



Chapter XXXI Dallas/ Fort Worth Special Forces Association



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Billy M Smith
Memorial Chapter

George W. Petrie



Distinguished Member of the
Special Forces Regiment

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Honoring Al Auger's Service

Funeral services with full military honors for Alvin Bernard Auger, 78, of Palestine were at noon Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, at Herrington/Land of Memory Funeral Home Chapel. The family received condolences from 11 a.m. to noon prior to the service.

Mr. Auger died Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

He was born Aug. 10, 1931, in West Warwick, RI, to Leroy and Eva Lachappelle Auger.

Mr. Auger was raised as a Roman Catholic in Rhode Island with a childhood full of clambakes and family. He was a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant and Green Beret having served 24 years with two tours in Korea, six in Vietnam, and two in the Dominican Republic. He graduated from the Monterrey Defense Language Institute and was a private pilot.

He was an operations and intelligence sergeant on a Special Forces Operational Detachment (A Team) having served in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 10th Special Forces Groups (Airborne). His assignments also included White Star mobile training team, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute ROTC, Special Forces adviser to the Saudi Arabian Airborne Forces, and active duty adviser to Florida Special Forces Reserve and National Guard units.

His military awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal (6th Award), Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Laos) (Dominican Republic), Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award) Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal.

After retiring, he worked as a defense and telephony contractor. He moved to Palestine in 1995 and enjoyed raising rabbits with his wife near Brushy Creek.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and wife, Geri Auger, in July 2009.

Mr. Auger is survived by two sons, John Auger and Joseph Auger; two daughters, Melissa Auger and Diane Jones; two brothers, Roy Auger and Eddie Auger; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; cousin, Leola Curan; and fiancé, Evelyn Laird.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Dallas Chapter XXXI of the Special Forces Association, Jerry Jochum, Ron Fory, Ben Lyons, Jim Ames, Gene Pugh, Charlie Barksdale and Paul Herrington.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kan. 66675-8517 (a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization).



George Petrie Nomination

George W. Petrie has exhibited all of the qualities of a leader and hero throughout each and every step of his life. From his over 20+ year career with the Special Forces to his 20 years as President of the Special Forces Chapter #31 his commitment to the Special Forces fraternity has never wavered.

George is a dedicated man who has followed his heart and stood by his country his entire life. He is unwavering in his sense of duty and commitment to patriotic and charitable causes for his country.

To discuss in detail the long-term service and commitment George W. Petrie has exhibited to the Special Forces would seem superfluous and disingenuous. To state that he is deserving of The Special Forces Regimental Hall of Fame would be understated. However, George W. Petrie is one of the elite few whose life and career embodies the spirit, dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment to the Special Forces brotherhood.

Military Service

From George W. Petrie's entry into the military in 1958 to his retirement in 1980 he exhibited the qualities that are only born to a leader and hero.

George began his career with the 82nd Airborne Division. From 1962 to 1980 he was in Special Forces. He served two tours in Vietnam.

George's intrepid leadership and bravery as commander of (A205) Mike Forces in 1967 earned him the Silver Star, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and two Army Commendation medals with "V" device. He received a direct commission in 1970 to 1st Lieutenant and remained in Special Forces.

George was the leader of Blue Boy 3 at the Son Tay raid led by Bull Simons.

As assault team leader, George was the first raider to hit the ground during the raid.

George destroyed the NVA guard tower in hand to hand combat.

The Son Tay raid earned George his second Silver Star.

George Petrie Nomination

In 1974 he returned to Vietnam with the JCRC. He was a field team leader for one of the search control teams.

George was part of the evacuation of Saigon on April 30 1975, leaving by helicopter George boarded the U.S.S. Okinawa Aircraft Carrier at sea.

He was the first raider at Son Tay to hit the ground and may have been last Special Forces soldier to leave Vietnam.

George has received over 30 commendations with 14 being for valor. The highlights of his career include:

- Silver Star with OLC
- Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star with 'V' Device with OLC
- Purple Heart with OLC

George W. Petrie has shown his devotion to his country and his exemplary service as a Special Forces warrior is among the highest in the history of the Special Forces

Special Forces Chapter 31

George W. Petrie as President of Chapter 31 for 18 years, was the driving force of SFA Chapter 31 commitment to the Dallas-Fort Worth Texas community. He had taken this chapter and given it purpose and sustenance within itself. The chapter has the spirit of giving that is unmatched. George has provided a clear and focused vision for the chapter through his leadership and dedication. George has been instrumental in establishing many programs for the SFA Chapter 31. The following are just a few examples of his generosity.

Vet-to-Vet

Members of the SFA Chapter 31 visit the North Texas VA Hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Unit the last Wednesday of each month to provide the Unit's paralyzed veteran patients a good meal and fellowship.

George Petrie Nomination

The time together includes a game of Bingo with cash prizes. In addition, there is an annual Christmas Party with food and gifts for the veterans and their families.

Operation “Safe Refuge”

The Chapter provides financial assistance, driver’s education and English language courses to Montagnard refugees from Southeast Asia. These refugees are families of the Montagnard tribesmen who escaped religious, economical and ethnic persecution by the communist government of Vietnam. These tribesmen, native to the Center Highlands of Vietnam, fought gallantly alongside the Special Forces during the Southeast Asian War, many giving their lives for their Special Forces comrades.

Jimmy Dean Scholarship Fund

The Chapter provides educational assistance in the form of yearly grants to the dependents of active duty Special Forces soldiers as well as other Special Forces veterans who are members of the Association.

Additional Activities and Support Include:

- Support of the active duty wounded soldiers who are hospitalized at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.
- Supports various high school Junior ROTC programs
- Participates in the Dallas Veterans Day Parade and Plano, TX July 4th Parade
- Assists as needed in local and national emergencies most recently Hurricanes, along the Gulf Coast

“This has to be the greatest way of celebrating our heroes; returning the favor by making a difference in someone else's life...And so the cycle of heroism continues.”

Alice Barnes

George Petrie

**Major George Petrie
USA, Retired**

**Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment
Inducted 13 January 2010**

Major George Petrie entered the U.S. Army as a Private on June 22, 1958. After attending Basic and Advanced Infantry Combat Training, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for Basic Airborne Training, becoming a proud member of the 319th Airborne Field Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division. In 1962, Major Petrie graduated from the Special Forces Communications Course as Honor Graduate and was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as an A-Team Senior Radio Supervisor. When 8th Special Group (Airborne) was stood up at Fort Gulick, Panama Canal Zone, Major Petrie transferred to the new unit. While there, over the next three years, he attended Scuba and Underwater Demolitions School and Spanish Language School. In 1967 Major Petrie returned to 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), in the Republic of Vietnam as a Team Sergeant and Company Commander of a mobile guerilla force. The next year, Major Petrie returned to Fort Bragg, assigned first to 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), and later 6th Special Forces Group (Airborne). During this time, he graduated the Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course as Distinguished Honor Graduate and also completed the Special Forces Intelligence Analyst Course.

In 1970, Major Petrie received a Direct Commission to First Lieutenant. After completing the Infantry Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was chosen as part of Operation Ivory Coast, the mission to rescue Americans held prisoners in the Son Tay prison camp. Major Petrie, part of the Assault Team "Blue Boy," was the first raider to hit the ground during the assault on the camp.

Major Petrie returned to the Republic of Vietnam in 1971, ultimately becoming Company Commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) known as the "George Dickel Gang." He returned stateside for the Infantry Officers Advanced Course where he was the Honor Graduate. His next assignment was with the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Thailand. He then served in Saigon, first as an Operations Officer, Field Investigator, Corps Desk Officer, and finally as an Action Officer in the U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Office, serving as a member of the Special Planning Group for the Evacuation of Saigon. Between 1975 and 1976, Major Petrie was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. Between 1976 and 1980, remaining in Hawaii, he was again assigned to the Joint Casualty Resolution Center with additional duty as the Special Operations Division Escape and Evasion Officer, U.S. Pacific Command, a post he would also hold in Korea before retiring from Active Duty on May 31, 1980.

Major Petrie's numerous awards include: Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star w/ "V" Device and OLC, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart with OLC, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and 3 OLCs, Joint Service Commendation Medal w/ 3 Award Devices, Navy Commendation Medal w/ Combat "V" Device, Army Good Conduct Medal w/ 3 Award Devices, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Army Forces Expeditionary Medal w/ 2 Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Service Medal w/ Arrowhead Devices, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/ #3, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon w/ #6, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/ Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stars, Vietnam Honor Medal 1st Class, Vietnam Wound Medal, Vietnam Civic Action Medal (1st Class), Vietnam Campaign Medal w/ "60" Device, Inter-American Peace Force Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation with OLC, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation, Vietnam Civic Action Unit Citation, RVN Armed Forces Honor Medal 1st Class, RVN Civil Action 1st Class w/ Palm, RVN Staff Service Medal 1st Class, RVN Campaign Medal w/ "60" Device, Presidential Unit Citation w/ OLC, Valorous Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation w/ OLC, RVN Civil Action Unit Citation w/ Palm, RVN Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation w/ Palm. His badges include: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Jungle Warfare Expert Patch, Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Combat Jump Star, Pathfinder Badge, Scuba Badge, Special Forces Tab, RVN Master Parachute Badge, Republic of Korea Master Parachute Badge, Thailand Master Parachute Badge w/ Fourragère.

In retirement Major Petrie has volunteered for several organizations. He has been President of the Special Forces Association, Chapter 31, for the past 18 years and has worked with Vet-to-Vet, Operation "Safe Refuge," and the Chapter 31's Jimmy Dean Scholarship Fund. He is

George Petrie

Son Tay Raiders 1970



Blue Boy 3

Bill Adair
Glenn Petrie
Ron Piper
George Petrie



George Petrie

Receiving Silver Star from Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird



George Petrie

Evacuation of Saigon April 30, 1975



George Petrie

Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones host's Chapter 31



George Petrie

Chapter 31 and Dallas Cowboys host wounded Iraq war Veterans



George Petrie

Ron Piper
Roger Donlon
Bill Adair
George Petrie



George Petrie



Chaplain's Message



Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. Who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate the history of Valentine's Day, and its patron saint, is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So; who was St. Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that the Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages, for young lovers in secret. When his actions were discovered; Claudius decreed that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl, his jailer's daughter, who may have visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine', an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth of the legend is murky; the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was well known in England and France.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
1 John 4:7

Chapter Calendar

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Feb 20 | HONOR THE LADIES at Maggiano's Little Italy Antinori Room 6001 W Park Blvd Plano TX (Shops of Willow Bend) RSVP no later than Feb 18 to Jerry if attending. |
| March 20 | St. Patrick's Day at Travis and Bobbie Mills |
| April 17th | 2010 Dallas Military Ball |
| May 31 | Memorial Day observances at DFW National Cemetery and probably BBQ at Ben Lyons afterwards. |
| June 7-12 | Ft. Bragg National SFA Convention |
| July 4th | Plano Independence Day Parade |



President's Corner

I accepted the presidency of the chapter and mentioned the sage advice of my brother that 'If you show me a man's friends, I will show you the man.' That being said I considered everyone in the room my friend and that makes me the man or the person representative of the Chapter. As a new president I stand on the shoulders of outstanding presidents and will have to work hard to match their dedication and hard work. I want to thank Ron for all his hard work, his time and personal involvement in moving us forward.

As president I will look to institute few changes but want to place emphasis on recruiting and new membership. I will also look to change the meeting venues somewhat for Chapter gatherings. I am open to suggestions from Chapter personnel on activities and locations.

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- VP Dallas: Phil Stone
- VP Ft. Worth: Mike Plante
- Secretary: Gene Pugh
- Treasurer: Linda Weston



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