



## **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 July 9, 2014**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Captain Tom Gorla, USN (Ret.)

**National Anthem:** Mr. John Stansbury, American Legion Post 291

**Invocation:** Chaplain Sergeant Frank Orzio, USMC (Ret.),

**Binnacle List:** William Holiday *and* Robert Sternfels

**Guests Present: (21):** Rene Ames, Allan Budman, Espiridion Castillion, Janet Clenshaw, Michael Clenshaw, Norm Clenshaw, John Clifton, John Demasters, KeTsia Dipan, Frank Fahey, Phillip Mansour, Carl Millock, Joyce Nichols, John Palmeri, Susan Papiri, Carmen Pilichi, Joel Quisenberry, Andy Rebulia, Adam Renteria, Jim Stewart and Vince Weatherby.

**Members Present: (76):** Kelly Alcala, Rally Bates, Shep Bentley, Larry Bersch, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Bob Bolin, Dave Brooks, Tim Brown, George Ciampa, Pat Coburn, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Roberta Cowley, Gary Crest, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, George Emerson, Eddie Felix, David Fey, Tom Gorla, James Grimm, Raymond Grissom, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Hal Hayward, George Hill, Vince Howley, Jack Hubbard, Peter Katz, Doug Klaas, David Lester, Ed Magee, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, George Mason, John Meyer, Bob Meyer, Doug Milliken, Charles Mitchell, Kent Moore, Michael Neel, Dick O'Brien, Frank Orzio, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Pete Pedersen, Fred Pellicciotti, Larry Petersen, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Frank Ramirez, Sean Reardon, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Peter Rivas, Ed Royce, Larry Schnitzer, William Schultz, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Michael Trerotola, Phillip Vinci, Fred Wagner, Buck Wall, Jack Walters, Fred Whitaker, Chase Wickersham, Paul Wilder, David Willard, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn

**Associate Members Present (30):** Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Cindy Brennaman, Tom Brennaman, Gretchen Coburn, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Teresa Drain, Kay Felix, Frances Haynes, Ramona Hill, Jeff Juhala, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Betty Mueller, Carlos Navarette, Gary Oberts, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Astrid Rice, Jeff Sebek, Tom Watson, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

### **Special Presentation**

## *The Rescue of Medical Students in Granada*

**Major General William J. Mall, Jr., USAF**, shared with the FCOC members, his role in the “**Operation Urgent Fury**”, the rescue of the Medical Students in Granada. He was the Commanding Officer of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Air Force.



Early in the morning of October 25, 1983, the US invaded the island of Grenada. US President Ronald Reagan was informed of the over-throw of the leftist government and the execution of the Prime Minister by a Marxist coup. President Reagan saw the threat of the Soviet Union and Communist countries in the Caribbean. The shoot-on-sight curfew endangered the 1,000 medical students on Grenada. In addition, the present of Cuban troops constructing a 10,000 ft. runway that could land large Soviet planes, were the reasons for the invasion.



**General Mall’s Command** of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Air Force included the US Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) that had a vast fleet of C-130 planes. These C-130 planes could carry troops and be configured as gunships. On October 25, 1983, General Mall was in the third C-130 of a long string of aircrafts. The first two were radar guided. As the C-130s approached Grenada, a sudden bolt to lightning caused these planes to loose radar and they aborted. Now General Mall’s plane was first plane and he came in at 500 ft. to parachute the U.S. Rangers onto the runway. As the Rangers jumped, he saw the runway was barricaded to prevent any landings and heavy Russian anti-aircraft guns began firing golf ball-size shells. He realized the following 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division would also have to jump. He directed the C-130 gunships to “neutralize” the anti-aircraft guns. As more airborne troops landed, they made their way to the Medical Universities and rescued the students.

The Island was secured by October 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 1,200 Grenadians, 780 Cubans, 39 Soviets and 24 North Korean on the island. At the end, 18 American troops died and 116 were injured. In December 1984, democratic elections were held. (Detailed account of Urgent Fury is available on [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org)).

### **Administrative**

1. **Denise Weiland** reported a successful year for “The FCOC Living History Program”. All six High Schools in the Newport Mesa Union School District conducted Student-Veterans programs. Approximately 3000 students were involved and 400 FCOC Veterans interviews were conducted.
2. **Bette Bell** presented the financial report. FCOC caps, Flag pins and FCOC Patches are for sale.
3. **Scott Williams and Frank Pangborn** are conducting FCOC Speaker Training classes beginning August 13<sup>th</sup>. Watch for a flyer with more information.

Minutes prepared by *Timothy Richards*

Promulgated by *Jack Hammett*