



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 February 8, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance: Capt. David Ferguson, Huntington Beach Fire Department

Invocation: Pastor Frank Orzio, Wounded Warriors Ministry

Guests Present: (15) Bill Anderson, Celeste Ames, Gene Bakke, Ray Deuvau, Bill Hall, Jack Hannigan, Daniel Haynes, Florence Haynes, George Hill, Jeff Johala, Stan Jones, Bill Kridelbaugh, Lou Kridelbaugh, Hans Lamm, Aaron Smith,

Members Present: (57) Kelly Alcalá, Jim Baker, Vic Bakkila, Rally Bates, Howard Beach, Harold Bender, David Brooks, Jess Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Gary Crest, Bob Dugan, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Archie Gregory, Raymond Grissom, Ronnie Guyer, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, William Holiday, John Hughes, Art Lambert, Dag Larson, Jess Lawson, Norm Loats, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchell, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Frank Pelicciotti, Bob Perry, Lou Possemato, Ken Pruitt, Frank Ramirez, Tim Richards, Maureen Robles, Larry Schnitzer, Fr. Sera, John Skara, Ted Tanner, Jim Thurn, Mike Trerotola, Phillip Vinci, Paul Wilder, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present: (14) Betty Bell, Arlene Cole, Eliza Delpizzo, Kay Felix, David Ferguson, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Ramona Hill, Pat O'Brien, Helen Possemato, Terry Schnitzer, Jeff Sebek, Denise Weiland and Rob Wood.

Special Presentation

23D INFANTRY
REGIMENT



“Combat Medics-Going Where the Action Is”



Frank Ramirez shared with the FCOC members his Korean War time experiences. We know North Korean People's Army, KPA, invaded South Korean Republic of Korea, ROK, on June 25, 1950 with a Pearl Harbor-type surprise attack. Lightly armed American and ROK troops were swept aside. The South Korean capital of Seoul was captured in three days. The KPA communist soldiers continued attacking south and a month later all that was left of South Korea was a 50 mile radius around the port city of Pusan. The 23rd Combat Regimental Team was the first American soldiers from the US mainland to land in Korea. They were also the 1st to break out of the Pusan perimeter and chase the Communist troops back north.



Frank Ramirez was a local Orange County man that was drafted and trained as a combat rifleman. Arriving in Korea in the summer of 1951, Frank was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. The fighting arm of the 2nd ID was three infantry regiments; the 23rd Regimental Combat Team was the one PVT Ramirez was assigned to. There were three battalions in the 23rd RCT. While waiting assignment to his battalion, Frank and five other men were called out and told to exchange their rifles for medical kits. They were Army Medics now. (The Navy and Marines refers to them as Corpsmen). After one day training, Frank was assigned to E Company, 2nd Battalion. During this training, they were informed that they were “Immuned from Fear”.

In September 1951, The U.S. 2nd Infantry Division seriously underestimated the strength of the North Koreans' dug-in positions along seven mile long hill mass just north of the 38th parallel. They ordered a single infantry regiment (the 23rd RCT) and its attached French battalion to make what would prove to be an ill-conceived assault with straight up heavily fortified slopes. The fighting was savage; no mercy was given or asked by either side. The ridgeline (called **Heartbreak Ridge** by the American Infantrymen) changed hands many times in an exhausting series of attacks and counterattacks. "Combat Medics: going where the action is", Frank's medic job was to follow closely the combat troops and treat the wounded. During a retreat, Frank would evacuate the wounded off the battlefield, sometimes unassisted by the retreating infantrymen. **PFC Frank Ramirez was awarded a Silver Star Medal for heroism for his actions** on September 24, 1951.



During a retreat, several wounded were left behind. Frank, armed with a Red Cross on his helmet and carrying a medical bag, went back up the hill and brought them back to safety. Frank also wears the Combat Medic Badge.



During the Korean War, 830 Army Medical Servicemen were killed and 3,270 wounded. Navy Hospital Corps suffered 108 killed. Frank was wounded by a ChiCom mortar and wears a **Purple Heart Medal**. In Korea, the hospital death rate for wounded GI's was, up to then, the lowest in the history of Warfare due in part to the bravery and expertise of men called "Doc". **Freedom is not Free!**

A short film was shown, "Corpsman Up!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bette Bell, FCOC treasurer, presented the monthly report of deposits and expenses. Copies were available.

Mr. **David Brooks**, President of the Newport Mesa Unified School District board of Education, attended the meeting and observed how the FCOC could "*Pass the Living History to Future Generations*".

Jack Hammett stated he is obtaining a list of all the schools in the District and will assign one FCOC member to each school as a liaison to them.

The **Santa Ana Air Base** will hold a reunion on Saturday, February 25.

Scott Williams reminded us that the United Nations voted to intervene in Korea War and fought with UN troops from 14 member countries. South Korea and the United States contributed 902,000 of the 941,600 United Nations soldiers. North Korea, China and the Soviet Union forces estimated at 1,212,000 with China contributing 926,000.

Ted Tanner announced that our speaker, **Frank Ramirez**, had unwelcome visitors (burglars) last night at his home in Santa Ana. Ted asked that all FCOC members be on the lookout for any of Frank's items being sold at swap meets. He also recommended that everyone video tape their homes and belongings to aid the Police in identifying the items if they are stolen.

(Minutes of the Meeting prepared by Tim Richards)

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

Jack Hammett
Chairman