

The Freedom Committee of Orange County

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

(Watch here for the
new FCOC Logo)

Minutes of the Meeting of October 10, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance: Fred Whitaker, Cpl., U.S. Army, WWII, Combat Infantry, Battle of the Bulge

Invocation: Chaplain Frank Orzio, Sgt., USMC (Ret.) Vietnam War

Special Guests: Hon. Wendy Leece, Councilwoman, Costa Mesa and Sandy Genis, Former Mayor, Costa Mesa.

Guests Present: (18) Jerry Algro, Gene Bakke, Al Berstein, Malcolm Campbell, Orion Dix, Louis Kreidelbaugh, James Grimm, Sarah Moss, Ed Mulhorn, Sally Nockold, George Peters, Gery Porter, Anita Sakul, Henry Thedinga and Louis Widly.

Members Present: (67) Kelly Alcalá, Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Andy Cullinane, Bob Dugan, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Kirk Ferguson, Archie Gregory, Ray Grissom, George Grupe, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, Jack Hubbard, John Hughes, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Hans Lamme, Jess Lawson, Bob Leahy, Dave Lester, Bill Ed Magee, Frank Mannino, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchell, Richard O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Frank Pangborn, Fred Pellicciotti, Lou Possemato, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Frank Ramirez, Harry Rawlins, Keith Regan, Tim Richards, Brian Roland, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Martha Somers, Bob Sternfels, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Gene Verge, Philip Vinci, Gene Wallace, Jack Walters, George Widly, Paul Wilder, David Willard and Scott Williams.

Associate Members Present: (22) Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Valerie Boston, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Kay Felix, Gari Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Mona Hill, Jamie Howren, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Carlos Navarete, Pat O'Brien, Gladys Refakes, Krystle Santana, Terry Schnitzer, Jeff Sebek, Judy Selling, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, and Rob Wood.

107 Total Attendees

Special Program

“Korean War Flare Drops”

Aviation Electronics Technician First Class

George J. Widly, USN



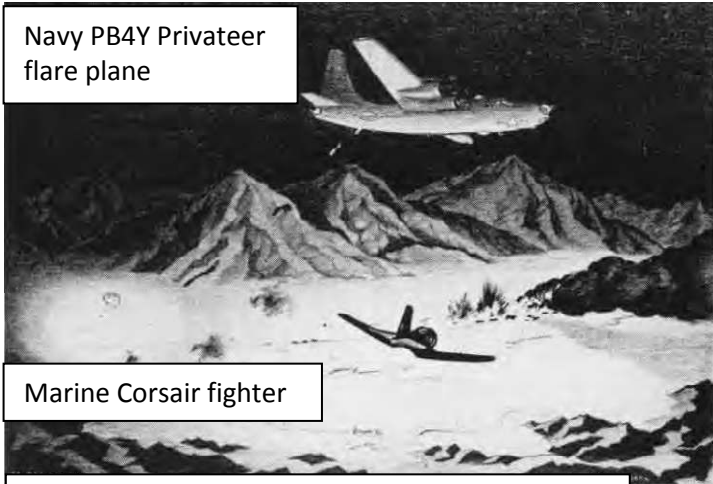
The Korean War (1950 -1953) is often referred to as the “Forgotten War” which implies that the public recognition of the Korean War is considered to be disproportionately low in relation to the “perceived” historical significance. **Aviation Tech. George Widly** considers it

an important part of his life. George served in the US Navy Aviation and flew on a specially designed aircraft, a B-24 redesignated as PB4Y-2, Privateer. The Privateer was externally similar to the Liberator, but the fuselage was lengthened to accommodate a flight engineer's station and new electronics and had a tall single vertical stabilizer rather than the B-24's twin tail configuration. The defensive armament was also increased to 12 .50-in M2 Browning machine guns in six turrets (two dorsal, two waist turrets, nose and tail), with the B-24's belly turret being omitted.



Privateers were used during the Korean War to fly "Firefly" night illumination missions dropping parachute flares to detect North Korean and Chinese troops and vehicles. Once the enemy was detected, flares dropped, the Marine Corsair fighters from the nearest

Navy PB4Y Privateer flare plane



Marine Corsair fighter

Sketch shows PB4Y-2 dropping flares as a marine fighter tears in a low level for the kill.

aircraft carrier were vectored in and “disabled” them by bombing and strafing. On one mission, George was arming the flares and passing it to another crew to be launched. As he pulled a flare from the rack, he heard a pop. Realizing the flare was armed from a previous flight and ready to explode, he rushed to the drop tube, knocking the other crewmen aside and launching the flare. The white-hot flare burst as it cleared the tail and lite up the plane from the outside but all were safe. For more information, refer to Navy Patrol Squadron Three.

<http://www.koreanwar.org.html/units/navy>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jack Hammett announced that he is cutting back on the time he spends for FCOC for health reasons. The twelve member Executive Committee is functioning well and he is handing (*most of*) the gavel over to **Scott Williams**.

The FCOC Treasurer, **Bette Bell**, verbally presented the September 2012 financial statement. FCOC has added a “Passport” speaker system for \$330.99 which greatly added to a better meeting. Copies of the financial statement were available.

Jamie Howren has been creatws a new FCOC display at the **Lyon Air Museum** at John Wayne Airport. Also Army vehicles will be on display between 10-2 PM Saturday Oct 13th.

Scott Williams and **Jack Hammett** are coordinating with Costa Mesa School Districts who are scheduling 670 classes of 2000 students to visit the Lyon Air Museum in November 2012.

Jess Lawson stated there the 237th **Navy Birthday** anniversary will be celebrated at the Newport Beach American Legion Post 291 Saturday, Oct 13th starting a 5PM.

Sally Nockold announced a fund raiser for the **Navy League** Oct 27th at the Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel at 5 PM for \$25.00. Funds will go to the Sea Cadets at Seal Beach Navy Station.

Need a ride to the FCOC Wednesday Meetings? Please contact **Bill Anderson**, chair for the Transportation Committee, at (760)-832-1895 (cell phone).

Have you heard about the **Honor Flights** for WWII veterans? Fly from California to Washington DC to tour the WWII Memorial. Transportation and accommodations are FREE. Contact **Orion Dix** at (714)-633-5442. **Tim Richards** will have more details and applications at the November Meeting.

Table Topics

George Grupe gave some information on the Medal of Honor and the recipients. The **Medal of Honor** is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. The Medal of Honor is **not won or earned**; the Medal of Honor is **awarded or received**. In 1987 there were 322 recipients. In 2000, only 154 recipients remain. Checking the web today October 10th only 81 are alive. At the Santa Ana City Hall there are individual monuments displaying the seven recipients of Orange County that have been awarded this medal. The most recent awardee was **Lt. Michael P. Murphy**, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan June 28, 2005.



ARMY



NAVY



AIR FORCE

Tom Evans displayed a *Certificate of Appreciation* for his service in Korean War. It is signed by the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Leon Panetta. **Frank Ramirez** also received a *Certificate of Appreciation*. More information at <http://www.military-certificates.com/Korean%20War%20Service%20Medal%20Certificate.htm>

Photos by *Jamie Howren*

Minutes prepared by *Tim Richards*

Photos taken during the meeting may be viewed on our web site at www.fc-oc.org.

Click on: "Photos"

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Hammett".