



Freedom Committee of Orange County

501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation

Neighborhood Community Center

1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance: Rob Wood, Associate Member

Invocation: Fr. Enrique Sera, Pastor, St. Joachim Catholic Church

Binnacle List: Kirk Ferguson and Michael Knybel

Guests Present: (16) Celeste Ames, Arlene Cole, Gary Crest, Cherrie Danks, Frances Haynes, Phil Hubbard, Louis Kreidelbaugh, Wanda Martin, Joe Mueller, Pryce Misoloski, Seiji Oshiro, Hanne Parks, Dale Quinn, Maureen Robles, Henry Thedinga, Carlos Velasco.

Members Present: (51) Kelly Alcala, Jim Baker, Rally Bates, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Robert Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Raymond Grissom, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, William Holiday, Jack Hubbard, John Hughes, Dag Larsen, Jess Lawson, David Lester, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Don Oldis, Frank Pelicciotti, Bob Perry, Jim Powers, Frank Ramirez, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Fr. Enrique Sera, John Skara, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Jim Thurn, Michael Trerotola, Phillip Vinci, Gene Wallace, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder and Scott Williams.

Associate Members Present: (19) Bette Bell, Robbie Conn, Kay Felix, David Ferguson, Lee Gillespie, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Ramona Hill, Carmen Holiday, Cornell Iliescu, Wanda Marin, Gladys Refakes, Terry Schnitzer, Judy Selling, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, Ray Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation

We were treated with a first-hand account from a WWII and Korea War Marine Veteran. **Eanos "Tom" Evans** entered the Marine Corps on December 1943 from Hollywood (Tom was in two movies) with his parents' permission and turned 17 in boot camp in San Diego, CA. When he earned a pass, he took his Marine buddies to Hollywood to ~~the~~ meet celebrities. He collected many autographed photos of Movie Stars which he carried with him when he went overseas. Smiling, he claims when he deployed, he just happened to be engaged to four fiancés which ensured that he would never miss being called at mail call. (This was war-time engagements-no rings)

Tom went overseas as a replacement and in mid-September 1944, landed on the Island of Peleliu in the Pacific after the Marines had made the combat landing. He was told to "get rid of that rifle!



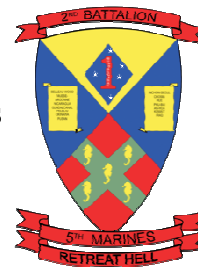
You're a stretcher bearer." The Marine 1st Division, with three regiments, had suffered 1600 killed and 4000 wounded in 42 days. The remaining Marines were withdrawn and replaced by the Army 87th Division. The expected three-day battle lasted six weeks. The Marines reformed and Tom was assigned to the G-2-5 or G (as in George) Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

<http://www.g25thmar1stdiv.com/>

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Two Marine Divisions and four Army Divisions made an amphibious landing on Okinawa on April 1, 1945, Easter Sunday, also April fool's Day. Tom landed with a 50 ft. rope to assault cliffs. However, the Marines were unopposed and crossed the Island without contact with the Japanese. The Army Divisions turned south and ran into intense opposition. In May, the Marines relieved the Army 27th Division. The Marines soon found out what the "**Doggies**" were facing. G-2-5 suffered 123%



casualties when replacements were included. At the Kunishi Ridge, one of Tom's buddies took a direct hit while he was in a foxhole. His unit was ordered to pull back but Tom refused to leave his wounded buddy. All night he threw grenades at any sound. About 5 am his buddy died and Tom low-crawled back to his unit. When he passed the challenge and password, he stood up and was immediately shot in the back by the Japs. He was evacuated by using the escape hatch under a tank. Later they found 28 dead Japanese where he made his stand. **Sergeant Evans was awarded a Silver Star for his actions along with two Purple Hearts. G-2-5 was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.**

After fighting 82 days on Okinawa, the war was ended. Tom's unit was sent to China for 1 1/2 years to repatriate the Japanese troops. In 1947 Tom returned to the States and was discharged. When the Korean War began in 1950, Tom was recalled and served again. Returning from Korea as a **1st Lieutenant E. Tom Evans**, he keeps in touch with the members of "George" Company through yearly reunions. He has authored a book, "**Hold Your Head High, Marine**" and is donating the profits to a Marine scholarship fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Williams updated the membership on the progress of Incorporating FCOC. The IRS has now approved the FCOC Application for a non-profit status and only State approval is needed.

Bette Bell, FCOC Treasurer, presented the September monthly report of deposits and expenses.

There are many books of interest on military subjects in the FCOC library that can be checked out for free; including "**Hold Your Head High, Marine**". Thanks for the efforts, **Mona Hill!**



We were honored with the presence of **Seiji Oshiro** (blue jacket) of the **442nd Regimental Combat Team**. (Composed of Japanese-American enlisted men) This unit became the most highly decorated regiment in the history of the United States armed forces, including **21 Medal of Honor** recipients. Mr. Oshiro displayed a Congressional Gold Medal awarded to members of the 442nd on December 2011.

The award for best dressed was awarded to **Major Harry Selling** USAF (Ret.)



Harry Selling

(Minutes of the Meeting prepared by **Tim Richards**)

(Photographs of the meeting by **Tom Egan**)

Jack Hammett Chairman

The next FCOC Meeting is **February 8, 2012**