

The Freedom Committee of Orange County



“Passing the Torch of Liberty On to Future Generations”

(A California nonprofit 501(c) (3) Public Benefit Corporation)

Neighborhood Community Center

1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of August 13, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance: Captain Tim Richards, USA (Ret.)
Invocation: Sergeant Frank Orzio, USMC (Ret.), Chaplain
Binnacle List: William Holiday *and* Robert Sternfels

Guests Present: (13): Reyne Ames, Bud Bennett, Terry Dakin, Betty Marino, C. Marino, Dianne Mitchell, Chris Phan, Tania Pham, Victor Piar, Joel Quisenberry, Stan Smith, David Timmerman and Linda Zigler.

Members Present: (65): Kelly Alcala, John Baca, Jim Baker, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Larry Bersch, Bob Bolin, Malcolm Campbell, Jesse Carranza, Pat Coburn, Bus Cornelius, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Eddie Felix, James Grimm, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Hal Hayes, Hal Hayward, George Hill, Vince Howley, Jack Hubbard, Peter Katz, Chris Kupitz, Hans Lamme, Dag Larsen, David Lester, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, George Mason, Doug Milliken, Charles Mitchell, Ron Nichols, Frank Orzio, Frank Pangborn, Pete Pedersen, Larry Petersen, Carmine Pilichi, Jim Powers, Frank Ramirez, Sean Reardon, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Ed Royce, Larry Schnitzer, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Michael Trerotola, Dick Tyhurst, Phillip Vinci, Buck Wall, Jack Walters, Fred Whitaker, Chase Wickersham, Paul Wilder, David Willard, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn

Associate Members Present (27): Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Helen Bender, Shirley Bolin, Gretchen Coburn, Robby Conn, Guy Coulombe, Teresa Drain, Kay Felix, Betty Hayes, Ramona Hill, Cornell Ilescu, Jeff Juhala, Cornell Ilescu, LaVonne Larsen, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Sara Moss, Joyce Nichols, Gary Oberts, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Jeff Sebek, Marge Tyhurst, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams, Ray Wong, *and* Rob Wood.



Special Presentation

“Combat Leadership in Vietnam”

Following example of his Grandfather, a 2LT in the Army Cavalry in WWI and his father, a 2LT pilot of a B17 in WWII in Europe, **Chase Wickersham** was commissioned in 1968 through ROTC as a 2LT in the Army Air Defense Artillery (ADA). Initial he was trained as a Nike Hercules Missile Unit Commander and assigned to McGregor Range at Fort Bliss, Texas. Because the needs of the Army sometimes trump logic, Chase received orders to Vietnam as an Infantry Officer rather than in



Nike Hercules Missiles

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1LT Chase Wickersham



his trained duty in the ADA. The skies over Vietnam belonged to the US Air Force and air defense was not needed. Before leaving the USA, he received only two weeks additional training in the Infantry Officers Orientation Course at Fort Benning, GA.

Arriving in Vietnam, his ADA collar insignia was recognized and he was assigned to one of three ADA Battalions in Country. The 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery, Dusters / Quads of Battery E, 41st Artillery was

attached to I Field Force Vietnam Artillery and moved to North to An Khe in June 1968.

The Dusters and Quad 50s added their fire to the tremendous volume of fire American units expended in Vietnam. Convoy duty was dangerous and nerve racking. Lt Wickersham unit was assigned to Highway 19 and the treacherous Mang Yang Pass near An Khe. Normally, the lead



The 40 mm "Duster"

Quad 50 Cal machineguns



Duster covered the left side of the road while the rear track covered the right side. Dusters caught in an ambush pulled off the road, traversed their guns and provided covering fire for the convoy's other vehicles as they hurried to escape the kill zone. The tactic was effective, but it meant Duster crews spent eternities in the kill zone. Firepower wrecked the VC, who never really recovered from their losses in the 1968 Tet Offensive, and it made the trip south down the Ho Chi Minh Trail a one-way journey for the typical NVA recruit.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Bette Bell read the FCOC finance report for July 2014. Copies were available. FCOC is selling the blue FCOC shirts for \$32 and Freedom Committee Patches for \$5.

Scott Williams announced that a grant had been received from the Costa Mesa Community Foundation for \$1,347 for reimbursement for the Laptop computers, printers and scanner.

Denise Weiland stated that Veteran interviews will begin around Veterans Day 2014. She said that the students really respond to visual presentations in the Veterans interviews and she and Frank Pangborn are available to assist

Minutes prepared by *Timothy Richards*

Promulgated by *Jack Hammett*