

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

Volume LXXXV August 2026 NR 8

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)*

PRESIDENT: John Vislosky, M-14010L, Tel: (914) 406-0316, E-mail: JV4@aol.com

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WEBMASTER: Dave Grose, D-3910L, Tel: (315) 573-2014, E-mail: dgrose895@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR JROTC
AWARDS & PROGRAMS** Steve Epkins , (Tel) 239-810-0488; (Email) sepkins@proton.me

President's Update - John Vislosky

- **Opening Comments:** August already. I intentionally delayed this Month's Chapter Newsletter to report on our 1 August Meeting and Luncheon. Summary of the meeting, list of attendees and pictures from the event follow below.
- **Summary of 1 August Chapter Meeting/Luncheon:** What a great meeting and luncheon! Again, we Thank Rick and Teresa Comerford for hosting at their beautiful house and property. It made for a very relaxed atmosphere Everyone got to just hang out and enjoy each other's company.

Mission BBQ did a great job of providing the catering and soft drinks, etc. In total we had 25 total attendees. The attendees included Rich Bautista (New Chapter 21 member); Rick and Teresa Comerford; Jim Day; Phil and Joette Devon; Steve Epkins; John & Gayle Erskine; Nancy Furbish, Alex Saunders; John Goodyear; Bill Haskell; Ron Huegal (Chapter 78); Al Matos; Mike McCrudden; Sue Micelli; (New Chapter 21 member, Colonel (Retired) Columbian Special Forces & SF Q Graduate) Homero (Carlos) Rodriguez, his wife, Luz & son, Daniel; Bill Schulz; Jimmie Summerhill; John & Betty Vislosky; and Richard "Whit" Whitman.



(L-R) Nancy Furbish, Alex Saunders, Jim Day, & Jimmie Summerhill



(L-R) Al Mato;
Mike McCrudden;
Rich Bautista;
John Vislosky;
Rick Comerford;
& Sue Micelli



(L-R) Daniel Rodriguez; Betty
Vislosky; John Vislosky;
Colonel-R Carlos Rodriguez &
Luz Rodriguez



(L-R) Ron Huegal (Chap 78)
John Goodyear; & Steve
Epkins



(L-R) Ron Huegal (Chap 78);
Steve Epkins ; Rich Bautista'
& John Goodyear



Bill Schulz (seated); Rick Comerford (Co-Host) & Gayle Erskine



Gayle Erskine and Teresa Comerford (Co- Host)



(L-R) John Vislosky; Steve Epkins; Richard Whitman & Phil Devon



Whit, Phil, Joette Devon Betty & John V



(COL-R) Steve Epkins giving his presentation on Chapter 21's JROTC Awards Program



Chapter Treasurer Phil Devon providing the Chapter update on finances

Meeting topics included: the welcoming of new members; approval of the Minutes from our 21 February 2026 meeting, a brief financial update, plus several items for the *Good of the Order* (listed below):

- Bill Haskel updated us on several charitable organizations that support veterans. And in a very helpful update he mentioned a motor oil that should be used in Florida to preserve your car's engine in Florida especially. The Motor oil is **AMS Oil 10W-30** and available at various on-line and automotive stores.
- We also had a detailed update from Steve Epkins on our JROTC Chapter 21 Certificates and Awards to Honor Graduates from 50 High Schools in Florida and (1) High School in NC. Steve provided us with a 12-page handout with pictures of various high schools and their programs (i.e. Raider Competition, Drill Team; Drones and Robotics; Air Rifle Teams & Color Guards, etc.) He emphasized the impact of our Chapter's presentation of awards and how it so well received by the recipients, their families and the High Schools.

Steve covers some many schools alone and has been added over the last year by John Erskine and Richard Whitman. Steve, John and Whit all commented how important it is to be there on behalf of the Chapter.

John Erskine commented that presenting the awards was a most “gratifying experience”.

BUT... Steve needs Chapter volunteers for April - May 2027 presentation of awards. Otherwise, the Chapter Certificates and Medals are mailed, and the school is left to present the awards without a “Green Beret” from the Chapter present. Your only duty is to appear at the ceremony in Green Beret, Green SFA Jacket and Tie and present the awards to the honor grads. No speeches or further requirements. Please volunteer by contacting Steve directly at: (C) 239-810-0488 or (E) sepkins@proton.me

- **MSG Matt Dorn’s SF History Project** sent me a request for Chapter members with a unique story to be interviewed for his SF History Project” Matt emailed me the following:

Thanks for taking my call. Matthew Dorn here, retired MSG -1st SFG(A) and 20th SFG(A) and SFA # D-8243. I am working on the history the US Army Special Forces units- some of this history isn't well documented- which I am trying to correct. I have gathered about 2000 original documents and newspaper/periodical articles. Here is a link to a website I have built to go along with the project.

<https://www.onshouldersofgiants.org/>

Please note this is a multi-phase project (I am working on phase 2). The last page of each Group section explains my plan process forward. The site is best view on a PC versus a phone. I haven't quite figured out the phone format-sorry about any inconvenience. All feedback and suggestions are appreciated!

DOL Matt 772-403-3761(FL)

Next Chapter 21 Meeting

- We discussed scheduling at least two more meetings before 2026 ends. Therefore, the next meeting will be in conjunction with the Green Beret Troop Support Luncheon (see details below) that so many of our members attend. The second will be an overnight super casual Christmas gathering in early December – details TBD.
 - **Chapter 21 Meeting in conjunction with the Cape Canaveral (GBTS) SF/Ranger Luncheon: 27 October 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET** at *Grills Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar*, 500 Glen Cheek Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL. All Chapter 21 members wives and families are invited to attend. Also, any other SFA members also can attend. Just show up – no need to register. The cost is \$20 per person for drinks and charitable donations. You pay for your own meal(s).
 - **Chapter 21 Year-end meeting and Christmas Celebration. DATE & LOCATION TBD**
We plan to do either a Friday/Saturday **or** Saturday/Sunday event in early December at a hotel. Location and dates TBD. We will confirm the details in October. The idea would be a casual get together in our own hospitality room. We would have the Chapter meeting, then a catered dinner in the same room followed the gift exchange, & then enjoy the rest of the evening sharing war stories. You have the option of staying overnight or leaving for home afterwards. The next morning would be an informal hotel breakfast at the hotel and the rest would then depart. If you have any thoughts or suggestion on a location—please email John Vislosky at JV4@aol.com

Donations:

- The Chapter would like to Thank **Ingrid Luff Currier** for her donation of \$75.00 to the Chapter. Thank you, Ingrid!!
- The Chapter would like to Thank **John Fryer** for his donation of \$150.00 to the Chapter in Memory of Ray Drewry. Thank you, John!!
- The Chapter would like to Thank **Bill Haskell** for his donation of \$200.00 to the Chapter's "General Fund". Thank you, Bill!!

Health & Welfare

- **Mary Haskell:** Please keep in her in your prayers as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- **Sheila Whitman:** Please keep her in your prayers.

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 **1 August 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 **25 August 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET**.

Upcoming SFA & SOA Events

- **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 . Registration is now open along with the hotel reduced rate code. See <https://specialoperations.org/soa/> for more information and to register.
- **Chapter 21 Meeting & in conjunction with the Cape Canaveral (GBTS) SF/Ranger Luncheon: 27 October 2026 @ 1130 Hours ET.** at *Grills Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar*, 500 Glen Cheek Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL. All Chapter 21 members, wives, and family members are invited to attend. Also, any other SFA members also can attend. Just show up – no need to register. The cost is \$20 per person for drinks and charitable donations. You pay for your own meal(s).
- **SFA Chapter 21 Year End Meeting: TBD - Early December 2026**

Chapter XXI Quartermaster August 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 each
plus
\$8.00 postage



Smal SOG & SF Decals
\$2.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage



SF Regimental Flag
3'x5'
\$35.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage



DOL SF Airborne Vest/Jacket Patch
\$30.00 each
plus
\$8.00 postage