



“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 November 12, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance: Paul Wilder, S1c, U. S. Navy
Invocation: Chaplain Sgt Frank Orzio, USMC, (Ret.)

Binnacle List: Capt. Robert Meyer, USAF, Major Robert Sternfels, USAF & CDR Allen Thompson

Guests Present: (11): Raymond Deveau, Vidal M. Espinoza, Jean Hayward, Edridge Hinton, Bill Keichline, Candia Milliken, Eileen Oldis, Valerie Phillips, Rick Reilly, Glenn Roquemore and Gloria Ruiz,

Members Present: (79): Kelly Alcala, Bill Anderson, Louis Ast, John Baca, Jim Baker, Shep Bentley, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Larry Bersch, Bob Bolin, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Gary Colletti, Bus Cornelius, Roberta Cowley, Bob Cunningham, Bob Davis, Bruce Ellyson, Richard Grabow, James Grimm, Ray Grissom, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Dale Hanson, Bill Hardy, Hal Hayes, Dave Hayward, George Hill, Vince Howley, Peter Katz, Robert Knybel, Thomas Knybel, Louis Kridelbaugh, Hans Lamme, Dag Larsen, Bob Leahy, David Lester, Jack Linscott, Norm Loats, Ted Marinos, George Mason, Bob McClain, Edison Miller, Doug Milliken, Charles Mitchell, Kent Moore, Joe Mueller, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Pete Pedersen, Bob Perry, Larry Petersen, Jim Powers, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Joel Quisenberry, Frank Ramirez, Greg Raths, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Peter Rivas, Ed Royce, Bob Ruiz, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Ted Tanner, Michael Trerotola, Fred Wagner, Buck Wall, Jack Walters, Fred Whitaker, George Widly, Paul Wilder, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present (35): Bette Bell, Shirley Bolin, Valerie Boston, Cindy Brennaman, Tom Brennaman, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Teresa Drain, Linda Ellyson, Shirley Hanson, Berry Hayes, Ramona Hill, Marilyn Larsen, Lori Martin, Lois McClain, Audrey Miller, Sarah Moss, Betty Mueller, Joyce Nichols, Sally Nockold, Gary Oberts, Charlene Pedersen, Tanya Pham, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Pam Reich, Astrid Rice, Terry Schnitzer, Judy Selling, Lois Widly, Denise Weiland, Linda Williams, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation



Colonel Joe Mueller, USMC (Ret.) shared with the Freedom Committee of Orange County his tour of duty in Iraq 2006-2007. The **Iraq Assistance Group (IAG)** was a U.S. military command underneath Multi-National Corps-Iraq that coordinated military transition teams assigned to **the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF)** including the Iraqi Army, Federal Police, Department of Border Enforcement, Ports of Entry Directorate and

provincial police. These teams provide partnership, mentoring and training to assist their ISF partners in achieving full operational effectiveness and facilitating the transition of internal security to Iraqi control. The Iraq Assistance Group itself was a joint command formed from the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division and composed of mostly Army soldiers but also including a sizable contingent of sailors, airmen and one Marine Colonel Mueller as well as members of foreign militaries.



The Iraq Assistance Group and the transition teams it supported played a pivotal role in the success of the coalition strategy in Iraq which has made possible the planned redeployment of all US forces in Iraq in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement.

Colonel Mueller stated that there is a large cultural environment that will limit bringing the Iraqis up to our level of training. Colonel Mueller's living quarters were in an air-conditioned trailer with tall barricades for protection. When he traveled in conveyors, the Engineers preceded them with a Combat Engineer Vehicle to detect and clear road mines. His impression of his tour was, "We won the war but no so good at winning the peace".

On 3 June 2009, the Iraq Assistance Group ceased its colors and its functions and personnel were merged into Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Announcements

Jack Hammett congratulated **Scott Williams** on his performance in leading the Freedom Committee of Orange County. Jack also reminded everyone that FCOC is an Organization of Veterans as opposed to a Veterans Organization. Our mission is to promote the "Living History Program".

Bette Bell presented the October 2014 Financial Report. Copies were available.

Frank Pangborn asked for a show of hands of the FCOC Members that were speakers at Veterans' Day Ceremonies and ten Members raised their hands. "Remember to promote the Freedom Committee's Living History Program with Veterans speaking in schools".

Sally Nockold presented the Freedom Committee with a check of \$400 from the Newport Beach Hawaiian Lions Club.

Ronnie Guyer said that Disneyland would honor all Veterans during the Avengers Super Heroes Half Marathon conducted around Anaheim Stadium on Sunday, November 16, 2014.

Denise Weiland said that Corona del Mar High School would be starting January and February 2015.

Photographs of the meeting taken by **Tanya Pham** are posted on our web site www.fc-oc.org.

Minutes prepared by *Timothy Richards*

Promulgated by *Jack Hammett*

A **MIA/POW Table** was highlighted at the meeting today. All veterans were honored during our Veterans' Day Meeting. Let us explain the meaning of this special table, and then join us for a moment of silent prayer at the end.

MIA/POW Table



The **table is round** – to show our everlasting concern.

The **cloth is white** – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.

The **single red rose** reminds us of the lives of these Americans...and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers.

The **red ribbon** symbolizes our continued determination to account for them.

A **slice of lemon** reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A **pinch of salt** symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty.

The **lighted candle** reflects our hope for their return – alive or dead.

The **Bible** represents the strength gained through faith in our country, founded as one nation under God, to sustain those lost from our midst.

The **glass is inverted** – to symbolize their inability to share a toast.

The **chair is empty** – they are missing – (silent moment) – and please remember their service and sacrifice.

Let us honor America's POW/MIA's and encourage our government to undertake successful efforts to account for them.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN SO LONG AS THERE IS ONE LEFT IN WHOM YOUR MEMORY REMAINS.

Scott Williams displayed a poster made by the DeMille Elementary School where his daughter teaches. The students made an American flag with their handprints and wrote "*Thank you Veterans*".

At the closing, **Frank Pangborn** led the Freedom Committee of Orange County in singing "God Bless America".



"Thank you Veterans"

From DeMille School