



SFA CHAPTER LXXXIX (89)
SFC ALLEN C. JOHNSON MEMORIAL CHAPTER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

President John E. Cleckner Sr.
VP Jack Bowles
Asst. VP Jim Wipf
Asst. VP Larry Griffin
Secretary Mike Walker
Treasurer Bob Maraviov
Chaplain Don Mangrum
Sgt at Arms Scott Masterson

FALL NEWSLETTER 2008

SFA Chapter 89 Members,

Chapter 89 and its members have been very busy during the period since our Summer Newsletter was published. We will cover all of these events, projects and plans later in the Newsletter. First, Chapter 89 would like to welcome our newest Associate Member, Susan Houston. Susan will continue Sam's great work and her own involvement with Chapter 89s Scholarship Program.

Congratulations to **Lieutenant Colonel "Bull" Navarro** on his recent promotion.

Chapter member, **Captain John Cleckner II**, just returned from a successful deployment to the Philippines. He was then sent to some very critical training and now is heading for another deployment.

Stew Carnes is back doing what he does as a civilian contractor.

Steve Stevenson contacted the Chapter and said hi and let us know he is currently working in Wyoming.

Recognition of Chapter Members this Quarter:

It is truly a blessing to have the dedicated team members we have in Chapter 89. This is not a complete list, but it demonstrates the level of involvement in Chapter programs and events, Veterans Affairs and Civic programs that we have and the time and financial effort given to our Chapter by its members.

Bob Maraviov has done a phenomenal job as our Chapter Treasurer. He works tirelessly on this incredibly important aspect of our Chapter. Bob is also our Chapter Quartermaster. This means Bob maintains and sets up our Chapter Colors and the SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial, which all of you know is substantial, at all meetings, parties and annual events. Bob is also the Chapter Chairman of the Annual Veterans Day Parade. This year Bob has done the planning and coordination for a Fly Over of the Parade down Shasta Dam Blvd. This years Veterans Day Theme is, “**FEEDOMS THUNDER**” Bob and the parade committee are shooting for **1000 motorcycles** in this year’s parade. Bob is also the Chairman of the Battle Monuments National Christmas Wreath laying project at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery. Bob is a member of the Chapter Color/Honor Guard and works tirelessly behind the scenes on every event, program and project our Chapter involves itself with, plus other civic projects.

Now to his behind the scenes work on behalf of Veterans. As a Veteran he noticed the Shasta Lake Veterans Memorial was in great disrepair. He took this information to the Shasta Lake Lions Club and they agreed to renovate the Memorial. Bob raised money and worked tirelessly repairing and painting the Memorial until it is now truly worthy of Honoring Veterans and a place Shasta Lake can be proud of. But that is not all; Bob has also been an integral part of the Renovation of the Redding Veterans Memorial Grove. Bob was part of a Veterans Work crew at the Grove and because of his 35 years in the Construction Business he advised, consulted and supported the Volunteer Contractors that renovated the “Grove”. This project is also completed and looks magnificent. Yes there is more. Bob is a Member at Large of the California Cemetery Committee and is working with the Monuments and Memorials Sub-Committee developing an area of the Northern California Veterans Cemetery for trails, paths, bridges, reflection and meditation areas, and monuments and memorials so families and Veterans groups can invest in. Working with the Veterans Cemetery Administrator, Bob has surveyed the area and drawn up preliminary plans for the Committees consideration.

Bob’s wife **Kathy** is always by his side and supports him during all of his hard work. A Big Tip of the Beret to her; Thank you Kathy and thanks for all the GREAT Food you serve the Chapter.

Bob has been identified as this years Chapter Member of the Year (2008). His name will be submitted to National for consideration of this Award at the National Level.

Bryan Furman is one of the most active members of our Chapter. Strangely enough, he also lives over 5 hours travel time from our meeting locations. Bryan does more than just make meetings regularly. He is deeply involved with Chapter’s business and works tirelessly on projects like Constitution and By Law Issues, the Chapter Web Site, Annual

Chapter Events and has contributed large sums of money to Chapter fundraising and Annual Chapter events. Thank you Bryan for all that you do. And a sincere thank you to **Carolyn** also.

Chapter Associate Member Ken Delfino is traveling overseas again honoring our Veteran Heroes. Ken has traveled to Europe for years as the Kiwanis Internationals Americanism Chairman. This trip he is helping develop a site to Honor WWI Medal of Honor Recipient **Sergeant Alvin York** at the site of the battle he was involved with in France. Chapter members have donated to this project and have been briefed on it several times.

The SFA DROP is in the mail. Please take the time to read and understand the proposed changes in our Constitution and Articles of Incorporation. **Please VOTE** and when you do, let President Cleckner know you have voted so he can keep the tally on our Chapter.

It is **Dues** time again. Please send your check to Bob and he will send them to National. Yearly dues are **\$30.00** for those of you who are not Life Members.

October's meeting is Saturday the 11th at 1300 hours. After the meeting **Doris and John Cleckner** are going to have an informal Oktoberfest at their Team House. Everyone is invited. If you want to bring anything, bring some Ice, or Pop, or your favorite Beer. We all know the cheapo beer Cleckner buys.

November's meeting is Saturday the 15th. This is a week later than we normally have our meetings because ALL of you are going to ride the Orange and Green float in the Shasta County Veterans Day Parade on the 8th. The Parade starts at 1000 hours, and we will meet at the Bank on Shasta Dam Blvd at 0900 hours. Uniform for the Day is: **GREEN BERET, Black turtle neck, Black Chapter Jackets and Blankets if it is cold. (Black Beret for the Chapter Associate Members)**

The annual **Veteran's Day Services** will again be conducted at the No. CA.Veterans Cemetery on November 11th at 1100 hours

Our Chapter's Project to "PLACE" a **Special Forces Memorial** honoring ALL Special Forces has move closer to reality. Below is a message sent to Chapter Members by President Cleckner regarding the approval of our Special Forces Memorial at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery.

SFA Chapter 89 Members,

The Northern California Veterans Cemetery is the ONLY State Veterans Cemetery in California.

Attached is a site map for the first "Special Forces" Memorial/Monument in a California State Cemetery. This may also be the first Memorial of its kind in the entire State, anywhere. I am working on verifying that fact.

Attached is an overhead view of the center of the Veterans Cemetery Complex showing the placement of our Monument.

The Northern California Cemetery Administrator and the State Cemetery Committee on Monuments and Memorials have approved the location of our Monument and Memorial to "Special Forces".

This is beautiful location in the Center of the Cemetery and accessible to everyone who enters the Cemetery Complex. By that I mean everyone will pass our Monument.

The design of our monument is the same as the design of the monument being developed on the South Side of the "Inner Circle" of the Cemetery. Our monument will be on the North Side across from the "Columbaria Vaults".

The Monument will sit on a pre designed foundation whose dimensions correspond with our Monument's design. The base is 24" wide, monument position 13" Wide with the larger part of the base beveled up to the smaller size, 12" High, Length will correspond with the base of our Monument and be the approved size to give our monument conformity.

The monument will be 48" wide at the base, 42" at the top and beveled up to 28 1/2" with the top being rounded from a frontal view. It will be 54" High. With the base that will give us a monument from ground level of approximately five and a half feet high.

The monument will be Forest Green with protection to stop deterioration and be graffiti proof.

The face of the Monument can be designed out of Concrete (In relief and painted), a combination of Concrete and Granite, or full Granite.

For example we could have a piece of Forest Green Granite set into the front of the Monument with a small Concrete Boarder and have our Green Beret, American Flag and DE OPPRESSO LIBER engraved into the Granite face with what ever words our Chapter comes up with to HONOR our Fallen Special Forces Comrades on the Memorial between the flag and our motto.

I am again requesting that our members submit ideas and or designs that will make up the Memorial (the face of the Monument).

Remember, this is a memorial to ALL SPECIAL FORCES.

John

John E. Cleckner Sr.
President, SFA Chapter 89

Chapter Web Site:

To access our web site go to – **sfachapter89.com**, note that it is still being improved upon. If anyone had any comment or suggestions please get a hold of Bryan Furman.. There is also an email access at that web site and that is sfachapter89@gmail.com. Chapter events, dates, and general SF information is included at this site.

Meeting dates and other Chapter events:

Chapter 89 meetings, social events and special events for the balance of the year are still as listed on the 2008 SFA Chapter 89 Schedule. I have confirmed all of our business meetings through December with the Shasta Lake AM Legion. Meetings will start at 1300 hours. Our Christmas Party may be at another location this year. This will all be on the agenda at the October meeting.

2009 Chapter activities and events :

All of the following Chapter activities will continue through 2009.

On May 16th, Armed Forces Day, the Chapter will participated in the third annual World Wide Echo Taps Program at the Northern CA Veterans Cemetery at Igo CA.

Our Memorial Day Service honoring SFC Allen C. Johnson will be on May 23rd at the Los Molinos Cemetery This event will be changed next year to include an informal gathering at the Cemetery by Chapter Members and the Johnson Family and friends followed by lunch at Red Bluff. This change was requested by Jenny and our Chapter will do what ever she asks to honor Allen.

The Shasta County Annual Memorial Day services will held at both the Northern CA Veterans Cemetery in Igo CA. and at the Redding Veterans Memorial Grove in Redding CA. on May 25th and 30th respectively. Chapter 89 will attend both events and will lay a wreath at the Redding service.

The HS JR ROTC program was an enormous success due to the efforts of our Chapter Chairman, Jim Wipf. This important Youth program will be an annual event on our Chapter Calendar of events.

No date has been established for the Second Annual **Allen C. Johnson** Memorial Scholarship program at Los Molinos HS. Three awards were given out this year to very deserving students. Each Student received a \$300.00 award. We will revert to one \$300.00 Scholarship unless we have a larger dollar amount and deserving applicants.

The Federal Government and the State of California are building a new Veterans Home in Redding CA. Chapter member **John Cleckner Sr.** met with State Officials and was informed that Ground Breaking will occur in late May 2009 with completion in February 2011. John is the Consultant to the Veteran Home Committee.

The “Missing In America Project” (MIAP) is still doing its good work and National Director Fred Salanti informed us that Congress may pass legislation to fund this incredibly important Veterans Project.

Chapter 89 needs donations for the Business Meeting Raffles. Please bring an item of at least \$10 in value to the meeting in September.

Sick or In Distress: As of this date of publication I don’t have any knowledge of any of our Members or their families in distress. Please contact Reverend Mangrum, John Cleckner or Mike Walker if you are in need of assistance or are ill
One last request to all members is to get out and beat the bushes in our geographical area and find new qualified members for our Chapter roles.

God Bless you all and God Bless and protect our Warriors around the World --- “Strength and Honor”

DE OPPRESSOR LIBER

Mike Walker
Secretary, SFA Chapter 89

This will be sent to all Chapter Members and SFA National. A hard copy will also be sent with our Advertisers and Chapter pictures.