



## FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF ORANGE COUNTY

(A California nonprofit 501(c) 3 Public Benefit Corporation)

Neighborhood Community Center  
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of **November 13, 2013**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Howard Bender, YNC, USN, Pearl Harbor Survivor

**Invocation:** Robert Meyer, USAAC, WWII, Glider Pilot. ETO

**Guests Present: (23)** Bob Bolin, Shirley Bolin, Tim Brown, Frank Daniels, Betty Hayes, Hal Hayes, Doug Claus, Tim Fox, Lavon Larson, Jack Linscott, George Mason, Teresa Matheny, Carmen Pilichi, Ted Polander, Rick Rigel, Cathy Scott, Steve Serad, Carlos Velago, Rob Vicario, Moira Viculy, David Way, Arlene Whitaker and Linda Williams.

**Members Present: (74)** Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Bob Bankston, Howard Bender, Alan Bernstein, Dave Brooks, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Robert Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Andy Cullinane, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Bruce Ellyson, George Emerson, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Kirk Ferguson, Thomas Gorla, James Grimm, Ronnie Guyer, Raymond Grissom, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, William Holiday, Arnie Hanson, Dale Hanson, Bill Hardy, George Hill, William Holiday, Vinde Howley, Jack Hubbard, Peter Katz, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Louis Kridelbaugh, Hank Lamm, Dave Lester, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Alan Mason, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchel, Kent Moore, Joseph Mueller, Dick O'Brien, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Bob Perry, George Peters. Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Frank Ramirez, Timothy Richards, Ed Royce, Larry Schnitzer,, Harry Selling, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Dick Tyhurst, Ken Ulrich, Phillip Vinci, Fred Wagner, Buck Wall Jack Walters, Fred Whitaker, George Widley, and Scott Williams

**Associate Members Present: (27)** James Baker, Solog Bankston, Bette Bell, David Brandt, Cindy Brennaman, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Guy Coulombe, Kay Felix, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Francis Haynes, Ramona Hill, Fred McDowell, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Pat O'Brien, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Jeff Sebek, Judy Selling, Marge Tyhurst, Tom Watson, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams and Rob Wood. Sebek, Judy Selling, Marge Tyhurst, Tom Watson, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams and Rob Wood.



### *Special Presentation*

87<sup>th</sup> Division  
The Golden Acorn

### *The 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during World War II*

*The Battle of the Bulge, crossing the Rhine, German Concentration Camps*

**Fred Whitaker** served with the **87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division** in the European Theater of Operation during WWII. He was the point of the Army spear because he was an infantry soldier. The 87<sup>th</sup> Division, the Golden Acorn Division, served in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. The Division landed in France on November 1944 and was in combat on December 1944. In the Army, the King of battle is the Artillery, the Knight of battle is the Armor and the Queen of battle is the Infantry. The queen is the most versatile piece on a "chess board", and the infantry is the most versatile forces on the battlefield. The Infantry does everything and

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anything and is the most dangerous force out there. Fred should know as he fought in the in the biggest battle in Europe: Battle of the Bulge. The weather was freezing, foggy and muddy. It was so cold that four medics were carrying a wounded soldier on a stretcher, dropped him. Upon examination, all the medics had black feet-frozen- and couldn't walk any further. The Germans launched a surprise attack and overran many US front line troops. Strange things happen in war. Fred's Battalion was pulled back from the front for reorganization and rearming. It was December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas, and the troops were fed a hot meal including turkey drumsticks. Returning to the front, German fighters strafed the column, wounding Fred. He remembers waking up in the hospital and a doctor asking him how he was doing. Fred, who was served a second Christmas dinner, said, "It doesn't get any better than this."

When the 87<sup>th</sup> Division crossed the Rhine River, it was at night. The Germans lite up the sky with flares and caught them crossing. The first wave had 80% casualties, the second wave had 40% casualties and the third wave had 20% casualties. However, the US troops successfully crossed and pushed the Germans back.

Germany used concentration camps as prisons for political prisoners and undesirables without judicial process. Once in the camps, the people were worked to death or starved to death or both. The Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated in April 1945. The German citizens were ordered to walk through Buchenwald, to see what terror and death had been happening in this camp.

Fred's best memory of the war was when a group of 87<sup>th</sup> Division veterans returned to Belgian fifty years later. As they walked down the street, little children came out, took their hands, and thanked them for their sacrifice. [What a great day to be an American soldier!](#)



### Announcements

**Bette Bell** presented the monthly financial report. Copies were available. The report included a donation from October 24<sup>th</sup> All American Boys Choir event of \$638.05.

The Freedom Committee of Orange County speakers were very busy on Veterans Day. Some of the speakers were **Jack Hammett**, **Bob Myers** and **Bob Bankston**. Jack ended his Veterans Day/Pearl Harbor speech with, "*You have seen a lot and heard a lot. Please take care of my Country for me!*"

**Denise Weiland**, our Living History Program manager, announced that she has contacted all the high schools in the Newport/Mesa School District and they are preparing for the Freedom Committee speakers to come to their schools. And a **big Thanks** to **Denise**: she served pumpkin pie to all (124) members present! **YUM!**

**Adrian Mitchel** announced a "Big Warrior to Little Warrior" holiday toy drive from now to December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Scott Williams** announced that polo shirts with FCOC embroidered on them, are now available for \$32.

*Minutes prepared by  
Tim Richards*

Approved by:

*Jack Hammett*  
Chairman

FCOC November 2013

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