



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 October 8, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance:

Frank Pangborn, 1Lt, USA, Vietnam War

Invocation:

Sgt Frank Orzio, USMC, (Ret.) Chaplain

Guests Present: (13): Budd Bennett, Nick Brockhausen, Bob Cunningham, Phil Goode, Eldrid Hinton, John Mannino, George Masaki, Louis McClain, Jeff Miller, Jerry Nicholson, Valerie Phillip, Paul Reisch and Stan Smith,

Members Present: (72): Louis Ast, Howard Beach, Shep Bentley, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Larry Bersch, Bob Bolin, David Brooks, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Roberta Cowley, Tom Crammer, Gary Crest, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Kirk Ferguson, David Fey, Ron Flynn, Tom Gorla, James Grimm, Ray Grissom, Ronnie Gayer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Dale Hanson, Dave Hayward, George Hill, John Hughes, Dan Jordan, Peter Katz, Hans Lamme, Jeff Lawson, Bob Leahy, David Lester, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Bob McClain, Bob Meyer, Edison Miller, Doug Milliken, Charles Mitchell, Ron Nichols, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Frank Pangborn, Pete Pedersen, Bob Perry, Larry Petersen, Carmine Pilichi, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Frank Ramirez, Sean Reardon, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Bryan Roland, Ed Royce, Bob Ruiz, Larry Schnitzer, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Michael Trerotola, Fred Wagner, Buck Wall, Jack Walters, Chase Wickersham, David Willard, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present (25): Bette Bell, Shirley Bolin, Cindy Brennaman, Tom Brennaman, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Cherry Danks, Teresa Drain, Shirley Hanson, Ramona Hill, Cornell Ilescu, Lori Martin, Fred McDowell, Audrey Miller, Betty Mueller, Gary Oberts, Sharlene Pedersen, Tanya Pham, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Astrid Rice, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams, Ray Wong and Rob Wood.



Special Presentation



The presentation today was from a Vietnam Veteran, **Robert “Bob” McClain**. Bob was drafted into the Army and reported to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for basic training. During Basic, Bob was selected for Officer Candidate School and 23 weeks later graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. Next,



he learned how to parachute out of perfectly good aircraft and was awarded Jump wings. He was selected for 6 months of specialized training in the Army Special Forces. The Special Forces in Vietnam was organized into 12 man “A” teams with the duties of five primary missions: unconventional warfare (The main mission of the Green Berets is to train and lead unconventional warfare, (UW), forces, or a clandestine guerrilla force in an occupied nation), foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, direct action, and counter-terrorism. These 12-man teams containing weapons



Special Force
Shoulder patch

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sergeants (who can fire anything with a trigger), medics, communications sergeants (who are trained in everything from Morse code to establishing secure links with satellites).



Special Forces Camp Thien Ngon

They are self-sustaining and autonomous, speak multiple languages, and are able to operate in the middle of nowhere for extended periods. Lieutenant McClain's first overseas assignment was Thailand where he trained members of the Thailand Army. From Thailand, he was deployed to Vietnam and to command an A-Team in Tay Ninh Province, about 75 miles Northwest from Saigon and 3 miles from the Cambodian border. The SF Camp at **Thien Ngon** was a specially designed fort in the shape of a 5 sided star perimeter and a hexagon interior. (**Point of interest**) FCOC member **Tim Richards**,

commanded the Combat Engineer Company that cleared the land and constructed the SF Camp in 1968. The star shaped earthen walls are 6 ft. high and 6 ft. thick. The Vietnamese, who often brought their families, were able to build their homes in the thick walls. The star shape had no weak points for attack. Although **CPT Richards** lost five men KIA during the construction, **CPT McClain** stated that no Americans were KIA during his tour two years later. The purpose of the camp being so close to the border was to monitor enemy movement on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. This system of roads in Cambodia and Laos allowed the Viet Cong to move where Americans forces were not allowed to be.

Announcements

Jack Hammett expressed his **gratitude** for the job **Scott Williams** and his staff are performing. Jack encouraged all FCOC members to wear the FCOC caps with medals to show that you belong to an organization of veterans. Jack is planning to take a photo of all the members "**in uniform**" each Meeting to promulgate the Freedom Committee of Orange County.

Bette Bell presented the September 2014 Financial Report. Copies were available. She announced that the 2014-2015 budget has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Denise Weiland announced that veteran interviews would begin soon; Corona del Mar High will start around the 1st of November. To be qualified, veterans being interviewed must have passed the Speaker program. See **Frank Pangborn** for the date of the next class.

Scott Williams announced that **Jess Lawson** has resigned from the Board of Directors due to the demands of his office as Commander, American Legion Post 291. **Dave Brooks** was elected to fill his remaining term on the Board. Scott also informed the FCOC members of the **Wing, Wheels, and Rotors** (WWR) displays at Los Alamitos on October 26th.

Phil Good informed the members of the "**Honor Flight**" for veterans to fly to Washington, DC to view the WWII monument. Veterans fly free and donations are welcomed.

www.honorflightsouthlank.org

Peter Katz stated that **Governor Brown** visited Irvine and signed the El Toro Cemetery bill authorizing the cemetery to be built. The expected cost is \$6.8 million.

Minutes prepared by *Timothy Richards*

Promulgated by *Jack Hammett*