



The Freedom Committee of Orange County

(A California nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation)

Neighborhood Community Center

1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of December 12, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance: Edward J. (Eddie) Felix. WR3c. USNR, WWII

Invocation: Chaplain Frank Orzio, Sgt., USMC (Ret.) Vietnam War

Guests Present: (13) Mary Barker, Steve Clifford, Fred Davis, Robert Davis, David Greenfield, George Hill, Mary Knybel, Colin Malott, George Masaki, Ed Royce, Henry Thedinga, John Todd and Fred Wagner

Members Present: (66) Kelly Alcalá, Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Bob Bankston, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Malcolm Campbell, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Robby Conn, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Gary Crest, Andy Cullinane, Bob Dugan, George Emerson, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Ray Grissom, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnie Hanson, Dale Hanson, Bill Hardy, Dick Higgins, Jack Hubbard, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Louis Kridelbaugh, Jess Lawson, Bob Leahy, Dave Lester, Norm Loats, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Charles Mitchell, Richard O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Bob Perry, Lou Possemato, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Frank Ramirez, Keith Regan, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, John Skara, Bob Sternfels, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Dick Tyhurst, Philip Vinci, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder, David Willard, David Willard, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present: (21) Celeste Ames, Soveg Bangston, Bette Bell, Valerie Boston, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Mona Hill, , Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Pat O'Brien, Terry Schnitzer Jeff Sebek, Judy Selling, Denise Weiland, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation

Lt. Col. Theodore "Ted" Tanner, USAF (Ret.)



In his moving "Combat Flying in the South Pacific Theater during World War II" presentation **Lt. Colonel Tanner** shared his vast World War II flight experiences with Freedom Committee of Orange County members. He also shared his extensive Flight Training history in both single and multi-engine aircraft.



The single engine P-40 Fighter was his first assigned aircraft he flew in the Pacific Theater. He later flew the multi-engine A-20 twin engine light bomber. He flew 72 missions in the New Guinea Theater, with his U.S. Army Air Forces unit losing 50-60 personnel during the war in the process.



Some of his fellow pilots with whom he trained in 1943 went on to fly and die in the new B-29 Superfortress Strategic Bombers.

Many of his unit's outstanding war missions are vividly shared in The Eagles Over The Pacific, Volume 3 book titled "Rampage of the Roarin' 20's" - The Illustrated History of the 312th Bombardment Group During World II' written by Lawrence J. Hickey, Michael H. Levy and Michael J. Claringbould.

He conducted an outstanding Power Point Display accompanying his presentation for Freedom Committee members to share. This was a great and detailed program by a real combat pilot who flew in the South Pacific Theater against the Japanese. Lt. Col. Tanner's presentation may be viewed at www.fc-oc.org. Click on the *Speakers* tab. **WELL DONE!**

Administrative Reports:

Bette Bell gave the Treasurers report. Our income from member contribution, hat sales, honorariums and donations less expenses leaves us with a current balance of \$3,717.71.

Denise Weiland reported that the School's Veteran Interview Assignments will be going out to sophomore class students next week. Student groups will then be contacting veterans, with veteran interviews taking place in January/February 2013. The Hosted Luncheon honoring veteran interviewees will take place March 14, 2013 in the gym at Corona del Mar High School.

Ray Wong Reported that there will be more veteran's video stories posted on the Freedom Committee Website and encourages members to view the Video Section of www.fc-oc.org.

Adrian Michael reported that Vanguard University continues to support the many Community Activities of Freedom Committee of Orange County. Its membership participation in the Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade, as Parade Grand Marshal, is highlighted on facebook.com.

Howard Bender reported on the success of FCOC South. He joined with a group of 20 Marines (Korea, Vietnam, Iraq) who Fridays for breakfast at the Snooty Fox restaurant every Friday morning at 0800 for breakfast. He is now working with the City of Mission Viejo to bring more FCOC activities into their city. **Great job Howard. We support you.**

Scott Williams reported that the City of Laguna Niguel treated its Freedom Committee Holiday Parade Grand Marshall participants with great respect, as did the many community residents viewing the Parade. Fourteen of our members participated. Member **Audrey Miller**, Entry Chairperson Laguna Niguel program created and coordinated the FCOC participation in the parade. She deserves a *“Well Done Audrey”*...



Jack Hammett reported on his participation in the 71st Anniversary of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy. He detailed his Ceremonial Duties as well as the very special treatment afforded him by American Airlines during his trip. He had the honor of accepting and returning the salute from a naval vessel as it passed in review before the *USS Arizona Memorial*.

Frank Orzio and **Dave Willard** presented **Jack Hammett** with a battle flag which was flown on 9-11-12 from sunrise to sundown at a 1st Division Marine Outpost in Afghanistan. The Marines were from the Marine Corps Base in 29 Palms. Jack accepted it with humility and profound thanks. Jack served on active duty with the Marines during the Korean Conflict as a Navy Corpsman.



Minutes prepared by Ronnie Guyer and Jack Hammett

Chairman:

Jack Hammett