



The Freedom Committee of Orange County
Neighborhood Community Center
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627
Web Site <http://www.fc-oc.org>
Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance: Kirk Ferguson
Invocation: Frank Orzio
Taps: Harry Terrell
Binnacle List: Ed Decker, and "Bud" Hohl.

Guests Present: Harvey Abernatha, Hal Brown, Robbie Conn, Ray Deugau, Ken Felton, Jerry Hockheiser, Clifford Kraft, Dag Larsen, Charles Mitchell, Istian Petrik, and Elizabeth Yee.

Members Present: Jim Baker, Howard Bender, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Kirk Ferguson, Jack Ferris, Francis Flacks, George Grupe, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Ramona Hill, Dan Huston, David Lester, Norm Loats, Syd Lucas, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyers, Charles Mitchell, Roger McBride, Richard O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Sherrie Orzio, Bob Perry, Gene Pickett, Joseph Pultorak, Lou Pultorak, Harry Rawlins, Gladys Refakes, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, John Skara, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Philip Vinci, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder and Scott Williams.

A Power Point Presentation



WO Jack Hammett. USN. (Ret.)

"The Quick and the Dead"

A first person "*I was there*" account of the 1941 Pearl Harbor Attack was presented by **Jack Hammett**. There are only about 3,100 remaining association survivors of the attack of the 20,000 Army, Navy, Marine and Air Corps members who were stationed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The numbers are reflective of the nationwide loss of the "***Greatest Generation,***" and the ever-shrinking survivor turnout for the anniversary of the attack that launched the United States into World War II.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1937. After "Boot Camp" he served on ships on both the East coast and the West coast. He received training aboard ship as a Navy Hospital Corpsman. He was later

transferred to the U. S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii in July 1940. But before he left the mainland, he met and married Mary Jo. In order to have his wife with him in Hawaii, he had to borrow \$85 from his mother-in-law to pay for Mary Jo's ticket on the Matson Liner Lurline.

Life in Hawaii for the newlyweds, although idyllic, was not easy. They had to share quarters with two other couples in a small house off base. Living on the Navy pay made things tight.

On the day of the Japanese attack, Jack was home in his "*little grass shack*". Noise awakened him. He thought the Army was holding maneuvers. Someone knocked on his door, it was his Chinese landlord. The landlord was collecting the rent. As he was leaving, he said, "*Have you heard the radio? The Japs are attacking Pearl Harbor.*" Jack stepped out of the door and saw the smoke rising from Pearl Harbor. He looked up and saw a plane with big red circles, "*meatballs*", on the wings. Another sailor who shared lodgings in the house and Jack raced to their duty stations. As they approached the main gate, a Jap plane strafed their vehicle narrowly missing them.

By 8:30 AM casualties started arriving at the Hospital. Jack's duty was triage as the wounded and dying came in. Many of the wounded had multiple extreme wounds. In the end, 859 casualties of which 313 were dead were brought to the hospital. At one time 452 casualties were brought to the hospital in a 3 hours period.

While the battle raged at Pearl Harbor, the wives gathered together for support. They had heard that the Japanese were landing troops on the north side of the island. The wives gathered up the biggest knives they had and formed the "*Butcher Knife Brigade*"

Jack's presentation was interspersed with many interesting pictures of life on Hawaii in 1941. He ended his presentation with a very sobering playing of taps and pictures of the USS Arizona Memorial.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Whitaker presented the Treasurers Report for November 2009. An accounting statement was distributed. The Closing Balance was \$2,817.81. Fred announced that he was stepping down as FCOC Treasurer, a position he has held for 5 years. The position is requiring a person with computer skills to keep up with the growing organization.

Tim Richards, the Recording Secretary, reported that he is responsible for the FCOC email distribution of the agenda and minutes. If you have email capabilities, you can receive the agenda and minutes in color. Let Tim know of any changes.

Ramona Hill, the Corresponding Secretary, is responsible for the distribution of the agenda and minutes to those that have regular mail.

George Grupe reported on the Funeral of **Harry Terrell**, a B25 pilot that flew 78 combat missions.

Bill Mall stated that Orange High School is asking for veterans to speak to students on December 16, 2009 at 0730 hrs. OHS is located at 525 N. Shaffer, cross street of E. Walnut.

TABLE TOPICS

Larry Schnitzer stated that every Navy ships passing the USS Arizona Memorial sounds "Man the Rail" and render respects upon entering and leaving Pearl Harbor.

Jack Hammett and **Dick Higgins** were guest speakers at the Planes of Fame Museum program on Saturday, December 5th Salute to Pearl Harbor Survivors.

Ted Tanner along with **Jack Ferris** also attended the Chino Planes of Fame last Saturday and saw a Jap Zero flying.

Charles Mitchell brought to everyone's attention the "Row of Crosses" that is displayed at La Habra Community Center, on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The 39 white crosses were displayed in honor of the servicemen from Orange County who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no attempt to make a political statement with the memorial. It is just to remember their sacrifice and honor them.

Tom Egan stated photographs of each meeting are on www.fc-oc.org the Photo Collection page.

The meeting then adjourned at 1330 hours. *(Minutes of the meeting prepared by Tim Richards)*

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman