

From the Editor | February 2025



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

We begin this issue with a letter to the editor. It is the story of a WWII Marine, his ill treatment as a POW working in a mine, and how a debrief in groups of 20 helped him cope.

Then **John Stryker Meyer** tells about the planned **Special Forces Vietnam Memorial**, dedicated to the more than 700 Green Berets who died in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

Our cover photo is of Montagnard fighters on patrol. The white armbands identify FULRO members.

Jim Morris, who returned to Vietnam as a civilian volunteering to help FULRO, reviews *A War of Their Own—FULRO: The Other National Liberation Front, Vietnam 1955–75*, written by **Will Chickering**. Jim gives it the personal flavor he is known for in his own books about combat, especially in Vietnam. He backs up Will's work and adds many details from his own experiences.

Will Chickering's *A War of Their Own—FULRO: The Other National Liberation Front, Vietnam 1955–75* covers far more than the heroic battlefield exploits of the Montagnards. While digging into the origins, personalities, and history of FULRO, he struggles to solve the mystery of why and how they disappeared so suddenly when the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia. The story from the book that he shares with us here deals mainly with often-overlooked brave actions they took preparing the way for the famous major battle of Ia Drang Valley.

In an effort to bring some of the stories from **Jason Collins'** series of books focused on SOG, called ***Pucker Factor***, in this case **Book 4**, Jason recommended "**Operation Ashtray**" by a friend of his, **Bill Spurgeon**. Tasked by Chief SOG to capture an NVA truck driver from the Ho Chi Minh Trail and exfiltrate at night by helicopter. One of the preparatory challenges was to find out how big a charge to use, stopping the truck without killing the driver.

A tip of the beret to **Murphy's law of combat**.

What a party! Every year Chapter 78 looks forward to the **annual Christmas party** at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Newport Beach, CA. Debra Holm shares an overview and then much more info in the picture captions she lovingly lays out.

On our back cover we share pictures of our **2024 Member of the Year**, longtime chapter member and supporter, **Jim Duffy**.

Chapter 78 member Jim Cragg, also a past-commander of his local American Legion Post, is a resident of Pacific Palisades and was affected by the recent fire. Here is a link to a television interview <https://tinyurl.com/225jv29p>, in which he compassionately offers the post's facility for use for people and entities that will help affected residents of Pacific Palisades, which somehow managed to survive the fire, virtually intact.

As always, please enjoy and keep sending in your stories about your combat experience. Thanks again for the many stories we have already published. ❖

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February 15, 2025

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Courtyard by Marriott

5865 Katella Ave, Room A
Cypress, CA 90630

2025 Meeting Schedule

March 15 • April 19 • May 17 • June 21
July 19 • August 16 • September 20
October 18 • November 15
December (to be announced)

SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting