



*Neighborhood Community Center  
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627*

**Minutes of the Meeting of April 11, 2012**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Col. Jesse Carranza, USA (Ret.)

**Invocation:** Silent Prayer led by Jack Hammett

**Guests Present: (27)** Joni Alter, James Baker, Solveg Bankston, Gene Bakke, Robert Chermak, Carol Ann Dean, Connor Dean, John Etheridge, Jonny Etheridge, Mark Foster, Larry Harris, Donald Haynes, Francis Haynes, George Hill, Louis Kreidelbaugh, Bob Leahy, Joe Longoria, Adrian Michael, Joe Mueller, June Rawlings, Nancy Robison, Megan Smith, Henry Thedinga, Nick Thompson, W.J. Thurn, Jay Wertz, Bonnie Wilkinson,

**Members Present: (56)** Kelly Alcala, Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Vic Bakkila, Bob Bankston, Howard Beach, Jesse Bequette, Jess Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Bob Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Eddie Felix, Archie Gregory, Raymond Grissom, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dick Higgins, Jack Hubbard, John Hughes, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Hans Lamme, Bill Mall, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Charles Mitchell, Lou Possemato, Jim Powers, Frank Ramirez, Harry Rawlins, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, John Skara, Bob Sternfels, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, Brent Theobald, Jim Thurn, Mike Trerotola, Phillip Vinci, Gene Wallace, Fred Whitaker, Paul Wilder, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn

**Associate Members Present: (18)** Betty Bell, Valerie Boston, Arlene Cole, Robby Conn, Kay Felix, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Ramona Hill, Cornell Iliescu, Helen Possemato, Gladys Refakes, Terry Schnitzer, Judy Selling, Linda Wallace, Denise Weiland, Rayman Wong, Rob Wood, and Elizabeth Yee.

**Special Presentation**

**Major William E. Anderson, USAF (Ret.)**

*“Vietnam War Stories, North Pole Low Level - Norwegian Explorers, Japan Typhoon”*

The love of flying came early for Major Bill Anderson. As a small boy in Pittsburg, PA., all his brothers had served in WWII and a neighbor would often buzz the houses in a P-51 fighter and finish in a “Victory Spiral”. Bill was hooked on flying. Graduating from Penn State in 1968, Bill joined the air Force as an Aviation Cadet in Texas. Unfortunately his eye sight limited him to a Navigator and he completed his training in California. He was

assigned to C-130 Hercules, 4 engine turbo-prop military transport aircraft and assigned to the Tactical Air Command. (TAC) The C-130 is also the only military aircraft to remain in continuous production for 50 years. Unlike transports derived from passenger airliners, it was to be designed from the ground-up as a combat transport with loading from a ramp at the rear of the fuselage. The C-130F Hercules has performing takeoffs and landings aboard an aircraft carrier. Major Anderson was



C-130 Hercules Turbo Prop

involved in North Pole Low Level Grid Navigation. As a plane approaches the North Pole the compass becomes useless when you are over the Pole because the needle wants to point down instead of in the right direction. Using Grid Navigation solves this problem.

Major Anderson remembers when he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan. In 1967 there were 20 storms reached typhoon intensity, of which 5 reached super typhoon strength. Fearing the collapse of the hangers, several C-130s were outside. As the Typhoon intensified the C-130 began to fly! The crews manned the planes and started the engines, “flying” with the stick forward to keep the planes on the ground. However the 100,000 lbs. planes began “dancing” and were in danger of colliding. The crews had to “bail” (jumped) out to save their lives.

The C-130’s were used extensively in Vietnam. Their main duty was to transport supplies to out posts like Special Forces Camps near the Cambodian Border. The large rear ramp made for easy loading and unloading. The four turbo-prop engines could be run in reverse and stop the C-130 quickly when landing on these short, mostly dirt, runways. All the Navigator had to do was find these camps which usually had cloud cover and a hole in the clouds and the C-130 would spiral down and land. The 588<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion constructed two Special Forces Camps with runways. These Camps were 2-3 miles from the Cambodian border and Viet Cong anti-aircraft guns. I was at Katum when one C-130 was hit. (READ the full story; (CTRL + Click)

[http://www.inedgewise.com/blog/?page\\_id=41](http://www.inedgewise.com/blog/?page_id=41) )



C-130 with three good engines and some landing gear down.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Denise Wieland** reported on the FCOC speakers at Richland High School featuring on Korean War veterans. Mrs. Wieland was presented a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her outstanding support of our Committee’s Education Program.

**Jack Hammett** announced the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Ceremonies at Harbor Lawn/Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Costa Mesa. Jack will be the Master of Ceremonies and **Daniel Martinez, Chief Historian**, from the **Pearl Harbor Memorial** will be the Featured Speaker. All FCOC members are invited to attend (special seating arranged).

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

*(Pictures of the Meeting on our Web Site [FC-OC.org](http://FC-OC.org) by Tom Egan)*

Chairman