



(A California nonprofit 501(c) 3 Public Benefit Corporation)
Neighborhood Community Center
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of May 8, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance: Rob Wood, Associate Member

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

Guests Present: (23) John Baca, Bob Bolin, Shirley Bolin, June Coniff, Jody Delgado, Raul Delgado, Wally Friedman, Ray Fuller, Don Goldberg, Betty Hayes, Hal Hayes, Kenneth Miller, Carl Millock, Cy Levine, Betty Mueller, Ian O'Brien, Karen Pangborn, Tim Ramirez, Astrid Rice, Peter Rivas, Henry Thedinga, Chase Wickersham and Hugette Wilson.

Members Present: (68) Jim Baker, Victor Bakkila, Bob Bankston, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Malcolm Campbell, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Gary Crest, Andy Cullinane, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Bruce Ellyson, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Archie Gregory, James Grimm, Ronnie Guyer, Jack Hammett, Arnie Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, George Hill, Vincent Howley, Jack Hubbard, Peter Katz, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Lon Kridelbaugh, Hans Lamm, Jess Lawson, Dave Lester, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchel, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Fred Pellicciotti, Bob Perry, Ken Pruitt, Harry Rawlins, Timothy Richards, Bryan Roland, Ed Royce, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Fr. Sera, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Mike Trerotola, Philip Vinci, Fred Wagner, Jack Walters, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder, Dave Willard, and Scott Williams.

Associate Members Present: (23) Soveg Bangston, Bette Bell, Valerie Boston, Cindy Brennaman, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Cherrie Danks, Teresa Drain, Linda Ellyson, Kay Felix, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Mona Hill, Lori Martin, Audrey Miller, Carlos Navarete, Pat O'Brien, Gladys Refakes, Judy Selling, Denise Weiland, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

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Special Presentation

1st Cav Div.
Shoulder patch



"Grunts in the Vietnam Jungle"
By Frank Pangborn



Today we were treated to a first person recounting of what it was like being the "point" of the Army Spear in Vietnam. **1LT Frank Pangborn**, wearing his Vietnam combat uniform, served as a Platoon Leader with C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

After graduating from San Jose State, Frank was drafted into the Army. Following Basic training, and a member of the Honor Guard, Frank requested and 6 months later, graduated from Ft. Benning Officer Candidate School (OCS). Commissioned as a 2LT in the Infantry, he served

at Ft. Ord CA before shipping out to Vietnam. The 1st Air Cav. Div. included 16,000 men and 434 Helicopters. Designed to be airmobile meant they could be anywhere, anytime by using the helicopters. After landing, they served as regular infantry with the assistance of the helicopters for resupplies. A combat infantryman referred to himself with pride as a “**Grunt**”.

The issue uniform was steel helmet (pot) green uniform with extra pockets, no flax jacket because of the heat and the extra weight, jungle boots with steel plates in the soles, and a backpack (rut sack) with 3 days rations. Water was always a premium, which meant they drank 3–5 canteens daily. Since the southern portion of Vietnam was relative flat and dense jungle, maps were photocopies of the actual terrain with grid zone markings overlaid.

The 1st Air Cav. was a part of the Cambodian Sanctuary Incursion, May 1970. Incursion is a short-term raid and not invasion because an invasion implies intent to stay. (Added in case any



A Huey “Slick”
troop carrier

1970s college-age students are still lost) This surprise attack found the Communist soldiers totally unprepared and resulted in reducing their combat effectiveness for at least a year. Many rifles, heavy machineguns, 1 ½ million rounds of ammunition, and 30 ton of rice and 9 tons of corn were liberated (stolen from the South Vietnamese). “It was the right thing to do”.

A “typical” combat assault mission might follow this scenario; the landing zone (LZ) would be “prepped” (softened-up) by the Air Force, followed by artillery and helicopter gunships. As the troop carrying Huey helicopters approached with the door gunners firing M-60 machineguns, the troops would be sitting on the floor with their feet outside ready to jump off. Upon landing, they would jump off and take cover along the perimeter of the LZ to provide cover for the next helicopter.



Huey “Cobra” Gunship

Besides the Communist North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong, there were more dangers. The jungle was so thick that the going was slow with many tripping hazards from vines and roots. The wiggles included snakes, leeches, and ants. Moreover, being in a hot, humid climate, there was jungle rot and malaria. And

When a soldier completed their one-year tour, they could look forward to the Freedom Bird flight back to the States and a welcome home. (Sometimes)

Frank Pangborn is an author and has written about his Vietnam experiences. “*Fear in the Wind*” describes the day to day life of an infantryman. ‘*The Battle’s Over*’ contains about 40 poems of Vietnam soldiers in combat. “*This Country’s beautiful, but oh the pain, it inflicted on the veteran. For all that I have been through, would someone acknowledge me? But, no one seemed to care about the soldier from across the sea.*” These books are in the FCOC library and can be checked out free.

Administration

- **Jack Hammett reminded all that Monday, May 27 is Memorial Day. FCOC is conducting the Ceremonies at 11:00 hours at Harbor Lawn-Mt Olive Memorial Park, 1625 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa, CA. Malcolm Campbell is providing, and flying one of the T-34s in the fly-over. The Guest Speaker will be William Habermehl, former Orange County Superintendent of Schools.**
- **The Lyon Air Museum** at John Wayne Airport is featuring WWII planes; B-24, B-17, and a P-51 fighter. The Pearl Harbor Survivors will have a display table as well as the Freedom Committee of Orange County. The displays will be from 10:00 to 16:00 hours, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 10-12.
- **FCOC** needs volunteers to fill some of the tasks that are required to operate tin non-profit organization. If you are talented in the audio visual fields or accounting, please let Jack know.
- **FCOC** Treasurer **Bette Bell**, read the financial Report for April. Copies were available. Bette noted that all contributions are tax deductible. Just ask Bette for a receipt. There is a new form for speakers that request reimbursement for travel.
- The School Report of FCOC speakers at schools included Edison High in HB with **Ronnie Guyer, Edwin Miller, and Frank Orzio.**
- **Bill Cook** is forming a grass roots organization that would include a Veterans Cemetery at the Great Park in Irvine. The VA said this would require an Act of Congress to achieve a cemetery. Bill hopes a Congressperson will take up the cause.
- **Ray Wong** presented a video of the “**QR code**”. The **Q**uick **R**esponse code is symbol in the shape of a square that, when read by a cell phone, provides more information about an advertisement or a business card. Data is extracted from patterns in the square. (Ray *including a 1 minute video with more details*).



Jack Hammett

Chairman:

Minutes prepared by Tim Richards