

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 February 13, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance: Major William Anderson, USAF (Ret.)

Invocation: Pastor Frank Orzio, Sgt., USMC (Ret.)

Guests Present: (18) Jeff Adler, Victor Baez, Gerald Boehne, David Brooks, David Cornell, Linda Ellyson, Emil Freeson, Bruce Gilman, Mia Grajeda, Vince Howley, Colin Mellot, Betty Mueller, George Peters, Rory Self, Bill Schultz, Anita Spicul, Bruce Thompson and Niki Toro,

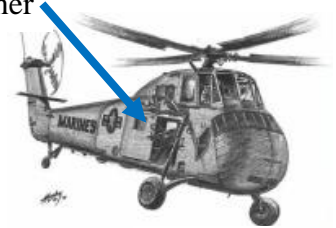
Members Present: (70) Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Bob Bankston, Rally Bates, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Shep Bentley, Jesse Bequette, David Brooks, Jess Carranza, George Ciamba, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Andy Cullinane, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Bruce Ellyson, Eddie Felix, Archie Gregory, James Grimm, Ray Grissom, George Grupe, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnie Hanson, Bill Hardy, Dick Higgins, George Hill, John Hughes, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Hans Lamme, Dave Lester, Norm Loats, Nona Lynn, Edward Magee, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Bob Meyer, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchell, Richard O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Bob Perry, Lou Possemato, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Frank Ramirez, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Martha Somers, Bob Sternfels, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Phillip Vinci, Fred Wagner, Gene Wallace, Jack Walter, George Widly, Paul Wilder, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present: (24) Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Valerie Boston, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Cherrie Danks, Eliza Dellpizzo, Linda Ellyson, John Etheridge, Kay Felix, Geri Hanson, Mona Hill, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Pat O'Brien, Helen Possemato, Gladys Refakes, Judy Selling, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation

An interesting and informative presentation was given by **Captain Edward P. Moore**, about "*Helicopter Flying in Combat*". Captain Moore authored a book on experiences of Marine Helicopters pilots in the Vietnam War, titled "*Out of Da Nang*". He also had two scale models of UH-34D helicopters like the ones he actually flew in Vietnam. E.P. Moore enlisted in the Marines and survived the 12 weeks basic training. Following basic, he was selected for flight training. The Marines begin by training all flyers in fixed wing planes. After successfully qualifying, he transitioned to rotary wing aircraft. Again qualifying, his first duty station was MCAF Santa Ana at Tustin Air Base. Captain Moore spent the next year flying with the Marines refining his skills as a helicopter pilot. This included making landings in the Santa Ana Mountains that later he found was excellent training for flying in Vietnam. When his helicopter unit, HMM 364, "The Purple Foxes," deployed to Indo-

Door
Gunner



UH 34D

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China as Vietnam was commonly called in 1964, it consisted of a complement of twenty-four aircraft, 43 officers and one hundred forty six enlisted men. The HMM 364 unit was based in DaNang, which is in the northern part of South Vietnam and is a natural seaport much like San Francisco. However, the airfield needed to be improved. The runway was constructed of PSP (pierced steel plank), and the control tower was small. The Marines took over the old French barracks but there was an Officers Club.

The squadron flew missions in support of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), referred to as "Operation Shufly", amassing in excess of 9,000 hours and transporting over 900,000 pounds of supplies during the period February to June 1964. The HMM 364 has an excellent web site; www.hmm-354.org. 10% of the proceeds from the sale of the book, "*Out of DaNang*" will go to the **Wounded Warrior Program**.

During the question and answer period, Captain Moore said the UH-34 had a glide angle during autorotation "like a rock". **Chairman Jack Hammett**, who is also dual-qualified on fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, said, "The difference between flying fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft is that fixed wing aircraft want to fly and rotary wing aircraft want to crash."

Administrative Report:

Scott Williams reported that the Mayors of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Irvine and Fountain Valley will be visited to make them aware of the Freedom Committee of Orange County. **Jack Hammett** and **Scott Williams** met with **Dr. Al Mijares**, Orange County Superintendent of Schools. All will be invited to serve on our Honorary Committee.

Memorial Day planning is starting according to **Scott Williams**. Memorial Day is Monday, May 27th and will be at the Harbor Lawn- Mt Olive Memorial Park in Costa Mesa. FCOC is responsible for the Ceremony and FCOC volunteers are needed. Several organizational meetings are planned.

Three of the most famous World War II bomber and fighter aircraft are visiting **Lyon Air Museum** as part of the **Wings of Freedom Tour** on May 8-14, 2013. FCOC will be setting up a table and volunteers are needed.

Bette Bell presented the January 2013 financial report. Copies were available.

Denise Weiland announced that the **Living History Luncheon** is scheduled for 11 AM, March 22nd. At this time, Corona del Mar High School students will present "their veteran" with the written report of the interview.

Costa Mesa Councilwoman **Sandra Genis** announced that the **US Navy Band** will be playing at the Orange Coast College Moore Auditorium. Admission is free but tickets are needed. Call (714) 235-7811. February 22nd, 7:30PM

Minutes prepared by *Tim Richards*

Chairman
Jack Hammett