

From the Editor | April 2025



How Miller
Sentinel Editor

Welcome to another *Sentinel* filled with interesting history and action.

Our second annual **Valor Luncheon** will be held on 27 April, as we host guest speaker U.S. Marine Corps CW04 Anthony L. Viggiani, Navy Cross recipient, for a charity fundraising event. Last year's event with Green Beret MoH recipient Earl Plumlee was tremendously successful.

We also provide the news of the recent sentencing of a former administrator of the **National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia**, thanks to John Stryker Meyer for forwarding the story and *Stars and Stripes* for allowing us to reprint it. The crime nearly bankrupted the organization. A generous donor saved the league from disbandment, but they are still in need of donations to continue their decades-long mission of supporting POW/MIA families and advocating for the 1,573 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for.

As shown on our cover, we focus on a real hero, Medal of Honor recipient Robert Howard, the most decorated Green Beret from the Vietnam War. First, a review by me of the recent book, ***Beyond the Call of Duty***, by noted author **Steven Moore**. In between a steady stream of action, Steven fills in details of Robert's life before, during, and after his retirement. A story of a man, amazingly cool under fire and always there to help others.

Then treat yourself as Steven shares exciting chapter seven, **"Distinguished Service,"** from the book. Be fairly warned, it will leave you wanting more.

Marc Yablonka, who knows so much about the "Secret War in Laos" and his extensive work with the Hmong, seems like the perfect person to review a book by **Richard Gough, *Tony Poe's Secret War***. Anthony Poshepny, the famous CIA agent known as Tony Poe, whose influence was as large as the Hmong General Vang Pao, was



Members of Chapter 78 gathered for a group photo at last year's MOH Luncheon. To learn about this year's event visit specialforces78.com

in charge of the CIA operation. Richard, who died within weeks of his book's release, according to Marc, "left us with a meticulously researched biography of a complex and controversial figure."

Then a story by **Marc Yablonka** about **"Spy Girl" Betty McIntosh**. She, and a long list of subsequently famous people, worked for the OSS in WWII. When she passed at 100 years of age, she was the last survivor of the Morale Operations branch. After the war, she returned to journalism and then worked with the CIA. She even wrote a book about the OSS Deer Team that recruited Ho Chi Minh to help rescue downed flyers.

Our webmaster and much more, **Debra Holm**, gives an update on our ever more popular **YouTube Channel @sfachapter78**.

Lastly, **Debra** reminds us of the fall of Saigon 50 years ago, which was quickly followed by the fall of Cambodia and Laos.

Please feel free to check out our photos of the February Chapter 78 meeting.

As always, please keep sending us your stories. ❖

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SFA
Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting
April Meeting Cancelled
 Please plan to attend the
Valor Luncheon on April 27th (see page 2)

Next scheduled chapter meeting
May 17
 Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Courtyard by Marriott
 5865 Katella Ave, Room A
 Cypress, CA 90630

2025 Meeting Schedule
 June 21 • July 19 • August 16 •
 September 20 • October 18 • November 15
 December (to be announced)