

**THE BOB SALZMAN MEMORIAL CHAPTER FLORIDA  
CHAPTER XXI SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION**

Volume LXXXI April 2026 NR 4

Website: <http://specialforceschapter21florida.com>



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**Chapter XXI Officers, Directors, and Administrative Staff\***

*(\*Officers listed below were elected on 21 February 2026 for 2 Year Term ending on 21 February 2028)*

- PRESIDENT:** John Vislosky, M-14010L, Tel: (914) 406-0316, E-mail: [JV4@aol.com](mailto:JV4@aol.com)
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- TREASURER:** Phil Devon, M-13612, 4313 Tel: (585)739-4785, E-mail: [pnjdevon@gmail.com](mailto:pnjdevon@gmail.com)
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- WEBMASTER:** Dave Grose, D-3910L, Tel: (315) 573-2014, E-mail: [dgrose895@gmail.com](mailto:dgrose895@gmail.com)

## President's Update - John Vislosky

Spring is here but for those of us in Florida it has been Spring since last October. Continue to enjoy the weather and life.

**Correction** to our attendee list at our 21 February Meeting/Luncheon. I forgot to mention the lovely *Mary Haskell* was also in attendance (pictured below in the lemon-colored top). My apologies Mary.



**Chapter 21 Election of Officers.** The current slate of serving Officers were nominated and unanimously elected to serve an additional 2 years. Terms will end 21 February 2028.

**Chapter XXI Educational Grant:** The Grant fund application is now open, and you must submit your applications to Phil Devon **NLT 31 May 2026**. Applications can be sent to Phil via mail or email to [pdevo@comcast.net](mailto:pdevo@comcast.net) or Phil Devon, 4313 North Course Land, Avon Park, FL 33825. A copy of the application criteria and the application form can be found on *Page 8-9* of this newsletter.

**Chapter 21 JROTC Award Certificates and Medals:** Steve Epkins continues to do an excellent job coordinating with 50 JROTC Central Florida High School programs to present SF Chapter 21 Certificates and Medals. Steve personally will present 16 Schools Certificates and Medals on 30 April. Thank you, Steve, for your untiring efforts with this program. I also wish to Thank Richard “Whit” Whitman and John Haralson for volunteering to present the awards on behalf of the Chapter to Lake Buena Vista and Viera High School JROTC Programs.

If you are interested in assisting Steve and presenting the awards on behalf of Chapter 21 (which includes wearing the Beret, Blazer, and Regimental tie), please contact Steve Epkins at [sepkins@proton.me](mailto:sepkins@proton.me) or at (239) 810-0488.

**SFACON 2026** in Fort Walton Beach, Florida 8-12 June 2026 is now open for conference registration. See registration details and hotel information on *Page 6* of this Newsletter. Also, hotels are filling up fast.

## Next Chapter Meeting

We are considering either July or August 2026 for our next meeting/luncheon. We are looking at having the meeting in either the Orlando area or at The Villages again...stay tuned. We had 31 at our last meeting in Cocoa and we should try to double attendance for the next meeting.

## Donations

- The Chapter wishes to Thank Ingrid Luff Carrier for her donation of \$100.00. *Vielen Dank* Ingrid!!

## What's Happening

- **Colonel (R) John Erskine:** Congratulations to Chapter 21 Member Colonel (R) John Erskine who was inducted on 19 March into the Marion County Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. John is being recognized for his extensive work assisting other Veterans. The email from John to me about the ceremony reads as follows:

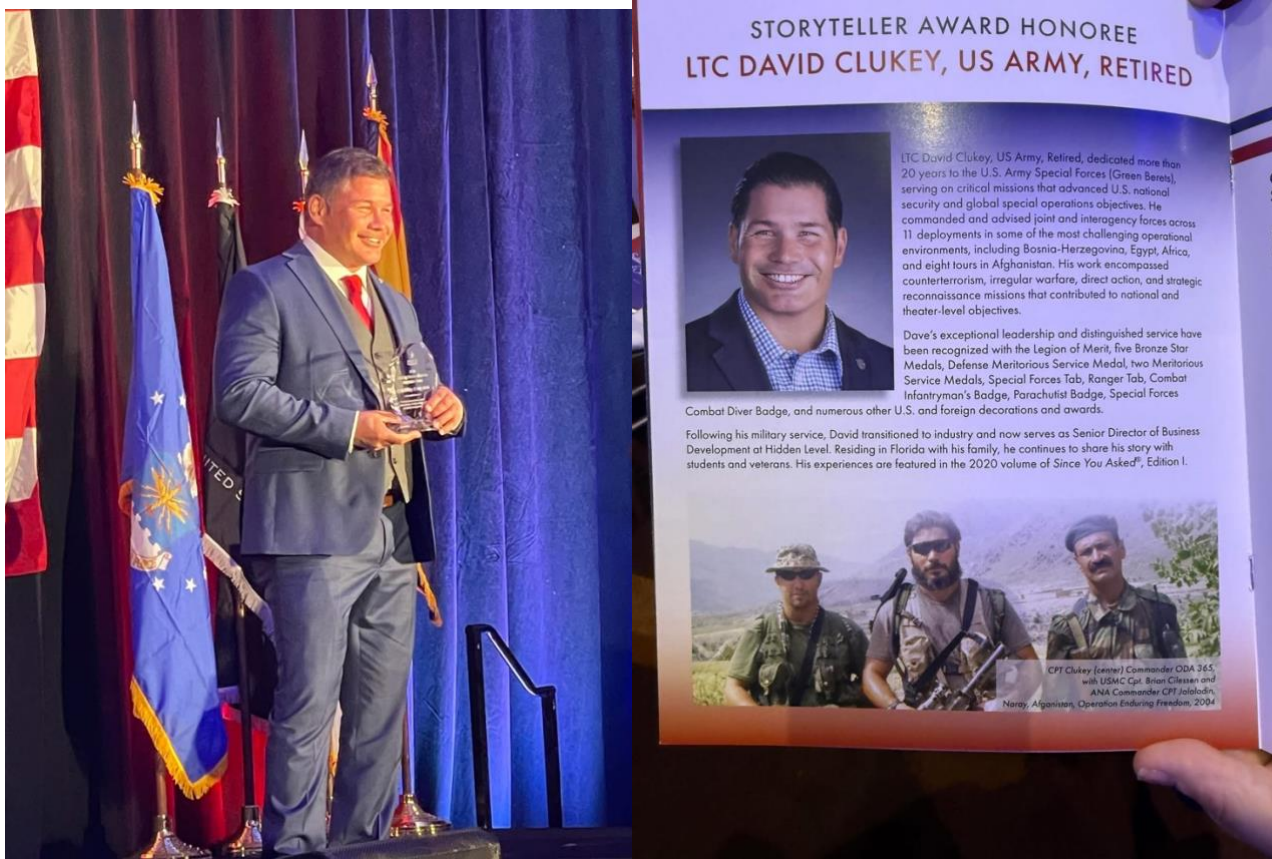
*Good Morning John (V),*

*What an honor to be inducted into the Marion County Veteran's Hall of Fame! I was given a Blazer and a ring and the opportunity to speak. Both Gayle and son Jeff were there, so it was nice to be able to thank them for their support and encouragement over a 32-year military career. It was a humbling experience and I'm very grateful to have been selected in the inaugural class.*

*I've attached a lot of photos of the induction ceremony and there was also a very nice writeup in our local paper, so I'm sending that too. Note the tie I'm wearing! 😊 All the best, John Erskine*



- **LTC (R) David S Clukey:** Congratulations to Chapter 21 member Dave Clukey for being the *Imprints of Honor Storyteller Award Honoree for 2026.*



- **Dedication Ceremony of the Special Forces Monument**, 10 April at 1000 Hours at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Address is 4083 Lannie Road in Jacksonville FL. After the Ceremony, attendees are invited to a social with refreshments served in celebration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Special Forces Branch. Address for the social is the Lannie Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road about 2 miles from the cemetery.



## Health & Welfare

- **Ray Drewry:** It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of our SF Brother Ray A. Drewry on 22 March 2026. While the details of Ray's Funeral have not been finalized, I will send out a special announcement to everyone once we know. Prayers out for both Ray and Judy Drewry. God Bless.
- **Judy Drewry:** Judy Drewry is recovering from surgery at Tampa Hospital. We all wish her the best with her recovery and during her time of grief over the loss of Ray.
- **Don Augustin:** Equally regrettable is the announcement that Don Augustin has passed on 14 March 2026. The details of his funeral services have not been finalized but I will send a special announcement out when we know. In the interim, prayers out to Diana Augustin during her time of grief. God Bless.
- **Joe McLaughlin's Celebration of Life:** On 28 February at VFW Post 10148 more than 50 family and friends attended the *Celebration of Life* for our Chapter 21 SF Brother Joe McLaughlin. There were plenty of laughs and tears as family and friends recounted stories to immortalize Joe. Several members of Chapter 21 attended to say "a fond goodbye" to our brother Joe. We wish to Thank our gracious hosts, in particular, Joe's family and VFW Post 10148's SF CWO 4 (R) Dean Novotny for the invitation to attend. Pictures follow...



## SF/Ranger Luncheons

- **St Petersburg SF/Ranger:** *The Harbor Master* at Bay Pines Marina, 4999 Harbor Lights Drive, Seminole FL 33706, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. The next get together is **4 April 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET**.
- **Cape Canaveral (GBTS) SF/Ranger:** Held monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at *Grills Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar*, 500 Glen Cheek Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL. The next get together is **28 April 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET**.

## Upcoming SFA & SOA Events

- **Dedication Ceremony of the Special Forces Monument: 10 April 2026** at 1000 Hours at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Address is 4083 Lannie Road in Jacksonville FL. After the Ceremony attendees are invited to a social with refreshments served in celebration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Special Forces Branch. Address for the social is the Lannie Baptist Church , 5998 Lannie Road about 2 miles from the cemetery.
- **SFACON 2026: 8-12 June 2026**, ort Walton Beach, FL. Hosted by 7<sup>th</sup> SFG (A): Registration for the Convention is [https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=404269&module\\_id=770089](https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=404269&module_id=770089)

SFA Chapter 7, the hosts of SFACON 2026, Arrival date of Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> suggested. There will be a Welcome social gathering 1700-2000. The closing banquet is Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Below are the booking links for two of the hotels holding rooms for the convention. These are direct links to SFACON rooms. The hotels below are a 2-minute walk apart, and the *Home2 Suites* is the "primary hotel" where the hospitality room will be located. The contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> hotel near the beach in Destin should be signed soon. Several events at the nearby Ridgon Center on Eglin AFB. Pack flip flops. Hotel information below and embedded with the Conference room code.

*Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fort Walton Beach Eglin Area:*

<https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=VPSFN&checkInDate=05&checkInMonthYear=052026&checkOutDate=14&checkOutMonthYear=052026&PMID=99801505&GPC=SFC&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00>

*Home2 Suites Fort Walton Beach Eglin Air Force Base:*

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=VPSWBHT&groupCode=CHT90L&arrivaldate=2026-06-07&departuredate=2026-06-12&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

- **SOAR 2026:** The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SOA!!! **12-15 October 2026**, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas NV

## Chapter XXI Quartermaster April 2026 Sale Items

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



**SF DOL Shot Glass**  
\$7.00  
plus  
\$5.00 postage



**DOL Lapel Pin**  
6.00 each  
plus  
\$5.00 postage



**New SFA Chapter 21 Challenge Coin**  
\$15.00 each  
plus  
\$8.00 postage



**Special Forces Car Magnet**  
\$3.00 each  
plus  
\$3.00 postage

## **Chapter XXI Education Grant Program**

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

Attached to this Newsletter are two documents: 1) Overview of the Education Grant Program and 2) a Blank Application form. All active Chapter members, in good standing, are encouraged to forward the application to their descendants who meet the Program requirements. After the applicant completes their portion of the form, it is then returned to their sponsor who would then complete the sponsor endorsement section. Please note that Chapter members are required to complete their portion of the application and forward it to the Chapter no later than the **stated deadline, 31 May 2026**. Completed applications should be mailed to: Philip Devon, Treasurer, SFA Chapter 21, 4313 North Course LN, Avon Park, FL 33825.

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

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

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### SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CHAPTER XXI EDUCATION GRANT

#### Objective of the Education Grant-

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

#### Program Overview-

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

## Special Forces Association Chapter XXI Education Grant Application

### Section 1: Applicant Information (Please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027**

School Currently Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_ When will you Graduate? \_\_\_\_\_

School You Plan to Attend \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major or Area of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

What is Your Long-Term Career Goal? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What Else Should We know About You? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2: Chapter XXI Member Sponsor for the Applicant

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SFA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Member Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

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

(attach additional sheets if necessary)