



Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Willis E "Bill" Hardy, USN (Ret.)
Navy Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medals, PUC

Invocation: Chairman Jack Hammett

Taps: W. T. "Duke" Steinken, Captain,
USMC (Ret.)

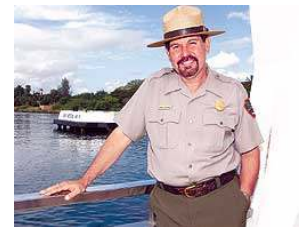
Duke Steinken decorated with
Distinguished Flying Cross



Guests Present: (25) Alison Akau, Linda Anderson, Cathy Barnes, Jess Bequette, Larry Blake, Guy V. Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Carmen Holiday, Andrew Hutchins, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Lou Kridelbaugh, Ray LeCompte, Mike Linkiewicz, Daniel Martinez, Edison W. Miller, Tom Miller, Fred Pellicciotti, James Powers, Ray Roudine, Jim Thurn, Jack Walters, George Widly, Edward Wolfe, and Rob Wood,

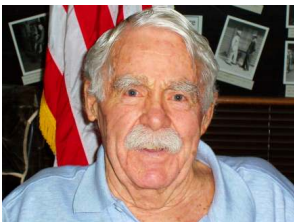
Members Present: (59) Sally Adams, Kelly Alacala, Jim Baker, Bette Bell, Howard Bender, Frank Callahan, George Ciampa, Robby Conn, Bus Cornelius, Robert Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Bob Dugan, Dave Ferguson, Kirk Ferguson, Dan Gillespie, Archie Gregory, Ray Grissom, Herb Guinness, , Frank Haigler, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Bill Hardy, Ramona Hill, Carmen Holiday, William Holiday, Dan Huston, Tony Iantorno, David Lester, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Charles Mitchell, Dick O'Brien, Helen Possemato, Lou Possemato, Gladys Refakes, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Terry Schnitzer, Jeff Sebek, Harry Selling, Judy Selling, John Skara, Bob Sternfels, Ted Tanner, Brent Theobold, Dan Vigna, Phillip Vinci, Gene Wallace, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, Fred Whitaker, Scott Williams, Rayman Wong, Sid Yahn and Elizabeth Yee.

We were honored by a special guest, National Park Service Ranger, Daniel Martinez, from the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. His team was in Costa Mesa to gather first hand oral history from the men that served in the Pacific Theater during WWII.



Special Presentation

Lt. (jg) Daniel D. Huston shared with us his duties during WWII. As a pilot of a Kingfisher float plane, Dan flew the first US all metal airplane armed with two 30 caliber machine guns; one firing to the front thru the propeller and one in the aft cockpit firing to the rear. He launched from the Battleship USS Colorado from the rear of the Battleship at an angle the Navy called "atwartships". A 125 lb charged "pushed" his plane down a short rail and into the air. And landing was no easier. The Kingfisher was equipped with a large float directly below the plane and a balance on each wing. The battleship would execute a turn and the float plane would touch down in the smooth wake and taxi up the stern. A crane mounted on the stern would lower a hook which the pilot would hook to the plane and be hoisted aboard.



At the time of Pearl Harbor attack, all US Navy battleships were equipped with float planes for spotting of naval gunfire and general observation. The USS Colorado was in combat 204 days. Between November 1943 and February 1944 the USS Colorado provided shore bombardment for beach landing on Tarawa, Kwajalein Atoll and Eniwetok.

Between June 1944 to August 1944 the USS Colorado



Catapult Launch



Lifting Aboard

provided fire support for the capture of Saipan, Guam and Tinian islands. In the Tinian action on 24 July, the ship was struck by 22 shells from a hidden shore battery sustaining heavy damage and 240 personnel casualties.

From November 1944 to January 1945, the USS Colorado supported the assaults on Mindoro and Ligayan in the Philippines. In August 45, they advanced on Japanese Islands and participated in events leading to the Japanese formal surrender in Tokyo Bay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rob Wood, a docent at the Lyon Museum at John Wayne Airport displayed a collection of WWII weapons.

Middle-M1 Garand. Bottom-Carbine



Scott Williams, Vice Chairman, updated the Freedom Committee on the progress of incorporating as a non-profit organization. He stated the articles of incorporation have been filed and FC-OC is now a nonprofit organization. At the next meeting there will be a slate of officers for election.

Denise Weiland stated there have been many requests for speakers. **Fred Whitaker** spoke to 830-850 8th graders at Fulton Middle School in Fountain Valley. At Newport Harbor High School, **Dr Norm Loats**, **Robert Meyer**, **Frank Orzio**, **Dick O'Brien**, **Louis Possemato** and **Tim Richards** explained Freedom Isn't Free.



Dr Norm Loats- sinking of the Gambier Bay aircraft carrier



Robert Meyer- Glider Pilot in WWII



Louis Possemato- Tanks in WWII

Jack Hammett thanked all FCOOC members and participants for making May 30th the best Memorial Day at Harbor Lawn Cemetery. The keynote speaker, **Judge Ilene Moore** and the three plane Missing Man fly-over were highlights. About 500 people attended this Remembrance of Some Gave All. All the Veterans' graves were marked with a flag.



Master of Ceremonies Jack Hammett



Fly-over in the Missing Man formation



Judge Moore and Navy Cross Awardee Captain Robert Thomas



Ace-in-a-Day CDR Bill Hardy with Keynote Speaker Judge Moore

Minutes prepared by *Tim Richards*

Approved by

Jack Hammett