Rich Kiper at the Republican National Convention

Rich Kiper attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland as one of the 40 elected delegates from Kansas. In his words, for an historian who is actively involved in politics, it was “an exceptional experience,” said Kiper. “The convention called forth a strong sense of patriotism and a debt of gratitude to those who established our form of government. [It] evoked in me an overwhelming sense of humility that I was able to participate in a convention that embodies our history and our democracy.”

The Republican National Convention was held this past July in Cleveland, Ohio. Donald Trump and Mike Pence were selected as the GOP nominees for the upcoming presidential election.

As many of you know, Rich is active in local and state politics. If you have questions about the convention, we are certain Rich would be glad to enlighten. Hoo-ah and cheers to Rich. On a related note, political discussion at chapter meetings and events are expected to be kept cordial and non-violent. Any gun play amongst chapter members is a direct violation of chapter by-laws and even the Rules of Ungentlemanly Conduct. You have been advised.
Theodore "Ted" White’s Passing, RIP

Theodore "Ted" White, age 87, passed away Saturday July 30, 2016. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 4, at the Maple Hill Chapel. Ted was buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery. 8 chapter members attended Ted's funeral.

Ted was born July 1, 1929 in Dallas, TX to Theodore and Eva White. Ted served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War (1951-53). After the war, Ted worked as a trouble clerk for the Board of Public Utilities until his retirement in 1992. He also was a tax accountant until his death. Ted was a founding member and active member of our chapter. He was also an elder and member of the Shawnee Boulevard Christian Church.

Ted was preceded in death by his brother: Donald White and brother-in-law: Jim Livingston. Ted is survived by his wife: Bonnie White of the home, son: Gary White (Anne), daughter: Donna Brandt (Greg), sister: Janet Livingston, sister-in-law: Barbara White, 4 grandsons: John and James White, Frank and Paul Brandt. If you wish to contribute to the Ted White Memorial Fund please send checks made out to: Chapter 29 Special Forces Association Ted White Fund.

Ted was a great guy. It was an honor to know him and I miss him. - Jeff Forker

Vietnam Lecture Series

The next Vietnam lecture will be in Arnold Conference Room, the Lewis & Clark Building, at 1730 on 5 Oct. The title will be "The Diem Years and the Early Advisory Effort." Dr. Jim Willbanks, a well-known historian of Vietnam, will be the lecturer.

Ngô Đình Diệm was named Prime Minister of the State of Vietnam in 1954. In October 1955 he deposed Bảo Đại, the last Vietnamese emperor, and established the first Republic of Vietnam (RVN). In November 1963 Diệm was assassinated in a military coup d'état sanctioned by the US. His assassination led to the collapse of the first Republic of Vietnam. Diệm is a controversial historical figure. Some say he was a U.S. puppet and some say that Diệm was a competent leader with his own vision for the modernization of South Vietnam.

Be sure to allow extra time to get on post if you do not have a military ID card.

Source: Rich Kiper
Bill Thompson, 95th Birthday

William Tyler Thompson, Longtime Chapter 29 member had his 95th birthday on August 27th.

Bill fought as an OSS Jedburgh in WW II, serving on Team NOVOCAINE in France and later on Team ALPACA in Japanese occupied China. He was awarded two Bronze Stars and the French *Croix de Guerre* and was "Mentioned in Dispatches" by the British.

Much of Bill's family was with him on the 27th. Because of current health issues confronting Bill, it is advised that chapter members do not visit Bill at this time.

Cards can be sent to:
William T. "Bill" Thompson
Twin Oaks Nursing
757 West Eisenhower Rd.

New Members

**John Iliff** - was an 18D for 10 years, served in 7th Group (B/3/7, SFAUC, A/2/7) from 2005-2011, and at the Special Warfare Medical Group from 2011-2014.

**Tyler Ginther** - just separating from active duty at 5th Gp to attend KU. Working toward what degree? Don't know. We will find out.

**Mike Tofari** - former 5th Group guy and an Echo/Commo. Mike lives with his family near Lees Summit. He also just on 28 Aug placed first in the American Marksman Midwest Regional for the Mil/LEO Division and earned a spot to compete in Nationals in January and a shot at $50,000. (See the article on page 9 for details).
Fales Attends Long Range Shooting Course
by Jim Fales

I recently attended a two day long range shooting course in central Kansas. The course was called the Precision Long Range Course and was offered by the guys at Match Grade Precision. I arrived at the ranch, my truck loaded down with rifles, pistols, and a few boxes of tactical gear, on 19 August 2016. Spearpoint Ranch (www.spearpointranch.com) is located a few miles north of Lincoln, Kansas.

Matt Howard and Nate Carnahan are the owners of Match Grade Precision (MGP, http://www.matchgradeprecision.com/). I have been working with Matt and Nate for the past year on various technical surveillance operations to support the sniper mission for their National Guard unit. They have always impressed me with their professionalism and competency, and decided to attend the course based on that.

Steve Wirth is the rancher who owns and operates Spearpoint. Steve met me when I arrived, gave me a tour of the place and over the three days of training was constantly sneaking up on us. At first I thought he must be worried about us burning the ranch down or hitting some cattle. But, I soon realized that he just wanted to make sure everything was going well and to see if we needed anything. He even took a turn on a spotting scope. He was dedicated to our having a world class experience, on the range and off.

Spearpoint is a world class operation that offers long range shooting, marksmanship training and guided hunting services. On top of all that, Steve also operates a working ranch, so he stays pretty busy but still always has time to make sure the customer is getting what they need. Additionally, he is just an interesting person that has a great depth of knowledge in the shooting and hunting sports. (Continued on page 6)
Worley Back From Vietnam

Ross Worley just got back 12 Aug from a 19 day trip in Vietnam. He reports: “I was as far north as Ving all the way to Saigon HCMC out east to Vung Tua. I donated $500 to a Nam Dong SF library and Learning center...” That $500 broke down to $50 for each of the 10 poorest students in the area.

“I have pictures from of the 10 computers purchased and the new WC” that was installed with recent donations. For those of you who don’t know, “WC” means “water closet” in French, which means restroom to us, and is a cultural holdover from when Vietnam was a French colony. For those of you who have been to Asia, you also know that also means no toilets, just tiled holes in the floor.

Also for those of you who do not know, Ross, and other chapter members, have been leaders in raising funds to build the library at Nam Dong. Ross has made numerous trips to Nam Dong and Vietnam.

Also for those of you who do not know, Nam Dong is where the fighting occurred in Dec of 1964 that led to chapter member Roger Donlon receiving the Medal of Honor. Roger has also been instrumental in raising funds for the library.

Question:
If that new water closet was named after Ross, he would be the second Green Beret to have a privy named after him. Who was the first?
Range fees at Spearpoint Ranch are $25 a day. To stay at the lodge is $30 a night, a bargain when you consider that for the price of a very cheap hotel room you can instead have a comfortable place to stay and also shoot. The accommodations are comfortable with an outdoor décor. The lodge offers a full kitchen, two and a half baths and 12 beds.

Matt and Nate, of MGP, offer a two day Long Range Precision Course, which covers the fundamentals of long range marksmanship, “the set up,” of how to properly position yourself and your rifle, natural point-of-aim, four phases of firing, or “B.R.A.S” (Breathe Relax Aim Squeeze), ranging with your reticle, zeroing the rifle, testing the scope, wind estimation, known distance data gathering, and data book entries.

By end of training, all four of us students had hit on the 1400 yard target using 308 chambered rifles. While at 1st Special Forces Group, in the mid 90’s, I had hit regularly out to 1000 yards with our issue M24 rifles, so the 1400 yard mark was a new personal record for me with the 308 round. The other three shooters had never accomplished anything over 600 yards before, so they also set new personal records of 1400 yards for long range target hits.

Matt and Nate, besides running MGP courses, are active competitors in a wide range of long range shooting events in Kansas and around the country. Matt is the former sniper section leader for the Kansas Army National Guard and Nate is the current sniper section leader. They have built a very capable sniper section for Kansas that has been recognized nationally by placing in numerous competitive events. Between Nate and Matt they have several years of combat experience that when blended with their competitive shooting experience makes them world class subject matter experts in the long range shooting arena. Both still have day-jobs while they transition MGP to a full time occupation. Both Nate and Matt are Governors Twenty tab recipients for the state of Kansas.

(Continued on page 8)
BoneS Fork, Rock n’ Roll
Green Beret Style

BoneS Fork is a new Rock-and-Roll band, started in May of last year, 2015, that is comprised of SF guys. Robert Dufresne, Jason Fisher, C. Robb McDonald, and John Terzian all are retired or active duty Special Forces guys.

The band’s moniker is taken from a creek in the back woods of North Carolina, an especially challenging, unforgiving bit of terrain that has menaced generations of aspiring Green Beret trainees or “Selection Candidates”.

BoneS Fork the Band was drawn together by their love of music, but also to musically embrace the full spectrum of emotion stirred by years of war: the adrenal pump and dump of combat; the gravity of warfare and its sobering consequences; the elation and challenges of coming home; family reunification and, very often, reconciliation; a celebration of the lives and memories of teammates lost; and optimism and hopes for the future.

The band provides a musical glimpse into a world few people will experience first-hand. They relate their experiences with honest emotion to which people can relate. For these musicians, and for those who have stood in the ranks from which this band has emerged, BoneS Fork music is their voice, expressive, explanatory and cathartic.

Rocking out is a great form of expression that makes these men happy. And who doesn't want to be happy? Join BoneS Fork Nation, check out their songs, and enjoy!

The band’s bio claims that all the members are “Native citizens of Earth. Gunfighter musicians. Here to rock.”

How the hell can any SF guy, or anyone, not check out and give a listen to these guys and their music?

https://www.bonesfork.com
Fales to Shooting Course  (Continued)

Matt and I stayed an additional day at Spearpoint, after the Long Range Precision course finished on 21 August, to run through a tactical rifle and pistol course that I have developed over the last several months. We ran ourselves through each of the 10 firing sessions of the course. We had a lot of fun shooting and pointing out each other’s inadequacies. Steve Wirth came by the range to check out what we were doing and to make sure we had all the target stands we needed. After two days of long range precision shooting and a day of close range tactical rifle and pistol shooting, I packed my gear and headed home for some much needed rest.

In summary, my experience with MGP was excellent. World class instruction and facilities with an instructor staff that leaves their egos back in the 6th grade where they belong. If you are interested in getting back into or just initially getting into long range precision shooting I absolutely recommend MGP and the course they offer at Spearpoint Ranch. If you just want to go shoot long range on your own then contact Steve Wirth via the Spearpoint web site and inquire about scheduling range time and a stay at the lodge if needed. Be advised that a large part of the activity at Spearpoint is guided hunts, so most of the weekends and some weekdays from mid-September until March are committed to guided hunts and the range may not be available. If any Chapter 29 members want more detailed information on my experience with MGP at Spearpoint Ranch just shoot me an email at jf46810@gmail.com.

Yard Tales at October Meeting

Song Kao Thao and his son, Cave Thao, will be guests at our October meeting. Song will talk about his experiences in the Vietnam War. Song and Cave are of the Thao Montagnard Clan from the village of Phoukabor in Laos. Pat Textor works with Cave and is their chapter host.

Song Kao Thao Biography:

“At the tender age of 15 years Song Kao Thao was enlisted into the CIA backed military, the Southern Guerilla Unit, on February 1961 to fight in America’s “Secret War”. The goal of the operation was to fight off the invading North Vietnamese Regime and disrupt their supply lines to southern Vietnam from the confines of Laos. The first seven years of Thao’s military career was served on the front lines as an infantry man and then graduating into special reconnaissance by going behind enemy lines to disrupt and relay tactical information. The last eight years of Thao’s military career was served as an electrical engineer until the fall of Laos to the Communist Regime which he fled on May 15, 1975.”
Tofari Places First

Mike Tofari, on 28 Aug, placed first in the American Marksman Midwest Regional for the Mil/LEO Division and earned a spot to compete at Nationals in January and a shot at $50,000.

The competition was held in Alda near Grand Island, Nebraska, this past weekend. The MidWestern regional had competitors from seven different states.

In order to advance to Nationals Mike had to win his division for his region. Division's are Men's Open, Mil/LEO, Youth and Women's. There are nine regions. It is winner take all regardless of division for the Finals.

Mike plans to win and maybe get some sponsorships so he can start shooting semi-professionally. Said Mike, “There are some solid shooters in this so I am going to have to train my ass off over the next 4 months and go take some courses with some real deal shooters and instructors.”

These editors asked Mike if being SF allowed him to be an amateur. He said, “Yes, I qualify as an amateur because I have never been sponsored nor have I been classified as Master or Grand Master in USPSA/IDPA, etc. It says on the website you are not qualified if you have ever been part of a military unit or team where you have to be specially selected for marksmanship skills which you and I both know is not a prerequisite to being in SF. Pretty sure they mean an actual marksmanship unit.”

Nationals in January will be held down in Talladega, Alabama, at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park, which is just five miles south of the Talladega Speedway. There, Mike will compete against 35 other shooters from around the US for a shot at that $50,000. The competition will be aired on the Outdoor Channel and other affiliate stations. Click the link below for more information on the competition. Mike also will keep us updated.

https://ammarksman.com
SF News Updates:

**Females in SF**
2 females officers have been accepted to attend SFAS, Selection at MacKall and are awaiting order. 7 total female soldiers have so far, according to sources, submitted their packets for SF. Only the 2 have been selected, so far.

At the same time, there are 338 make officers awaiting their orders sending them to Ft Bragg for Selection.

**Answer**, pg.5: Provo, from the movie, The Green Berets.

**SF KIA in Afghanistan**
Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson, 28, of Irvine, California, died Aug. 23, 2016, of wounds received from an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

**U.S. Army Ranger died during training**
A U.S. Army Ranger died as the result of injuries sustained during an airborne proficiency jump August 24 at Galahad Drop Zone.