

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

Volume LXXXIII June 2026 NR 6

Website: <http://specialforceschapter21florida.com>



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)*

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President's Update - John Vislosky

- June 2026...almost halfway through this year. Just a few updates in this edition of the newsletter. The good news is we have coordinated a meeting/luncheon. Details are below. I wish to Thank our SF Brother and now a member of Chapter 21, Rick Comerford for opening his home just south of Orlando for the meeting and luncheon.
- I encourage everyone to mark their calendars for 1 AUGUST 2026 and attend our Chapter 21 Meeting and Luncheon. We have a great many new members, and this would be a good opportunity for everyone in the Chapter to meet and as always, feel free to invite family and guests. It should be another great get together. Our guest speaker will be Chapter 21 Member and Colonel (R) Steve Epkins. Steve will bring us up to date on SFA Chapter 21 support of Florida JROTC programs.
- Chapter XXI Educational Grant: Has officially closed as of 31 May 2026.
- **SFACON 2026: 8-12 June 2026**, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Hosted by 7th SFG (A): There is still time to register at the following link: more details on Page 5 of the Newsletter:
https://teamhouse.specialforcesassociation.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=404269&module_id=770089
- **Chapter 21 JROTC Award Certificates and Medals:** Steve Epkins has done a terrific job again this year of awarding 60 High School JROTC programs with the SFA, Chapter 21 Certificates and Medals. Thank you, Steve, for your untiring efforts. If you are interested in assisting Steve Epkins with presenting the 2027 ROTC awards on behalf of Chapter 21 (which includes wearing the Beret, Blazer, and Regimental tie), please contact Steve Epkins at sepkins@proton.me or at (239) 810-0488

Pictured below is the 2026, MG Dozier/Lee County JROTC Awards Ceremony. The County has 16 schools' programs. Pictured and assisting in the presentation of the SFA Chapter 21 Certificates and Medals to Distinguished graduates is Chapter 21 Member, Colonel (R) Steve Epkins and retired (R) SGM, Rick Erickson. SGM Erickson's total Army time was in SF and Special Operations. SGM Erickson is currently running for Mayor of Cape Coral.



Next Chapter Meeting

Chapter 21 Luncheon and Meeting
1100 hours until 1430 Hours 1 August 2026
at Rick Comerford's home, 13110 South Lake Mary Jane Rd, Orlando Florida

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Everyone is Invited
(Chapter 21 Members, Guests, Family, Other SFA Chapters and their Guests)
LOOKING FOR YOU ALL TO ATTEND AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN!!!!

WHEN: Saturday, 1 August 2026 from 1100 Hours until 1430 Hours (11 AM until 2:30 PM). Luncheon followed by the Chapter XXI Meeting and Guest Speaker, Colonel (R) and Chapter 21 Member, Steve Epkins

WHERE: Chapter 21 Member, Rick Comerford's Private Home, **13110 South Lake Mary Jane Road, Orlando FL 32832**

COST: Pay in advance to reserve your place **\$30.00/per person (NONREFUNDABLE)**. Includes Lunch and a Non-Alcoholic Drink

DRESS: Florida casual for hot weather and BBQ. Wearing if the Green Beret or SF Ballcap are encouraged.

RSVP: We set up a link (see below) to pay and select your meal choice(s) by credit card. You can also pay by personal check in advance. **RSVP as soon as possible but NLT 24 July2026**. You must RSVP by nonrefundable payment.

PAYMENT: **Credit Card** *There is an on-line link for registration by Credit Card for you and your guests , plus the meal choice(s). Go to: <https://specialforceschapter21florida.com/lunch-registration>*

Personal Check make your personal check out to **SFA Chapter 21** and mail it to **John Vislosky 551 Honeyflower Loop Bradenton FL 34212**.

MENU: Catered by *Mission BBQ*

- Chopped Brisket
- Pulled Chicken
- Maggie's Mac-N-Cheese
- Green Beans & Bacon
- Choice of Hand-Crafted BBQ Sauces
- Cookies and Brownies
- Non-alcoholic beverage (Iced Tea, Water)

HOTELS NEARBY:

- **Aloft by Marriott Orlando:** 7215 Corner Dr, Orlando FL 32827 (P) 407-313-3700
- **Holiday Inn & Express Suites Orlando Southeast:** 32832 Pioneers Way, Orlando FL 32832 (P) 407-207-7001

What's Happening

- John Erskine and Gayle continue their charitable work (pictured below). Thank you for all that you do for the community. The email from John E.....

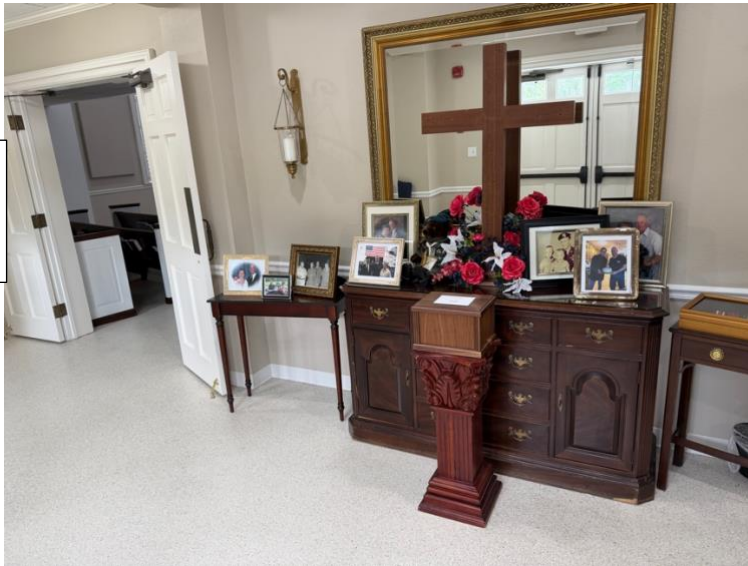
Gayle and I worked the food pantry at Lake Panasoffkee on May 6th. Many of the recipients were homeless veterans. It was a blessing to serve, and I wore my SF shirt and cap so the Chapter could get the credit. None that I spoke with were SF, though. DOL, John E



Health & Welfare

- **Phil and Joette Devon** : Continued prayers for our Treasurer Phil Devon

- **Ray Drewry:** Several Chapter 21 Members and fellow SF Brothers attended the Saturday 30 May Memorial Service for our fallen SF Brother, Ray A. Drewry at the First Baptist Church of Crystal River FL. Judy, Ray's family, fellow SF Brother and Lifelong friend, George Garcia, American Legion Post 77 (Honor Guard) and the Paster of First Baptist Church of Crystal River, all contributed to a much-deserved tribute to Ray. God Bless and RIP Brother.



First Baptist Memorial Service



“The Three Amigos” Ray with his two sons) (L-R) Ray Jr, Ray and George



Judy and Ray at SOAR - A true love story

SF/Ranger Luncheons

- **St Petersburg SF/Ranger:** *The Harbor Master* at Bay Pines Marina, 4999 Harbor Lights Drive, Seminole FL 33706, on the 1st Saturday of the month. The next get together is **6 June 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 **30 June 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET**.

Upcoming SFA & SOA Events

- **SFACON 2026: 8-12 June 2026**, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Hosted by 7th SFG (A): Registration for the Convention is 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 7th suggested. There will be a Welcome social gathering 1700-2000. The closing banquet is Thursday, June 11th. 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 3rd 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®ionCode=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>

- **5th Special Forces Group's 65th Annual Reunion: 19- 26 September 2026.** For more details contact SFA Chapter 38: sfa38secretary@gmail.com
- **SOAR 2026:** The 50th Anniversary of the SOA!!! **12-15 October 2026**, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas NV

Chapter XXI Quartermaster June 2026 Sale Items

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



SFA CHAPTER 21 COIN
\$15.00
plus
\$8.00 postage



SF LICENSE PLATE FRAME
7.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage



DOL SF CREST WINE GLASS
\$15.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage



DOL SF CREST SHOT GLASS
\$7.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage