



SFA Indian Nations Chapter 32/50
1715 Spoke Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

MINUTES 10 AUGUST 2024

SFA Chapter 32-50 met at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Headquarters, 2101 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK, on Saturday, 10 AUG 2024, at 1200 hours.

Officers Present

President: Roger "Rock" Taylor
Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator/ WebMaster: Jerry Cooper
Secretary/Assistant WebMaster: Pat Carr
Assistant Secretary: Charles Watts
Chaplain/Assistant Treasurer: Dick Goodman
Medal Presentation Coordinator: Doug Warden

Officers Absent

Vice President: Bill Coultrup
Quartermaster: Rick Cacini

Opening Ceremonies

Before we were served lun

President Roger Taylor called the meeting to order, at 1140 hrs.
Butch Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Rafael Elias played, and the members sang the Ballad of the Green Beret.

Guests

Col. Jim and Keely Selders were present, along with Ellis and Thao Edwards, and Roger and Sylvia Routh. Chaplain/Assistant Treasurer, Dick Goodman, brought donuts, and Jim and Keely Selders provided deli sandwiches, chips and cookies from Jimmy John's. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer/Medal Sales Coordinator Jerry Cooper reported, as of 10 AUG 2024:

General Fund bank balance	\$3,822.88
ROTC Medals bank balance	\$12,053.60
Green Beret Benevolent Fund	\$2,754.00
Total Cash in Banks	\$18,630.48

Medal Sales Report as of 10 AUG 2024

Item	2024	2023	Difference	%
Medals sold since 1 JAN	519	643	-121	- 18.81%
Medals on Hand	2,429	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross Medal Sales	\$9,342.00	\$10,782.52	\$-1,440.52	- 13.36%
Net Profit from Medal Sales	\$4,110.48	\$2,899.54	\$1,210.94	41.76%

Russ Higbie’s motion to approve both the Treasurer’s Report and the Medals Report, seconded by Nokie Klutts, was unanimously approved.

Visiting Hmong refugees:

Since he was elected president of the Indian Nations SFA Chapter, Rock Taylor has been pushing to invite former Hmong fighters to one of our meetings. Fortunately, chapter member, Russell Higbie, who serves as a Sergeant At Arms for the Oklahoma legislature, was present when Hmong Special Guerrilla fighters were recently recognized there. Through the good offices of Oklahoma State Senator Shane Jett, Higbie made arrangements for the following veterans of the Hmong Special Unit to attend, accompanied by their spouses and other Hmong dignitaries:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
MAJ	Seng Mua
CPT	Bush Vang Yang
1 LT	Tou Ger Vang
SGT	Moua Vang
2 LT	Chua Yang
2 LT	Blia Tou Yang
2 LT	Yer Xiong
2 LT	Rodney Vang
2 LT	Paul Vang
1 LT	Ly Vong Cha
PVT	Xiathao Moua
SGT	Steven Geng Vangh
1 LT	Neng Lor Vangh
1 LT	Chad Chue Pheng Yang
1 LT	Tou Doua Yang
2 LT	Soua Tong Yang
2 LT	Vang Cheng Yang

More than 70 Hmong refugees and family members attended our meeting, where the above listed veterans were presented with Chapter Challenge Coins and SFA Certificates of Achievement. Not to be outdone, the guests gave Hmong necklaces to President Rock Taylor and Russ Higbie. We were further treated to traditional dancing by the ladies. Senator Jett gave a moving talk about the accomplishments of the Hmong, noting that more than 35,000 were killed fighting the communists in Vietnam. Coming from high mountainous areas, the Hmong are famous as fierce soldiers who hate communism. Jett, a former Navy intelligence officer, reported nearly 2500 Hmong families (over 6000 individuals) now reside in Oklahoma. Speaking on behalf of the Hmong community was their elected leader, Steve Vang, in addition to the President of the Oklahoma Hmong Association. Thank you to Russ Higbie, Jerry Cooper, Rock Taylor, Jim Selders and others for their hard work and planning that made the meeting a great success.

Deaths



Jerry George Haney
31 DEC 1934 — 15 AUG 2024

Jerry George Haney, 89, of Shawnee, OK, died in his home surrounded by family, on 15 AUG 2024. Jerry was born 31 DEC 1934, in Haney, Oklahoma, 12 miles *Northeast* of Seminole, OK, on the Seminole Nation Reservation. He is the fifth of eight children, and was the last living child of Winey and Wiley Haney. Jerry started school at Haney School, located on the Haney Family's allotted land. At this time, he was taught solely in his native language, Seminole (Muskogee). At age 5, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) removed Jerry from the Haney Community and sent him to the Euchee Indian Mission Boarding School, in Sapulpa, OK. Jerry stayed at boarding school until his sophomore year, when he moved back home, starting at Strothers High School, where he graduated in 1953. While at Strothers, he met his future wife, Barbara Anne Smith (Haney).

Jerry and Barbara wed, on May 3rd, 1956, and they were married for 68 years, until his passing. They had 5 children, Terri Denise Haney, of Shawnee, OK; Tammi Michelle James, of Shawnee, OK; Michael Lance Haney, of Little, OK; Gregory Scott Haney, of Shawnee, OK; and Ranea Haney, who passed away at 7 months of age. They have ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

After high-school graduation, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army, in 1954, Jerry was part of the 11th Airborne Division, and he was stationed in Europe for 4 years. In 1959, Jerry became part of the elite 9th Special Forces Group (Airborne), after qualifying as a parachutist, jump master, and infantry. The 9th Special Forces Group later became the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

In the Special Forces Reserve, Jerry made two deployments to Alaska. In 1973, he deployed to Panama with A Co, 2BN, 12th Special Forces Group (Abn); He also made deployments to Okinawa and Korea (Team Spirit).

Jerry retired as a Master Sergeant from the Army Reserve in 1980, and from the Civil Service in 1988, after working at Tinker Air Force Base. In Special Forces, Jerry served most of his time on a 12-man A-Detachment, which he described as “the most exciting time of being a Green Beret. There was never a dull moment.”

In 1989, Jerry was elected Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, serving three consecutive terms, from 1989 to 2003. During his tenure, the Seminole Nation Travel Plaza, casinos, and multiple community centers and tribal buildings were constructed. They are still in use today. While Chief, Jerry was elected President of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, serving with other noted tribal leaders. His time on the Inter-Tribal Council and as Principal Chief allowed Jerry to fight for tribal Sovereignty nationally. He had the privilege of meeting with three Presidents in the Oval Office.

After retiring from Special Forces, civil service, and as Principal Chief, Jerry was a full-time artist - which runs deep in the veins of the Haney Family. His detailed wood and stone sculptures can be found in museums and private collections nationwide. Of note, Jerry commemorated his military background and sculpted Native busts of the five branches of the military, which can be seen at the Florida Seminole Veteran's Museum.

Aside from raising his family, and leading his tribe, one of Jerry's proudest moments was organizing the world-renowned, Seminole Nation Honor Guard, which has been honoring veterans since 1986. He served as the First Commander of the Honor Guard, the first Native American Honor Guard in the country.

A wake service was held Monday, August 19, 2024, at Swearingen Funeral Home, in Seminole. On Tuesday, 20 AUG 2024, at 1400 hours, 20 Chapter members attended MSG Haney's funeral, at the Seminole First Baptist Church. Pastor Dan Factor, an Assistant Chief of the Seminole Tribe under Jerry Haney, officiated the services. It was standing room only, and numerous tribal dignitaries, in addition to the chiefs of other tribes attended. Pursuant to custom, the Chapter members sang "The Ballad of The Green Beret", and the family was presented with a Medal of Excellence, a Certificate of Achievement and an engraved Chapter 32-50 challenge coin. Interment was at Little Cemetery.

Old Business.

Historian, Maj (R) Joe Todd, is continuing to record videos of combat veterans. If you have not recorded an interview, contact Joe at (918) 914-2179.

Please give Pat Carr your submissions for The Drop. Please also give Pat your old photographs (in uniform or out) to be preserved on the chapter website.

New Business

Thao Edwards won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$100, which she donated back to the Chapter. Those wishing to participate in the 50/50 drawing should bring small bills. Five dollars buys six tickets. A chapter coin gets an extra ticket.

Charles Watts' motion to approve the 13 JUL 2024, Minutes, seconded by Butch Graham, was unanimously approved.

J.O. Dickey, seconded by Mack Law, moved to donate \$1,500 from the Chapter General Fund for Jerry Haney's funeral arrangements. Instead, numerous members donated a total of \$2,500 to Barbara Haney._____.

Please save Saturday, 26 OCT 2024, on your calendars, as Medal of Honor recipient and SF Master Sergeant Earl Plumblee will be inducted into the

Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Our own Doug Warden is MSG Plumblee's sponsor. The formal dinner presentation will be at the Norman Embassy Suites.

SFA CARNIVAL CRUISE

It is my honor to serve this Association as your newly elected Vice President. I still have a big job with this SF Cruise we are planning for October, where we are also going to have our SFACON for 2024.

Our cruise committee is lead by Chapter VIII (Hawaii); however, we have volunteers from all across the country and just completed our 29th IPR today. Below is a quick update...join us and book your cabin before they are all gone.

As you know we are gathering over 2,100+ Green Berets, Gold Star Families, Medal of Honor recipients, Family and friends. The responses have been overwhelming with **908 cabin registration (1900+ passengers)** so far. This does not include 30 or so cabins that have purchased/donated a cabin for a Gold Star Family, Medal of Honor recipient, or currently serving AD/NG Soldiers and their spouse.

We expect to fill all 1,055 cabins in the next 60 days. **You need to register now if you want to go!** I can understand many that are not retired, couldn't commit to this last year when we started planning this, but now we are about 100 days out from sailing, should be easier to commit or know your schedule. This event will provide Special Forces Benevolent Organizations, Sponsors, and friends many opportunities to engage with over 7 decades of generations of Special Forces Soldiers and their Families in formal and mostly informal settings. Since it is a charter, every venue on the ship will be available to schedule to best suit specific programs, symposiums, discussions, and lunch/dinner sessions at no additional cost to the sponsor or individual.

Prepare to be inspired by an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers who have conquered adversity and achieved remarkable success both during and after their military service. Hear stories of resilience, leadership, and triumph, drawing upon the lessons learned from your time in the Special Forces and applying them to your civilian life. Potential speakers include: The Originals, Medal of Honor Recipients, Commanders of various organizations like USSOCOM, USASOC, etc. The 1st SFG has already committed to conduct their reunion on the ship.

There are only interior cabins remaining, and the rate is \$1320 for a cabin for 2 persons. This pays for all lodging, food, first class entertainment, taxes, port fees, and gratuities during the 5 day cruise.

Draft Schedule:

Day -1: Thu 10/17 Tampa (*Recommended arrival date*)

Opportunities: Scuba-Diving, Trip, Deep Sea Fishing, Golf, Mini-reunions

Potential concert by famous Artist

Potential Scott Mann's "Last Out-Elegy of a Green Beret" performance

Day 0: Fri 10/18 Tampa

SOCOM Command Briefing (location TBD)

SOCOM Memorial Event

Motorcycle Ride

Scuba-diving Trip/Recert

Various Pre-Cruise Ice-Breakers by SF Group

1st SFG Reunion Social at the Barrymore Hotel Tampa River Walk

Deep Dive 2024 Combat Diver Reunion at Horse Soldier Distillery

Potential concert by Famous Artist

Potential Scott Mann's "Last Out-Elegy of a Green Beret" performance

Day 1: Sat 10/19 - load 11am by 2pm, depart 4pm (Sail-away party)

Day 2: Sun 10/20 at Sea

Day 3: Mon 10/21 8am - 4pm Bimini, The Bahamas

Day 4: Tue 10/22 8am-4pm Nassau, The Bahamas

Day 5: Wed 10/23 at Sea

Day 6: Thu 10/24 8am arrive back in Tampa, FL offload by 1130

** Those returning home by air should plan flights after 12pm*

Ybor City Tours, Dinner and Pub Crawl

Potential concert by Famous Artist

Potential Scott Mann's "Last Out-Elegy of a Green Beret" performance

Day 7: Fri 10/25

Make Lifelong Connections: Strengthen the bonds forged in the crucible of Special Forces Form new connections with like-minded individuals who share a common mission and purpose. This is a chance to expand your network, exchange ideas, and collaborate with fellow warriors who are making a difference in various fields.

So don't miss out on this extraordinary gathering of elite warriors. Reserve your spot today on this Global Gathering of Green Berets, and embark on an adventure that will reignite the fire within and create memories that will last a lifetime. Together, let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future

REGISTER HERE

<https://sfali.org/cruise-pre-registration-page/>

For more information, continue to follow us at:

<https://www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfacon-2024/>

or on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfacon>

DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

De Oppresso Liber,

Pete Tingstrom

Vice President Special Forces Association

(808) 436-2901

Special Forces 2024 Cruise Lead Planner / SFACON 2024 Chair

specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com

New Business

Thao Edwards won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$100, which she donated back to the Chapter. Those wishing to participate in the 50/50 drawing should bring small bills. Five dollars buys six tickets. A chapter coin gets an extra ticket.

Charles Watts' motion to approve the 13 JUL 2024, Minutes, seconded by Butch Graham, was unanimously approved.

J.O. Dickey, seconded by Mack Law, moved to donate \$1,500 from the Chapter General Fund for soon expected funeral arrangements for beloved member, Jerry Haney. Although the motion failed, members chipped in and donated almost \$2500, which has been delivered to the Haney family.

Please save Saturday, 26 OCT 2024, on your calendars, as Medal of Honor recipient, SF Master Sergeant Earl Plumlee will be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Our own Doug Warden is MSG Plumlee's sponsor. The formal dinner and presentation will be at the Norman Embassy Suites.

Our Next Meeting will be Saturday, 14 SEP 2024, at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Headquarters, 2101 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City. The entrance to parking is on the north side of NE 36th Street. The social hour begins at 1100 hours, and the business meeting begins at 1200 hours.

De Oppresso Liber,



Charles J. Watts

D-2833

Assistant Secretary