and soul of the SOA - You and I, General and Associate members. In 1984, the

membership committee codified the definition of "Special Operations" as the term related and applied to the SOA, thus eliminating "guess work" as to who was truly qualified for membership. The system of "vetting" each and every SOA applicant assisted in insuring "phonies" were precluded from gaining access to our elite association. If elected to serve as a Director, I plan to push for: First - More representations from "ALL" branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. to include qualified civilians. Secondly, Increase the number of qualified members from foreign nations. Currently, the majority of our members have an Army background, but, the SOA is short on representation from other U.S. and foreign forces. I believe it is time to expand the SOA to other qualified individuals. Any takers??? I look forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas at SOAR XXII.



Vernon Phillips, SOA # 1308-G

I have been a member of the SOA only since 1996, but, I am willing to work for the Association in any capacity that the leadership desires. I have enjoyed very much the last two (2) SOAR's that I have attended and look forward to many more. My wife Sandra and I operate a Clock and Minature shop in Fort Worth, Texas. If elected as a SOA Director, I will do my utmost to perpetuate and enhance the image of the Special Operations Association. Thank you.

William L. Shelton, SOA # 890-L



I have been a member of the SOA for 21 years. It is an organization which I believe in, and will support to the best of my ability. I am seeking the position of a Director, SOA. At SOAR XXI, I was asked to assume the duties of Chairman, SOA Membership Committee. I consider it an honor to be able to serve the members of this Association in that capacity. Additionally, I had been charged by the Board to monitor and assist in the development of a SOA Web Site. This has been accomplished in concert with SOA member Bob Golden and the details will be provided to the membership at SOAR XXII for their edification and immediate use. In view of the fact that I currently reside in Las Vegas, allows me the opportunity to better assist where required by the President,

SOA and the Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee. If elected, I look forward to serving the entire SOA membership. Thank you.

Robert Shippen, SOA # 540-L



I joined the SOA during the conduct of SOAR VII in 1983 and have attended the past three (3) SOAR's. I value the camaraderie that exists within the SOA. I believe one of the most productive and interesting aspect of the SOA is its scholarship program and what it can do to assist the youth of today. I served as a Special Forces medic assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group and CCN in Vietnam in 1967-'68. I have served as a "Readjustment Counselor" with the Veterans Administration. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to return to Vietnam three (3) times with small groups of Vietnam veterans for the purpose of assisting the Montagnards remaining in that forsaken country. Currently, I own a small farm in California. During the conduct of SOAR XIX and XX, I assisted in presenting workshops dealing with combat related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD). I am honored to be recommended as a candidate for the SOA Board of Directors. If elected, I look forward to serving the SOA as part of RT SOAR.

H. "Rip" Van Winkle, SOA # 697-L



I have been a member of the SOA since 1987, and have been very active in my support of the SOA since 1993, my first reunion. I retired from the U.S. Army in 1980 having served in both enlisted and commissioned status. I received my "3" prefix in 1966 with subsequent assignments to the 1st SFGp, ('66-'69), 5th SFGp, ('69-'70) and Special Forces Detachment, (Abn), Europe, ('73-'75). I served as the XO on a "Snakebite" team from the 1st SFGp in 1967 that was ultimately assigned to FOB-3 at Khe Sanh. In 1983 I went to work for Chemical Lime Company and have been with them ever since. I am a Life member of the SOA, SFA, DAV, ROA and the Khe Sanh Veterans Association. I am honored to have been asked to serve the SOA, and if elected will strive to serve in any capacity that will continue to benefit the membership. Thank you.



## SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-L	\$1,500.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-L (IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Adcock, Gene, SOA # 925-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Aderholt, H.C. "Heine", SOA # 900-L (SOM)	\$ 200.00
*Amundson, Rolande, SOA # 098-L	\$1,000.00
Anonymous (IMO Jack Long)	\$ 150.00
Anonymous (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Anonymous	\$ 450.00
Augustin, Donald "Gus", SOA # 1016-G(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-L	\$1,000.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-L (SOM)	\$ 750.00
Barker, Geoffrey, T. SOA # 919-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Beard, Jim, SOA # 156-L (IMO Dale Denkhe)	\$ 500.00
Benjamin, Donald C., SOA # 899-L	\$4,525.00
Bennett, Dale R., SOA # 910-L	\$ 600.00
Bilitzke, Joseph M., SOA # 1139-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Birdsall, Harry "Hank", SOA # 1241-G(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Blakey, George, "Moe", SOA # 551-L	\$1,200.00
Boggs, William, "Bill", SOA # 667-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Browder, William, SOA # 645-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Brubaker, Paul, SOA # 596-L	\$2,600.00
Butler, James E., SOA # 001-L	\$10,500.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Camacho, Isaac "Ike", SOA # 1209-L (IMO Dick Meadows)	\$ 500.00
Camacho, Isaac "Ike", SOA # 1209-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-L	\$ 500.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Clough, Ed, SOA # 043-L	\$16,400.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-L	\$1,000.00
Cole, Richard F., SOA # 207-AL (IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Dawson, Ray, SOA # 657-L	\$ 800.00
deFontaine, Sully, SOA # 177-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Deacy, John J., SOA # 1321-L (SOM)	\$2,450.00
Edmunds, John E., SOA # 1197-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Elrod, Harold, SOA # 1239-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fields, Arthur T., SOA # 310-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fleming, Allan, F. Jr. SOA # 753-L (SOM)	\$ 200.00
Fronabarger, Carl, SOA # 632-AL (SOM)	\$ 100.00

Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-L	\$2,450.00
Gaudet, Ken, SOA # 964-AL	\$ 375.00
Gilstrap, Robert G., SOA # 737-G	\$ 750.00
Ginder, Jerrald "Jerry", SOA # 618-L	\$4,660.00
Ginder, Jerrald "Jerry", SOA # 618-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Golden, Robert, "Bob", SOA #1282-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Graham, Robert J., SOA # 184-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hall, Eugene, "Gene", SOA # 722-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamner, Gene D., SOA # 833-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-L	\$ 100.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hinsch, Rod, SOA # 073-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-L	\$ 500.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Keaton, LaFayette, F., SOA # 1168-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-G	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kinsler, Mark, SOA # 700-L	\$5,725.00
Lamotte, James C., SOA # 552-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Landau, H.H. Jr., SOA # 493-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Laurence, Pete, SOA # 456-A	\$ 250.00
Lear, John, SOA # 495-L	\$ 500.00
Lesesne, Ed. R., SOA # 614-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Long, Jack, SOA # 441-L	\$1,500.00
Lutz, Joseph C., SOA # 960-HL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
*Mar, Al/Ann, SOA # 439-L	\$12,150.00
Martin, James R., SOA # 023-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Martin, John, P. SOA # 345-L (SOM)	\$ 200.00
McBroom, C.O. "Bud", SOA # 768-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-L	\$2,345.00
McClintock, Matthew I., SOA # 1186-AL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
McGiffert, Peter H., SOA #854-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Messinger, Keith, SOA # 090-L	\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-L	\$1,000.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-L (IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Miller, William, L., SOA #1276-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Millett, Lewis L.Sr., SOA # 505-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Morrell, David, SOA # 905-HL	\$ 850.00
*Morton, George C./Lillian, SOA # 059-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Newman, Al, SOA # 952-A (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Newman, Cliff, SOA # 006-L (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Nissley, Bob L., SOA # 359-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*O'Rourke, William, "Bill"/Jan, SOA #379-L	\$3,120.00
Owens, John, C. SOA # 1143-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00

Perchard, John R, Jr., SOA # 341-G	\$ 300.00
Perchard, John R. Jr., SOA #341-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Pierson, Roger, SOA # 644-L	\$ 100.00
Pinn, Lionel, "Choo-Choo", SOA # 019-L	\$1,050.00
Place, Elon A., SOA # 887-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Plaster, John, SOA # 726-L	\$ 300.00
Platt, Alfred G. "Fred", SOA # 825-L	\$1,125.00
Pollack, James, SOA # 426-AL	\$1,000.00
Ramirez, Antonio, SOA # 561-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Raye, Martha, "Maggie", SOA # 097-HL	\$2,780.00
Redmond, Darrell, SOA # 1160-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Rheault, Robert "Bob", SOA #215-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Richter, Kenneth J., SOA # 1406-G (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Scholes, Edison E., SOA # 1350-L (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Sholtis, Donald M., SOA # 1174-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Siugzda, Herb, SOA # 030-L	\$ 500.00
Snyder, Kenneth O., SOA # 816-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Squires, Ben., SOA # 356-L	\$1,010.00
Stern, Mike, SOA # 324-L	\$ 250.00
Stewart, Jimmie L., SOA # 1446-G (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Stockdale, Bryan, SOA # 234-L	\$ 300.00
Sutherland, Ian, SOA # 216-L	\$1,000.00
Trimble/Lamotte, Larry/Jim, SOA # 163-L/552-L (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Van Lerberghe, Ross, SOA # 1394-HL(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Van Winkle, H. E. "Rip", SOA # 697-L(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Walker, Jimmy, SOA # 846-AL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Warkocki, Ken, SOA # 1231-A (IMO "Frenchy" Amundson)	\$ 100.00
Waugh, William D."Billy, SOA # 005-L	\$27,100.00
Waugh, William D."Billy, SOA # 005-L(IMO Walt Shumate)	\$1,000.00

\* Deceased Member.

(SOM): Special Operations Memorial Foundation, MacDill AFB, Florida

FYI, The SOA is a Tax Exempt Organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19).  
The SOA EIN Number is: EIN 74-2619854.

## SOA FACTS AND FIGURES

**In Memory of: TAPS:** Again, it is with regret that the SOA Board reports to the membership that two (2) more SOA members have passed away since the last reported losses were reflected in the Spring 1998 Newsletter. **Damien Kovaleski, SOA # 920-GA** passed away on 23 October 1996. No other details of his passing were made available. Mrs. Jean Kovaleski informed the SOA of his passing as a result of receiving a "Dues Reminder" card. Also, Joe Lutz, SOA # 960-GL reported that **Richard "Dick" A. Leandri, SOA # 1393-HL** passed away on 5 May 1998. Dick Leandri, 68 years of age died while officiating at the David E. Grange, Jr. "Best Ranger Competition" at Fort Benning, Georgia. Dick was the Chairman Emeritus of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc. at MacDill AFB, Florida. In 1979, Dick established the "Chairborne Rangers", a group of professionals and business executives who totally supported the U.S. military. Although he never served in the military, Dick was considered a leading authority on the military and law enforcement professions. He participated in training with Army Ranger and Special Forces units at the JFK Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg. He also studied counter-terrorist procedures in Europe. In addition to his many other activities which earned him the Sertoma Service to Mankind award in 1975, Dick truly enjoyed being a part of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation where he actively participated both personally and financially to ensure its success. He will be missed. The SOA wishes to express its sympathy to all of their families.

*"May the living serve faithfully and the dead rest peacefully"*

**Sick Call:** Roy Benavidez, SOA # 965-GL (409) 543-5801

**NOTE:** FYI, Members are listed in your SOA 1998 Membership Directory. I'm sure that anytime any member is ill, they would appreciate hearing from their comrades. Either a phone call or a card. We all look forward to hearing positive news from Roy and wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him at SOAR XXII.

## SOA 1999-2000 BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS BALLOT

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

As your current President, SOA, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of every eligible voting member (all GA and GL SOA members) exercising their responsibility to select a slate of Officers and Directors that will lead the SOA into the 21st Century. The SOA Official Ballot is enclosed in this PRP. I request you take the time **NOW, right this minute, to sit down and consider your selections. "Don't delay till tomorrow what you can do today".** Do you realize that less than 25% of the voting membership elected your current Board? If you are not pleased with the current Board and you didn't vote, then you can't blame anyone but yourself. Take the enclosed ballot,

vote your selections for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Administrator, (one each), and then select three (3) candidates from the slate reflected on the Ballot to be Directors on the SOA Board for the next term of office. Place the Ballot in the envelope marked "Ballot Only". Seal it, print your name, affix your signature and place your SOA # on the outside of the envelope. Place this envelope in the larger envelope marked to the Attention of the Chairman, SOA Tally Committee, William Lueders, place a .32 cent stamp on it and dispatch it today. I hate to provide such mundane and simple instructions, but, I've been told by a few members that they didn't take the time in the past because they didn't know what to do. Typical excuse, right? Deadline for voting is: 31 August 1998. Your envelope dispatched to Bill Lueders must be postmarked on/or before that date. I urge you to vote. It is important that you, the member be heard. Thank You.

**"AMERICA REMEMBERS, UNITED STATES SOCIETY OF ARMS AND ARMOUR":**

"America Remembers" of Mechanicsville, Virginia is producing an SOA officially authorized Commemorative Tribute .45 Caliber Pistol in a limited edition of 250. The retail advance issue price is \$1595. At a point in time determined by "America Remembers", the Society has the option of raising the price of each unsold pistol to \$1895. The Society will donate one (1) pistol, Serial Number 001 to the SOA for the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program drawing to be conducted at SOAR XXII. Additionally, they will provide the SOA a royalty rate rebate of 5% of the selling price of each weapon. Those funds will also be dedicated to the SOA scholarship program. Each SOA member will receive by separate mailing a brochure explaining the details for purchasing this commemorative collectors weapon. The SOA POC is Don Benjamin, (303) 738-9057. Any questions whatsoever, feel free to contact Don. He has been working on this project since the end of SOAR XXI. As of this mailing, without ever seeing the final product, 18 pistols have already been reserved by SOA members.

**SOG, "The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam":**

**John L. Plaster, 0726-G.** If you recall in the SOA 1998 Spring Newsletter, I mentioned that John was seeking assistance in the publication of a sequel to his best selling book, "SOG".. John, has agreed to speak to those interested members and their guests on the status of his sequel at SOAR XXII. For your added information, John's "SOG Pictorial History" is now complete and at the Publisher. It should be ready by SOAR XXII. Contact John at: P.O. Box 100, Iron River, Wisconsin 54847-0100, (715) 372-5514 or on his E-Mail at: <sfsniper@win.bright.net> to ascertain additional details.

**"KOREAN ERA AIR AND GROUND SPECIAL OPERATIONS":**

**Michael Haas, 1218-G.** Before putting on my "photo-begging" bib, I must express my appreciation to the many SOA members who have pitched in to assist so far. My book has come a long way - thanks to them, but oddly enough many Korean War Special Operators seem to have preferred taking guns and bullets instead of cameras on



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

## INFORMATIONAL NOTICE INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

**TO:** All SOA Members  
**FROM:** The SOA Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP), SOAR XXII.

*This envelope contains your SOAR XXII PRP, and the following items are incorporated into this packet.*

- 1- PRP Information Newsletter, from the SOA President.
  - a. Agenda - Page -i-.
  - b. Pre-Reunion Information - Pages 1-5.
  - c. SOA Fact Sheet - Page 6.
  - d. The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program Fact Sheet- Page 7.
  - e. SOA 1999-2000 Board of Officers and Directors Abbreviated Bio's - Pages 8-13.
  - f. SOA Honor Roll of Donors - Pages 14-16.
  - g. SOA Facts and Figures - Pages 17-25.
  - h. MACV-SOG & USSF Memorabilia Display - Page 26.
- 2- SOAR XXII ADVANCE (Discount) Registration Form.
- 3- Plaza Hotel & Casino Reservation Envelope.
- 4- SOA Treasurer Envelope for 1999 Dues and/or SOAR XXII Registration.
- 5- SOA Memorabilia Sales Form.
- 6- Ten (10) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 each.
- 7- SOA Membership Application Form.
- 8- SOA 1999-2000 Board of Officers Election Ballot
  - a. SOA Ballot Envelope
  - b. SOA Tally Committee Envelope.
- 9- SOA 1998 Membership Directory.
- 10- SOAR XXII Calendar.
- 11- The Special Operations Memorial Brochure.
- 12- "Soldier Under Three Flags". The Exploits of Special Forces Captain Larry A. Thorne Brochure.
- 13- The SOA Las Vegas Quick Draw Informational Letter.





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION MEMORABILIA SALES ITEMS

	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RING, WITH SOA CREST. (SIZE ____)			
-STERLING SILVER	\$175.00	_____	_____
-10 CARAT GOLD	\$375.00	_____	_____
-DIAMONDS (.4 CARAT WT. EQUIVALENT) AROUND LOGO.			
ADD DOLLAR AMOUNT TO COST OF RING.	\$325.00	_____	_____
-ENGRAVING INSIDE RING LIMITED TO 20 CHARACTERS			

NAME AND SOA# (TO BE ENGRAVED) NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SOA# \_\_\_\_\_

BLACK SOA CAP, (SOA EMBROIDERED IN GOLD) (ONE SIZE FITS ALL)	\$12.00	_____	_____
DECAL, SOA CREST (SPECIFY INSIDE ____ OR OUTSIDE ____ WINDOW)	\$3.50	_____	_____
MUGS, CERAMIC, BLACK IRONSTONE			
-COFFEE MUG, (11 OUNCE) WITH GOLD CREST	\$10.00	_____	_____
-BEER MUG, (16 OUNCE) WITH GOLD AND COLORED CREST	\$17.50	_____	_____
SOA PATCH, EMBROIDERED. (SIZE: 2 3/4 "X 4 1/4")	\$8.00	_____	_____
BLACK CANVAS BAG, 3 ZIPPERED POCKETS, "SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION" IN GOLD LETTERING	\$23.00	_____	_____
KNIFE, AL MAR "SF/SOG" ONE ZERO, Model #4008A1	\$195.00	_____	_____
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:			
-LAPEL PINS, SOA CREST	\$3.50	_____	_____
-TIE TACK, SOA CREST	\$3.50	_____	_____
-PEN & PENCIL SET WITH SOA LOGO	\$21.00	_____	_____
-SOA COIN, (SPECIFY COPPER ____ OR PEWTER ____)	\$10.00	_____	_____
-SOA WALNUT PLAQUE, LASER ENGRAVED	\$37.50	_____	_____
-SOA BULLION BLAZER PATCH	\$30.00	_____	_____
-SOA JACKET, SATIN LINED, (SPECIFY SIZE M-XL) _____	\$30.00	_____	_____
-SOA T-SHIRTS, BLACK, (L & XL ONLY) SPECIFY SIZE _____	\$12.50	_____	_____
-SOA GOLF SHIRT, BLACK, WITH SOA CREST. (L -XXL) _____			
SPECIFY SIZE _____, BLACK _____ OR WHITE _____	\$30.00	_____	_____
-SOA BELT BUCKLE, BRASS	\$20.00	_____	_____
-BOOK, MEMORIES OF MAGGIE, by NOONIE FORTIN	\$16.00	_____	_____

### ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

POSTAGE/INSURANCE:	UNDER \$50.00 \$7.00	SUB TOTAL \$ _____
	\$50.00-\$100.00 \$9.00	POSTAGE/INS \$ _____
	\$100.00 OR MORE \$11.00	TOTAL AMT. \$ _____

### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK/MONEY ORDERS (US CURRENCY ONLY) MADE PAYABLE TO: SOAMS  
MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_ /VISA \_\_\_\_ (CHECK ONE). EXPIRATION DATE MO \_\_\_\_ YR \_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR CREDIT CARD: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND COMPLETED INFORMATION TO: SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, ATTN:  
MEMORABILIA SALES, C/O BILL GOW, 4036 FAIRPORT DR., N. LAS VEGAS, NV 89030  
ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



their trips behind enemy lines. This of course has proven very inconvenient to those of us attempting to write books on their exploits some 45+ years later!

I'm hip-deep writing "*In the Devil's Shadow: United Nations Special Operations During The Korean War*", which I hope to have finished this summer. This book will include Army, Navy, Air Force and CIA units and operations that worked behind enemy lines during that particular brawl. What would really help future readers understand just what happened would be tactical field photographs of any of the following subjects: North Korean or Chinese soldiers (e.g. POW's); partisan weapons and uniforms; any pictures of partisan leaders such as U.S. Army LTC's Vanderpool and McGee, Major George Lamb; U.S. and foreign navy ships that supported Special Operations.

I will return your photos within a couple of weeks of receiving them. Or, I can reimburse you up front after we've agreed which photos to reproduce. Of course, each photograph will be accredited to you. Thank you, /s/ Mike Haas, P.O. Box 6892, Incline Village, Nevada 89450-6892, (702) 833-1508, <DasHaas@aol.com>

Mike has also agreed to speak to those interested members and their guests at SOAR XXII on the progress and status of his book. Thank you Mike.

**"TEAM SERGEANT": A Special Forces NCO at Lang Vei and Beyond**

**William T. Craig.** Bill "Crusher" Craig is not a member of the SOA. But, he should be. He certainly is eligible. I'll take it upon myself to encourage him to join the SOA. Bill recently published his second non-fiction book, "**Team Sergeant**" relating to his experiences as a Special Forces NCO. "Team Sergeant" was published in paperback by Ivy Books of New York. Bill's first book, "**Lifer**", **From Infantry to Special Forces**, explains Bill's life from early childhood until he joined the Army and eventually Special Forces. "Team Sergeant" initially sets the stage by recounting some of Bill's earlier multiple TDY tours to South Vietnam as a member of the 1st Special Forces Group stationed on Okinawa commencing in 1962. He then goes on to fully explain the trials and tribulations that he and his other Special Forces team members had to endure during the battle of Lang Vei. Interestingly, based on positive intelligence that an enemy attack against Lang Vei would soon take place, I Corps Mike Force personnel were dispatched prior to the battle to reinforce the A-Detachment. It proved to be a wise decision because it turned out, they were sorely needed. Subsequently, repeated calls for additional combat troop assistance from the U.S. Marine forces stationed at nearby Khe Sanh Combat Base went unheeded. However, FOB-3 MACVSOG personnel under the command of Major George Quamo quickly moved from their Khe Sanh bunker to Lang Vei in an attempt to assist in the relief of Detachment A-101 who by this time were heavily engaged and besieged by North Vietnamese forces supported by tanks. All of this occurred on 6-7 February 1968 and forever will be referred to and remembered by the survivors, as the "Battle of Lang Vei". If anyone wishes to know exactly what occurred during the battle of Lang Vei - I recommend you check immediately at your local book store and place an order for this very interesting true story. -19-

**Lang Vei/Khe Sanh, Revisited:** Bob Donoghue, 0680-G/David "Bulldog"

Smith, 1242-L. Bob and "Bulldog" departed for Vietnam on 23 July 1998 and will return on/or about 23 August. This is Bob's seventh trip and "Bulldog's" third. Specifically, they will visit that portion of Indochina that we once knew as Lang Vei/Khe Sanh and it's environs. They experienced some serious visa problems prior to their departure. The Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, D.C., although stating that there were no problems, in reality, did experience problems of their own in attempting to secure "NGO" visas (non-governmental organization) from their superiors in Hanoi. The result was that the visa process was tied up in typical "red tape". Bob and "Bulldog" are relying on "tourist" visas in order to accomplish the original task that they had established for themselves during this trip. They initially planned on departing the first week of April and finally were able to depart on 23 July. Bob and "Bulldog" will be prepared to tell their latest "story" to all that are interested at SOAR XXII. Time has been reserved on Friday afternoon, 02 October 1998 for their briefing. In addition, they will have photos, maps and copies of their latest AAR available for your perusal in the Hospitality Suite. Any financial assistance you can provide Bob as he readies himself for trip # 8 will be appreciated. As you read Bob's various AAR's, you can see how he accounts for each and every item he purchases for the Bru. Bob deserves a major "**Tip of the Beret**" for his efforts over the past seven (7) years assisting the Bru. Thank you Bob and "Bulldog" for your super efforts on behalf of the "little people" that supported all of us so well during the Vietnamese conflict.

**SOAR XXII Sergeants-at-Arms:** FYI, each year it is a honor and privilege for the SOA President to select two (2) members of the SOA to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual General Membership Meeting, the Banquet and for the duration of the reunion, act in the capacity of a Sergeant-at-Arms.. The Board has long established that this small, but important gesture provide an opportunity for the Board and the membership to recognize two (2) of its members, chosen annually, for their **un-recognized volunteer efforts** during past reunions on behalf of the Association. Again, the SOA is fortunate to have many individuals that annually attend every reunion and contribute to the overall success of each Reunion that it is too difficult to thank each one with a honor, such as a SOAR Sergeants-at-Arms. Be assured, the Board and in particular, Jack Abraham, Chairman of the SOA Reunion Committee and his regular reunion team thank all of the volunteers required to insure a successful reunion. Final selection of the two (2) SOAR XXII Sergeants-at-Arms will be determined upon the close of Advance Registration on 16 September 1998.

**The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program:** This year, on behalf of the SOA Board, the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee and the SOA membership, I am pleased to announce the following fifteen recipients of a coveted George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant:

Lindsay Butler

Kimberly Anne Hill

Joy Sakai

Joshua Dwyer

Kristin Hill\*

Christopher Thompson\*

Eileen Estes

Carey Jon Larabee

Kristina Bechtoldt

Heather Bennett      Charity Bieber      Lianne Brown  
Devon Renee Herrell Benjamin Kovaleski\*\*      Kelly Locker

Congratulations to all of the aforementioned young men and women. The SOA is truly proud of their academic achievements and look forward to hearing a lot of great stories from them in the future. FYI, previous recipients have done outstandingly and we are very proud of them too.. Jim Hawke, Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program and his committee are to be commended for their dedicated efforts in selecting this years recipients for a SOA grant. Thank you from all of us.

**NOTES:**

1 - \* Two (2) Year Scholarship Grants. \*\*Three (3) Year Scholarship Grants.. The asterisks indicate recipients have already completed one (1) year or two (2) years of College. The remaining 12 recipients will each receive a four (4) year scholarship grant. All recipients will each receive \$100.00 per month per school year for a maximum of \$1,000. per year. Recipients are required to maintain a **satisfactory** passing grade and provide the Scholarship Committee Chairman with a copy of each of their semester grades within two (2) weeks of receipt.

2 - The SOA Board wishes to thank all SOA members and their guests who have over these many years contributed monies and raffle items that have permitted the SOA to award over 81 George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grants to deserving young men and women since the commencement of this program in 1983.. Without the tremendous and outstanding support of you - the membership, this worthwhile project could not continue. Thank you.

**Special Operations Memorial, MacDill AFB, Florida:** At SOAR XX, the SOA's membership formally committed to support the Special Operations Memorial project through 1998. The SOA BOD wishes to report to the membership on some of the progress that has been accomplished recently in the establishment of a Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB:

1 - The sculpted design of a Special Operations Soldier in bronze, (height: 6'3") is complete. The statue can be viewed in the lobby of USSOC Headquarters, MacDill AFB, Florida until the memorial plaza is completed and an appropriate dedication ceremony is conducted.

2 - Additionally, new brochures have been prepared that explain the project and allows interested individuals to participate by donating monies toward an "engraving" to be emplaced in the memorial plaza.

3 - Interestingly, 60 of the current 86 engraving contributions have been provided by SOA members. A large part of the funds required to fund this project will come through engraving contributions of \$100./\$250./\$500. Other major contributions have been donated by individuals and corporations for the construction of the memorial site.

4 - Also, as of 01 July 1998, **Larry Trimble, #163-L** and his Special Operations Memorial Committee (primarily consisting of his lovely wife, Susan) have collected \$5,730.88. towards the Memorial. As of 01 July 1998, Larry has received 274 responses to the letters he dispatched to the membership containing \$20.00 of raffle tickets against items donated for the purpose of raising monies for the Special Operations Memorial Foundation at MacDill, AFB, Florida. Approximately 30% of the SOA membership have already responded favorably to this worthwhile project. Where are the remaining 70%?

Enclosed within the PRP is the new Special Operations Memorial Foundation **"Engraving Order Form"** which explains the engraving format in more detail than that previously provided and includes the mailing address to send your completed form and donation. Request the membership continue to support this project through its completion by either committing to an engraving and/or cash contribution. All contributions, other than "engraving" contributions should be identified as a Special Operations Memorial donation and forwarded to the SOA Treasurer, Ralf M. Miller, 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, Texas 78244-1516, or Larry Trimble, 6251 Canella Drive, Orland, Florida 95963-8124. All Special Operations Memorial contributions will be consolidated and forwarded to the Special Operations Memorial Treasurer at MacDill AFB following SOAR XXII. If you have any questions regarding the Special Operations Memorial project, you are requested to contact either, Roy Bahr, (828) 479-3187, John McClaskey, (810) 794-1066, or Larry Trimble, (530) 865-2147. These SOA members represent you, the membership on the Special Operations Memorial Board of Directors at MacDill AFB. Thank you for your support, it is needed to ensure a proper and lasting memorial representative of those Special Operations personnel who gave their all.

**Raffle and Door Prize Donations:** Reference is made to the basic Pre-Reunion Information letter contained in this PRP. If you are attending SOAR XXII, and I hope everyone does - request you bring the donated items with you. If you are not, I'll be pleased to get the items to SOAR XXII for you. Request you call me if you plan to donate either a raffle or door prize in order that I can prepare the necessary paperwork and raffle buckets at SOAR XXII. (703) 620-0953 or <sincere@patriot.net> E-Mail.

**2d ANNUAL CALIFORNIA "ALL AIRBORNE" DAYS:** The city of Long Beach, California will host a "All Airborne Celebration of Veterans's Day" during the period 5-8 November. This event is the second annual "California All-Airborne Days" Celebration and is co-hosted by the Orange County, San Gabriel Valley and the Southern California Chapters of the 82d Airborne Division Association. The Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, 7 November will be led by Major General Keith Kellog, Commander of the 82d Airborne Division along with David Foy, President, 82d Airborne Division Association, Colonel (Ret) Aaron Bank, "Father of Special Forces" and Colonel (Ret) Lewis L. Millett, MOH recipient. All of these gentlemen will attend the Banquet on Saturday evening. Registration commences at 1300 hours and closes at 1800 hours daily at the West Coast Long Beach Hotel during the period 5-7 November. For additional information contact: Bill Hessen, 909 N. Highland Avenue, Fullerton, California 92832-1231, (714) 871-4120.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL SELECTEE:** Colonel (P) Eldon A. Bargewell, Commander, Delta Force at Fort Bragg has been selected for promotion to Brigadier General, U.S. Army. Colonel Bargewell was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for extraordinary heroism as a Staff Sergeant RT "10" with TF1AE in 1971. He also served an earlier tour with FOB 3 (CCN) operating as a recon team member out of Khe Sanh, Mai-Loc and Quang-Tri in 1968-'69. Eldon is a member of the SOA and we look forward, hopefully of seeing him at SOAR XXII. His attendance is predicated on his new assignment as a Brigadier General. Congratulations and a "**Tip of the Beret**" for a well deserved promotion. FYI, Colonel Bargewell relinquished command of Delta Force to Colonel Gary L. Harrell on Friday, 10 July 1998. Eldon's new assignment has not as yet been officially announced, however, we believe an assignment in Germany may be in the offering. We, the members of the SOA wish him continued success in his new assignment.

**SOA WEB SITE:** The Special Operations Association has a Web Site. Yes you can visit the web site at: <<http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>>. **Bob Golden**, SOA # 1282-L at: <[BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net](mailto:BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net)> in concert with **Bill Shelton**, SOA # 890-L, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee at: <[wshelton@email.msn.com](mailto:wshelton@email.msn.com)> have developed a web site for the benefit of the SOA Membership. Bob certainly deserves a "**Tip of the Beret**" for his outstanding efforts in bringing the web site on line for the entire membership. Bob is appealing for assistance from the membership in the form of an Assistant Web Master. One (1) individual cannot operate a site by himself. If you are at all interested in providing assistance. Please contact Bob Golden soonest and directly. Thank you.

### **DEFENSE POW/MIA WEEKLY UPDATE, dated 27 May 1998:**

Published by the Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense/International Security Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20301-2400. The lead story stated that Robert L. Jones has assumed the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Missing Personnel Affairs. He was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to his new position earlier this month. Mr. Jones is a combat veteran of the conflict in Vietnam, having served two (2) tours there and earning numerous decorations and awards. He is special disabled veteran, with duty in the Army in both enlisted and officer status, including assignments in Infantry, Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces units.

### **X-RAY WARNING: Don't Place Film in Checked Baggage:**

Published by "Popular Photography" Issue, dated 1 June 1998, by Herbert Keppler and Peter Krause. A word of caution. Film zapping X-ray is being used on airline ticketed luggage. Hand-carry your film. The Federal Aviation Administration has approved the deployment of over 60 new Invision CTX 5000 X-Ray Units in the U.S. with more being added. These units are said to detect the presence of explosives in ticketed baggage with

virtual certainty, thereby making airline travel far safer against possible terrorist attack. Unfortunately, of necessarily secondary importance, the CTX-5000 can damage unprocessed film, whether exposed or not. It is best to assume all airports have the equipment. Lead-sheathed protective film bags won't prevent CTX-5000 damage. Hand carry your film, both unexposed and exposed.

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS:** Eric V. Bleicken, SOA # 532-G has announced his candidacy for Massachusetts 10th District. Eric graduated from the University of Maine in 1960. He then attended Naval Officer Candidate School and served as Officer in Charge of an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) Detachment in Vietnam. Following Vietnam, Eric became a commercial diver working in Ireland and the Gulf of Mexico. After the election of Ronald Reagan as U.S. President, Eric accepted a Presidential appointment with the Defense Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA). As a program manager, he developed a diverse high technology program for the Navy Seals, Army Special Forces and Air Force Special Operations communities. Since 1988 Eric has worked in home renovation and painting on Cape Code. He is a single parent and lives in Yarmouth with his thirteen year old son, Matthias. Anyone desiring more information on Eric's quest to be a U.S. Congressman is invited to call (508) 760-2045. **Good Luck, Eric.** Keep us informed.

**OPERATION "TAILWIND":** I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the SOA personnel that provided assistance to the SOA and SFA that permitted the SOA/SFA thru its investigator Rudi Gresham to conduct an intensive investigation of the blatant accusations by CNN and Time Magazine that U.S. Special Operations personnel did in fact utilize "nerve gas" and engage in other atrocities in Laos during Operation "Tailwind", 11-14 September 1970. There were many individuals who deserve credit, however, I wish to commend the following specifically - Steve Sherman, Bob Golden, Bill Shelton, "Jake" Jacobson, Jimmy Dean, Mike Eiland, Mel Hill, Billy Waugh, Bob Moberg, Ed McGowan, Jack Isler, Roy Bahr, Mark Berent, Tommy Daniels, Jack Kull, John Plaster, Jack Singlaub, Patrick Mahoney, Jim Morris, Tom Rau, Robbie Robinson, Clayton Scott, Heinie Aderholt and others that I must apologize for not remembering. Additionally, a "Tip of the Beret" is owed to a number of other SOA personnel that conducted a parallel, but separate investigation that they had initiated a few months prior to the commencement of the SOA/SFA investigation. Primarily taking a lead in this investigation was Tom Marzullo. He encouraged individuals like Bob Jack, Tom Rau, Robert Brown, Jim Butler, Bob Golden, and others that I am not personally aware of, to really place pressure on members of Congress and the Media, to chastise CNN and Time Magazine for permitting this outrageous story to be told to the American public and the world. The unfortunate result of this travesty is that the story is out there and many people throughout the world now believe it, regardless of the fact that it is not true. A truly outstanding and remarkable performance before the many news television networks, news radio programs and news print outlets throughout the United States, John Plaster on behalf of the entire Special Operations community really deserves a "**Tip of the Beret**" for his efforts. He carried the gauntlet and articulated the absurdness of CNN's claims. John, on behalf of the member-

ship, I thank you very much for your solid efforts. Where do we go now? As far as the SOA/SFA is concerned, we have made our demands - we now await a response from CNN and Time Magazine. Basically, the SOA/SFA has made the following demands:

"We, the Special Forces Association and Special Operations Association, demand CNN do a total retraction of Newsstand's "tailwind" story dated 7, 8, June and the follow-up of 14, 15 June 1998. We also demand a retraction from Time Magazine.

Further, we demand the immediate dismissal of all senior staffers and personnel who were directly involved in the decision making in the airing of this program.

Also, we demand a complete unedited copy of the report by CNN investigator, Floyd Abrams, including all findings and all advice provided to CNN by Mr. Abrams.

Finally, we also expect equal air time on CNN to clear Special Forces' name and all Vietnam Veterans involved in this operation".

These demands were co-signed by "Jake" Jacobson, as President of the SFA and myself as President of the SOA on 26 June 1998 in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the conduct of SFA Convention '98. This story is not over yet until all of the SOA/SFA demands are met and serious satisfaction achieved by all of the actual participants of Operation "Tailwind". Their role in this operation has turned from hero to villain. That too must be corrected.

**LATE BREAKING NEWS:** As your Administrator, Jon Cavaiani prepares to go to press with this PRP, the following has occurred as it relates to Operation "Tailwind":

First: Major General, Perry Smith. USAF, Retired, CNN's sole military analyst resigned as a result of first, being precluded from previewing the CNN "Tailwind" story and then subsequently, following the airing, he informed Mr. Tom Johnson, President/-C.E.O. CNN News Network that the entire story was a total fabrication as it alluded to nerve gas and the killing of defectors. Kudos to General Smith. It takes a strong individual to stand up for what is right.

Secondly: After almost a month following the airing of the story, Mr. Tom Johnson appeared on National TV and offered a profound apology and formal retraction of the "Tailwind" airing. Time Magazine which published a supporting segment on "Tailwind" also apologized to the "world" for their complicity in this story and a formal retraction is due to be published in the Time Magazine issue of 6 July.

Third: Mr. Johnson called me and again, offered his "profound apology" to the Special Operations Association and Special Forces Association for his networks goof. He added that "heads would role". Subsequently, Pam Hill, Vice-President, Washington CNN Bureau, resigned under pressure, Jack Smith, Executive Producer and April Oliver, Producer, were fired when they refused to resign. One of the main culprits in this fiasco, Peter Arnett, received only a reprimand of unspecified severity. On Saturday, 4 July 1998, CNN offered me the opportunity to state the case for the SOA/SFA on National TV for the firing of Peter Arnett. I accepted, spoke my piece and we await the final decision by Mr. Johnson - or even Mr. Ted Turner. Mr. Johnson wishes to appear before the assembled members of the SOA/SFA to apologize personally. I informed him he would be wasting his time and ours if he didn't first fire Peter Arnett. This is where we stand today as we go to press.

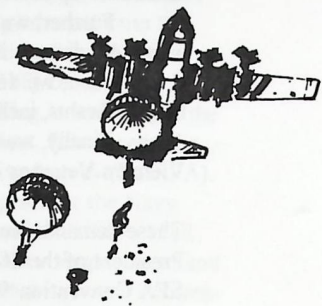
# MACV-SOG & USSF

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**Please Bring:** Insignia, Recon Jackets, Scrapbooks, Plaques, Berets, Fatigues, Photographs, Flags, Certificates, Bush Hats, Lighters, Captured NVA & VC Items, Team Patches, Psy War Items, Field Gear, Shirts, Etc.

~ Bring **ANYTHING** that someone would find interesting !

**THANK YOU !**

To those of you that have been generous !  
Everyone really enjoys the display due to your effort !





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

**TO: The Special Operations Association Membership**

**SUBJECT: Spring 1998 Newsletter**

**PURPOSE:** To provide the SOA membership with a brief update on the current status of the SOA, and to inform each of you of the various events that have occurred or will occur since SOAR XXI was conducted at the Plaza Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 1-5 October 1997, as we look forward to SOAR XXII.

**IN MEMORY OF:** Following publication of the SOAR XXI AAR, it was ascertained that more SOA members had passed away. **Francis J. Kelly, SOA #0083-G**, former Commander of the 1st and 5th Special Forces Group's passed away at approximately 1730 hours, 26 December 1997, in Colorado. Colonel Kelly had been suffering from Alzheimer's for quite some time. He was interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery in the Denver, Colorado suburbs on 30 December. It was reported that quite a few different SF Group Flashes were observed at the Interment services. Another SOA member, **Ted R. Fielding, SOA #1262-G**, passed away on 24 July 1997. Ted's passing was provided to Ralf Miller, SOA Treasurer, by Ted's wife Carol as a result of her receiving a SOA "Dues Reminder Card". No other details of his passing were made available. Also, **Paul Vincent Tracy, SOA #074-L**, passed away at approximately 2000 hours, 7 February 1998 in Hilo, Hawaii. "Small Man" as Paul was referred to was a fantastic individual. A true gentleman. A pleasure to be around. Paul was 69 years of age and had been quite ill for some time. Paul retired from the United States Army as a Master Sergeant on 23 January 1970 after serving 22 years of active duty, primarily with Special Forces units. He surely will be missed at all future SOA and SFA functions. Paul was a charter member of Chapter XLIII, SFA, Hilo, Hawaii. **Al Fontes, SOA # 1053-L**, 65 years of age passed away during the early morning hours of 13 February 1998. Al was a founding member of Rocky Mountain, Chapter XXIV, SFA. In view of Al's untiring efforts on behalf of Chapter XXIV, he was recognized by its membership by renaming the Chapter, The Alexander "Al" Fontes/Rocky Mountain Chapter XXIV. Al commenced his military service in February 1948 and retired in August 1974 as a Command Sergeant Major after many fruitful years of proud Airborne service primarily with Special Forces units, although Al also had the pleasure of serving tours with the 11th and 82d Airborne Divisions. We will all miss Al. **Andre Smith, SOA # 1398-L**. Andre, 57 years of age perished in a tragic scuba accident while apparently attempting to save the lives of two (2) other scuba divers on 12 January 1998 in Florida. Andre's body was recovered on 18 February approximately two (2) miles out and six (6) miles north of Jupiter Inlet. At the time he was recovered there were no scuba tanks with his body. Andre had over 10,000 dives to his credit and was considered by many to be the "expert" instructor in the art of scuba

diving. At the time the accident occurred, Andre was conducting a deep water dive certification for one (1) of the other two (2) individuals involved, according to Continental Airlines pilot Larry Roth, 42 years of age, the only survivor of the four (4) divers ascending from the 245 foot dive. Also, and unfortunately, three (3) SOA members, **Don Snowwhite, SOA # 764-L, (Mildred), Lee Hector, SOA # 620-L, (Bonnie)** and **George Fisher, SOA # 636-G, (Beverly)** each lost their beloved spouses during this reporting period. Additionally, **Jack Abraham, SOA # 365-L** lost his beloved dad, **(Jack Sr.)** and **Cliff Newman, SOA #006-L** lost his beloved mother, **(Mary Louise)**. The SOA wishes to extend its condolences to all of the family members of these personnel. Their untimely deaths remind us again just how fragile life and the society we live in really are.

**SICK CALL: Colonel (Ret) Aaron Bank, SOA #827-HL, "Father of Special Forces"**, has been quite ill and is recuperating at his home in San Clemente California. "Doc" Padgett, SOA# 404-L has been personally monitoring Colonel Bank. Thank's "Doc". But, then again, I guess anyone who reaches the ripe "young" age of 95 is entitled to get ill once in awhile. Knowing Colonel Bank as I do, I would expect that he will be around for quite some time yet - especially for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Special Forces on the 20th of June 2002 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. **Roy Benavidez, SOA #965-HL** went into the hospital in Houston, Texas for a regularly scheduled check-up and the Doctors wouldn't let him leave. The SOA has subsequently been informed that Roy is now recuperating at his home in El Campo, Texas. "Hang in there Roy". Chapter XV, SFA is requested to keep us apprised of his status. **George "Sonny" Hoffman, SOA #1420-G** is in the Loma Linda, California VA Hospital. Cause of illness not reported. **Perry Davis, SOA #1324-L** has been reported to be extremely ill in Norwich, Connecticut. He recently suffered two (2) strokes, has diabetes which resulted in multiple amputations including bilateral above the knee amputations. Enjoys hearing about the SOA through its various correspondence. He states hearing about the SOA "brightens his day". Hang in there, Perry. Our prayers are with you. **Note:** All SOA Members are advised to contact any member of the Board when they have ascertained that a member is seriously ill or has passed away in order that the entire membership may be apprised as soon as practicable. This certainly becomes most important to the entire membership when one learns of the death of any SOA member.

**SOA MEMORIAL STONE, Fort Bragg, North Carolina:** On 23 January 1998, your President had the honor and privilege to represent the entire SOA during the dedication ceremony that emplaced a SOA Memorial Stone in the ARSOF Memorial Plaza in the near proximity of the "Bronze Bruce" Statue and "yelling distance" of the Dick Meadows Memorial Statue. It was a great day for the SOA, although it was a bit damp. In fact, it was raining, but that did not deter a well attended ceremony from taking place. Many, many, SOA members and their guests were in attendance. Lieutenant General William P. Tangney, Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Command and his staff outdid themselves in demonstrating that the fraternal comradeship that exists between active duty military and the retired military community is as outstanding as it ever

was, especially as it relates to the iron bond that exists between all present and past special operations personnel. The entire staff of USASOC deserves our heartfelt thanks and a "tip of the beret" for the super services provided in insuring a successful, albeit "wet" dedication ceremony.

**SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS:** The SOA Honor Roll of Donors is published twice yearly, in the SOAR After-Action-Report (AAR) and the SOA Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP). The "Honor Roll" reflects those individuals who have donated \$100. or more in cash, or \$250. or more in merchandise (generally, these items are SOAR door and raffle prizes). During 1998, donations may be made to the SOA for either the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund or the Special Operations Memorial being constructed at MacDill AFB, Florida. Following construction completion of the memorial (scheduled for NLT the end of 1998), all donations to the SOA will again be accepted for the Scholarship Fund. Be advised, that while the SOA Treasurer will no longer accept donations to the Special Operations Memorial effective 31 December 1998, this does not preclude any individual from making a donation directly to the Special Operations Memorial in the form of a "Engraving", either in their own name or IMO, one, or more of their comrades and/or former units. Furthermore, if the donor so desires, donations will be accepted and reflected on the "Honor Roll" in memory of (IMO) any SOA member. Recognize also, that there are those members who have donated in the past and/or will donate in the future that have requested anonymity. Be assured, your contributions have been and will be continued to be gratefully accepted. Your desire to remain anonymous will also be so honored. Either credit card or cash contributions may be made. You are requested to contact the Association Treasurer, Ralf M. Miller SOA # 060-L at 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, Texas 78244-1516 or (210) 666-5122 (H) and/or (210) 666-0525 (F). Remember, a contribution made NLT 15 May 1998 will be reflected in the next SOA Pre-Reunion Packet. Also, in regard to the George C. Morton Scholarship Fund, I'd like to commend **Bryan Stockdale, SOA #234-L** for his donation of \$300.00 to the Fund following his winning split, (\$500.00) of the (\$1000.00) total during the conduct of the **SOA Las Vegas Quick Draw** following the SOAR XXI Banquet. Bryan has been a regular attendee and supporter over the years at the SOAR's. Thank you Bryan.

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, MacDill AFB, Florida:**

On 21 January 1998, on behalf of the SOA Membership, Director Roy Bahr presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Special Operations Memorial Foundation. The entire SOM Foundation Board in attendance at their January 1998 monthly meeting, unanimously applauded the super efforts of the SOA and extended their thanks to all SOA members for their contributions. So far 72 members of the SOA have contributed \$15,900 to purchase "Engravings". FYI, One (1) SOA member purchased 22 "Engravings" IMO comrades lost. As most of you are aware, a Special Operations Memorial "Engraving" will probably be the only place where your name and/or the names of your comrades and/or units that you desire to perpetuate will be located in the future, except possibly on your own "tombstone". At the present time, there are only sufficient "Engravings" to fill one (1), four (4) foot by eight (8) foot panel. **Where is the interest, enthu-**

siasm, esprit de corps and attitude that the membership in attendance at SOAR XX demonstrated when the SOA approved this project and agreed to combine forces with the Special Operations Memorial Foundation at MacDill AFB, Florida? FYI, Inasmuch as Roy Bahr lives the closest to MacDill, he has been the SOA's primary POC at the SOM Foundation Board meetings. However, he does keep Larry Trimble and John McClaskey and the SOA Board apprised of all happenings. Additionally, the SOA Board wishes to commend Larry Trimble and especially his spouse, Susan, (I'm sure she does most of the work - just kidding Larry), for their superb efforts in insuring the SOA continues to meet its commitment to support the Special Operations Memorial thru December 1998. Also, SOA members Geoffrey Barker, SOA # 919-G and Lee Dunlap, SOA # 559-G serve as the Foundation's Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. SOA members, Joe Lutz, Peter Kreuziger, Ross Van Lerberghe, Dick Tappan, Wil Charette, Fred Thomas and Richard Leandri serve in various other Foundation positions separate from the SOA's three (3) members, (Trimble, McClaskey and Bahr) assigned directly to the Foundation's Board by the SOA Board of Directors. You can readily visualize the high degree of interest the SOA exerts on that Foundation's board, thus ensuring that the goals desired will be achieved. 1998 will see the realization of a dream that was so eloquently proposed to the SOA membership by Larry Trimble - way back when the idea of a Special Operations Memorial was first surfaced by Larry and a number of other SOA members. A dream of a "living memorial" reflecting the total sacrifice and bravery of Special Operations personnel from the past, present and certainly in the future. Thank's to all of you who participated in any fashion in this worthwhile project. The entire SOA membership is extended a **"Tip of the Beret"** for their efforts.

**SOA 1998 DUES:** Each SOA non-life member is requested to look closely at the mailing label that brought you this Newsletter. If it has a '97 or even an earlier date on it, that indicates that you haven't paid your '98 dues which were due by 31 December 1997. If you fall in that "lapsed" category, be advised you still owe your annual dues of \$25. and they should be mailed immediately to Ralf Miller, SOA Treasurer. The "year number", on the label reflects the latest year you are paid through, (some of you are paid up through '98 and a few for '99). The SOA Treasurer reports that as of 24 March 1998, there are still 35 members that are delinquent in their '98 dues. Are you one (1) of the 35? Also, for your edification, to preclude future "lapsed" dues occurring, Life Membership is only \$250, payable by cash, check or credit card, (VISA or MASTERCARD only), payable to the SOA and mailed to the SOA Treasurer. Deduct from that amount \$25. if you have already paid your '98 annual dues....and, if you attend SOAR XXII in Las Vegas, another \$25.00 will be deducted/refunded upon your arrival if you go for Life Membership..

**SOAR XXII: (30 September - 4 October 1998), Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada:** Make your plans to attend now! Mark your calendars now!! Jack Abraham, Chairman, SOAR XXII Reunion Committee has reported that the majority of SOAR XXII requirements have already been coordinated with the staff of the Plaza Hotel & Casino.

An important facet of Jack's negotiations with the Hotel staff are the nightly rates for your hotel accommodations. Jack has been able to hold the line for a number of years on accommodation costs to you and your guests. This year the cost for your room at the hotel will be \$36. plus tax, per nite. Not too shabby. **Early registration (Advance/Discount) will be as in previous years, \$80. Deadline for early registration is 16 September 1998. Registration at SOAR XXII will cost you \$120.** SOA Registration and Hotel accommodation forms/envelopes will be in your next mailing - the SOA Pre-reunion Packet (PRP). As a reminder, don't forget when deciding to travel by air to consider **Travel Network**. Travel Network has agreed to provide the SOA a percentage of their commission from the Airlines as a donation to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, if the SOA meets the agreed upon goal of \$25,000 per year from the total sale of tickets by their agency to SOA members, families and guests utilizing their services. Travel Network-Reston is part of an international chain of 350 travel agencies, but, through its individual franchise owner, (Mrs. Sandy Kreer), provides our membership with a personalized service. She seeks to provide the membership with the lowest fares possible at the time of booking along with 24-hour service. (Sandy invites all members to check, prior to the actual booking with her agency to ensure that they are in fact getting the lowest rates available at the time of booking). **CALL: 1-800-892-6470. Be sure to inform the Travel Network Representative assisting you, that you are a member of the SOA.** Remember, you can utilize **Travel Network** for your travel convenience at any time of the year - not just for attendance at SOAR. The SOA receives full credit toward its agreed upon goal.

**SOA CHARTER MEMBERS: SOAR I, II and III:** I look forward to presenting 20-year SOA pins to those SOA members that attended SOAR III. You will be presented your 20-year SOA pin along with those SOAR I and SOAR II members in attendance at SOAR XXII who have not as yet received their 20-year pin for one reason or another. If your SOA Badge number falls anywhere between **060 (Ralf M. Miller) and 099 (Robert C. Kingston), or lower than 060**, then you're eligible to receive your 20-pin on 03 October 1998. If any of you know a SOA member that attended SOAR I and/or SOAR II that was not an attendee at SOAR XX or SOAR XXI, encourage them to attend SOAR XXII. Hopefully, they and all SOAR III attendees will look forward to a great SOAR XXII. Speaking of Charter members!!! Did you know that **Cliff Newman, SOA #006-L**, is the **only** SOA member that has attended **each and every** SOAR since its founding in 1977? Yes, he deserves a "**Tip of the Beret**" for his steadfastness and "super" support over these many years. Talk about Olympic records - Cliff certainly achieved his. Congratulations, Cliff.

**SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1999-2000:** The SOA is looking for a few good men. Yes, it's that time again when the membership must "step up to the bar" and select/elect a new Board of Officers and Directors that will lead the SOA into the 21st Century. Are you one of those few good men? If so, you must have attended two (2) of the last three (3) SOAR's, either SOAR XIX, XX or XXI to be eligible to run under the SOA Constitution and By-Laws. If you are at all interested in serving for this two (2)

year commitment, contact either: **Clyde Sincere, Jack Isler, Cliff Newman or Ray Whittington** and inform them of your desire to run for either **President, Vice-President, Administrator, Treasurer or one (1) of three (3) open Director positions**. The fourth Director position is automatically reserved for the current serving President to provide continuity to the new Board. Be advised, these are "working" positions, not just "titles". Two (2) positions, specifically, that of Administrator and Treasurer require some expertise in Secretarial and Accounting practices respectively. Both positions require the prospective candidates to be extremely dedicated and prepared to spend an inordinate amount of time in the performance of those respective duties. If interested in a particular position, please take the time to contact the current Board member and discuss his particular role in serving the entire SOA membership. An official SOA Ballot will be included in the 1998 PRP reflecting a slate of SOA members for the aforementioned Board of Officers and Director positions. **Thank You.**

**NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE REQUIREMENT:** William Shelton, SOA # 890-L, **Chairman, SOA Membership Committee** reports that the response from the membership as it relates to providing him with a nine-digit ZIP Code has been very positive. However, there still are a few of you out there that have not been responsive. I urge you for the benefit of the Association, relative to assisting the SOA in lowering its Third Class mailing costs that you immediately provide Bill with your nine-digit ZIP Code. Everyone has one. In addition to the nine-digit zip code problem, members are requested to insure that the Chairman, SOA Membership Committee has your correct telephone area code. Telephone area codes are changing constantly. Please help us, help you. Thanks. Check your latest SOA Membership Directory for 1998. Is all of the information on you reflected therein correct? If not, please advise soonest. The Board recognizes that some members do not desire their address and/or phone number be published. The Board will honor that request. Also, if you have an E-Mail Address, send it to Bill too.

**SOAR XXII RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS:** Reminder. If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXII and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the item(s) with you and give it to me as early as possible in order that I may display the various donated items for the benefit of the members and their guests attending the reunion. If for some unfortunate reason you are unable to attend SOAR XXII and you wish to donate either a door prize or a raffle item, you are requested to mail the item(s) directly to the PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO, (Attn: Linda Hartman/SOA) to arrive NET 28 September 1998, but, NLT 30 September 1998. Linda will see to it that either Jack Abraham or Clyde Sincere receive the items. Books, hard and soft cover are especially great "Door Prizes" and "Raffle Items". If timing becomes a problem, you may mail the items directly to Clyde Sincere. Thank you.

**AUTHORS:** There are a few new books that are coming out that may be of interest to the membership:

A. **Leigh F. Wade, SOA #498-G** has recently published his second novel entitled: **"The Protected Will Never Know"**. For reader interest it contains some stories relating to C5/SIGMA and the RECONDO SCHOOL. It has been published by Ballantine/Ivy in Paperback and should be available at your local book store.

B. **Vietnam Military Lore, "Legends, Shadows & Heroes"** by MSG Ray Bows, U.S. Army. 800 pages, Hard-Bound, \$34.95 plus \$3.50 postage and handling. Massachusetts residents must add 5% sales tax. Send to: BOWS AND SONS PUBLISHING, 2055 Washington Street, Hanover, MA. 02339.

C. **"Across the Fence". A dangerous truth lies behind enemy lines.** By Kent White, Price: \$5.95 U.S./\$7.99 Can. Produced by Commonwealth Publications, Inc., 9764-45th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5C5, Canada. Phone: (403) 432-1100. Toll Free Order Desk: 1-800-491-7737. **"Across the Fence"** is dedicated to the memory of **Kenneth Wayne Worthley, CCC, 5th Special Forces Group, (Abn), 1st SF, 7 March '47-26 August '69.**

D. **Noonie Fortin, author of "Memories of Maggie", Martha Raye: A Legend Spanning Three Wars,** has authored another book, entitled: **"Potpourri Of War"**. Publisher: LangMarc Publishing, P.O. Box 33817, San Antonio, Texas 78265. Cost: \$15.95 + \$2.00 Shipping and Handling. Any Questions? 1-800-864-1648. If you desire both books, \$25.00 + \$3.00 Shipping and Handling. E-Mail: NFortin@aol.com.

E. **"A Certain Brotherhood". A novel of American pilots in combat over the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War by Jimmie H. Butler, "Nail 12".** Published in Paperback by Cricket Press, 6660 Delmonico Drive, D-215, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919. \$9.99, plus \$3.00 for postage/handling, Approximately 350 pages.

Reminder: SOA Members **John Plaster, SOA # 726-L and Mike Haas, 1218-G** have requested assistance in preparing their next publications. If you can assist them, please contact them and discuss your input. Thanks. If any other SOA member is interested in providing the membership with information relating to a new publication or even an old publication that they have authored, contact Clyde Sincere and he will do his utmost to promote your "writings" for the edification of the membership.

**USNS SISLER:** The United States Navy has honored **First Lieutenant George "Ken" Sisler, U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps, 5th Special Forces, KIA on 7 February 1967** while a member of C&C MACVSOG, by naming a new Sealift ship, the **USNS SISLER**, after him. The ship was built by the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company located in San Diego, California. Lieutenant Sisler, was the posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor on 6 July 1968. Major General John D. Thomas, Jr., CG, US Army Intelligence and Security Command informed the audience that Lieutenant Sisler was the very first Military Intelligence Officer to receive the Medal of Honor. Lieutenant Sisler's widow, Jane, her sons, David, Jim and Dan, Ken's sister, Rebekah Sisler Wilson and his grand-

daughter Chantelle Sisler were all present at the launching ceremony conducted in San Diego on 28 February 1998. I, as the current President of the SOA had the pleasure of representing the entire SOA membership at the invitation of Ken's widow, Jane and the Shipbuilding Company at the ceremony. Other SOA members in attendance included Roger Donlon, John Baca, John Plaster, Curtis Williams, Cliff Newman, "Bo" Bobroskie, Steve Cavanaugh, "Mecky" Shuler and SFA President, "Jake" Jacobson. Congratulations were extended to the entire family on behalf of the SOA. Interestingly, one (1) other former Special Forces soldier who was with Ken on the operation that ultimately cost Ken his life was in attendance at the ceremony. His name, Leonard W. Tilley, (209) 924-5100. Can you believe he had never, ever heard of the SFA or the SOA? True. Needless to say, I dispatched a SOA application form off to him immediately upon my return to Virginia. I will "post" a brochure reflecting the outstanding Launching Ceremony Program in the SOAR XXII Registration area for the edification of all attendees. I wish to extend my thanks to **Curtis Williams, SOA # 909-G** for the "super" hospitality he extended to me during my stay in San Diego. I couldn't have done it without him. Thank you Curtis.

**SENATOR JESSE HELMS, R-NC:** On 10 March 1998, Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the "Plight of the Montagnards" in Washington, D.C. The hearing was prompted by President Clinton's pending decision to waive the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (JVA) which requires a communist country to guarantee a free immigration policy. Waiving the JVA is the first crucial step to granting Most Favored Nation (MFN) Trade Status to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV). Clinton's plan is a giveaway and slams the door on any hope for a final resolution of the POW/MIA issue, for many thousands of our indigenous allies who have been prohibited from applying for the U.S. Orderly Departure Program (ODP) by the SRV and those who languish in the ODP pipeline. Clinton's plan also does not make any demands on the SRV to obey UN Human Rights provisions nor does it require the SRV to open the Restricted Areas of the Central Highlands to foreigners and allow international humanitarian aid organizations to assist our Montagnard allies. The USG finally has an opportunity to leverage economic power to achieve a portion of the war-time objectives that so many died for, but, Clinton is giving it away under the liberal assumption that eventually the communists will become "nice guys". His plan essentially endorses the oppressive policies of the SRV and strengthens that regime's strangle hold on its people. The result of this waiver in my opinion, is that U.S. "Big Business" (many of whom did not serve in SEA during the Vietnamese War) and the SRV will reap huge economic windfalls. The Vietnamese people and in particular, the Montagnards will continue to suffer. Witnesses speaking against the Clinton plan and on behalf of the Montagnards were **Nay Rong of the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. (MFI), Y-Hin Nie, President of the Montagnard Dega Association (MDA), Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, Executive Director, "Boat People SOS" and Mr. John Sommers, Executive Director, American Legion. Tommy Daniels, SOA #584-G and President of the General Coactive Montagnard Association, (GCMA)** and I were selected as "Alternates" to appear before the Committee, but, alas, time elapsed. Witnesses supporting Clinton's plan

were Mr. Stanley Roth, Undersecretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, and Julia Taft, State Department Director of Population, Refugees and Migration. All witnesses speaking against the Clinton plan did an exemplary job, whereas the Clinton people were poorly prepared, grossly ignorant of the real situation in Vietnam and were ridiculed, albeit politely so, by Jesse Helms. In closing, Senators Helms, Hagel and Robb promised to do all they could to fight the Clinton agenda for Vietnam. FYI, as a follow-up, immediately following the "hearing" it was ascertained that President Clinton elected to flaunt the "will of congress" and waived the Jackson-Vanik Amendment as it regards the SRV. However, in June President Clinton must certify to Congress that Vietnam continues to progress on free-immigration issues and Congressional approval will be required for a bilateral trade agreement. Why aren't more of us getting involved in this fight? Check in at <http://teamhouse.tni.net> to learn more and then sound off to your Congressional representatives. It ain't over yet....

**SOAR XXI AAR:** There were a few typo errors in the last AAR. I apologize for any name misspellings, or what have you. In an attempt to get the AAR out to you, the membership, in a timely fashion, a decision was made to skip a last quality control inspection. It won't happen again. One important and specific error you should be aware of is: Bill Shelton's E-Mail addresses are: [wshelton@juno.com](mailto:wshelton@juno.com) and [wshelton@msn.com](mailto:wshelton@msn.com) and not as reflected on page 15 of the AAR. (Basically an "l" instead of an "i"). My apologies are specifically extended to **Jim Hetrick, SOA # 036-L** and **Peter Kreuziger, SOA # 1389-HL** for a few misspellings of their names. Thank you. Again, obviously, "Murphy's Law" was in effect.

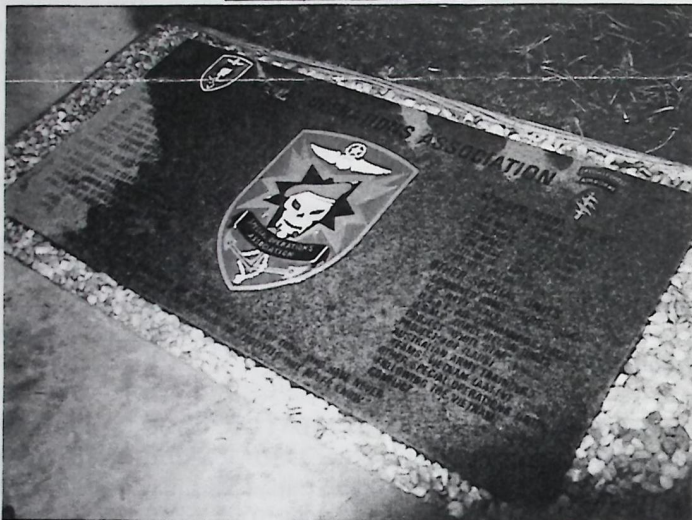
**VETERANS UNIVERSAL ACCESS IDENTIFICATION CARD: SOA Members.** Your attention is again invited to page 52, SOAR XXI AAR. This reminder is important in that the Veterans Administration has announced changes to VA Healthcare Benefits effective, October 1998. The enrollment process commenced 1 October 1997. You must be enrolled to receive healthcare after October 1998 unless you are in one (l) of the following categories:

- a. You are rated by the VA as having a service-connected disability of 50% or more.
- b. It has been less than one (l) year since you were discharged from military service for a compensable disability that the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and which has not as yet been rated by the VA.
- c. You are seeking care from the VA only for a service-connected disability.

**VA healthcare enrollment?** It is a new Administration system providing access for veterans to a comprehensive package of VA healthcare services. All SOA members are encouraged to apply immediately by contacting their nearest VA healthcare facility. If you have received VA healthcare services after 1 October 1996, you need not apply. In this instance, the VA will automatically process an application

on your behalf. When your enrollment is confirmed, the VA will notify you in writing and provide you with a Veterans Universal Access Identification Card. This is important, register now. You will remain enrolled only for one (1) year. Your enrollment will be reviewed and renewed each year depending upon your priority group and available resources. If the VA does not or cannot renew your enrollment, you will be notified in writing 60 days prior to your enrollment expiring. I cannot emphasize enough the imperativeness of your responding to this reminder. Be sure to take your DD-214 with you.

**SOA MEMORIAL STONE DEDICATION CEREMONY, FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**FRIDAY, 23 JANUARY 1998.**



**Soldier's Freedom**

*It is the soldier, not the reporter, who gave us freedom of the press.*

*It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.*

*It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to demonstrate.*

*It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.*

*It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.*

**Author Unknown...**

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

*Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.*  
CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA



# **THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS** **ASSOCIATION**

***SOAR XXII AAR***



***SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 1999-2000***

**L - to - R: Clyde Sincere, Bill Shelton, Ben Lyons, Jim Hetrick,  
John McClaskey, David Smith, Jack Abraham and Ralf Miller.**

***YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED,  
UNTIL YOU HAVE ALMOST DIED.  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR IT,  
LIFE HAS A SPECIAL FLAVOR,  
THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW....***

**PLAZA HOTEL/CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**30 September - 04 October 1998**





## **NOTICE TO SOA MEMBERSHIP**

**"The opinions expressed by the writers and editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the Special Operations Association with the exception of the actual SOAR XXII AAR. Advertisements for products or services do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Special Operations Association."**



## SOAR XXII SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 30 September - 04 October 1998

### WEDNESDAY, 30 September 1998

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

### THURSDAY, 01 OCTOBER 1998

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1430 - 1700 - BOD Meeting

### FRIDAY, 02 OCTOBER 1998

0730 - 1200 - Weapons Firing.  
1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite.  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration.  
1200 - 1330 - Lunch (Hosted By SOA).  
1330 - 1500 - POW/MIA Issues: Norm Doney.  
1500 - 1615 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited:  
Bob Donoghue/David Smith.  
1615 - 1630 - "Forgotten Montagnard Leaders":  
Y-Bhuat Eban and Y-Tlur "Thomas" Eban.  
1630 - 1730 - SOA Web Site: Briefing, Demo,  
Questions & Answers: Bob Golden.  
1730 - 1830 - "SOG" Sequel and Operation  
"Tailwind" - John Plaster.

### SATURDAY, 03 OCTOBER 1998

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite.  
0900 - 1000 - Late Registration.  
1000 - 1200 - General Membership Meeting.  
1230 - 1330 - Lunch (Hosted By SOA)  
1330 - 1430 - CAS in Support of Special Operations: Jim Parker.  
1430 - 1530 - "Korean Era Air and Ground  
Special Operations: Mike Haas.  
1530 - 1630 - "Potpourri of War": Noonie Fortin.  
1800 - 1900 - Cocktails (Hosted By SOA).  
1900 - 2015 - Posting of Colors/Banquet.  
2015 - 2020 - Introduction of VIP's and Guests.  
2020 - 2025 - Introduction of Newly Elected Board of  
Officers and Directors, 1999-2000.  
2025 - 2035 - Outgoing SOA President's Remarks.  
2035 - 2045 - Retirement of Colors.  
2045 - 2100 - Break.  
2100 - 2200 - Raffle.  
2200 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

### SUNDAY, 04 OCTOBER 1998

0800 - 1200 - Hospitality Suite  
NLT 1200 - HOSPITALITY SUITE CLOSED.  
NLT 1200 - Hotel Check- Out.



### **OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

First of all, I wish to congratulate the 1999-2000 SOA Board of Officers and Directors as they lead the Special Operations Association into the 21st Century. I look forward to working as a SOA Director with Ralf Miller, our President-Elect as he guides the SOA as it grows and prospers over the next two years.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to have served as your President of the SOA these past two years. So much has happened to me personally these two years within the Association, that I can only reflect on the tremendous and positive growth of our fraternity since I last had the same privilege to serve as President, SOA back in the '82-'83 term of office.

I'd like to enumerate some of the more recent accomplishments of this great Association:

a. As of SOAR XXII, 15 additional young men and women have been awarded a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant, bringing the total to 81 todate since the inception of the program in 1983.

b. The SOA has been an active participant in the perpetuation of our fallen and missing comrades through various fund-raising activities as they relate to the construction of a Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida. We will see a "super" living tribute in 1999 that we will remember and be proud of for the rest of our lives.

c. The SOA also emplaced a "Memorial Stone" on the 23d of January 1998 in the Army Special Operations Memorial Plaza at Fort Bragg, North Carolina dedicated to the memory of all past, present and future Special Operations personnel. I urge each and everyone of you to visit this hallowed ground sometime in the very near future. "Bronze Bruce", the Dick Meadows Statue and many, many other memorial stones emplaced by numerous units, organizations and associations - all dedicated in one way or another to great American fighting men and women are there for your viewing and reflection.

d. In February 1998 I had the pleasure of participating in the commissioning ceremonies dedicating a new Sealift Ship, the USNS SISLER, named in honor of George "Ken" Sisler, KIA on 7 February 1967 while conducting a C&C SOG operation. Lieutenant Sisler was a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor in 1968. The SOA looks forward to meeting his widow, Jane Sisler at future SOAR's.

e. The SOA managed in concert with the SFA, to alert a large segment of American society that Cable News Network (CNN) in June 1998



perpetuated a truly egregious and horrific lie in alleging that American Special Operations personnel operating from Command and Control Central (CCC) into Laos in September 1970 utilized a lethal nerve gas during the conduct of Operation "Tailwind". Through the efforts of many individuals within the official structure of the SOA/SFA and also others as fervently imbued, CNN was forced to retract the airing of that program, albeit, a very weak apology to say the least. This unfortunate story, concocted by a few at CNN is still a long way from being over. Primarily, Peter Arnett and Richard Kaplan must still be fired and CNN must underwrite a one-hour documentary reflecting the true story of SOG and the heroic actions of its recon personnel on the ground.

I'd like to take a moment to pay a particular thanks to those members that constituted the 1997-'98 SOA Board of Officers, SOA Special Staff Officers and SOA Project Officers during these past two years that I have had the pleasure to work and be associated with. I can say from experience that so very few of you really know what it takes to manage this fine association in the manner that you the membership deserve and expect. Each and every affected member in his own area of responsibility exerted total energy to insure first - successful annual SOAR's, complimented by responsible prudent business decisions as it related to the myraid of tasks the SOA has undertaken to remain a viable fraternal military association. It would not be difficult at all to enumerate their many talented accomplishments but, I believe they would rather I just say, thank you and let it go at that. I found these past two years as your President, SOA to be very gratifying. However, the real credit for the success of this association over the past two years should go to: Charles L. Berg, Ralf M. Miller, Jon R. Cavaiani, Jack B. Abraham, Roy W. Bahr, John R. McClaskey, Clayton S. Scott, William L. Shelton, James P. Hawke, Bill Lueders, Bill Gow, Don Benjamin, John Plaster, Larry Trimble, Harry Claflin, Bill Garcia and last, but certainly, not least, Bob Golden. These are the men I worked with on a continuing basis. Remember too, that there are also other SOA members that make up the committees that some of the aforementioned individuals "chair". They too deserve credit for their efforts. In other words, it takes a whole bunch of volunteers to make this outfit hummmmmmm. If you in your travels run across any of them, thank them for doing what they do for all of us. Thank you one and all. It has been a real pleasure and I look forward to seeing you at SOAR XXIII.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank all those members that voted in the just completed election. I would hope that more members would vote in future elections ... a little over 250 votes from a membership of over 1,500 doesn't speak well for an active turnout. Being that as it may, I'm happy as hell to be your new President!

It's my distinct pleasure to recognize and thank those SOA Officers, the Board and special staff members that have put forth so much time and effort during the past several years at their homes and at the SOAR. This certainly includes Jack Abraham, Clyde Sincere, Clayton Scott, Don Benjamin, John McClaskey, Bill Gow, Harry Claflin, and Bill Shelton. These dedicated members and the newly elected Officers and Board Members are committed to working for you... and, they will give whatever time and effort it takes to do so... during the year and especially at the SOARs. SOAR is not a "vacation" for these members. It's a time of fulfillment to a job and a pledge to enhance and help the SOA.

The "not so subtle" point I'm making is that your new Board will, indeed, serve you to the best of its ability. Your responsibility is to vote, attend SOAR, and communicate with the Board if you have any suggestions or ideas on how to improve an already great and growing organization. For those of you that echo a call for "new blood" on the Board, I can only say to you that all you have to do is run and get elected. You also have to make the commitment of spending hundreds of hours per year on SOA matters. Also, to run for office you must meet certain criteria (e.g., attended two of the last three SOARs, etc.) and, hopefully, provided the Association with some sort of contribution in time, effort or ideas. Without exception, those Board members re-elected this past election have put in literally hundreds of hours of their time towards the betterment of the SOA.

I, and the other members of the Board, appreciate your support ... not only appreciate it, but need it! Again, I thank you for your support and will strive to do my very best for the interests of the SOA.

RALF M. MILLER  
President, SOA



## **THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE** **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **SATURDAY, 1000 HOURS, 03 OCTOBER 1998**

#### **I. Call to Order:**

**President**

The Special Operations Association General Membership Meeting was called to order by SOA President, Clyde Sincere, at 1000 hours, Saturday, 03 October 1998 at the Plaza Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### **II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Bill Gow, Sergeant-At-Arms, led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. Moment of Silence for Fallen and Absent Comrades:**

A. Mr. Sincere requested the membership remain standing for a moment of silence for our fallen and absent comrades.

B. Mr. Sincere reported to the membership that four (4) SOA members had passed away since the publication of the SOA 1998 Spring Newsletter:

Richard A. Leandri,	5 May 1998
Jesse Ramos,	22 August 1998
Alfred Friend,	2 September 1998
Richard E. Sommers,	28 September 1998

#### **IV. Roll Call:**

A. Mr. Sincere informed the membership that in accordance with the SOA By-Laws and Constitution, that for the purpose of this meeting, the membership present, constituted a quorum for any business purposes.



**B. The following named Officers and Directors were present:**

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.	President
Charles L. Berg	Vice-President
Ralf M. Miller	Treasurer
Jack B. Abraham	Director
Roy W. Bahr	Director
John R. McClaskey	Director

**C. The following named Officer and Director were absent:**

Jon R. Cavaiani	Administrator
Clayton S. Scott	Director

**D. The following Special Staff Members and Project Officers were present:**

William M. "Bill" Gow	Chairman, SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee
James P. Hawke	Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee
Larry L. Trimble	Chairman, SOA Special Operations Memorial Committee
Donald C. Benjamin	SOA Project Officer, SOA Tribute Commemorative Pistol
Robert "Bob" Golden	SOA Project Officer, SOA Web Site
John Plaster	SOA Project Officer, Operation "Tailwind"

**E. The following named Special Staff Member was absent:**

William "Bill" Lueders	Chairman, SOA Tally Committee
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**F. Introduction of Operation "Tailwind" Participants Attending SOAR**

**XXII:**

Bernard "Bernie" Bright, USASF  
Joseph "Joe" Driscoll, USMC  
Peter "Pete" E. Landon, USASF



G. Introduction of three (3) "Forgotten Montagnard Leaders" from the General Coactive Montagnard Association (GCMA), Inc.:

Y-Bhuat Eban  
Y-Thur "Thomas" Eban  
Y-Wing-Nie

V. Business Meeting:

A. Old Business:

President

1. 04 October 1997 General Membership Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Sincere informed the members present that the minutes of the 4 October 1997 General Membership Meeting were included in the SOAR XXI AAR. All members having been provided a copy via mail prior to this meeting. A motion was requested, made and seconded that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that they be approved as provided. Motion approved.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Ralf Miller

a. Mr. Miller reported to the membership that the financial health of the SOA remains sound. As reported to you in past years, the SOA is financially capable of meeting its Operational expenses; Life Membership maintenance expenses; Scholarship stipends, (running approximately \$40,000. per year); the SOA Reunion (SOAR) expenses and the recently acquired account expenses of the Special Operations Memorial (SOM) Fund in which the SOA has been a fundraising participant. For your additional financial information, the SOA still has \$30,000 (if kept to maturity) of U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds drawing a minimum of 6% interest per year since 1992 and the assets of the SOAMS which is about \$13,500. Additionally, there is also a Certificate of Deposit (CD) for \$85,000 which draws 6% interest per year. As we meet today, there is an approximate net worth of the SOA of \$180,000 with pending debits this year of approximately \$45,000 which includes SOAR and the Scholarship program. Profits and donations during this SOAR should cover, as it has in the past, these debits without having to cash or draw upon the CD. The SOA's greatest source of income remains of course, the SOA Reunion (SOAR) and the SOA Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS). Participation of all SOA members in these two (2) main functions is absolutely vital to our financial goals.

b. For further and more specific financial information relative to the SOA finances, see the Financial Status Report in the SOAR XXII AAR for the year-end financial results and SOA bank account details.



c. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as provided. Motion approved.

### 3. The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship

Fund Report:

James P. Hawke

a. Mr. Hawke, Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee reported to the membership that the SOA Scholarship program currently has 50 active scholarship recipients. Mr. Hawke prefaced his report to the membership by stating that he wished to recognize and thank SOA Treasurer, Ralf Miller, for his support, guidance and encouragement as he has worked to fill the giant footsteps that Ralf has made as the previous Chair of the scholarship committee. You, the SOA membership should recognize that your scholarship program is being administered in as professional manner as possible. It is important to recognize that while the SOA offers scholarship recipients its full support, they, the recipients must also meet all of the requirements established by the Scholarship Committee and the SOA Board of Officers and Directors. For example, they must maintain at least a "C" average, maintain a full class load, submit their semester report cards and report their class registration. Failure to meet any of these requirements means, no scholarship support and the student receives a letter regarding their lapse. Failure to respond to the letter can result in the scholarship being placed in "suspense" or "terminated". Additionally, the Committee requires all scholarship recipients to communicate directly with the "Chair". Mr. Hawke stated that as the current Chairman, he is more than pleased to discuss with any parent their son or daughter, but, the committee expects the student to take the personal responsibility for all communications regarding their scholarship grant. The fifteen 1998 recipients of a SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship grant are:

Lindsay Butler	Joshua Dwyer	Eileen Estes
Kimberly Anne Hill	Kristin Hill*	Carey Jon Larabee
Joy Sakai	Christopher Thompson*	Kristina Bechtoldt
Heather Bennett	Charity Bieber	Lianne Brown
Devon Renee Herrell	Benjamin Kovaleski**	Kelly Locker

\* Reflects a two (2) year scholarship grant inasmuch as they have already completed two (2) years of college.

\*\* Reflects a three (3) year scholarship grant inasmuch as he has already completed one (1) year of college.

b. Mr. Hawke reiterated that the SOA Scholarship Program was conceptualized in 1982 and the first scholarship



awarded in 1983. In 1984, the SOA awarded a second scholarship grant. Since that time the program has grown to the point where we recently awarded 15 scholarship grants to deserving young men and women in 1998. FYI, initially the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee anticipated awarding only five (5) or six (6) scholarship grants this year. The Committee was surprised to receive 15 applications. After a careful review by the entire scholarship committee, all were found to meet the strict eligibility criteria the SOA has established. In conferring with SOA Treasurer, Ralf Miller, it was determined that the Scholarship Fund was sufficiently solvent to approve all 15 applicant scholarships.

c. Further, Mr. Hawke informed the membership that their continued support of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program has made possible this remarkable educational stipend program while at the same time memorializing the sacrifice and contribution of all of those individuals who have served in military special operations.

d. Mr. Hawke stated that as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee his goal for 1999 was to continue the watchful administration of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program; continue the fund raising efforts; continue the support of the current recipients and continue to offer scholarship grants to eligible applicants.

e. Mr. Hawke further stated that the SOA membership can take great pride in the accomplishments of the scholarship program todate. He anticipated that the demand for this program will remain strong in the near-term years. However, he cautioned that it will be necessary to maintain all of our fund raising efforts in order to keep this important program endowed.

f. For the edification of the SOA membership, Mr. Hawke announced the names of the other members of the SOA who make up the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee:

Charles L. Berg	Jon R. Cavaiani	Travis W. Mills
Ralf M. Miller	Herb Siugzda	Billy D. Waugh

g. Finally, Mr. Hawke stated that working in concert with SOA Webmaster, Bob Golden, he had been able to place the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program narrative information sheet, application form and the reference forms on the SOA Home Web Page. Check it out at:

*<<http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>>*

h. A motion was made and seconded that the report of the Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.



#### 4. SOA Membership Committee Status Report: Bill Shelton

a. Mr. Shelton reported to the membership that as of 21 September 1998 the Membership Committee had processed and approved 77 applications since 1 October 1997 (SOAR XXI). Twelve (12) applications had been returned to prospective applicants requesting further verification of their backgrounds. Ten (10) SOA members had passed away since SOAR XXI. They are:

Rolande "Frenchy" Amundson	7 October 1997
J. Frank Burkhardt	22 October 1997
Harve Saal	1 December 1997
Andre Smith	16 January 1998
Paul "Small Man" Tracy	1 February 1998
Al Fontes	13 February 1998
Richard A. Leandri	5 May 1998
Jesse Ramos	22 August 1998
Alfred Friend	2 September 1998
Richard E. Sommers	28 September 1998

b. Additionally, Mr. Shelton informed the membership that the Association had 966 current active members; 433 inactive members, 88 members deceased, 20 individuals had been expelled and 13 have resigned. Also, the SOA is affiliated with seven (7) other associations/organizations. As of 1 October 1998 for a combined total of 1527 members/organizations on its roster.

c. The SOA Membership Committee consists of the following SOA members:

William L. Shelton	Chairman
Harry Claflin	USMC
Ray Dawson	USAF
Bob Gilstrap	USA
Curtis Williams	USN
Chieu Ngoc Lam	STD
Steve Sherman	Archivist

d. A motion was made and seconded that the report of the Chairman, SOA Membership Committee be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.

#### 5. SOAR XXII, General Report:

Jack Abraham

a. Mr. Abraham, Chairman of the 1998 SOA Reunion Committee informed the membership that all SOAR XXII activities were progressing as scheduled and that SOAR XXII had already exceed all expectations.



b. Mr. Abraham reiterated that additional coordination with the appropriate Board/Special Staff members and the hotel staff would continue as required to insure a successful reunion.

c. The current 1998 SOA Reunion Committee Members are:

Jack B. Abraham	Chairman
Donald C. Benjamin	
Harry Claflin	
Bill Garcia	
Bill Gow	
Al Newman	

No motion required.

6. Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.: Roy W. Bahr

a. Mr. Bahr reported to the membership the latest information relating to the past year's activities of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board at MacDill AFB, Florida.

b. Mr. Bahr informed the members that there have been several changes to the original concept of the Memorial. However, these changes have not in any way detracted from the goals originally established for the memorial. He informed the members that the Special Operations Memorial "Warrior" statue had been completed and is ready to be emplaced on a suitable base at the newly designated site. The change was made necessary by the construction of new physical security barriers at USSOCOM. These enhanced force protection measures at MacDill AFB and other U.S. facilities throughout the world were dictated by the recent terrorist activities at U.S. Embassies in Africa. Mr. Bahr further elaborated that the new site at MacDill AFB will be more visible and accessible to the general public. He stated that Joe Lutz would brief the members further on the new site following his portion of this briefing.

c. Mr. Bahr also informed the members that the SOA membership had initially approved a commitment to support the Special Operations Memorial Foundation project till 31 December 1998. He was pleased to report that in view of the fact that a site location change and related administrative delays to the actual construction, the SOA Board had approved (during its Board of Officers and Directors Meeting on 1 October) to continue the SOA commitment to support the Special Operations Memorial until completion. He further stated that the total estimated cost of the project was \$250,000 and that construction would be completed within ten weeks of ground breaking.



d. Mr. Bahr further informed the membership that while the SOA was committed to supporting the Special Operations Memorial through project completion it was incumbent on the membership to continue their support of the various Special Operations Memorial fund raising activities managed by Larry Trimble. Specifically, he encouraged individuals to purchase memorial engravings and stated that application forms were available and that additional copies could be provided for the asking.

e. Mr. Bahr further informed the membership that all donations contributed toward the cost of the "memorial engravings" were not co-mingled with any memorial site construction funds. Additionally, he informed the members that if they used VISA or MASTERCARD in making donations to the Special Operations Memorial, these debits would appear as a charge to the "*Leverocks Seafood Restaurant*". He assured the membership that the restaurant was being used to reduce administrative costs only and that their donation was still fully deductible.

f. Following his report to the membership, Mr. Bahr requested General Joe Lutz, Chairman, Special Operations Memorial Foundation and member of the SOA to brief the membership on the current status of the project, specifically addressing recent delays.

g. General Lutz first introduced to the membership the other members of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation that were in attendance. They were: Peter Kreuziger, Vice-Chairman, Ross Van Lerberghe, President, Dick Tappan, Vice-President, Geoffrey Barker, Secretary, Wil Charette and Lee Dunlap, Directors. (The SOA's representatives on the Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board of Directors are: Larry L. Trimble, John R. McClaskey and Roy W. Bahr). General Lutz then briefed the membership on the present status of the Foundation. He then discussed what actions would be taking place in the near future. He explained that the efforts of the SOA on behalf of the overall project were great. He then requested that Mr. Peter Kreuziger speak to the membership for a few moments. General Lutz informed the members that Mr. Kreuziger was a great supporter of the military in the Tampa Bay civilian community.

h. Mr. Kreuziger spoke to the members, informing them that while he had not personally served in the U.S. military or participated in any Special Operations missions, he was very proud to be associated with the Special Operations Association and the various activities that the SOA supported. He thanked the Association and its membership for their many efforts on behalf of our country.

i. Mr. Sincere then requested a motion from the floor to accept the report of Mr. Bahr. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as provided. Motion approved.



## **7. SOA Special Operations Memorial Committee Status**

**Report:**

**Larry L. Trimble**

a. Mr. Trimble updated the membership on what had transpired since he assumed the role of Chairman, SOA Special Operations Memorial Committee in October 1994 by providing the members with a chronological listing of events leading up to the present at SOAR XXII.

b. Mr. Trimble informed the membership that as of this meeting, approximately \$8,000 had already been collected to support the Special Operations Memorial construction project at MacDill. This amount was raised through the sale of the raffle tickets sent all members. Additionally, since the start of SOAR XXII, a number of additional raffle items had been donated. He indicated that after SOAR XXII, the SOA would again be able to support the Special Operations Memorial project with another substantial monetary gift.

NOTE: In addition to the monies collected by Larry, James B. Cole, SOA # 794-GL contributed \$2,500 to the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc., IMO Christian G. Girard.

c. Mr. Trimble stated that following this business meeting he would announce the winners of a few of the donated items. The remaining winners of various raffle items would be announced following the Banquet this evening.

d. A motion was made and seconded to accept Mr. Trimble's report. Motion approved.

## **8. SOA Memorial Stone Report:**

**Clyde Sincere**

Mr. Sincere informed the membership that his report of the emplacement of the SOA Memorial Stone at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on 23 January 1998 remains as reported to the membership in the SOA 1998 Spring Newsletter. No motion required.

## **9. SOA E-Mail Net Report:**

**Bill Shelton**

Mr. Shelton informed the membership that as of this date 198 SOA members had furnished their e-mail addresses to him. Additionally he stated that this figure will grow by quite a number as he finishes incorporating the data from input received at the SOA Registration Desk and the continued processing of new members. The new SOA Membership Application reflects a space for new applicants to provide an e-mail address if they have one. The result will permit "net broadcasting" as necessary to a large SOA constituency. No motion required.



#### 10. SOA Web Site Report:

Bill Shelton

Mr. Shelton informed the membership that the SOA Web Site is progressing well, thanks to the outstanding efforts of Mr. Bob Golden. While the site remains "under construction", it has been accessed 15,961 times as of this date since it went on-line, Memorial Day, 31 May 1998. All members with access to the Internet are urged to visit the site at: <<http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>>. Any comments/recommendations should be addressed to either: Bill Shelton or Bob Golden at: <[wshelton@email.msn.com](mailto:wshelton@email.msn.com)> or <[BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net](mailto:BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net)>. To date many favorable comments have been received by the SOA regarding its Web Site, especially, all of the efforts Bob has accomplished to place timely information on the Web Site relating to the "debunking of the Operation "Tailwind" story". No motion required.

#### B. New Business:

President

##### 1. SOAR XXIII Report:

Jack Abraham

a. Mr. Abraham informed the membership that he had already coordinated with the Plaza Hotel/Casino Management Staff as it related to SOAR XXIII and provided the following:

- (1) Dates: 29 September - 03 October 1999.
- (2) Location: Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
- (3) Cost: Hotel Accommodations: \$38.00 plus tax per day.

Deadline for Hotel Reservations: 30 August 1999.

(4) Cost: SOAR XXIII: No Change for Advance Registration. It remains: \$80.00 per member and for each guest. (Deadline for Advance Registration: 15 September 1999).

(5) Cost: SOAR XXIII: At the Registration Desk: \$120.00 per member and guests. (This is effective as of 16 September 1999).

b. Additionally, Mr. Abraham stated that in concert with the SOA President and the SOA Administrator, any additional data relative to SOAR XXIII will be provided to the members via the SOA 1999 Spring Newsletter and the SOA 1999 Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP). No motion required.

NOTE: In addition to the aforementioned information, Mr. Abraham has also coordinated with the Plaza Hotel & Casino on behalf of the SOA the following dates and rates for the following SOAR's: Now you can really plan ahead....

1 - SOAR XXIV: 27 September - 01 October 2000.

Cost: Hotel Accommodations: \$40. plus tax per day.



2 - SOAR XXV: 26 - 30 September 2001.

Cost: Hotel Accommodations: \$40. plus tax per day.

3 -SOAR XXVI: 25 - 29 September 2002.

Cost: Hotel Accommodations: \$40. plus tax per day.

2. Updated Honor Roll of Donors to the SOA  
Scholarship and Memorial Funds:

Ralf Miller

a. Mr. Miller reported to the membership that an updated "Honor Roll" reflecting the latest member donations to the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund and the SOA Special Operations Memorial Fund project at MacDill AFB, Florida, would be published in the annual SOAR AAR and SOA PRP. This "Honor Roll" will reflect, as a minimum, any donation of \$100 in cash (to include any donations contributed directly to the Memorial Fund at MacDill, inasmuch as these donations are reported separately to the SOA Treasurer by the Foundation Secretary at MacDill AFB thru SOA Director Roy Bahr) or any raffle item worth \$250 or more.

b. Any member believing their contribution was inadvertently omitted from the "Honor Roll" is requested to contact the SOA Treasurer and he will reconcile the "Honor Roll" to reflect your contribution in the next publication.

c. Members desiring their contributions to remain anonymous will be so respected and their donations will fall under an "anonymous category" as reflected on the "Honor Roll". No motion required.

3. Recognition, SOAR XXII Sergeants-At-Arms: Clyde Sincere

a. Mr. Sincere introduced to the membership the two (2) individuals chosen to represent the membership at SOAR XXII as its Sergeants-At-Arms. Bill Gow, who led the attendees at the General Membership Meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill Garcia, who will lead the membership and their guests in the Pledge of Allegiance at the SOAR XXII Banquet. Mr. Sincere requested both individuals to please rise and be recognized. He also thanked both of them for their untiring service to the SOA over the years.

b. Mr. Sincere also explained to the membership that each year just prior to the conduct of a SOAR, the President, SOA has the honor and privilege to designate two (2) SOA members to serve as SOAR Sergeants-At-Arms who have, over the years, fully and consistently supported the requirements and goals of the SOA. No motion required:



4. SOA Commemorative Tribute Pistol: Don Benjamin

a. Mr. Benjamin informed the membership that he had been tasked as the Project Officer by the President, SOA to interface with "America Remembers", United States Society of Arms and Armour of Mechanicsville, Virginia, for the purpose of negotiating, designing and producing a SOA Tribute .45 Caliber pistol that would properly reflect Special Operations in South East Asia.

b. Mr. Benjamin stated that through a series of meetings between "America Remembers" and himself, the final design for a series of only 250 commemorative pistols had been agreed upon. In addition to underwriting all of the marketing aspects of these pistols, "America Remembers" also agreed to furnish one (1) of the 250 pistols, number 001 as a raffle item at SOAR XXII. Additionally, they agreed to provide a rebate of 5% of each weapon sold to the SOA for the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. As of this date, 52 pistols had been sold. The SOA can be expected to start receiving the first of a series of commission checks commencing in December 1998.

NOTE: As of December, 85 pistols had been sold.

c. Mr. Benjamin stated that as of this meeting approximately 325 \$10.00 "Reverse Raffle" pistol tickets had been sold and that he had additional tickets for sale up to 1330 hours this date. Following that time, the only other tickets that will be available will be those tickets that will be sold during the actual "Reverse Raffle" contest conducted following the SOAR XXII Banquet.

d. Mr. Benjamin further stated that the President, SOA will recognize both Mr. Paul J. Warden, President, "America Remembers" and Mr. Jeffery Belcher, Historical Advisor to the Society at the SOAR XXII Banquet this evening. No motion required.

NOTE: Following the SOAR XXII Banquet, the President, SOA conducted the "Reverse Raffle" for the SOA .45 caliber Commemorative Tribute Pistol. All in all, approximately \$5,000. was raised on this pistol for the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The winner of the pistol was SOA Member, Ronald C. Wilson, SOA # 1383-GL of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Congratulations, Ron, it was an interesting raffle, right? Also, A special "tip of the beret" is in order for those SOAR attendees that participated in the "Reverse Raffle". Everyone is aware that all of the funds garnered, assist in keeping the scholarship program viable. A special thanks to SOA Members, Mark Kinsler, SOA # 700-GL and Colleen Shriver-Saal, (Harve Saal) SOA # 987-DL who kept the bidding exciting. Thank you Mark and Colleen.



**5. SOA 1999-2000 Board of Officers and Directors  
Election Results Report: Clyde Sincere**

a. Mr. Sincere reported to the membership the results of the SOA 1999-2000 Tally Committee. (Mr. Bill Lueders, Chairman, SOA Tally Committee had been scheduled to present his committees findings to the Board and to the Membership, but, he had been taken ill and was currently in a Las Vegas hospital).

NOTE: Bill was released from the hospital on Saturday evening and advised to return to his home in Northern Virginia. It can be reported he is currently fine and is not expected to suffer any ill effects from his short illness.

b. Mr. Sincere reported that the following individuals received the majority of votes by the membership and will serve as the SOA Board of Officers and Directors for the term of office commencing 1 January 1999 and will continue in office until 31 December 2000:

FOR PRESIDENT:	Ralf M. Miller
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:	Jack B. Abraham
FOR TREASURER:	John R. McClaskey
FOR ADMINISTRATOR:	David Smith
FOR DIRECTOR (3):	Brendan "Ben" Lyons
	William L. Shelton
	James Hetrick
	* Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.

**NOTE:**

\* IAW the SOA By-Laws and Constitution, the outgoing President, in this instance, Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., automatically assumes the fourth Director position on the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in order to provide continuity of effort on behalf of the SOA.

c. Mr. Sincere also wished on behalf of the current SOA Board and the entire SOA membership to thank the other candidates that elected to participate in the election process. They are: Charles L. Berg, Roy W. Bahr, Lee C. Dunlap, Donald C. Benjamin, Thomas M. Henry, Vernon Phillips, Robert Shippin and H. "Rip" Van Winkle. A "tip of the beret" is in order to all of these gentlemen. They are what makes the system work. They were willing to be called to serve.

d. Finally, Mr. Sincere informed the members that the total number of ballots received by the Tally committee numbered only 257 ballots. Noteworthy, this was an increase of 61 ballots over what had been received as a result of the last election (1997-1998). Overall, the ballots received represented



about one-quarter of the eligible voters. Not a very good average. Hopefully in future elections, members will follow the instructions as provided and vote. The SOA Board goes out of its way to provide clear instructions to include furnishing an envelope for the ballot to be dispatched to the Chairman, SOA Tally Committee.

e. Mr. Sincere requested a motion that Mr. Lueders' SOA Tally Committee results be accepted as provided. A motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

6. Recognition, 20-year, SOA Members: Clyde Sincere

Mr. Sincere requested the following personnel having achieved 20-year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 20-year SOA pins. All personnel who attended SOAR I, II and III were eligible:

Don Cobb,	SOA # 012-GA	Merlyn D. Eckles, SOA # 024-GA
Jim Slatton,	SOA # 025-GA	*Michael Duggan, SOA # 034-GL
Frank Vecchiarello,	SOA # 047-GL	Leonard Mollica, SOA # 048-GA
Ralf M. Miller,	SOA # 060-GL	Larry Manes, SOA # 064-GA
"Jake" Jacobson,	SOA # 069-GL	**J. D. Bath, SOA # 589-GL

NOTES:

\* Michael Duggan. I owed him an apology. I neglected to call him forward to received his 20-year pin. Mike was in attendance at the General Membership Meeting. Subsequently I did apologize and presented him with his 20-year SOA pin.

\*\* As a result of a reconciliation of SOA numbers conducted by Clay Scott, past Chairman, SOA Membership Committee, it was determined that five (5) SOA members had inadvertently been provided duplicate SOA numbers. Mr. Scott reconciled this matter by assigning new numbers to the affected personnel. Mr. Bath, SOA # 589-GL was one (1) of the five (5) members affected. SOAR II was his first SOAR.

7. Status of the CNN Broadcast, "NewsStand": John Plaster

a. Mr. Plaster informed the membership that he had met with CNN's management staff twice, representing both the SFA and SOA for the purpose of encouraging CNN to underwrite and broadcast worldwide, a one-hour documentary on SOG to attempt to balance the fiasco they put on the air with their NewsStand Operation "Tailwind" story. He received an agreement from CNN executives to review a proposal from Pacific Street Films to produce the documentary. Pacific Street Films is the same production company that last March produced a documentary on Special Forces on the "History Channel". At Mr. Plaster's urging they stated they would be pleased to submit a proposal to CNN for



consideration. That proposal is now in the hands of CNN and a decision is expected soon. Should the proposal be accepted and approved by CNN, Mr. Plaster stated that he had offered to provide his entire collection of SOG photos for use in the documentary, at no cost. Also, a New York literary agent will negotiate royalties for the SOA and SFA in order that an allocation from the proceeds from this documentary may benefit each organizations various projects and/or charities.

b. Additionally, Mr. Plaster informed the membership that he had volunteered to prepare a "paper" for the U.S. Secretary of Defense that would permit the Secretary to seriously consider awarding a "Presidential Unit Citation" to SOG for the period 24 January 1964 - 30 April 1972. This "paper" has been completed and forwarded to Undersecretary of Defense, Rudy De Leon, tasked by Secretary Cohen as the action officer for all matters relating to SOG and to Operation "Tailwind". Letters in support of this request included letters from three (3) former Chief's SOG. Major General (Ret) Jack Singlaub, Colonel (Ret) Stephen E. Cavanaugh and Colonel (Ret) John Sadler. Also, Lieutenant General William Tangney and Major General Kenneth Bowra, both former members of MACVSOG have also been requested to advise the Undersecretary of their support for this action. No motion required.

8. Elite Unit Confederation:

Heinie Aderholt

a. General Aderholt briefed the membership on a concept that he encouraged be considered and adopted as a means of grouping all of the elite associations/organizations together for the purpose of exercising "political clout" as necessary. He further stated that this concept/idea came about as a result of what he saw what had been accomplished by the leaders and other members of the SOA/SFA as it related to the Operation "Tailwind" fiasco in securing certain conditions from CNN, albeit, he recognized, not all of your demands that were desired had yet to be achieved. He further commented, you didn't see or hear from the Veterans of Vietnam (VVA), the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, no, just the SOA/SFA folks took the necessary time to contact the various media organizations, their elected representatives and CNN to voice their complete displeasure with CNN for placing such an absurd documentary on CNN television for the whole world to see. In some instances people worldwide wondered if it were true or not. Those individuals and countries that wanted this story to be true - say it happened. Others were not sure. The members of the SOA/SFA knew it wasn't true and stood up and were counted.

b. General Aderholt stated that his point was that if associations/organizations such as the SOA/SFA banded together with other elite organizations for the purpose of working together when another crisis of this nature arose - and one will, nothing could hinder us from insuring that whatever the crisis was - it



would be settled to the complete satisfaction of the various "elite" fraternal military organizations/associations. He also added that he was prepared to bring the entire 2600 member Air Commando Association into this "loose" confederation and would personally be very pleased to work with the other "elite" units.

c. General Aderholt also made a point to inform the membership of what the Air Commandos, acting in the capacity of a "Non-Governmental Organization" (NGO) had accomplished in securing medical supplies and then having them air shipped to SEA, specifically Laos, through Thailand, for very little funding, as most of the work effort was accomplished by volunteers. In that same vein, he stated he would be willing to work with GCMA to assist their families still remaining in Vietnam, if the GCMA desired his services.

d. General Aderholt informed the membership that he would await the decision of the SOA Board of Directors as to how they wished to further address this "loose" confederation concept.

e. Following General Aderholt, Mr. Jack Isler addressed the membership with a proposal (solution), to which the various "elite" organizations /associations could respond, act or react to varying circumstances that may impact on any of the issues that confront our collective members. As an example of what he meant, he stated the following:

**PROBLEM:** "Under the United Nations resolution passed in late June, early July 1998, any nation can detain or cause to be detained at will what they construe to be a "war criminal". In light of the CNN allegations of U.S. war crimes (use of lethal chemical agents) during Operation "Tailwind", that have not been disproved, all personnel assigned directly to SOG or who have acted in a supporting role are now at risk of detention and eventual trial under this latest UN resolution".

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:** "CNN should be required to fund a forensic examination of appropriate scope of the "Tailwind" battle site to be directed under the auspices of the governments of the United States, Vietnam and Laos to determine the veracity of the CNN allegations of war crimes once and for all. Once the trilateral governmental investigation is completed, the findings to be published on an international basis by CNN/Time Warner. This expected finding of "no evidence of war crimes" will remove the threat of incarceration of former SOG personnel and any supporting organizations under the UN resolution. This task should be made a part of every law suit filed against CNN/Time Warner in order that any successful judgement would compel this action".

**PROBLEM:** "The fraternal organizations such as the SOA, SFA, Air Commandos, Navy SEALs, etc., are not currently established to deal with or prevent situations such as the recent "Tailwind" allegations made by CNN".



**PROPOSED SOLUTION:** "Establish a small, durable, centralized committee with operational interface to all applicable fraternal associations/organizations. This committee should be tasked with conducting appropriate responses to adverse press releases that affect any of the fraternal associations/organizations and to act as a central clearing house for inquiries so that outside organizations are directed to the any and all appropriate resources. While these tasks of and by themselves will not prevent willful misrepresentation, it will provide an established group to provide immediate, coordinated action directed towards refuting irresponsible journalistic actions. This committee can also become a media resource that will significantly reduce the amount of inaccurate or misleading information that form the basis for many irresponsible news stories. The executive boards of the fraternal organizations would be requested to provide whatever support or assistance is required to accomplish the tasking and would provide guidance to the committee through its representative to ensure that the goals of all organizations are met to the fullest extent practicable".

**NOTES:**

1 - No motion was entertained by the SOA Board at this time. No decision on this proposal was proffered during the conduct of this meeting in view of the fact that too many complex issues would first have to be studied and then coordinated with other organizations in order for this proposal to be approved as currently stipulated.

2 - FYI, the SOA Board will take this entire issue as elaborated by both General Aderholt and Jack Isler under advisement and will recommend to the membership a course of action that it should ultimately follow. In the interim, the Board will select two individuals to act as POC's, (Clyde Sincere and Jack Isler) and have them attempt to coordinate with all other "elite" organizations. First, to ascertain whether or not these organizations wish to align themselves in a "loose" confederation as envisioned in the proposed solution. Secondly, if more than two organizations/associations believe this to be a viable solution, these organizations would then request their representatives to work in concert with our representatives to develop a set of detailed guidelines that would in the end, suffice as a "Charter" for all entities to operate under. Clyde Sincere and Jack Isler will provide the SOA Board of Officers and Directors a recommendation on the results of this issue for their final approval prior to any implementation.

9. Rolande "Frenchy" Amundson's Estate: Larry Kimmel

a. Mr. Kimmel was requested to apprise the membership on the status of "Frenchy's" estate.



b. Mr. Kimmel informed the membership that he was the Executor of "Frenchy's" estate. He stated that the estate was currently undergoing probate under the laws of the State of California and he believed that very soon, the estate will be free to be executed as per the desires of "Frenchy". He further stated that it was "Frenchy's" wish that certain monies be bequeathed to both the SOA and the SFA. In her will, "Frenchy" specifically directed that any monies bequeathed to the SOA would be in support of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. Larry further explained that part of his duties included involvement in the sale of her home in Paso Robles. The selling price after all expenses would become part of the total estate. He stated that he would hope that by the end of this current year the estate would be settled. At that time he would provide a definite accounting as to the amount of monies being bequeathed to the SOA. He also informed the membership that he was facilitating the placement of a "marker" on "Frenchy's" grave donated by both the SOA and SFA. No motion required.

10. Award of SOAR XXII Door Prizes and  
the initial conduct of the SOAR XXII General Raffle:

Clyde Sincere

a. Mr. Sincere conducted the awarding of door prizes first and subsequently, awarded the majority of the raffle items. Selected raffle items to include the three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds and the "Reverse Raffle" of the SOA Commemorative .45 Tribute Pistol would be awarded at the banquet.

b. Mr. Sincere stated that this year as in past years, many door and raffle prizes were donated by the membership and/or their guests in support of SOAR XXII.

c. Items were specifically designated for either the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund or the Special Operations Memorial Fund. In either case, Mr. Sincere, on behalf of the entire SOA, wished to publicly thank all those that contributed to these worthwhile funds. Super prizes, again. Again, as in past years, Mr. Sincere stated he hoped he did not miss recognizing a donor to either fund. The following reflects those individuals who donated door prizes and raffle prizes to SOAR XXII. Thank you one and all:

Don Benjamin	John Plaster	Ray Chambers	Ken Gaudet
Harry Munck	Frank Kennemur	Fred Platt	Steve Sherman
Mark Kinsler	The Plaza Hotel	Ben Baker	"Doc" Padgett
Dick Tappan	Bill Lueders	Fred Norris	Clay Scott
Norm Gammons	William Phillips	J.C. Scruggs	J.I. Swerdlow
Austin Kuck	B.G. Burkett	G. Whitley	R. Mullowney
"Frenchy" Segool	Rob Duran	Pat Hephner	B. Marden
Woodie Bernard	Clarence Page	David Morrell	Jim Hawke
Don Murphy	Geoff Barker	Rob't K. Brown	Charles Berg
Dr. Mark Osanka	Ralph G. Edens	Peter Kreuziger	Fred Camacho



In addition, The SOA Special Operations Memorial Fund, Behind the Lines Journal. and "America Remembers", The Society of Arms and Armour also were contributors to the various raffles.

d. The Las Vegas Quick Draw was a total success with all 100 tickets being purchased. The big \$1,000 in cash prize was split between Earl Trabue and Tom Sincere. Twenty-four other lucky winners won either \$25 (14), \$50 (5) or \$75 (5). Congratulations to all. Also, SOA Members, Alan N. Keller, SOA # 1488-GL and Stephen M. Goth, SOA # 1489-GA donated back to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund their winnings of \$25.00 each. Thank you, gents. Every little bit counts.

e. The three (3) SOA U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds were won by:

- (1) \$2,000 (\$1,000. Cash): Rudy Cooper, SOA # 506-GA
- (2) \$1,000 (\$500. Cash): \*David Morrell, SOA # 905-HL

Note: \* David Morrell donated his winning \$500 back to the SOA IMO of all Special Operations personnel that gave their all in defense of this great nation. David stated to Ralf Miller that while he was only a Honorary SOA Life Member, just being able to be associated with the SOA was sufficient winner in itself. He believed his winning prize money, \$500 in this instance, rightly belonged to the SOA and the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thank you, David.

(3) \$ 500 (\$250 Cash): Pat Hephner, SOA # 1249-AL  
Note: All winners elected to receive cash in lieu of the Savings Bonds.

f. SOA Member Calvin Seybold, SOA # 1050-GA, unable to attend SOAR XXII due to the fact he is serving with MPRI in Bosnia, won the \$1000 U.S. "EE" Savings Bond provided by the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc. Congratulations Cal... Hope to see you at a SOAR in the near future.

g. The "Reverse Raffle" for the SOA Commemorative .45 caliber Tribute Pistol, Number 001 was won by SOA member, Ron Wilson, from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Congratulations Ron. What a winner. Ron informed me that he only purchased one (1) ticket. I must inform all readers that Mark Kinsler was a very active bidder during the conduct of the "Reverse Raffle". He donated some, (a lot) of his hefty crap winnings to support the young men and women recipients of a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant. Mark, look at the positive side. They really appreciated all of your efforts on their behalf. Thank You.....Now the rest of us have to buy one..... Don Benjamin reported to me recently that a total of 59 pistols of the 250 available have now been sold. Did you buy one? If not, and you wish to, contact: Don at: (303) 738-9057 or Clyde at: (703) 620-0953 and they will assist you by providing you a brochure.



**h. Four (4) gifts that cannot go unmentioned:**

(1) James B. Cole, SOA # 794-GL donated \$2,500 in cash to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, IMO Christian G. Girard.

(2) James B. Cole, SOA # 794-GL donated \$2,500 in cash to the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc., MacDill AFB, Florida, IMO Christian G. Girard.

(3) William "Billy" D. Waugh, SOA # 005-GL donated \$1,000 in cash to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, IMO of Paul "Small Man" Tracy and Al Fontez.

(4) William "Billy" D. Waugh, SOA # 005-GL donated a Diamond Ring, with two (2) emeralds to the SOAR XXII Raffle in support of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, Retail value: \$900. Pauline Bodkin, I hope you enjoy your ring. I know there was considerable interest in that ring. Every woman that tried it on stated "Oh, it fits me just perfectly".

NOTE: Again, on behalf of the entire membership, I cannot emphasize the appreciation of the SOA and its charitable projects that is deserved by all of the members and their guests that contributed to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Special Operations Memorial Fund. SOAR XXII experienced a lot of goodness this year. Thank you one and all. I know that everyone wanted to win either the Magnum bottle of Wine or the regular size bottle of wine with the SOA Logo and Motto etched into the bottles that Ken Gaudet donated to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Special Operations Memorial Fund respectively. I know I did. Mrs. Steve Sherman had her heart set early on winning the alligator skin donated by "Woodie" Bernard. I'm glad her heart wasn't broken. I don't know what Cliff Newman is going to do with the Ruger pistol that Don Benjamin donated or Ian Sutherland with his Winchester 12 gauge "Defender" Shotgun that was donated by the Special Operations Memorial Fund. But, then again, Ian does live in Missouri. I won't even mention who won the Glock 23, .40 caliber automatic pistol donated by Mike Stern. He wishes to remain anonymous. O.K. William J. Boggs of West Virginia was the lucky winner of Steve Sherman's copy two of only two copies of "Who's Who from MACVSOG with a "silent auction" bid of \$500. Thank you both. Tell me what Roy Bahr could possibly do with a six-day, five-nite stay at Yacht Harbor Inn prize that Peter Kreuziger donated!!! I know Peter was really hoping that someone else would have won that prize. He sees Roy all of the time. Just kidding. Larry, next time, really mix up those SOM tickets, okay.... By the way, "Doc" Padgett won the trip to Alaska. I could go on and on, but, you all get the idea. Great gifts, super lucky winners - what could be better? No motion required.



#### IV. Adjournment:

There being no further items of business, Mr. Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., adjourned the General Membership Meeting at 1230 hours, 03 October 1998 with the announcement that the next General Membership Meeting would take place on 02 October 1999.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully submitted,

CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA

Incls: a/s

**Note:** In view of the fact that the SOA Administrator Jon R. Cavaiani was ill and unable to attend SOAR XXII, the aforementioned General Membership Meeting minutes were prepared by Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.



## SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL		\$1,500.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Richard Sommers)	\$ 250.00
Adcock, Gene, SOA # 925-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Aderholt, H.C. "Heine", SOA # 900-GL(SOM)		\$ 200.00
*Amundson, Rolande, SOA # 098-GL		\$1,000.00
Anonymous	(IMO Jack Long)	\$ 150.00
Anonymous	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Anonymous		\$ 450.00
Anonymous	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Augustin, Donald "Gus", SOA # 1016-GA(SOM)		\$ 500.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL		\$1,000.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL	(SOM)	\$ 900.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL	(SOM)	\$ 906.00
Barker, Geoffrey, T. SOA # 919-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Beard, Jim, SOA # 156-GL	(IMO Dale Denkhe)	\$ 500.00
Benjamin, Donald C., SOA # 899-GL		\$4,975.00
Bennett, Dale R., SOA # 910-GL		\$ 600.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(IMO FOB-3, "The Siege")	\$ 602.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(SOM, IMO Robert Scully)	\$ 250.00
Bilitzke, Joseph M., SOA # 1139-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Birdsall, Harry "Hank", SOA # 1241-G	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Blakey, George, "Moe", SOA # 551-GL		\$1,200.00
Boggs, William, "Bill", SOA # 667-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Bost, Robert SOA # 1409-GA	(SOM)	\$ 400.00
Browder, William, SOA # 645-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Brubaker, Paul, SOA # 596-GL		\$2,600.00
Butler, James E., SOA # 001-GL		\$10,500.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Camacho, Isaac "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL(IMO Dick Meadows)		\$ 500.00
Camacho, Isaac "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL(SOM)		\$ 100.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL		\$ 500.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Charette, Wil, SOA # 1410-GA	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Clayton, Chuck SOA # 1267-GA		\$ 120.00
Clough, Ed, SOA # 043-GL		\$16,400.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL		\$1,000.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(IMO Christian G. Girard)	\$2,500.00



Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(SOM, IMO Christian G. Girard)	\$2,500.00
Cole, Richard F., SOA # 207-AL	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Crane, Fred, SOA # 1199-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Dawson, Ray, SOA # 657-GL		\$ 800.00
deFontaine, Sully, SOA # 177-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Deacy, John J., SOA # 1321-GL	(SOM)	\$2,450.00
Edmunds, John E., SOA # 1197-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Elrod, Harold, SOA # 1239-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fields, Arthur T., SOA # 310-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fleming, Allan, F. Jr. SOA # 753-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
*Friend, Al, SOA # 158-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fronabarger, Carl, SOA # 632-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-GL		\$2,450.00
Gaudet, Ken, SOA # 964-AL		\$ 775.00
Gilstrap, Robert G., SOA # 737-GA		\$ 750.00
Ginder, Jerrald "Jerry", SOA # 618-GL		\$4,660.00
Ginder, Jerrald "Jerry", SOA # 618-GL (SOM)		\$ 250.00
Golden, Robert, "Bob", SOA #1282-GL(SOM)		\$ 100.00
Graham, Robert J., SOA # 184-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hall, Eugene, "Gene", SOA # 722-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamner, Gene D., SOA # 833-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hanson, T.R., SOA # 1214-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hephner, Patrick, SOA # 1249-AL		\$ 300.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL		\$ 100.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hinsch, Rod, SOA # 073-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL		\$ 500.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Kearns, Michael S., SOA # 949-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Keaton, LaFayette, F., SOA # 1168-GL(SOM)		\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA		\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kinsler, Mark, SOA # 700-GL		\$5,725.00
Kreuziger, Peter W., SOA # 1389-HL	(SOM)	\$ 700.00
Lamotte, James C., SOA # 552-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Landau, H.H. Jr., SOA # 493-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Laurence, Pete, SOA # 456-AA		\$ 250.00
Lear, John, SOA # 495-GL		\$ 500.00
Lesesne, Ed. R., SOA # 614-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Long, Jack, SOA # 441-GL		\$1,500.00
Lutz, Joseph C., SOA # 960-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Manes, Larry, SOA # 064-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Mar, Al/Ann, SOA # 439-GL		\$12,150.00



Marich, Thomas L., SOA # 1037-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Martin, James R., SOA # 023-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Martin, John P. SOA # 345-GL (SOM)	\$1,000.00
Martin, John P. SOA # 345-GL (IMO Mary Watson)	\$ 100.00
McBroom, C.O. "Bud", SOA # 768-GL(SOM)	\$ 100.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL	\$2,345.00
McClintock, Matthew I., SOA # 1186-AL(SOM)	\$ 500.00
McGiffert, Peter H., SOA #854-GL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Messinger, Keith, SOA # 090-GL	\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-GL	\$1,000.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-GL (IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Miller, William, L., SOA #1276-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Millett, Lewis L.Sr., SOA # 505-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Morrell, David, SOA # 905-HL	\$1,350.00
*Morton, George C./Lillian, SOA # 059-GL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Muldowney, Richard, SOA # 1319-GA	\$ 285.00
Newell, Bernard, "Woodie", SOA # 1281-GA	\$ 460.00
Newman, Al, SOA # 952-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Newman, Cliff, SOA # 006-GL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Nissley, Bob L., SOA # 359-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*O'Rourke, William, "Bill"/Jan, SOA #379-GL	\$3,120.00
Owens, John, C. SOA # 1143-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Parks, Robert, "Spider", SOA # 465-GL	\$ 700.00
Pershing, John SOA # 1307-AL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Perchard, John R, Jr., SOA # 341-GA	\$ 300.00
Perchard, John R. Jr., SOA #341-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Pierson, Roger, SOA # 644-GL	\$ 100.00
Pinn, Lionel, "Choo-Choo", SOA # 019-GL	\$1,050.00
Place, Elon A., SOA # 887-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Plaster, John, SOA # 726-GL	\$ 300.00
Platt, Alfred G. "Fred", SOA # 825-GL	\$1,695.00
Pollack, James, SOA # 426-AL	\$1,000.00
Ramirez, Antonio, SOA # 561-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Raye, Martha, "Maggie", SOA # 097-HL	\$2,780.00
Redmond, Darrell, SOA # 1160-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Rheault, Robert "Bob", SOA #215-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Richter, Kenneth J., SOA # 1406-GA (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Roberts, John, SOA # 1227-GL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Scholes, Edison E., SOA # 1350-GL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Sherman, Stephen G., SOA # 759-AL	\$ 500.00
Shippen, Robert. SOA # 540-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00
Sholtis, Donald M., SOA # 1174-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Siugzda, Herb, SOA # 030-GL	\$ 500.00



Snyder, Kenneth O., SOA # 816-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Squires, Ben., SOA # 356-GL	\$1,010.00
Stern, Mike, SOA # 324-GL	\$ 850.00
Stewart, Jimmie L., SOA # 1446-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Stockdale, Bryan, SOA # 234-GL	\$ 300.00
Sutherland, Ian, SOA # 216-GL	\$1,000.00
Trimble/Lamotte, Larry/Jim, SOA # 163-GL/552-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Van Lerberghe, Ross, SOA # 1394-HL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Van Winkle, H. E. "Rip", SOA # 697-GL(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Walker, Jimmy, SOA # 846-AL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Warkocki, Ken, SOA # 1231-AA (IMO "Frenchy" Amundson)	\$ 100.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL	\$28,060.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL (IMO P. Tracy/A.Fontez)	\$1,000.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL (IMO Walt Shumate)	\$1,000.00
Whittington, E. Ray, SOA # 049-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00

\* Deceased Member.

(SOM): Special Operations Memorial Foundation, MacDill AFB, Florida

FYI, The SOA is a Tax Exempt Organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19).  
The SOA EIN Number is: EIN 74-2619854.



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

To: The President, SOA, and Members

4 Dec 1998

This is an unaudited financial status report of the SOA. It is a statement of all known assets, liabilities and equities (on a cash basis) as of 4 Dec 19987 (all numbers rounded to the nearest one hundred dollars).

### ASSETS:

#### CASH/CERTIFICATE (CD)

Operating Account cash	\$ 7,000
Scholarship Account cash	32,000
Life Member Account cash	7,000
Convention Account cash	4,800
Memorabilia Account cash	7,900
Memorabilia Acct Inventory (cost)	7,600
Certificate of Deposit	100,000

#### TOTAL ASSETS:

\$166,300

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Scholarships Payable (thru June '02)	47,000	
Total current liabilities		\$47,000

#### EQUITY:

Uncommitted SOA resources	119,300	
Total Equity		119,300

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$166,300

Note: The CD is for 2 years at 5.25% with monthly interest deposited directly into the Scholarship Account. This CD now matures 14 November 2000.

*Ralf M. Miller*

RALF M. MILLER

Treasurer, SOA

7035 Hidden Hills, North  
San Antonio, TX 78244-1516



## SOA ODDS AND ENDS

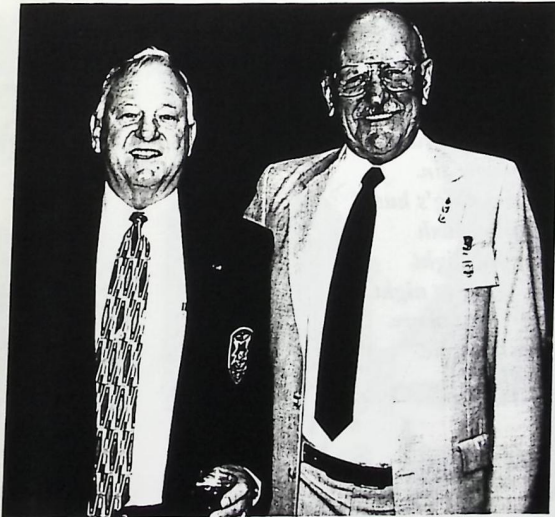
**In Memory of: TAPS:** Again, it is with regret that the SOA Board reports to the membership that six (6) more SOA members have passed away since the last reported losses were reflected in the SOAR XXII PRP. **Jesse Ramos, SOA # 1271-GA** passed away on 22 August 1998. Jesse was both a Korean and Vietnam-era career officer. He served over ten (10) years in Special Forces, primarily in SEA as a Special Advisor to the Royal Laotian Forces and also as a Special Advisor/Instructor in South America while a member of the 8th Special Forces Group. He was an avid skydiving parachutist. He is survived by his wife Eleanor Jean and daughters Marti and Gloria. They reside in Southern California. Jesse's passing was reported by Ben Roberts who knew and served with Jesse for the last 30 years. Bill Shelton reported that **Al Friend, SOA # 158-GA**, 69 years of age passed away on 2 September 1998 in a Las Vegas hospital. Al was born 26 November 1928 in Missoula, Montana. An Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam War. Additionally, he was a retired Intelligence Officer for the Federal Government. Al served many years in Airborne and Special Forces units while on active duty. He is survived by his wife Vilai of Las Vegas, sons, Steve of Seattle, Washington, Jack and Lewis, both of Arlington, Virginia and a daughter Kathy, of Macon, Georgia. Al was interred in the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. **Richard F. Sommers, SOA # 395-GA** 68 years of age passed away on 28 September 1998 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. Dick was born 22 May 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio. He retired from the United States Army as a Master Sergeant and served extensively in Special Operations units. At the time of his death Dick worked as a Security Detective for MGM, Bally's and Hilton Hotels/Casinos. He is survived by his wife, Alewayne "Ellie" of Reno and his daughter June Marie of Corpus Christi, Texas. **Francis C. Brown, SOA # 261-GA**, 50 years of age died on 13 October 1998 of a brain tumor at his home in Hamilton Township, New Jersey. Francis retired from the United States Navy as a Commander having served a number of years as an enlisted man before being commissioned. He served five (5) tours in SEA. His wife Hsiu, died in 1991. Francis is survived by a daughter, Victoria Marie of Lambertville, New Jersey. **MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT - ROY BENAVIDEZ, SOA # 965-GL** passed away, Sunday, 29 November 1998 at Fort Sam Houston's Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, after a long bout with diabetes and anemia. Roy, 63 years of age was the 17th U.S. Army Special Forces member to receive the MOH for extraordinary heroism in combat in SEA. On 2 May 1968, three (3) months into his second tour in Vietnam, Roy defied the enemy and odds. A North Vietnamese unit surrounded a number of Roy's recon comrades. He jumped onto one (1) of the three (3) helicopters that were attempting to extract the reconnaissance team. After landing, Roy repositioned the recon team members in order that they could provide some cover for the helicopters attempting to extract - first the wounded, then the remaining members of the team. He himself, al-though wounded several times carried half of the wounded recon team members to one of the helicopters. He then guided wounded troops from a downed aircraft and established a defense line until all personnel were safely extracted. He was the last to board the extracting flight. He had suffered more than three dozen injuries from rifle and machine gun fire, grenades and hand-to-hand fighting. Roy waited thirteen years



L - R: David "the author" Morrell, Sully deFontaine and Don "Zorro" Jutz.



Bill and "Oot" Shelton, a lovely couple, and Tom Henry behind them a



The "Prez" and "Zorro".



L - R: Gordon Liddy, Tom Henry and in the background, Don Cobb. I think Tom is happy about something - food maybe?



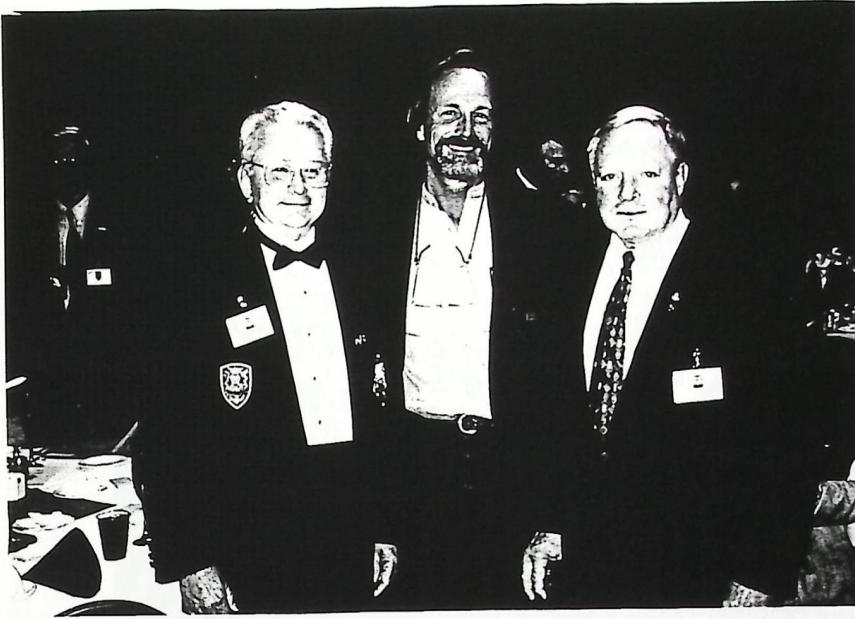
for President Reagan to present him with his well-earned MOH. Roy is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters. On learning of Roy's passing, Bucky Burruss probably stated it best when he referred to a very old, but appropriate prose by an unknown author, **"Poor is the country that has no heroes, but beggared is that people who, having them, forgets". Well stated Bucky. Thank you.** Also, James "Jimmy" Byrne, SOA # 563-AL, 61 years of age died of a heart attack on the afternoon of 6 December 1998 at his home in Plainview, New York. In addition to being a member of the SOA, Jimmy was a SFA member at-large and past president of the Long Island Chapter of the 82d Airborne Division Association. He is survived by his wife, Eileen. Also, it is with deep regret that we report the untimely death of **Jarred Saal**, age 18. Jarred, son of Colleen and the late Harve Saal died on the 17th of October 1998. Jarred had recently committed to enlisting in the U.S. Army to follow in his fathers footsteps. Colleen Saal has truly had a rough year. She lost her SOG husband, SOA member, Harve Saal, her father who also was the father of her famous SOG brother, Jerry Shriver and now her son - all within the past year. Jarred will be interred in Yelm, Washington. **Mary Watson**, age 49, the beloved spouse of SOA Member William D. Watson, SOA # 1518-GA was accidently killed when she fell from her hospital bed following successful kidney replacement surgery on 5 December 1998. No other details are available at this time. In addition to Bill, Mary is survived by her son Michael currently living in the Dallas area. The SOA wishes to express its sympathy to all of their families.

*"May the living serve faithfully and the dead rest peacefully"*

### Eulogy For A Veteran

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you waken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there, I did not die.*

*Author Unknown.....*



L - R: "Bernie" Bright, Pete Landon, Joe Lutz  
and in the background, Hank Gole and John McClaskey.



Mr. and Mrs. Norm Doney, a gracious couple hopefully  
enjoying the banquet.

-35-



Now here is a typical "gun moll", Tanya Ginder.

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



## SICK CALL:

Six (6) SOA Members - One a Medal of Honor Recipient, are ill. I'm sure that anytime any member is ill, they would appreciate hearing from all of their comrades. Send them a "get-well" card, an e-mail message or a phone call. Do something.... Jon R. Cavaiani, SOA # 1000-GL, [soajcav@webtv.net](mailto:soajcav@webtv.net). John has been under the weather now for the past couple of months. He tires easily and has had to enter the hospital for checkups. Jon attempted to come to SOAR XXII, but, his illness forced him to return to his home in California. We look forward to a speedy recovery. Jon - Ralf will require your assistance at SOAR XXIII. Get well soon. We missed you this year. Additionally, the SOA Board has ascertained that Roger Pierson, SOA # 644-GL is in a coma in the intensive care ward of the Natividad Medical Center, Salinas, California. Prognosis is not good. "Get Well Wishes" can be FAX'd to (831) 755-5581. Peter Young, SOA # 488-GL, (831) 633-3692 [pmberet@redshift.com](mailto:pmberet@redshift.com) can be contacted for additional information on Roger. Also, "Rocky" Nesom, SOA # 204-GA, can be contacted via e-mail: [Babs375@aol.com](mailto:Babs375@aol.com), "Rocky", one of the original members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (1952), recently suffered a stroke and has been admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, Washington. Another, James D. Collier, SOA # 1311-GL, [SFVET@aol.com](mailto:SFVET@aol.com). Jim has been suffering from a long bout with cancer. In fact, he realizes fully, that his chances are slim as far as any recovery is concerned. All we can do is pray for him and with him during his illness battle. Jim can be contacted at: 299 SW 201<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon 97006. His phone number is: (503) 629-0218. Also, R. D. Patrick Mahoney, SOA # 499-GL, a favorite character at SOAR's has recently returned home to recuperate from a bout with cancer. He is currently undergoing daily treatments. His future prognosis is unknown, however it is serious. He can be contacted at: 10504 Manor View Place, Manassas, Virginia 22110-6617. His phone number is: (703) 335-8720. Finally, Louis Austria, SOA # 1424-GA. Lou doesn't know, nor has he been able to ascertain exactly what is wrong. Doctors are baffled. All he knows is that he continues to rapidly lose weight. He can be contacted at: 260 Pakauwili Drive, Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786-1612, (808) 621-3681. We wish them all a speedy recovery, God willing.

**LOST SOULS:** The following SOA Life Members have been declared "Lost Souls". If you are aware of their current residence, phone number and/or e-mail addresses, you are requested to provide this information to either Bill Shelton or Clyde Sincere. These members have paid for a Life Membership in the SOA and are due all of the various items of correspondence the SOA provides to any member in good standing. They are:

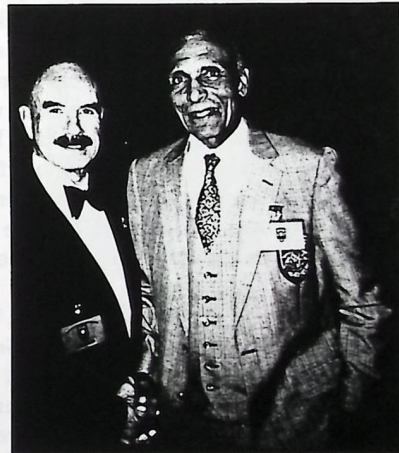
Alford, Joseph	SOA # 282-GL	Armendariz, Jorge	SOA # 348-GL
Anderson, Joseph	SOA # 487-GL	Arnone, Vincent	SOA # 309-GL
Bales, Arnold	SOA # 353-GL	Benka, James	SOA # 1045-GL
Carlin, Thomas	SOA # 606-GL	Carrelli, George	SOA # 400-GL
Coates, Robert	SOA # 1156-GL	Craig, James	SOA # 346-GL
Dahl, Glenn	SOA # 953-GL	Davis, Dennis	SOA # 451-GL
Gratton, William	SOA # 892-GL	Hancock, Ben	SOA # 1136-GL



I'm not exactly sure who is the happiest in this picture. L - R: Libby Barnes, Don "DC" Caldwell and Mary Ann Harrison. I'm willing to guess, heh, "DC".



Who is trying to con who???? L - R: John "SOG" Plaster and Robert "Bob" Masterjoseph..



Two quiet people! Gordon Liddy and "Laf" Keaton.



Hanlon, James	SOA # 427-GL	Henry, Kenneth	SOA # 778-GL
Jackson, David	SOA # 699-GL	Johanson, Jarl	SOA # 202-GL
Koessick, Michael	SOA # 508-GL	Mallet, Ernest	SOA # 362-GL
Mead, John	SOA # 471-GL	Peterson, Roy	SOA # 535-GL
Rodriquez, Rick	SOA # 016-GL	Rosenquist, R.G.	SOA # 930-GL
Ryder, Davied	SOA # 119-GL	Siglow, Jesse	SOA # 038-GL
Silk, John	SOA # 070-GL	Simpson, Walt	SOA # 654-GL
Standfier, David	SOA # 337-GL	Wilson, Thomas	SOA # 595-GL

#### WILLS/LIVING WILLS/BEQUESTS:

a. Many of you are aware that "Frenchy" Amundson, prior to her death had a will prepared that dictated that certain funds from her estate be bequeathed to her daughter, the SOA, SFA and other charitable entities.

b. In checking with other associations/organizations, it was ascertained that they too have thought it prudent to advise their membership to consider early, their desires as it relates to the preparation of "wills/living wills/bequests". Many individuals lacking survivors, or in addition to survivors and charitable organizations have concluded that they desire that monies from their estate be left to a fraternal association, such as ours. As always, you are advised to check with appropriate legal counsel before considering any changes in your estate.

c. The SOA would appreciate any consideration of this capability by its membership. One request. It is requested that if any member desires to bequeath any monies or property to the SOA, that they do not stipulate how the funds are to be used. "Frenchy" stipulated that her monies be bequeathed to the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. This is great and if this is what you wish to do - by all means do so, and the SOA will respect your desires. The scholarship program can always use the monies. But, if you don't have any "druthers", then bequeath your gift in such a fashion that does not restrict the SOA in support of other worthwhile projects. All support for all projects is accomplished only by a positive vote of the membership. The SOA Board does not award any charitable funds to any worthwhile project without the approval of its voting membership.

d. As you are aware, the SOA is currently supporting two (2) extremely worthwhile charitable projects, the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Special Operations Memorial Building Fund at MacDill AFB, Florida. There are always new requirements and requests for support of funds. A good example of this is the recently approved Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) formed by Bob Donoghue and David Smith - The Cedar Point Foundation which was formed for the sole purpose of aiding the Bru Montagnards still residing in Vietnam who desperately require assistance. Presently, Bob has had to beg, borrow



Wes Kouns appears too happy to really appreciate "Smiling" Jack Abraham holding his favorite person - "Rica"... Oh well, just this once.



A threesome - L - R: Jerry Ginder, Jim Cole and Jim "Mule" Parker. Dressed to kill - almost missed Jim in his "cammy-tiger" tux.



Now here is a happy bunch. L - R: Tanya Ginder, Carolyn McClaskey and Tasmania Samuela all being hugged together by John McClaskey. Budweiser anyone?



and steal" on his own to fund the "Cedar Point Foundation" over these many years that he has worked on this self-imposed mission. Many SOA members have over the years already contributed funds in support of this project. Another worthwhile project is the General Coactive Montagnard Association (GCMA) that Tommy Daniels and others have continually striven to insure a better way of life in concert with their cultural background is available to all Montagnard families living here in the United States. Their mission: Resettlement assistance for refugees of a Special Operations' affinity and working to "Save the Montagnard culture in Vietnam". In time there may be others. However, for the SOA to undertake a new charitable task will take new resources of revenue to adequately support new projects. Your SOA Board does not wish to, nor will it, recommend to the members a "project" just for the sake of doing something new and then determine that it cannot adequately fund the new project.

### **CONVENTION TIME:**

#### **Special Forces Association Convention 1999 - Carlisle, Pennsylvania:**

The annual Special Forces Association Convention, (SFA Convention '99) will be conducted during the period **15 - 19 June 1999** in Carlisle, Pennsylvania hosted by SFA Chapter LXIV - SFC Randall Shughart Memorial Chapter.

**1 - Location: Carlisle, Pennsylvania**

**2 - Convention Fees:** a. Prior to 1 May 1999: \$80.00.  
b. After 1 May 1999: \$90.00.

**3 - Hotel: "Embers" Inn and Convention Center**  
1700 Harrisburg Pike  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013  
(717) 243-1717  
(800) 692-7315  
(717) 243-6648 (FAX)

**4 - Information:** a. Contact: Chapter LXIV: (717) 234-7364  
b. <SFA64@aol.com> (E-Mail)  
c. Home Page:  
<http://members.aol.com/sfa64.html>

**5 - Mail Check or Money Order Payable to:**  
SFA Convention 1999  
P.O. Box 427  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-0427



Extremely happy couple: Mr. Charles Berg and his lovely wife Susan.



Check those smiles. L - R: Karen Smith Pamela Bennett and Mary Ann Harrison.



Billy D. (Mustang) Waugh and John Fryer's sister, Elaine - the smart one in the Fryer Family.



## SOAR PHOTOS:

a. Each SOAR, members taking photographs are requested to provide the Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee with a copy of the photos in order that the SOA Board may share your photographs with, certainly the attending members and their guests, but, more so for the benefit of those members that for one reason or another were unable to attend. There is one (1) request that is imperative: **Please identify all individuals in the various photos.**

b. This year, the SOA Board wishes to compliment and thank the following individuals for providing a number of photographs that have been incorporated into the SOAR XXII AAR. Ben Baker, Bob Jack, Don Jutz, Jerry Ginder, Merlyn Eckles, Laf Keaton, Mary Ann Harrison and Ralph Edens. If I missed anyone, I apologize. Thank you one and all. Super pictures.

**SOA AUTHORS:** The following SOA members, authors in their own right, have new publications coming out in the very near future: As additional details relative to publication dates are ascertained, the information will be placed on the SOA Web Page:

<<http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>>

a. **Mike Haas, SOA # 1218-GA: "In the Devil's Shadow": United Nations Special Operations During The Korean War.** Mike Haas, P.O. Box 6892, Incline Village, Nevada 89450-6892, (702) 833-1508, <DasHaas@aol.com>. Mike has stated that he anticipates publication will be sometime in early 1999.

b. **John Plaster, SOA # 726-GL: "SOG": A Pictorial History.** John Plaster, P.O. Box 100, Iron River, Wisconsin 54847-0100, (715) 372-5514, <sfsniper@win.bright.net>. John has stated that publication of his book will take place approximately early May 1999.

c. **James McLeroy, SOA # 1158-GA: "BAIT": The Battle of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp.** James McLeroy, 10472 East Fanfol Lane, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258, (602) 391-0004. Jim does not at this time have an e-mail capability. He has stated that he anticipates the book will be published early in 1999.

**NOTE:** Any other SOA members that are also authors are requested to provide information or a brochure on their publications for the edification of the entire membership. Pass your info to any Board member and we will be pleased to assist you in the future sales of your publication..



WATCH IT!! Project "Sigma" has come to SOAR XXII. L - R: Meryl Eckles, Jim Harrison, Leonard Moreau, Ed Gammons (FAC), Nick Godano and Robert Barrett.



"America Remembers" Exhibiting the SOA .45 Caliber Tribute Pistol. L - R: Paul Warden, Ken Gaudet, Jeff Belcher and Bob Johnston.



### KHE SANH/LANG VEI REVISITED:

a. Bob Donoghue and David "Bulldog" Smith finally succeeded in returning to Vietnam. They departed 4 November 1998 following approval by the Vietnamese Governmental Agency PACCOM, (People's Aid Coordinating Committee) in Quang Tri Province of their Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) "Cedar Point Foundation".

b. Since December of 1997 various individuals within the American Embassy in Hanoi have been involved in lending support to the application of Bob to register the "Cedar Point Foundation" in Vietnam. Ambassador "Pete" Peterson and SOA Member, Mike Eiland should both be complimented for their efforts on behalf of Bob and David in this matter. However, the success of this total venture is due to the untiring efforts of Bob in convincing Ambassador Le Van Bang and his Staff at the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, plus numerous correspondence with PACCOM of the urgency and sincere desires of the "Cedar Point Foundation" to provide humanitarian aid to the Bru in the northwest Quang Tri Province, specifically in and around the Huong Hoa district.

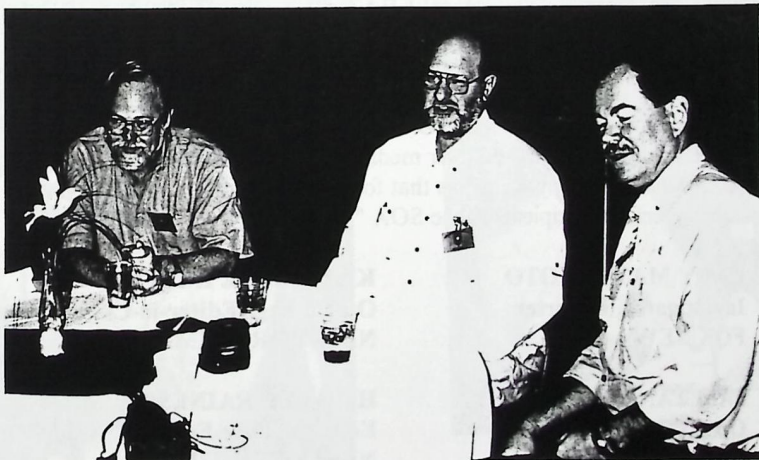
c. This is Bob's seventh and "Bulldog's" fourth trip to Vietnam for the specific purpose of providing humanitarian aid to the BRU tribes peoples in and around Lang Vei/Khe Sanh. They returned to CONUS on 1 December 1998. It is envisioned that they will make one (1) additional trip back to Vietnam prior to SOAR XXIII.

d. Bob and "Bulldog" will be prepared to tell their latest "story" to all that are interested at SOAR XXIII. Time will be reserved on Friday afternoon, 01 October 1999 for their briefing. In addition, they will have photos, maps and copies of their latest AAR available for your perusal in the Hospitality Suite. Any financial assistance you can provide Bob and David as they ready themselves for trip # 8 will be appreciated. As you read Bob's various AAR's, you can see how he accounts for each and every item he purchases for the Bru. Bob and David both deserve a major "**Tip of the Beret**" for their efforts over the past seven (7) years assisting the Bru. Thank you Bob and "Bulldog" for your super efforts on behalf of the "little people" that supported all of us so well during the Vietnamese conflict.

**SOAR XXII Sergeants-at-Arms:** FYI, each year it is a honor and priviledge for the SOA President to select two (2) members of the SOA to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual General Membership Meeting, the Banquet and for the duration of the reunion, act in the capacity of a Sergeant-at-Arms. The Board has long established that this small, but important gesture provide an opportunity for the Board and the membership to recognize two (2) of its members, chosen annually, for their **un-recognized volunteer efforts** during past reunions on behalf of the Association. Again, the SOA is fortunate to have many individuals that annually attend every reunion and contribute to the overall success of each Reunion that it is too difficult to thank each one with a honor, such as a SOAR Sergeants-at-Arms. Be assured, the Board and in



Where did those genes come from? That's Bill Garcia's little boy Greg with Bill and Gordon Liddy.



This picture is reflective of a very serious trio in thought.  
L - R: Ted Nilssen, Dick "Doc" Conte and Jim Hawke.



particular, Jack Abraham, Chairman of the SOA Reunion Committee and his regular reunion team thank all of the volunteers required to insure a successful reunion. Final selection of the two (2) SOAR XXIII Sergeants-at-Arms will be determined upon the close of Advance Registration on 15 September 1999 by your new President, SOA, Ralf M. Miller.

**SOA WEB SITE:** The Special Operations Association has a Web Site. Yes you can visit the web site at: <http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>. **Bob Golden, SOA # 1282-GL** at: [BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net](mailto:BobGolden@GreenBeret.Net) in concert with **Bill Shelton, SOA # 890-GL**, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee at: [wshelton@email.msn.com](mailto:wshelton@email.msn.com) have developed a web site for the benefit of the SOA Membership. Bob certainly deserves a "Tip of the Beret" for his outstanding efforts in bringing the web site on line for the entire membership. Bob is appealing for assistance from the membership in the form of an Assistant Web Master. One (1) individual cannot operate a site by himself. If you are at all interested in providing assistance, please contact Bob Golden soonest and directly. Thank you. Would you believe as of Christmas Day, 1998, 17,462 folks have visited the SOA Web Site since the commencement of its operation on Memorial Day, 31 May 1998?

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS:** **Eric V. Bleicken, SOA # 532-G** On 3 November 1998, Eric unfortunately, was not successful in his quest for a seat in the Congress of the United States as the Republican Representative for Massachusetts' 10th District. We wish him success if he elects to attempt to unseat the current occupant in the next general elections that take place in the year 2000.

**RECOGNITION FOR U.S. MEDIA PERSONALITIES THAT SEARCHED FOR TRUTH IN THE MIDST OF THE OPERATION "TAILWIND" STORY.....**

a. In the critical week immediately following the CNN broadcast, FOX NEWS and the NEW YORK TIMES listened to our evidence, then disseminated the information that started the snowball rolling. The SOA membership should have no doubt that their willingness to open their minds and their media sources to our messages, at this formative time, was instrumental to any successes that followed. Therefore, the following individuals are declared recipients of the SOA "Seeker of Truth" award:

**GARY MATSUMOTO**  
Investigative Reporter  
FOX NEWS

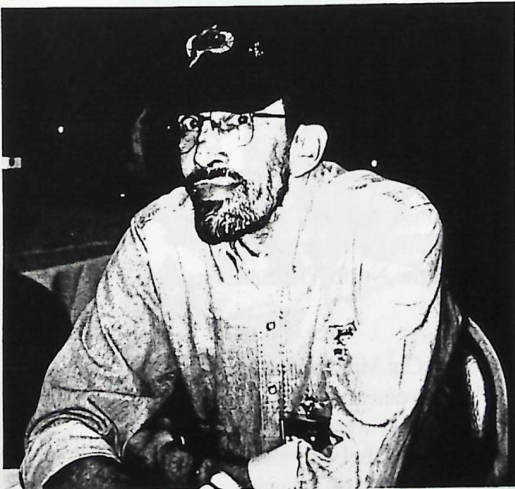
**KATHERINE ROBERTS**  
Op/Ed Page Editor-in-Chief  
NEW YORK TIMES

**SAM TANENHAUS**  
Op/Ed Page Editor  
NEW YORK TIMES

**HOWELL RAINES**  
Editorial Page Editor  
NEW YORK TIMES



Fred Platt is obviously attempting to coerce some particular point of view from Colleen Saal.



Bob Golden - SOA Web Master, had a request. "Please take my picture after I present my Web-Site pitch". O.K. Bob. You are doing a super job.



Talk about seriousness. What are "Buck" Buchanan and Jim Slatton thinking about?

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**NOTE:** At the request of the President, SOA, SOA Member Charlie Pfeifer presented SOA Plaques to the aforementioned individuals on behalf of the SOA. The membership should be aware that SOA Member John Plaster was responsible for personally procuring the SOA Plaques.

b. More recently, another reporter from the **New York Post**, **Jonathan Foreman** wrote a super editorial article that was published on 11 October 1998 entitled: "Heroes Smeared By CNN". I believe it is an article that should be read by every member because his focus is pointedly on the members of the SOA in attendance at SOAR XXII. I am also declaring Mr. Foreman a recipient of the SOA "Seeker of the Truth" award. I have already secured a SOA Plaque, dispatched it to Charlie Pfeifer along with my letter similar to those that were previously presented and requested he again do the honors for the SOA.

### **HEROES, SMEARED BY CNN**

How would you feel, if, on international television, you suddenly were labeled a war criminal - and a murderer, in fact, of your own countrymen? And you happened not only to be completely innocent, but also one of the genuine heroes of a war that spared you - but took the lives of most of your friends?

This was not a hypothetical question for many of the Vietnam-era Green Beret types who came together in Las Vegas earlier this month for the 22nd annual reunion of the Special Operations Association.

Many were members of the elite force known as MACV-SOG, a unit legendary for its daring and professionalism. Between 1966 and 1972, SOG soldiers took part in secret missions into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam, leading detachments of Montagnard tribesmen against the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

Their job was to sabotage the Ho Chi Minh trail, to obtain intelligence about NVA movements and to rescue downed American pilots. They were extraordinarily successful in these missions, but they also took extraordinary damage: In some years, the unit's casualty rate exceeded 100 percent.



Marjorie? What did you say that made Don Junevics so happy?



Obviously only Jan Kuhl and Pete McGiffert were interested in the camera man. Cliff Kuhl was watching someone else.



But it was this outfit, claimed CNN's Peter Arnett, that had used nerve gas on a mission called Operation Tailwind - allegedly on a murder-hunt for American defectors who were supposedly living in Laos.

It is true that there was a mission codenamed Tailwind in 1970; it was a highly successful attack on NVA encampments in Laos. But everything else in the CNN story was false. Everything.

When CNN and Time Magazine came out with their lies about murder and nerve gas, the survivors of SOG had mostly been leading quiet, solid, ordinary lives for the nearly three decades since the Vietnam War. Every so

often they would come together to contribute to their association's scholarship fund or to support efforts to help America's forgotten Montagnard allies.

Suddenly they found themselves accused of despicable crimes.

What appalled the veterans in particular was the knowledge that any good-faith effort by CNN to examine the allegations would have made it clear that the story simply could not be true.

And not because U.S. forces are incapable of crimes or atrocities, but because the accusations simply make no sense (for one thing, nerve gas would have put the lives of all the SOG soldiers and aircrew in mortal danger). And because there was absolutely no evidence to support the allegations.

Thanks to CNN's carelessness - maliciousness - SOG and its secret war (declassified in the 1980's) are no longer obscure historical footnotes. But instead of the recognition that they deserve - but have never asked for - the men of SOG are now and forever associated with an unconscionable lie - one that CNN's semi-apology will not erase.



Greg Rodriguez was discussing "Grecian formula" with his wife Cindy. Don Devere in the background found it interesting too.



Attention: L - R: "Lark" Frescura, Pat Lansing and Sharon VanWinkle.



Imagine how galling that is to men for whom honesty, trust and honor are paramount values - values that, because of the very nature of special-operations warfare, often meant the difference between life and death.

At the Las Vegas reunion, the veterans - some in wheel-chairs - recounted fallout from the libel. One of the unit's most renowned soldiers told how his daughter had been told by her school teacher that her father was an assassin.

Simply as a matter of decency, CNN must make amends - and without making it look like it has bowed to pressure from some sinister, black-helicopter flying, UFO-suppressing government mega-conspiracy.

But even in the unlikely event that CNN were to do the decent thing - fire Peter Arnett, financially compensate the surviving members of SOG, and publish a true history of the unit and its mission - the defamatory stain will remain.

Sad to say, the Tailwind nerve-gas myth likely will join the Kennedy assassination, Area 51, and the CIA-crack confederation in the fevered mental world of conspiracy theorists.

Surely, some of America's bravest warriors deserve better than that.

/s/ Jonathan Foreman  
NEW YORK POST (Oct. '98)

**1999 SOA DUES:** If you are a "GA" or "AA" SOA member reflecting "General Annual" or "Associate Annual" and you have not as yet provided the SOA Treasurer with your \$25 annual dues for 1999, you are respectfully requested to "Get with it" and dispatch your check or money order made payable to the SOA to John R. McClaskey, SOA Treasurer, 7259 Riverside Drive, Algonac, Michigan 48001-4249. If you wish to become an "GL" or "AL" member, reflecting "Life" status - dispatch \$250 for Life Membership now and don't worry about "Dues Reminder Cards" in the future.....

**20-YEAR SOA PINS:** Attention: SOA Members that attended SOAR IV or joined the SOA in 1980 for the first time. You are eligible to be presented your 20-year pin at SOAR XXIII. If your SOA number falls anywhere between SOA # 101-GL - Irzyk, Andrew and SOA # 225-GA - Happersett, Newlin, you are eligible. Also, SOA members that attended SOAR I, II and III that have not as yet received their 20-year pins are encouraged to attend SOAR XXIII and receive theirs too.

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Wine anyone? Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gaudet.



Happiness is in the eyes of the beholder. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Johnston.



## SOAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Approximately five (5) minutes prior to the distribution of Door Prizes and the awarding of selected Raffle Prizes following the SOAR XXII General Membership Meeting, a SOA member came up to me and was upset that the "official" meeting was at an end. He stated he had an Agenda item that he felt was extremely important and he wished to propose it to the members in attendance for their consideration. After listening to him, I understood his frustrations and agreed he had a point to offer. However, time had become a true constraint. I will work with him to insure his idea is ready to pursue at SOAR XXIII. What I am attempting to convey to the remainder of the membership is that the SOA Board programs two (2) hours, 1000-1200 hours on Saturday morning to conduct its General Membership Meeting. However, consistently over the years, it has taken approximately 30 additional minutes. A portion of that time is caused by last minute agenda items proffered from the floor. The reason I bring this time constraint up is that immediately following the General Membership Meeting the Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee has coordinated in advance with the Hotel Management Staff for the Luncheon to be served from 1230 - 1330 hours. It is the Board's desire that you the members have the opportunity to meet with your guests, move to the luncheon facility and have sufficient time to enjoy the meal. Immediately following the luncheon the SOA commences its individual "guest speaker" sessions. You can see from looking at the agenda provided to you in the AAR that times on Friday and Saturday are full. It is the SOA Board's wish to include as many speakers and topics for your edification on Friday and Saturday as possible. Getting back to the General Membership Meeting. If there are no constraints on time allocated for a particular discussion of an agenda item, it can dictate other subjects will be "hurried" or not addressed at all. It is not the Board's desire to cut anyone off who is attempting to bring up a valid agenda subject for discussion, however, it is requested that if you have an agenda item you wish placed on the agenda, you provide that agenda item to the SOA Administrator a minimum of 30 days in advance of a particular SOAR. In addition, you are requested to provide a synopsis of the agenda item for the Board's edification. This will permit the Board to allocate sufficient time for your agenda item to be placed on the agenda and be heard without having to curtail another item.

**AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR:** William "Billy" Boggs SOA # 667-GL recently was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 3 May 1966. Yes, 32 year after that action, U.S. Representative John W. Oliver on Friday, 13 November 1998 pinned the Silver Star on Billy at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6538 in Townsend, Mass.. Oliver stated to Billy, "I'm sorry I couldn't do this a couple of days ago (on Veterans Day)". Billy's paperwork had been lost and about four (4) years ago a comrade of Billy's and one (1) of the individuals who attributes being here today to Billy's action that day, Lynn Thompson, SOA 1401-GA ascertained that Billy had never received the award that was initiated back in 1968. He and others then started a process to get the paperwork reinstated and the result came to fruition on 13 November 1998. Congratulations, Billy.



The Floridians. L - R: Peter Kreuziger, Wil Charette, Jim "Mule" Parker, (Jim is really from North Carolina) and Heinie Aderholt. You know, I think "Mule" was in the act of covering Heinie's face.



L - R: Dan Chapa, Jim Hawke and the "Tasmanian Devil". Watch him in a bar. Do you remember Albuquerque?



**LOST SOA FILES:** I am attempting to reconstruct the SOA permanent files. I have nothing from SOAR I, II, III, IV, V, VI, XII, XIII and XIV. I would appreciate everyone researching their lockers, files, boxes, etc. If you have any SOAR AAR's, PRP's, Announcements, etc. relating to those years, I would appreciate you sending the material to me. I will have it reproduced and returned to you. Thank you.

**SOAR XXII RANGE WEAPONS FIRING:** For the past four (4) SOARs, Range Weapons Firing has been added to the SOAR agenda and has always been a huge success and enjoyed by all who participated. This year was no exception. As a matter of fact, SOAR XXII's weapons firing turnout was the largest to date, with approximately 125 members and guests participating. Fun was enjoyed by all, especially the women, who seemed to really enjoy firing the many different weapons available at the range. A special thanks go to Mark Kinsler and Jim Ramsey for managing the firing to ensure that it was conducted safely and also for providing the weapons. FYI, they also donated the majority of the ammunition that was fired. Thanks to John Thomas for ensuring that all of the arrangements for the utilization of the firing range were made. Bill Gow was also extremely important in this process, for it was he who ensured sufficient transportation was available. Finally, thanks to all of you that "dug deep" into your pockets while at the range to assist in defraying some of the ammunition and transportation expenses. After reconciling transportation expenses, \$1,460 remained and at the request of Mark Kinsler, the entire amount was turned over to Larry Trimble at SOAR XXII as a donation to the Special Operations Memorial Fund. Thanks again Mark for making range weapons firing possible and also your super generosity. I can't forget to thank Troy D. Roseberry of Precision Made Cartridges (PMC). A "**Tip of the Beret**" is in order. Troy contributed 3,000 rounds of ammunition that was used during the course of the weapons firing. Not too shabby, heh.

**OPERATION "CRIMSON TIDE":**

a. I'm sure attendees at SOAR XXI remember Jay Veith. Jay presented an outstanding briefing to interested members and their guests on his then latest book, "Code Name Bright Light: The Untold Story of U.S. POW Rescue Efforts During the Vietnam War." Jay, a former Army officer is now working diligently on another book that deals with the Vietnam POW recovery efforts that were conducted during one particular operation - "Crimson Tide", which is reflected in his book "Bright Light" as just one part of the overall POW recovery story. Jay, please keep us apprised on the progress of this book.

b. Operation "Crimson Tide" was the very first major POW raid planned and attempted by MACVSOG's Joint Personnel Recovery Center (JPRC) in October 1966 under the leadership of Heinie Aderholt. Heinie's people in Saigon that planned the operation did everything possible to insure its success. However, needless to say, in combat, "Murphy's Law" is and was always present. "Crimson Tide" turned out to be a disaster with heavy losses as the raiding force consisting of four (4) platoons of Nungs landed smack in the middle of two (2) heavily armed VC Battalions.



Ed and Debbie Clough.



Rudy Cooper - that's him....



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Ted Nillsen convincing Jean Dyer that he served in Special Operations.

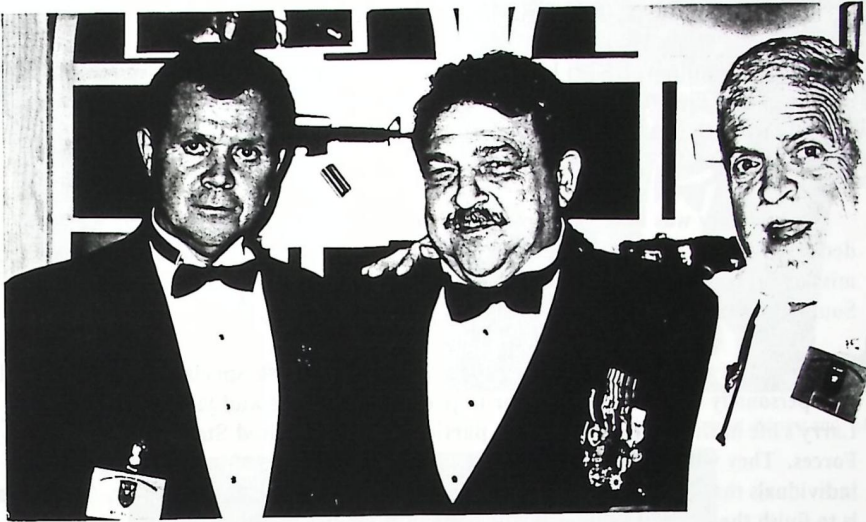


c. A few days prior to the actual commencement of this operation, Frank Jaks, the Operations Officer at Forward Operating Base 2 (FOB-2) located south of the city of Kontum in the Central Highlands had been ordered to prepare a company size force for a POW raid in the Delta. Assigned to this mission with Jaks were also a number of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel from FOB-2. They were Hartmut "Mecky" Schuler, Louis Austria, Francis C. Fitzgerald, Donald W. Brown, Hugh E. Earley, David H. Doughty, Robert F. Franks, Louis Smith, Jr., Fred Lewis and Charlie Vessels. During the conduct of the operation, Lewis and Vessels were KIA.

d. Jay Veith is requesting assistance from the SOA. He is attempting to locate the following individuals in order to interview them for his book. They are Donald W. Brown, Hugh E. Earley, David H. Doughty and Robert F. Franks. He has already contacted Frank Jaks, "Mecky" Schuler, Louis Smith, Jr. and Louis Austria. Francis C. Fitzgerald unfortunately passed away a few years ago in Iowa. He is also looking for any pictures anyone may have of Fred Lewis and Charlie Vessels. If you have information leading to any of the aforementioned individuals, Jay can be contacted at: (610) 859-0650. His FAX is: (610) 859-9476. His e-mail address is: [Jay.Veith@westgroup.com](mailto:Jay.Veith@westgroup.com).

**COLONEL AARON BANK, USA, RETIRED:** Colonel Bank, the "Father of U.S. Army Special Forces" recently celebrated his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday last November. On behalf of the SOA we wish him many, many more birthdays. Congratulations Colonel Bank. We of the SOA believe your longevity has a lot to do with your lovely wife Catherine taking such outstanding care of you all of these many years. We wish you both continued good health. God Bless.

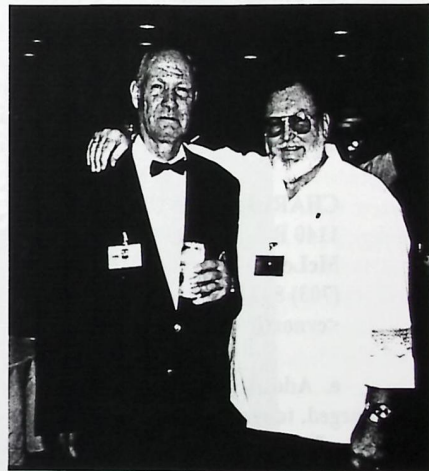
**JAN DEANNA O'ROURKE:** Jan O'Rourke, the widow of our late comrade **Bill O'Rourke, SOA # 379-GL** has requested that Jack Abraham and I, (Clyde Sincere) inform anyone interested in her e-mail address or web site be provided her electronic data in order to contact her. Jan stated, "Several of Bill's friends have taken the time to call and/or write me since his death and I do appreciate all of the kind thoughts from the members of the SOA. I have spoken to Jack Abraham several times and other members have called to see if I could make the reunion (SOAR XXII) last year. These thoughts from Bill's friends meant a lot to me. Maybe, money and time permitting, I will be able to attend the next reunion (SOAR XXIII). I just now feel like I am starting to get back my life and hope to be feeling stronger each month to come. Bye for now, your friend, Jan". The following POC is provided: Jan Deanna O'Rourke, 401 Dunn Drive, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952, (941) 764-7986 (H) (941) 764-9703 (FAX) and her e-mail address is: [amshield@peganet.com](mailto:amshield@peganet.com), her web page is: [www.crvstalairways.com/Jan.html](http://www.crvstalairways.com/Jan.html). Jan, we all are with you and are looking forward to seeing you at SOAR XXIII.



L - R: Mike Walsh for President, Bob Masterjoseph as his future Chief of Staff and Ralph Edens his Financial Advisor. Mike - Why so serious? Did they teach you that in the Navy Seals?



Dolly Whittington (next to Cliff Newman) entertaining her daughter and a friend from Munich, Germany at SOAR XXII. By the way, Cliff is the only SOA member to attend all 22 SOARs. Fantastic.



"Pappy" Reed and John Fryer. Can I say anything else?



**LAURI ALLAN "LASSIE" TORNI, aka LARRY A. THORNE:**

a. The authors, (Kari Kallonen and Petri Sarjanen) of the latest best selling set of books in Finland on the life of Larry Thorne are forming a research team in order to write the final chapter relating to the life and death of one of Finland's greatest heroes.

b. Larry was born in Viipuri (Vyborg) Finland on 28 May 1919. He was declared MIA in SEA on 18 October 1965 while conducting a Special Operations mission for MAC-V-SOG operating out of Kham Duc in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.

c. The authors are soliciting the assistance of those Special Forces personnel that personally knew Larry in order to provide a positive and lasting insight to Larry's life in the United States and particularly, the United States Army Special Forces. They will be travelling to the U.S. for the purpose of interviewing those individuals that knew Larry and wish to participate in this final chapter. Their goal is to finish the interviews in order to publish this final chapter and also produce a 30-60 minute documentary prior to 28 May 1999, commemorating the 80th birthday of Larry.

d. Charlie Norton and Clyde Sincere have agreed to assist the authors in locating individuals that personally knew Larry. People that can provide a "real" insight to Larry's life commencing with his enlistment in the U. S. Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey in February 1954 till his unfortunate and untimely death in October 1965. If you are one of those unique individuals that had the privilege and honor to know Larry, you are requested to contact either:

**CHARLES W. NORTON, JR.**  
1140 Basil Road  
McLean, Virginia 22101-1802  
(703) 893-7715  
<cvnorton@erols.com> (E-Mail)

**CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.**  
11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, Virginia 22124-2323  
(703) 620-0953  
<sincere@patriot.net> (E-Mail)

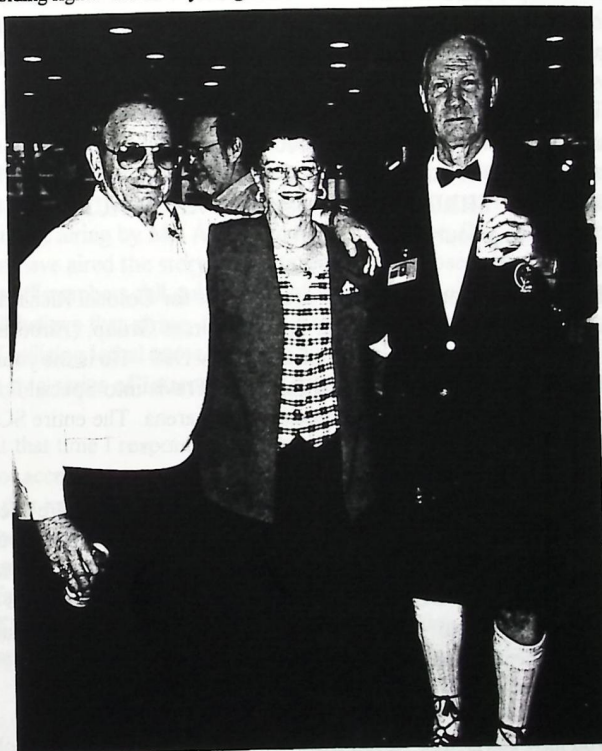
e. Additionally, whether or not you knew Larry personally, you are invited, NO, urged, to read a very interesting book written and produced here in CONUS on the life of Larry Thorne: "Soldier Under Three Flags", The Exploits of Special Forces Captain Larry A. Thorne, authored by H.A. Gill, III. This book was published by "Pathfinder Publishing", 458 Dorothy Avenue, Ventura, California 93003. Telephone (805) 642-9278. Cost: \$14.95, plus shipping: (\$3.25). Thank you.



John Mullins and Jay Graves. Jay about time you showed up. That is a bottle of wine you are holding right? Where is your glass?



Jerry, you look so serious. Jim what did you and "Mule" say to him?



Billy and "Pappy" leaning on Elaine Fryer, Big John's sister. "Pappy" one of your stockings are slipping.



### CODE NAMES, CALL SIGNS:

a. Recently I was contacted by a former "Spad" pilot who is a relatively new member of the SOA. He was querying me as to who was "so and so" and could I contact him. All he knew was the code name of the "10" with whom he had dealt with on the ground and then subsequently as a "covey rider". He never was able to determine what his true name was and stated that he would like to meet him if at all possible and reminisce about some of those past times. I apologized and informed him that I was unable to identify the individual - so many years had past. He further stated that when he attends SOAR XXIII he will be looking forward to speaking "face to face" with some of the men he was proud and honored to support and serve with during those trying times..

b. As a result of his query, I am willing to compile a list of Code Names and Call Signs for the edification of the entire membership. If you wish to participate in this list, please contact me. I recognize some members had more than one (1) Code Name or Call Sign during their multiple tours in SEA. I have discussed this idea with Billy Waugh and he subscribes to it. In fact, he mentioned he too would like to know some of the "real names" of people he dealt with in the skies over Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam that he only knew by a call sign. I will take your data by e-mail, mail, or phone.

c. By the way, how many of you can recall or identify the following: "FANG", "BRUNO", "RABBIT", "DYNAMITE", "SAXAPHONE", "MUSTANG", "THUNDER-BOLT", "CHEROKEE", "SHRIMPBOAT", possibly even "BLACKJACK". Just curious, I look forward to receiving yours.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations are in order for Colonel Richard Mills. Colonel Mills assumed command of the 10th Special Forces Group, (Airborne), 1st Special Forces located at Fort Carson, Colorado as of 5 January 1999. He is the younger brother of Travis W. Mills, SOA # 044-GL. Richard followed Travis into Special Forces and has almost spent his entire Army career in the special forces arena. The entire SOA offers their congratulations to a fine young Special Forces officer.

**VIETNAM PROJECT AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY:** You are encouraged to review the Vietnam Project At Texas Tech University Brochure included in this SOAR XXII AAR packet. Mary Ann Harrison, continues the mission that her late husband, Marshall Harrison, SOA # 990-DL initiated as one of the founding members of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board. If you have any questions whatsoever, Mary Ann would be pleased to answer them. Contact her at: (806) 795-4530 or <prolabco@earthlink.net>.



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

11 November 1998  
Veteran's Day, 1998

Mr. Tom Johnson  
Chairman & CEO, CNN  
One CNN Center, Box 105366  
Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5366

Dear Mr. Johnson:

My name is Clyde J. Sincere, Jr. I am currently the President of the Special Operations Association. You called me a few months ago to offer your apology to the members of the Special Operations Association on behalf of yourself and CNN following the investigation by Mr. Abrams into the fabricated un-American and alleged story by Peter Arnett, April Oliver and others that led to the airing of NewsStand's Operation "Tailwind". The real unfortunate aspect of Mr. Abrams investigative report to you inferred, that while there just wasn't enough evidence to corroborate the allegations reflected in the airing by Mr. Arnett and Ms. Oliver, he, (Mr. Abrams) believed CNN should not have aired the story. His statement and those subsequent statements proffered by CNN staff members fell quite short of "clearing the air". Too many nations then and today, still believe that airing, (false as it was) produced by CNN, reflected U.S. military personnel utilizing lethal nerve gases in a combat action. An act by the way that had been forbidden by a series of International Treaties of which the United States was a signatory.

At that time I responded to you that while I could personally accept your apology, I could not accept your apology on behalf of the entire SOA membership until certain demands that had been decided on by both the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association during the conduct of the Special Forces Association convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico in late June had been satisfied. Subsequently, CNN did respond favorably to a few of our demands as a result of a number of discussions you and your staff had, initially with Rudi Gresham representing both the SFA and the SOA and then subsequently, John Plaster representing the SOA. I need not reiterate them again here.

However, one of the areas that I am deeply concerned with now appears to have definitely fallen on the back burner at CNN. That is the one particular demand that dealt with CNN providing "equal air time" to inform everyone, that first, Special Operations

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personnel did not at any time, ever, utilize any type of lethal nerve gases during the conduct of Operation "Tailwind". (I have to believe you and your people have diligently studied very thoroughly the Department of Defense's Investigation of this entire sequence of events. You then should also know and be convinced that this "lie" never happened). Secondly and most importantly, CNN must immediately negotiate and underwrite a one-hour documentary produced by a third party production company that would in turn permit CNN and all of its International News Service outlets to inform the entire world - including those that still tend to view the United States as an "evil nation", exactly who, what and why Special Operations personnel conducted covert operations behind enemy lines in Southeast Asia in support of U.S. policies. This one-hour documentary would not only reflect the true story of SOG, but, also exonerate the men of Operation "Tailwind", who suffered greatly - not only as a result of the allegations brought on by the airing of your program, but, by enemy action during that operation. All U.S. Army Special Forces personnel involved in that operation were wounded, not only once, but some, twice or more while fighting for survival against superior NVA odds. Do they deserve this second wounding? By accomplishing this task CNN would go a long way toward healing the wounds they inflicted on the many veterans of this nation that received little recognition, if any, for their untold acts of heroism on behalf of this great country of ours.

I understand that CNN has "settled" with a few of the individuals that participated in Operation "Tailwind". I also am aware that a few other legal suits are still pending litigation. The official position of the Special Operations Association is that regardless of whatever legal settlements have already been arrived at, or are still pending with other individuals specifically involved in this matter - CNN still has a moral obligation to this nation and its fighting men to correct the terrible injustice that was brought upon them as a result of CNN's airing of this false story. The only solution I see that will really assist in attempting to correct that soured image is the production of a one-hour true documentary reflecting the heroism of the men of SOG. I challenge you to direct that this be accomplished in a most positive and expeditious manner as possible, for the United States Armed Forces, America and lastly, CNN.

I wish to close by restating a poem by an unknown author I read at the Special Forces Association Annual Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico: It is called "Soldier's Freedom".

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who gave us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.  
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to  
demonstrate.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.  
It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose  
coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.



Quite appropriate in this instance too, don't you agree? I await your response.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA

11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, Virginia 22124-2323  
(703) 620-0953  
<sincere@patriot.net> (E-Mail)



One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366

**TOM JOHNSON**  
Chairman, President & CEO  
(404) 827-1311  
Fax: (404) 827-4215

November 19, 1998

Mr. Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
President  
Special Operations Association  
5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

Dear Mr. Sincere:

Thank you for your November 11 letter. I appreciate your views and will consider them seriously.

As you may know, CNN Productions is discussing a documentary about SOG with John Plaster. The decision whether to proceed must be made according to the same criteria applied to other proposed CNN documentaries, and any resulting documentary would have to satisfy CNN's core standards of accuracy, fairness and balance.

The poem you quoted makes a point which I have always believed: that the freedom we enjoy in this country cannot be taken for granted, and that we all must be vigilant to fight for and guard the cherished values embodied by the Constitution.

Sincerely,



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **FACT SHEET**

The SOA is a 1500+ member fraternal organization of American and Foreign participants of special military operations in combat theaters, primarily during the Southeast Asian conflict. The group includes World War II and Korean Veterans as well as those from the more recent conflicts. Membership is limited to Free World forces who aided or personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider and Force Recon Marine personnel and veterans of other elite military and civilian organizations who were a 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; and,
- 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; and,
- d. To perpetuate the memory of Colonel George C. Morton, the first Commander of U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$248,500 has been awarded thus far to 81 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veterans organization operating on tax deductible donations. Annual membership dues are \$25 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$250 U.S. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Spring Newsletter, the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and the Special Operations Reunion After-Action Report (SOAR AAR).

The SOA will hold its twenty-third annual reunion (SOAR XXIII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 29 September - 03 October 1999. We anticipate in excess of 500 members and guests.



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

**FACTS:** The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship grants awarded by the SOA are used only for the "studies" leading towards a Bachelor's Degree. Each grant is for not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 per year. (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at a rate of \$500 semi-annually).

**BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND 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. Preference will be given to a son or daughter, natural or adopted, of (1) an individual who served in a Special Operations Unit during the Vietnam War (includes POW/MIA status), or (2) who is currently a member of the SOA in good standing, and (3) others that meet the grant criteria.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The "announcement" of the availability for this George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship grant is made through various educational institutions, the news media and fraternal organizations.

**APPLICATIONS:** The deadline for all informal inquiries and application information is 15 March of the year that the grant is intended to be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year the grant is intended to be awarded.

**AWARDS:** Approximately 1 May of that year, selectees/recipients of a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** As of August 1998, 81 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the scholarship program in 1983.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT:

JAMES HAWKE  
Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee  
7801 Southmoor Circle  
Reno, Nevada 89502-8679  
(702) 857-3477

# Vietnam valor is honored

By Peter Nugent  
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

**TOWNSEND** — In May 1966, Sgt. 1st Class William D. Boggs was on a combat patrol in Vietnam when his Special Forces team was ambushed by a large Viet Cong force.

Pinned down by enemy fire, the team suffered heavy casualties and was in danger of being overrun when Boggs took control, calling in mortar attacks and air strikes on enemy positions.

During the battle, Boggs pulled two wounded men out of danger and arranged for medical evacuations by helicopter.

On Friday, Boggs, who now lives in Townsend, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions 32 years ago. The medal — the Army's third-highest honor for bravery in combat — was presented by U.S. Rep. John W. Olver, D-Amherst, during a ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6538 in Townsend.

"Today I have the really distinct pleasure to present a medal that Bill Boggs earned in the war," Olver said. "I'm sorry I couldn't do this a couple of days ago (on Veterans Day)."

Boggs, who served 26 years in the Army, including 16 years in the elite Special Forces or Green Berets, spoke little at the ceremony. He said he was pleased to receive the medal and described his years in the Army as enjoyable.

## PAPERWORK LOST

"I enjoyed every minute of it, even the moments of terror," he said.

Boggs was accompanied at the ceremony by his wife and three children. One of his sons and his son-in-law are members of the Special Forces.

Boggs said the award was present-



T&G Staff/PETER NUGENT

Former Green Beret William Boggs of Townsend wears the Silver Star medal he was awarded Friday — 32 years after his bravery. The paperwork for the medal was lost until one of the men he saved got involved.

ed 32 years after the fact because the paperwork for the medal was lost. He said he previously received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for combat action in Vietnam.

Lynn Thompson of Leominster, who served with Boggs in the same company in Vietnam, said one of the men saved by Boggs in the 1966 ambush discovered four years ago that the medal was never awarded. Thompson said the man, a company clerk, arranged to have the documents resubmitted.

Thompson, who attended Friday's ceremony, said Boggs was originally recommended to receive the Distinguished Service Cross — the Army's second highest combat medal — but Army officials changed the award to a Silver Star.

Boggs said he joined the Army in

1959. After becoming a Green Beret, he said, he served in Laos in 1961 and did three tours of duty in Vietnam, from 1966 to 1971.

Originally from Cambridge, Boggs said he moved to Townsend in 1968, when he was stationed at Fort Devens with the 10th Special Forces Group.

Boggs' son-in-law, Sgt. 1st Class James Hulse, and Capt. David Sutton, both from the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell, Ky., also, attended Friday's ceremony. Sutton said Boggs' wartime record is well known in the 5th Special Forces, the unit Boggs served in during his first Vietnam tour.

"He's a history book incarnate," Sutton said. "The whole unit knows about this (award), and we're very charged up."

# AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 7 • Mary Esther, Florida 32569-0007 • (850) 581-0099

(850) 581-0099

ASSOCIATION  
Mr. Tom Johnson  
Chairman, President & CEO  
CNN  
One CNN Center, Box 105366  
Atlanta, GA, 30348-5366

Dec 1, 1998

Mr Johnson:

This letter is to inform you of our complete support of the Special Forces Association in their efforts to have CNN/Time Magazine retract their report concerning "Operation Tailwind".

We of the Air Commando Association feel that a horrible injustice has been conferred on the participants of the "Operation" by your Newscasters, and that the hour of "air time" promised the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association to give a proper rebuttal should be granted to them at the earliest possible time.

It should be remembered that all of your reports have been proven false and it is time that the American people be informed as to what truly happened on that mission so that these heroic warriors can justifiably be exonerated of any wrong doing and that their efforts be properly placed in the history of this Great Nation. So we of the Air Commando Association urge you, please live up to your promise, and grant to the Special Forces Association that hour of "air time" so the American people can be properly informed of the heroic deeds of our soldiers and airmen involved in that Operation.

WILLIAM E. BROWN

President

Air Commando Association

cc:

President, Special Forces Association

President, Special Operations Association

# U.S. Special Operations Command Memorial Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 6696, MacDill AFB, Florida 33608-6696

30 September 1998

Mr. Clyde Sincere  
President  
Special Operations Association  
5130 E. Charleston Blvd, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

Dear Sir,

*Clyde*  
It was our distinct pleasure to thank you and your officers for the support you continue to provide to our Foundation. You opened the doors of the Special Operations Association, to allow your members to become aware of the tribute to past, present, and future Special Operations personnel we are placing at MacDill AFB, Florida..

On behalf of the US Special Operations Command Memorial Foundation, Inc., let me provide an update of our activities. The central statue has been poured in bronze; final negotiations are underway to assure an appropriate and easily accessible location. Originally the memorial was to be located immediately to the front of the headquarters building, US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). As you will appreciate, recent terrorist attacks against US facilities overseas have resulted in strengthening our preparedness against similar actions both world wide and here in the United States.

As USSOCOM provides the focus for our special operations, there is no question that they must demonstrate the security posture that we advocate around the globe. Although our Special Operations Memorial would become the most secure memorial in the country, it would not be immediately accessible to nonofficial visitors to the command. General Schoomaker, CINCSOC, appreciates this, and is personally working with our Foundation and the Base Commander, MacDill AFB, to ensure a choice, appropriate location is approved.

Your approval to publish our application form in the SOA Newsletter has resulted in more than \$11,000.00 to be donated in the form of engravings to memorialize the traditions of Special Operations Forces. Many of the past and present outstanding Special Operations personnel will be remembered through your direct support.

Again, thank you for your continuing unselfish support, allowing us to appropriately recognize those unsung heroes of our special community.

Sincerely,

*Joseph C. Lutz*  
Joseph C. Lutz  
Chairman



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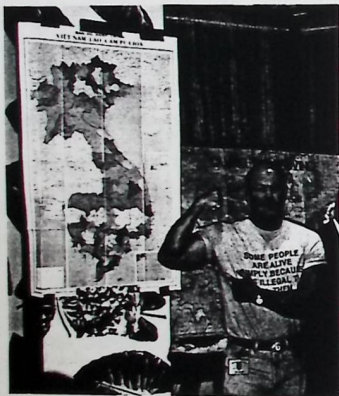
Gene McCarthy and Larry Kimmel.  
East meets West. Virginia to California.



"Big" Jim Kennedy.



Jose Ibarra is in bad company  
when he teams up with John Roy...



Leave it to a Navy Seal. Let me introduce  
you to Curt "Muscles" Williams of San Diego.



Ladies and Gentlemen: May I present to you this  
evening, the Ritchie's and the Rodriguez's. Enjoy.



## America Remembers® United States Society of Arms & Armour™

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October 13, 1998

Mr. Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, VA 22124-2323

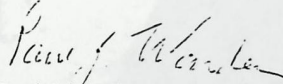
Dear Clyde:

Jeff Belcher and I certainly enjoyed attending the Special Operations Association Reunion in Las Vegas. Your members were so friendly and interesting to talk with. Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to share time with your group.

It was also a pleasure to be seated at your table. Thank you for the special plaque, which you presented to me. This means a lot to me, and it will be displayed proudly in my office.

Thank you again for your hospitality.

Cordially,

  
Paul J. Warden  
President

PW//sp



"Laf" Keaton and Walt Boyling. That is "Laf" in the three piece suit. Not too shabby.....



L - R: Curt Williams, Jesse Simmons and Jim Slatton. Jesse, if I didn't know better, I'd think that gal behind you was trying to place that wine bottle on top of your head. Gene Hall from afar is watching her too.



# S I M O N   &   S C H U S T E R

Simon & Schuster Consumer Group  
1230 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10020  
212-698-7344 • Fax: 212-698-7453  
E-Mail: robert\_bender@prenhall.com

Bob Bender  
Vice President  
Senior Editor  
Trade Division

September 28, 1998

Mr. Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
President  
Special Operations Association  
11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, VA 22124

Dear Mr. Sincere:

Thank you for your letter and for the plaque that Chuck Pfeifer delivered to my office last week. I can't begin to tell you how honored I am by this recognition.

At the same time, I have to say that the honors really belong to John Plaster, who did the research and writing that made *SOG* such an outstanding book. My contribution was minimal in comparison.

I have the plaque on display in my office, where it will remain permanently.

Best wishes,

Bob Bender



Just what every young service man or women wishes for. A picture with Gordon Liddy. Folks, meet the SOAR XXII USAF Honor Guard from Nellis AFB, Nevada. Thanks to the U.S.A.F. for their support.



Sully deFontaine and his lovely wife.  
I know who got the better deal here.

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Pat Hephner. Pat, I'm a little confused.  
"Agent Orange Health Club"?

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

11 November 1998  
Veteran's Day 1998

Mr. Jonathan Foreman  
c/o NEW YORK POST  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Foreman:

On behalf of the Special Operations Association, its members, veterans of Operation "Tailwind" and the Studies and Observations Group, please accept this "Seeker" of Truth award with our profound thanks.

As you will recall in early June, the Cable News Network and Time Magazine alleged that during Operation "Tailwind", a SOG operation, members of our association used nerve gas in Laos in an attempt to wipe out a whole village in order to kill several American defectors. Had this been true, it would have constituted the greatest war crime in U.S. history and its perpetrators, even these many years later, should have been arrested and prosecuted for murder.

We of the Special Operations Association knew immediately that the alleged charges were false. There had been no use of nerve gas, no village and no defectors. Members of the SOA faced a dilemma - What could we do? CNN is in all probability the most-watched television outlet in the world and Time Magazine is one of America's most prestigious publications. Immediately, members commenced a letter and phone campaign to refute these alleged charges. It was gratifying to see elements of the media immediately stand up and challenge CNN and Time Magazine for their slanderous accusations. The New York Times, FOX NEWS, Accuracy in Media, Newsweek and others are commended for their actions on behalf of America's fighting men. It was at that juncture in time that we really needed fair-minded "seekers of the truth". The overall result of the various media outlets actions dictated the most conspicuous and dramatic retraction in the history of television news.

That search will always continue. The New York Post has now joined the growing number of media entities in the further opening of that "window of truth" for the public's edification, just by the publication of your superb editorial, "Heroes, Smeared by CNN".

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It is my wish to reproduce your editorial in our SOA Reunion After-Action-Report. In that regard, I need your permission or that of the New York Post. I would consider it an honor to be able to provide the entire membership with your article. Can you assist me in this matter?

Again, thank you for your tremendous assistance in setting straight these egregious lies. When we and the United States of America needed a fair mind and seeker of truth, you were there.

It is our hope that you will display this plaque proudly on your office wall for the entire world to view.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President, SOA

Incl: a/s

11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, Virginia 22124-2323  
(703) 620-0953/3659  
sincere@patriot.net (E-Mail)



Rogues Gallery. SOAR XXII Weapons Firing Range.



Jerry Ginder attempting to educate the SOAR XXII Gun Molls on the best method to fire a weapon.



L - R: Charlie Barksdale, Bill Werther, Steve Wilson, George Pointon, Martin Brady and "Bo" Bobroskie.



L - R: Harry "the Hat" Munck, (Hawaii), Lou Woelfel, (California) and Tom Uldall, (Montana).



L - R: Walt Boyling, Elaine Fryer, her big brother, John Fryer, Jyri Laats and Jose Ibarra.



L - R: Leonard Tilley, Kim Budrow, Larry Manes, Paul Danahy, Jesse Simmons and Jim Slatton.



L - R: Hartmut "Mecky" Schuler, Frank Jaks, J.D. Bath, Leonard Tilley and Don Devere.



L - R: Donna & Pat Hephner, Steve Wilson, John "Doc" Padgett and Harry Claflin.



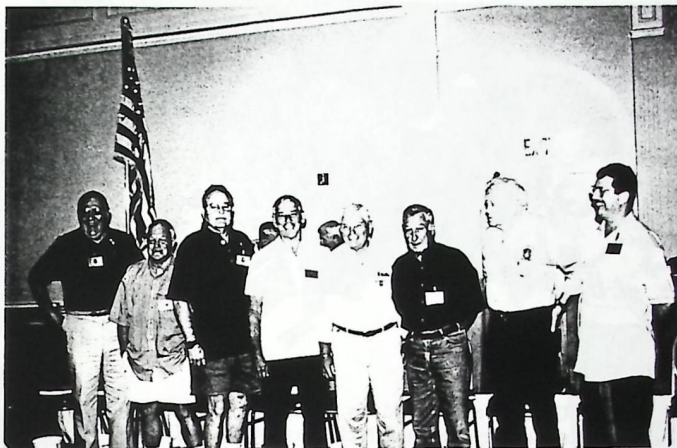
L - R: Jesse Simmons, Don Murphy, "Jake" Jacobson, Tasmania Samuela, Lou Woelfel and Harry Munck.



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L - R: Ben & Shirley Baker, Nick Godano and Colleen Saal

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



L - R: 20-year Pin Recipients: Ralf Miller, Larry Manes, Meryl Eckles, J.D.Bath, Don Cobb, Leonard Mollica, "Jake" Jacobson and Frank Vecchiarello.



SOAR XXII WEAPONS FIRING RANGE: *"The Gun Molls"*.



L - R: Nick Godano, Fred Platt and Ray Whittington. Ben Baker has requested that I notify everyone that Nick won the CISO-SOG-SF Knife Set. O.K. Ben, I did it....



Gary Archer and Iris. He looks very pleased.



L - R: Tom Henry, Mark Berent, Chris Beauchamp and Mary Ann Harrison.  
Mary Ann - except for Chris, you are in bad, bad company...



Pete Landon and "Bernie" Bright of Operation  
"Tailwind" fame and the SOA Prez, Clyde Sincere.



Mike Haas and a "Special Person".



Harlow and Carol Stevens. Would you believe Carol has some doubts about some of us? Now Carol.



Pete Landon and "Bernie" Bright with John Plaster.



Tommy Daniels, President, General Coactive Montagnard Association, (GCMA) and his Montagnard Longhouse Project Display.



Frank Kennemur attempting to show his new wife from Russia how to fire a weapon. Frank, I'll bet she knows better than you.



L - R: Shirley Baker, Nguyet Sherman, Kim Woelfel and Rica Cherry.  
I'll bet you ten to one that Ben Baker was the one taking the picture.



Laura? Bob Masterjoseph, Tell us. Does "Mom" know you left her for Laura?  
Robert - Please convey the best wishes of the SOA to your mother. Hopefully she  
will be feeling much better and will be up to coming to SOAR XXIII. Laura?



L - R: Eileen Donoghue, Audrey and Larry Payne and Bob Shippen.



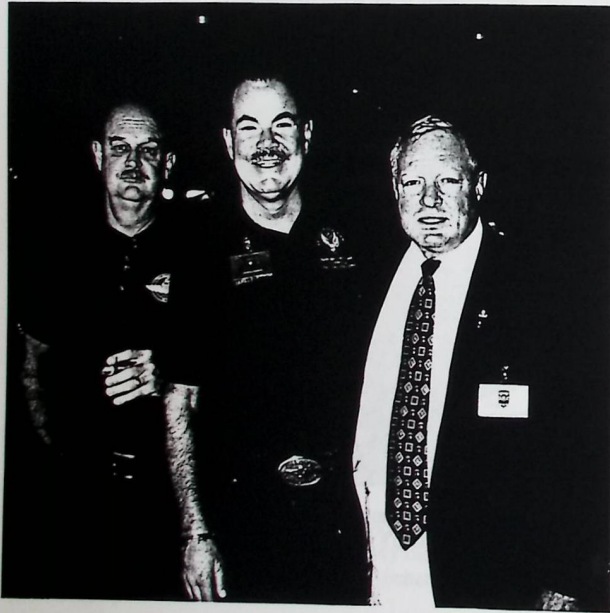
L - R: Ben and Shirley Baker, Jim and Debbie Harrison and Nick Godano.  
Nick was the body-guard while the Baker's and Harrison's were out on the town.



"Woody" Bernard and John Frescura. A toast to you and you and ...



Mike, Scott and "Pappy" viewing the display.



L - R: Harry Claflin, Jim Hawke and Joe Lutz.  
Harry - Why so gloom? Was it late at nite and  
you had already put a full day (and nite) in as Master-  
in-Charge of the SOAR Hospitality Suite.



Mike Haas pitching his new book on Special Operations  
in Korea. Mike we look forward to reading it.

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You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



Now this is a crew and a half. L - R Standing: Jose Ibarra, Walt Boyling, Billy Waugh, John Fryer, Ed Clough, "Laf" Keaton, Billy Boggs. Seated, L - R: Don Chapa, Howard Stevens and Fredrico Richie.



Special Operations Memorial Display Area: L - R: Michelle Werther, Sue Trimble and Bill Werther.



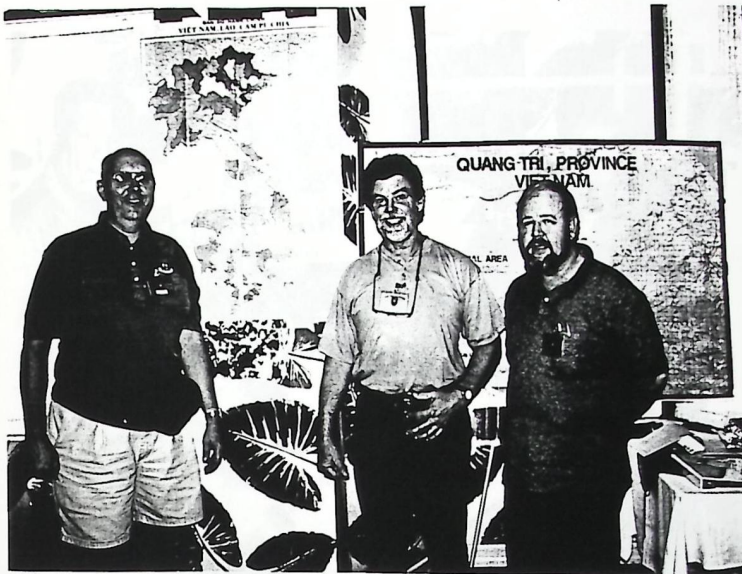
L - R: Barbara and Bruce Hanley, Wayne, "Buck" Buchanan, Pat Connor, Dallas Longstreath and Lloyd Bylund.



L - R: Craig Davis, Donna and Pat Hephner, Bob Masterjoseph, Lucy and Mike Duggan.



L - R: Jeanette and Pat Heminger, Tasmania Samuela and Kim Budrow.



L - R: Larry Payne, Bob Shippen and Robert Taylor.



Bob Shippen and Dick "Doc" Conte". Hey guys, you can smile better than that...



Guarding the SOA .45 Caliber Tribute Pistol. L - R: Al Newman, Don Benjamin, Francis and Rosemary Hill and Bill Garcia.



L - R: Charles Berg, Roy Bahr, John McClaskey and Larry Trimble. Ben Baker informed me that this was one of his better shots. OK?



L - R: John McClaskey, "Rip" Van Winkle and John Mullins.



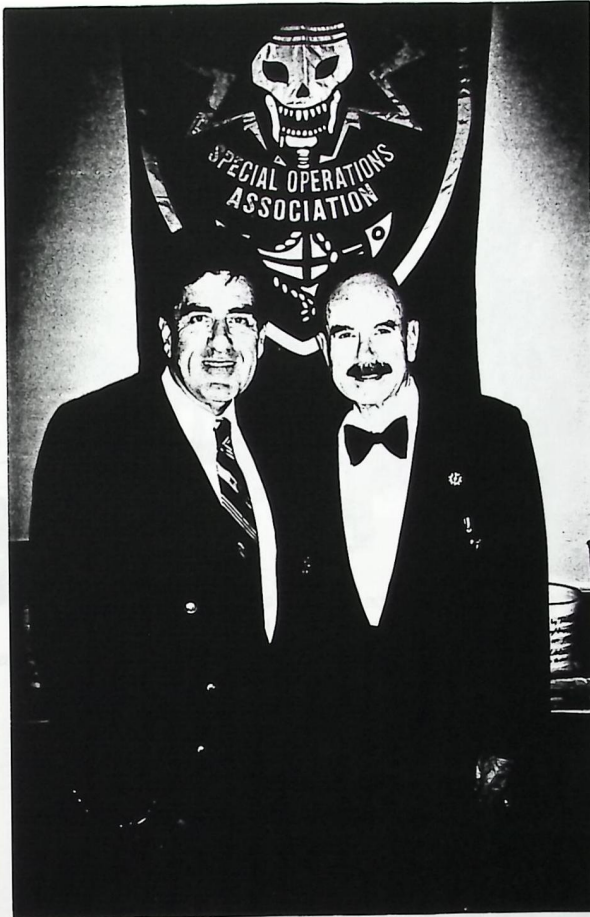
John McClaskey and Mary Ann Harrison - or so I'm told. I almost couldn't find her in that cammy outfit. Mary Ann is that really you?



L - R: Brian Stockdale, Ron De Carlo, Jim Day, Harry Harrison, Al Davis and Colleen Saal. That's Tony Love holding up the wall in the immediate rear and it looks like Don Cobb off to the right rear..



Harry and Mieke Harrison with Shirley and Ben Baker. SOAR XXII was a first for the Harrison's. Hopefully we will see them again and again.



Jerry Ginder and Gordon Liddy. Who said Jerry can't dress up? Gordon looks pretty spiffy too, heh.



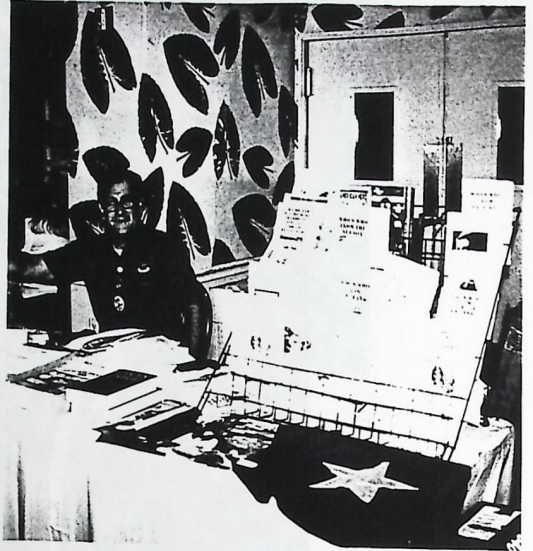
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One more time: L - R: Ralf Miller, (Roy Bahr, rear), Larry Manes, Meryl Eckles, J.D. Bath, Don Cobb, Leonard Mollica, "Jake" Jacobson, (John McClaskey, rear), Frank Vecchiarello and Clyde Sincere.

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



This has to be the best picture of the whole lot.  
Has anyone ever seen Ed Clough that dressed-up?  
I have no idea who is looking up to him. Sorry.



Mr. Archivist - Steve Sherman. Glasses are slipping Steve....



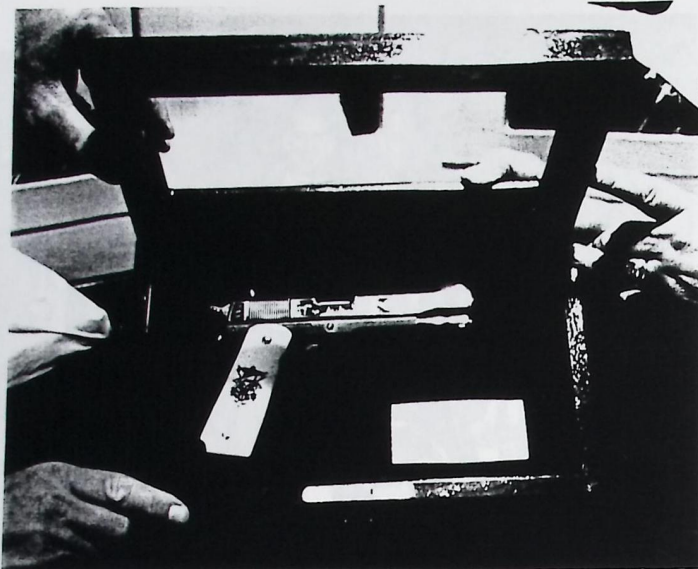
Right Rear: "Laf" Keaton and Ben Baker. Left Front Seated: Dan Chapa and Howard Stevens.



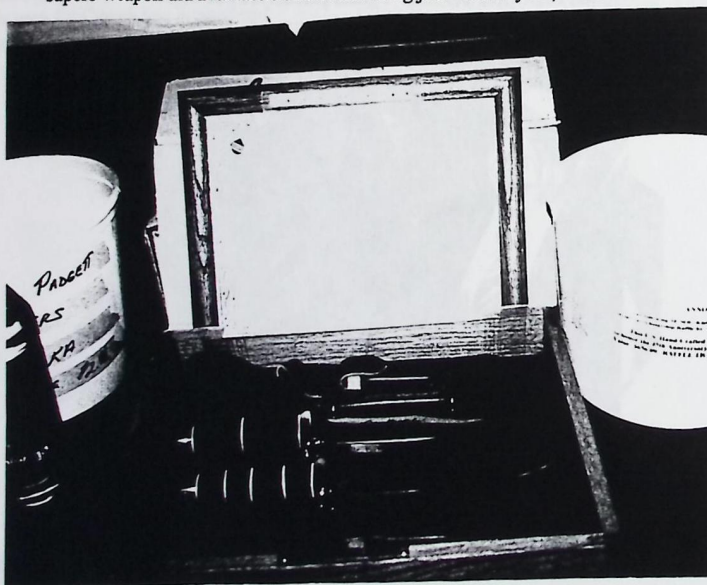
The Sincere Clan: L - R: Jim, Andy, Tom, John and Clyde. Folks, I hope you will forgive my taking license, but, I'm kinda proud of my four (4) sons. I guess parents are that way.



Two (2) of our "Forgotten Montagnard Leaders". Their efforts on behalf of Special Operations must also be remembered.



THE SOA SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTE PISTOL.  
Number 01 of 250. Don Benjamin as SOA Project Office for this  
superb weapon did a fantastic and outstanding job. Thank you , Don.



35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CISO-SOG-SF KNIFE SET.  
Thanks and a "Tip of the Beret" to Ben Baker who donated it to  
the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle.

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# The Special Operations Association



## SOAR XXII AAR (Photo Supplement)



### SOA Board of Officers and Directors—1999-2000

*L to R: Clyde Sincere, Bill Shelton, Ben Lyons, Jim Hetrick,  
John McClaskey, David Smith, Jack Abraham and Ralf Miller.*

*You have never lived,  
until you have almost died.  
For those who have fought for it,  
life has a special flavor,  
the protected will never know...*

Plaza Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada  
30 September—4 October 1998





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F

Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

March 1999

Dear SOA Member,

It was the consensus of a lot of our members that the photograph reproduction by the printer in the SOAR XXII After Action Report was not up to the standard we think you deserve. Therefore, herein is a better version of the photos (by a different printer!) for your enjoyment. Our thanks to you all for your patience and understanding.

See you at SOAR XXIII in Las Vegas, 29 Sep—3 Oct 1999.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ralf M. Miller'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent underline.

RALF M. MILLER  
President, SOA



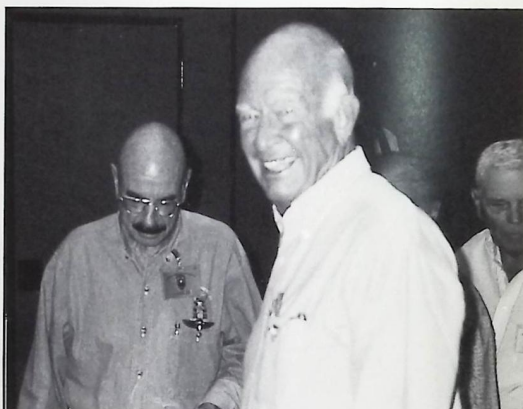
*L-R: David "the Author" Morrell, Sully deFontaine and Don "Zorro" Jutz.*



*Bill and "Oot" Shelton, a lovely couple, and Tom Henry behind them at another table.*



*The "Prez" and "Zorro."*



*L-R: Gordon Liddy, Tom Henry and, in the background, Don Cobb. I think Tom is happy about something—food, maybe?*



*L-R: "Bernie" Bright, Pete Landon, Joe Lutz and, in the background, Hank Gole and John McClaskey.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Norm Doney, a gracious couple hopefully enjoying the banquet.*

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



*Now here is a typical "gun moll," Tanya Ginder.*



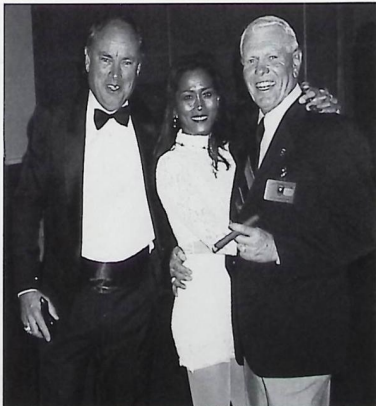
*I'm not exactly sure who is the happiest in this picture. L-R: Libby Barnes, Don "DC" Caldwell and Mary Ann Harrison. I'm willing to guess, heh, "DC."*



*Who is trying to con who??? L-R: John "SOG" Plaster and Robert "Bob" MasterJoseph.*



*Two quiet people! Gordon Liddy and "Laf" Keaton.*



*Wes Kouns appears too happy to really appreciate "Smiling" Jack Abraham holding his favorite person—"Rica." Oh well, just this once.*



*A threesome—L-R: Jerry Ginder, Jim Cole and Jim "Mule" Parker. Dressed to kill—almost missed Jim in his "cammy-tiger" tux.*

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*Now here is a happy bunch. L-R: Tanya Ginder, Carolyn McClaskey and Tasmania Samuela all being bugged together by John McClaskey. Budweiser, anyone?*



*Extremely happy couple: Mr. Charles Berg and his lovely wife, Susan.*



*Check those smiles. L-R: Karen Smith, Paula Bennett and Mary Ann Harrison.*



*Billy D. (Mustang) Waugh and John Fryer's sister, Elaine—the smart one in the Fryer Family.*

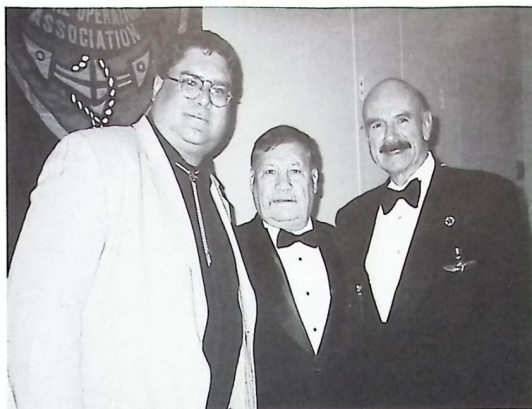


*WATCH IT! Project "Sigma" has come to SOAR XXII. L-R: Meryl Eckles, Jim Harrison, Leonard Moreau, Ed Gammons (FAC), Nick Godano and Robert Barrett.*



*"America Remembers." Exhibiting the SOA .45 Caliber Tribute Pistol. L-R: Paul Warden, Ken Gaudel, Jeff Belcher and Bob Johnston.*

*You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.*



*Where did those genes come from? That's Bill Garcia's little boy Greg with Bill and Gordon Liddy.*



*This picture is reflective of a very serious trio in thought. L-R: Ted Nilssen, Dick "Doc" Conte and Jim Hawke.*



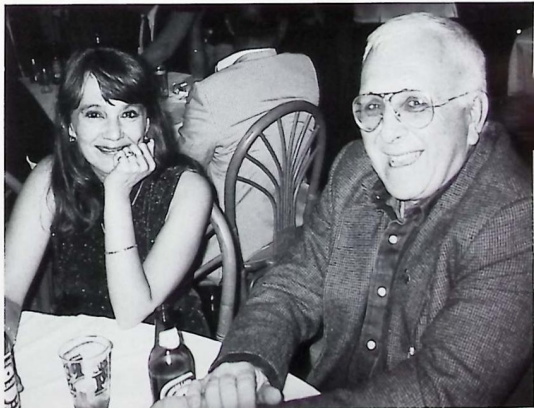
*Fred Platt is obviously attempting to coerce some particular point of view from Colleen Saul.*



*Bob Golden—SOA Web Master, had a request: "Please take my picture after I present my Web-Site pitch." O.K., Bob. You are doing a super job.*



*Talk about seriousness. What are "Buck" Buchanan and Jim Slotton thinking about?*



*Marjorie: What did you say that made Don Junevics so happy?*

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



*Obviously only Jan Kubl and Pete McGiffert were interested in the camera man. Cliff Kubl was watching someone else.*



*Greg Rodriguez was discussing "Grecian Formula" with his wife Cindy. Don Devere in the background found it interesting too.*



*Attention: L-R: "Lark" Frescura, Pat Lansing and Sharon Van Winkle.*



*Wine anyone? Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gaudet.*



*Happiness is in the eyes of the beholder. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnston.*



*The Floridians. L-R: Peter Kreuziger, Wil Charette, Jim "Mule" Parker (Jim is really from North Carolina) and Heinie Aderbolt. You know, I think "Mule" was in the act of covering Heinie's face.*

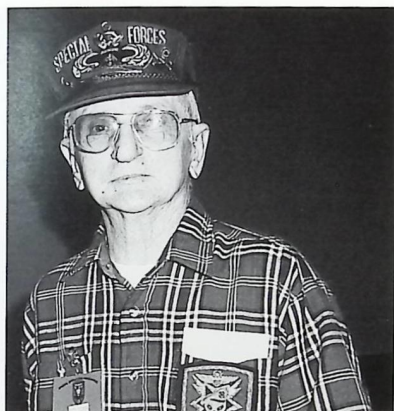
*You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.*



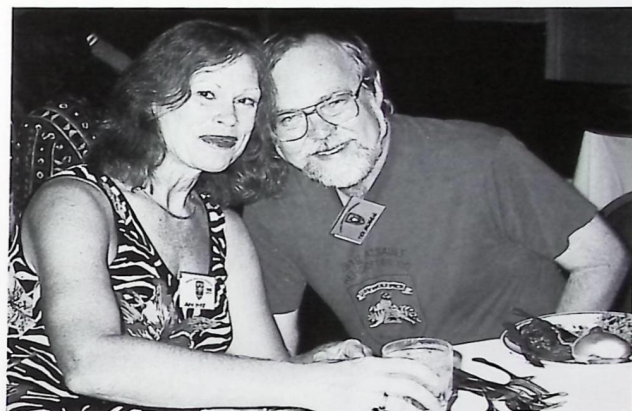
*L-R: Dan Chapa, Jim Hawke and the "Tasmanian Devil." Watch him in a bar. Do you remember Albuquerque?*



*Ed and Debbie Clough.*



*57B: Rudy Cooper—that's him.*



*Ted Nilsen convincing Jean Dyer that he served in Special Operations.*



*59A: L-R: Mike Walsb for President, Bob Masterjoseph as his future Chief of Staff and Ralph Edens his Financial Advisor. Mike—why so serious? Did they teach you that in the Navy Seals?*



*59B: Dolly Whittington (next to Cliff Newman) entertaining her daughter and a friend from Munich, Germany, at SOAR XXII. By the way, Cliff is the only SOA member to attend all 22 SOARs. Fantastic.*

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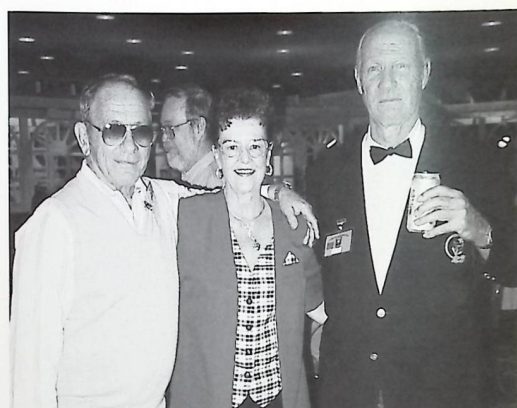
*"Pappy" Reed and John Fryer. Can I say anything else?*



*John Mullins and Jay Graves. Jay, about time you showed up. That is a bottle of wine you are holding, right? Where is your glass?*



*Jerry, you look so serious. Jim, what did you and "Mule" say to him?*



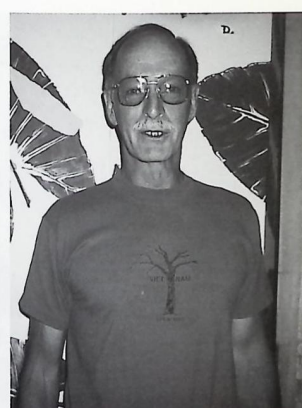
*Billy and "Pappy" leaning on Elaine Fryer, Big John's sister. "Pappy," one of your stockings are slipping.*



*Gene McCarthy and Larry Kimmel. East meets West. Virginia to California.*



*"Big" Jim Kennedy.*

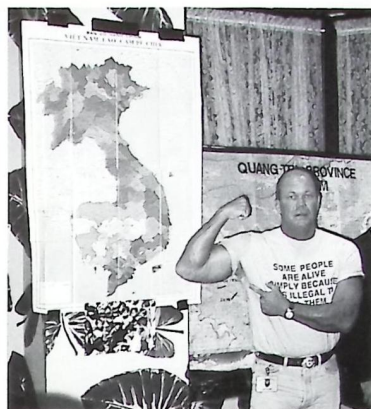


*Pat Hepbner. Pat, I'm a little confused. "Agent Orange Health Club"?*

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*Jose Ibarra is in bad company when he teams up with John Roy...*



*Leave it to a Navy Seal.  
Let me introduce you to Curt "Muscles" Williams of San Diego.*



*Ladies and Gentlemen: May I present to you this evening, the Ritchie's and the Rodriguez's. Enjoy.*



*"Lai" Keaton and Walt Boyling. That is "Lai" in the three piece suit.  
Not too shabby...*



*L-R: Curt Williams, Jesse Simmons and Jim Slatton. Jesse, if I didn't know better, I'd think that gal behind you was trying to place that wine bottle on top of your head. Gene Hall from afar is watching her too.*



*Just what every young service man or woman wishes for. A picture with Gordon Liddy. Folks, meet the SOAR XXII USAF Honor Guard from Nellis AFB, Nevada. Thanks to the U.S.A.F for their support.*

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*Sully deFontaine and his lovely wife. I know who got the better deal here.*



*35th Anniversary CISO-SOG-SF Knife Set. Thanks and a "Tip of the Beret" to Ben Baker, who donated it to the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle.*



*Rogue's Gallery: SOAR XXII Weapons Firing Range.*



*Jerry Ginder attempting to educate the SOAR XXII Gun Molls on the best method to fire a weapon.*



*L-R: Charlie Barksdale, Bill Werther, Steve Wilson, George Pointon, Marton Brady and "Bo" Bobroskie.*



*L-R: Harry "the Hat" Munck (Hawaii), Lou Woelfel (California) and Tom Uldall (Montana).*

*You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.*



*L-R: Walt Boyling, Elaine Fryer, her big brother John Fryer, Jyri Laats and Jose Ibarra.*



*L-R: Leonard Tilley, Kim Budrow, Larry Manes, Paul Danaby, Jesse Simmons and Jim Slatten.*



*L-R: Hartmut "Mecky" Schuler, Frank Jaks, J.D. Bath, Leonard Tilley and Don Devere.*



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*L-R: 20-year Pin Recipients: Ralf Miller, Larry Manes, Meryl Eckles, J.D. Bath, Don Cobb, Leonard Mollica, "Jake" Jacobson and Frank Vecchiarello.*



*SOAR XXII Weapons Firing Range: "The Gun Molls."*



*L-R: Nick Godson, Fred Platt and Ray Whittington. Ben Baker has requested that I notify everyone that Nick won the CISO-SOG-SF Knife Set. OK, Ben I did it...*



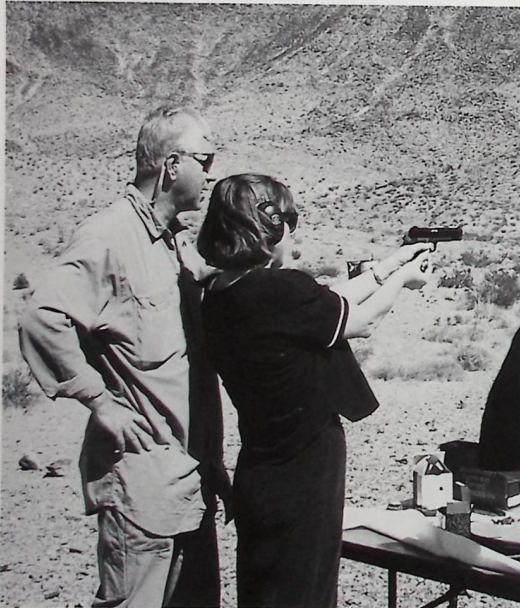
*Gary Archer and Iris. He looks very pleased.*



*L-R: Tom Henry, Mark Berent, Chris Beauchamp and Mary Ann Harrison. Mary Ann—except for Chris, you are in bad, bad company...*



*Pete Landon and "Bernie" Bright of Operation "Tailwind" fame, and the SOA Prez, Clyde Sincere.*



*Mike Haas and a "Special Person."*



*Harlow and Carol Stevens. Would you believe Carol has some doubts about some of us? Now Carol.*

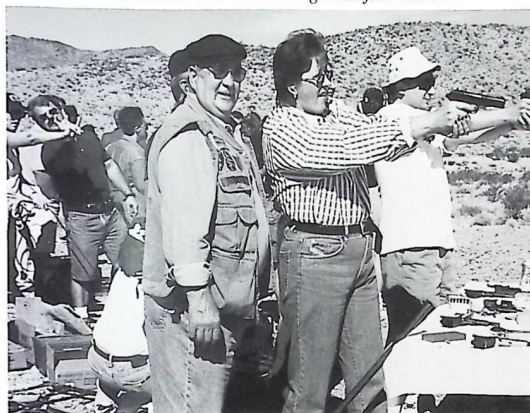
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*Pete Landon and "Bernie" Bright with John Plaster.*



*Tommy Daniels, President, General Coactive Montagnard Association (GCMA), and his Montagnard Longhouse Project Display.*



*Frank Kennemur attempting to show his new wife from Russia how to fire a weapon. Frank, I'll bet she knows better than you.*



*L-R: Shirley Baker, Nguyet Sherman, Kim Woelfel and Rica Cherry. I'll bet you ten to one that Ben Baker was the one taking the picture.*



*Laura? Bob Masterjoseph, tell us: Does "Mom" know you left her for Laura? Robert—Please convey the best wishes of the SOA to your mother. Hopefully, she will be feeling much better and will be up to coming to SOAR XXIII.*

*Laura?*

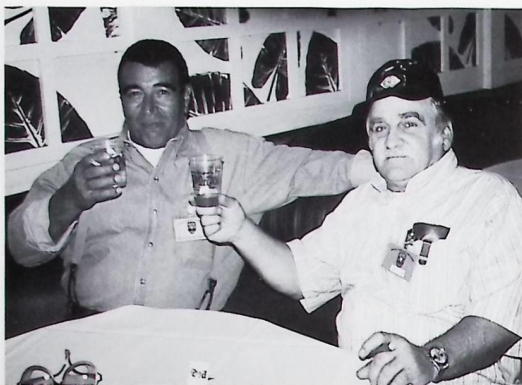


*89A-L-R: Eileen Donoghue, Audrey and Larry Payne and Bob Shippen.*



*L-R: Ben and Shirley Baker, Jim and Debbie Harrison and Nick Godano. Nick was the bodyguard while the Bakers and Harrison's were out on the town.*

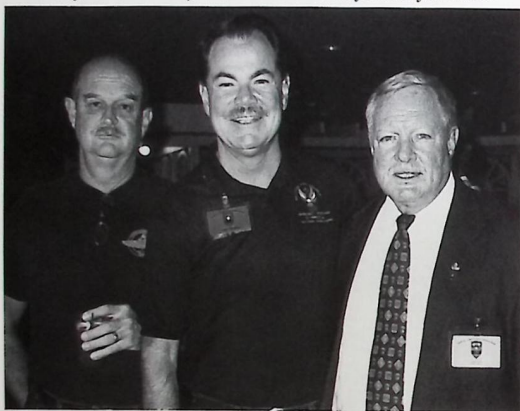
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*90B: Mike, Scott and "Pappy" viewing the display.*



*L-R: Harry Claflin, Jim Hawke and Joe Lutz. Harry—why so gloom? Was it late at night and you had already put a full day (and night) in as Master-in-Charge of the SOAR Hospitality Suite?*



*Mike Haas pitching his new book on Special Operations in Korea. Mike, we look forward to reading it.*



*Now this is a crew and a half. L-R Standing: Jose Ibarra, Walt Boyling, Billy Waugh, John Fryer, Ed Clough, "Laf" Keaton, Billy Boggs. Seated, L-R: Don Chapa, Howard Stevens and Fredrico Richie.*



*Special Operations Memorial Display Area. L-R: Michelle Werther, Sue Trimble and Bill Werther.*



*L-R: Barbara and Bruce Hanley, Wayne, "Buck" Buchanan, Pat Connor, Dallas Longstreath and Lloyd Bylund.*



*L-R: Craig Davis, Donna and Pat Hephner, Bob Masterjoseph, Lucy and Mike Duggan.*



*L-R: Jeanette and Pat Heminger, Tasmania Samuela and Kim Budrow.*



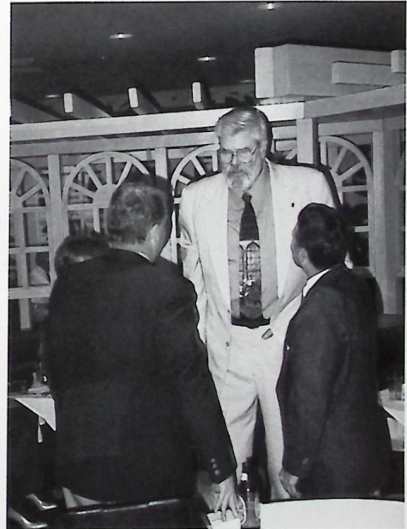
*Bob Shippen and Dick "Doc" Conté.  
Hey guys, you can smile better than that...*



*97B: One more time: L-R: Ralf Miller (Roy Babr, rear) Larry Manes, Meryl Eckles, J.D. Bath, Don Cobb, Leonard Mollica, "Jake" Jacobson (John McClaskey, rear) Frank Vecchiarello and Clyde Sincere.*



*L-R: Larry Payne, Bob Shippen and Robert Taylor.*



*This has to be the best picture of the whole lot. Has anyone ever seen Ed Clough that dressed-up? I have no idea who is looking up to him. Sorry.*



*L-R: Charles Berg, Roy Babr, John McClaskey and Larry Trimble. Ben Baker informed me that this was one of his better shots. OK?*



*L-R: John McClaskey, "Rip" Van Winkle and John Mullins.*



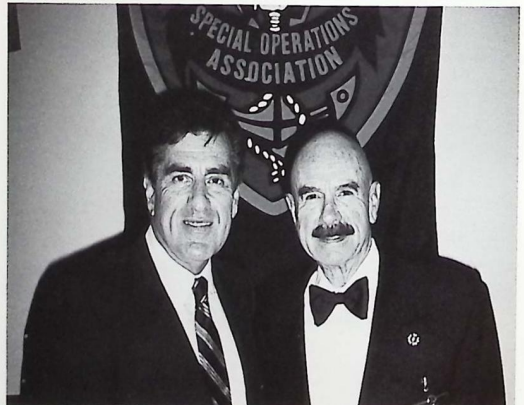
*John McClaskey and Mary Ann Harrison—or so I'm told. I almost couldn't find her in that cammy outfit. Mary Ann, is that really you?*



*L-R: Brian Stockdale, Ron De Carlo, Jim Day, Harry Harrison, Al Davis and Colleen Saal. That's Tony Love holding up the wall in the immediate rear and it looks like Don Cobb off to the right rear.*



*Harry and Micko Harrison with Shirley and Ben Baker. SOAR XXII was a first for the Harrisons. Hopefully, we will see them again and again.*



*Jerry Ginder and Gordon Liddy. Who said Jerry can't dress up? Gordon looks pretty spiffy too, heh.*

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*The SOA Special Commemorative Tribute Pistol. Number 01 of 250. Don Benjamin as SOA Project Officer for this superb weapon did a fantastic and outstanding job. Thank you, Don.*



*Guarding the SOA .45 Caliber Tribute Pistol. L-R: Al Newman, Don Benjamin, Francis and Rosemary Hill and Bill Garcia.*



*Mr Archivist—Steve Sherman. Glasses are slipping, Steve...*



*Right rear: "Laf" Keaton and Ben Baker. Left front, seated: Dan Chapa and Howard Stevens.*



*The Sincere Clan, L-R: Jim, Andy, Tom, John and Clyde. Folks, I hope you will forgive my taking license, but I'm kinda proud of my four sons. I guess parents are that way.*



*Two of our "Forgotten Montagnard Leaders." Their efforts on behalf of Special Operations must also be remembered.*

You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



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