

The **Freedom Committee of Orange County**
(A California nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation)
Neighborhood Community Center
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of September 12, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance: LCDR. Jess C. Lawson, USN, Commander Post 291
American Legion

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

Special Guests: Ms. Toni McDonald Pang, Community Service Representative
Orange County Great Park

Guests Present: (12) Gene Bakke, Arlene Cole, Mia Grajeda, Bob Hastie, Louis Kreidelbaugh, Dave Leighton, Ed Moore, Sara Moss, Teri O'Brien, Barbara Owens, Henry Thedinga and Larry Tunks,

Members Present: (65) Kelly Alcalá, Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Rally Bates, Howard Beach, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Charles Bergin, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Andy Cullinane, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Dan Gillespie, Archie Gregory, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, Jack Hubbard, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Hans Lamme, Jess Lawson, Bob Leahy, Dave Lester, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Joseph Mueller, Bob Perry, Richard O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Frank Pangborn, Fred Pellicciotti, Jim Pinnex, Lou Possemato, Jim Powers, Frank Ramirez, Harry Rawlins, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, John Skara, Bob Sternfels, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Dick Tyhurst, Gene Verge, Philip Vinci, Gene Wallace, George Widly, Paul Wilder, David Willard and Scott Williams.

Associate Members Present: (20) Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Valerie Boston, Robby Conn, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Eliza Delpizzo, Gari Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Mona Hill, Jamie Howren, Dan King, Audrey Miller, Pat O'Brien, Gladys Refakes, Terry Schnitzer, Judy Selling, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, and Rob Wood

Special Program

LtCol Richard "Dick" Tyhurst, USAAC, USAF, (Ret.)
"Aerial Navigation in Combat Flying in WWII"

A very interesting Video of a B-17 was prepared by **Mr. Jim Baker** featuring **LtCol Tyhurst**. The first part was a personal tour of a B-17 by LtCol Tyhurst including the defensive gun positions and the Navigator station. The second part was actual B-17's in combat over Germany with crew chatter. One interesting part was flying through the German anti-aircraft fire referred to "flak" or "ack-ack". Flak shells exploded at pre-set heights. When one shell hit close, the shards of shrapnel banged through the aircraft killing the crew and destroying the bomber.





LtCol Tyhurst was awarded "The Distinguished Service Cross" (DSC) is the second highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army (and previously, the US Army Air Force) for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

(**Special note:** Five FCOC members present today have been awarded The DSC. There is a Distinguished Flying Cross Society)

Dick entered the European Theater in Apr 1944 and joined the 95th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. His first mission was to strike coastal defenses and communications during the invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944. Next they bombed enemy troop concentrations and thus assist the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944. They dropped ammunition, food, and medical supplies to Polish troops in Warsaw on 18 Sept 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge Dec 1944-Jan 1945, they attack enemy transportation and bombed airdromes in support of the Allied assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945.

He flew his last combat mission, an attack on marshaling yards and the center of the Nazi nuclear program at Oranienburg, on 20 Apr 1945. They dropped food to the Dutch civilians during the first week in May. After V-E Day, the Group transported liberated prisoners and displaced persons from Austria to France and England. The Group returned to the US, Jun-Aug 1945. More information at: http://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org/95th_Bombardment_Group.cfm

He also described two types of missions; milk runs or *rough*. A milk run in WWII was an "easy job"-little or no danger. "*Rough*" was as it sounds. Dick said he saw a lot of flak but no German fighters during his tours. And then there were long shuttle runs that were always *rough*; take off in England, flying deep into Germany and bombing target east of the Volga River and continue flying to Russia. It was too far to return to England. After refueling and rearming, the bombers would fly return a mission to Italy. On a "*rough*" mission to bomb a synthetic oil producing plant, his Group lost nine planes of the twelve that started shot down by flak.

The jacket that LtCol Tyhurst wore today indicated 35 bombing missions successfully completed.

Again, it was a great video prepared by Jim Baker.

Announcements:

- **Scott Williams** stated the results of the election to the Board of Directors for the Freedom Committee of Orange County. **Timothy Richards** read the results of the Election; **Jack Hammett, Scott Williams, Frank Orzio, Jim Baker, Bill Mall, Dr. Norm Loats, Howie Beach, Fred Whitaker, Bill Anderson, Tom Evans, and Tim Richards**. Scott expressed the appreciation to the Directors whose term expired; **Dave Lester, Dick Higgins, Bob Thomas, and Dick O'Brien** who were so instrumental in developing our non-profit organization.
- The FCOC Treasurer, **Ms. Bette Bell**, gave the August report. Starting Balance \$3940.00, Income \$425, Expenditures \$552, for a balance of \$3812. Thanks to Bobby Cowden for assisting.

- **Denise Weiland** proudly reported the forthcoming Grant from the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. She stated the preparatory efforts by **Jamie Howren** on Logos and art work, **Bette Bell** on financial records and **Scott Williams** on the presentation of figures and graphs greatly enhanced the application.
- State Assemblyman **Allan Mansoor** is presenting a MIA/POW Recognition Day on September 22nd at 9AM at the Costa Mesa Tewinkle Park at 970 Arlington Park Dr. The US military has only one known POW; **Bowe Bergdahl**, US Army, Afghanistan, missing since June 2009. There will be four POWs from WWII and Vietnam who will be honored.
- **Scott Williams** asked who had noticed the new speaker stands this meeting? This new arrangement will improve hearing in our room.
- **Toni Pane** of the Irvine Great Park of Orange County announced a coming exhibition, “**Farmers to Flyers**”. There will be “war birds” and a place for oral history of military veterans. A reception will be held on Saturday Sept 22 at 7-9 PM. The exhibition will continue from the present until March 31, 2013.
- **Jack Hammett** expressed appreciation to all the **auxiliary members** that assist at our meetings that make things run so smoothly. He also stated that FCOC has a display table at the **Lyon Air Museum**.
- **Bill Anderson** is establishing a transportation committee for FCOC Members that have difficulties driving to meetings. Contact Bill at cell (714) 424-4750
- A Book signing and selling “Out of Da Nang” by **E.P Moore** by the Author. The book is about the Challenges of becoming a Marine helicopter Pilot and helicopters in combat in Vietnam.

Table Topics

Bus Cornelius remembers the results of flak in North Africa during WWII on the ground. “The Flak goes up, the flak comes down, and the tires go flat.” He made a flak collecting magnet that was towed behind a tank that cleared the roads of the shrapnel after German bombers attacks.

Carlos Navarrete is offering computer tutoring on any device from cell phones to tap top computers. You can develop new skills in MS Office and Adobe. www.carflosnavarrete@msn.com

*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