



(A California nonprofit 501(c) 3 Public Benefit Corporation)  
*Neighborhood Community Center*  
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627



### Minutes of the Meeting of October 9, 2013

**Pledge of Allegiance: Capt. Tom Gorla, USN (Ret.)**

**Invocation: Father Enrique Sera, Pastor, St. Joachim Catholic Church**

**Guests Present: (16) Harry Boling, Aaron Cassaro, Gretchen Coburn, Pat Coburn, Areli Diaz, Dick Harrington, Betty Hayes, Hal Hayes, Tom Langan, Tony Manrique, Colin Melott, Kent Moore, Betty Mueller, George Musso, Gary Oberts, and Jack Reese**

**Members Present: (64) Kelly Alcalá, Victor Bakkila, Howard Bender, Jesse Bequette, Dave Brooks, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Robert Cowley, Roberta Cowley, Andy Cullinane, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, George Emerson, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Thomas Gorla, Dick Granbow, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnie Hanson, Dwight Hanson, George Hill, William Holiday, John Hughes, Peter Katz, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Louis Kridelbaugh, Hank Lamm, Jess Lawson, Dave Lester, Norm Loats, Edward Magee, Frank Mannino, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Doug Milliken, Charles Mitchel, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Bob Perry, Ken Pruitt, Dale Quinlan, Frank Ramirez, Timothy Richards, Ed Royce, Larry Schnitzer, Harry Selling, Enrique Sera, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Michael Trerotola, Edward Vincent, Phillip Vinci, Fred Wagner, Buck Wall, and Scott Williams**

**Associate Members Present: (20) James Baker, Bette Bell, Arlene Cole, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Teresa Drain, Geri Hanson, Ramona Hill, Cornell Iliescu, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Sally Nockold, Pat O'Brien, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Astrid Rice, Judy Selling, Denise Weiland and Rob Wood**

## **Sergeant Douglas Alan Milliken, U. S. Army, Vietnam**

***"Northern thrust of the Cambodian Invasion 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
May 1970"***

Before arriving in Vietnam, **Sergeant Douglas Milliken** was trained at Fort Ord, CA. for basic and advanced infantry training. He was selected for special training at Fort Benning, GA. with the Non-Commissioned Officers Course and graduated as an E-5 Sergeant.



The Ivy Division

Sergeant Milliken, dressed in his Vietnam-era uniform, spoke of his time in Vietnam. He served in II Corps of Vietnam, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The area of operations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was sparsely populated, and the major task of the Division was to stop the infiltration of North Vietnamese Army Regulars into Vietnam from Cambodia. Sergeant Milliken was a member of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The area, in which they operated, the mountainous and triple canopied border areas of

the western Kontum and Pleiku Provinces, was some of the most difficult fighting terrain U.S. Forces experienced in Vietnam. There they fought regularly against the 1st and 10th NVA Divisions, repeatedly inflicting significant casualties, capturing supplies, and forcing them to retreat to the shelter of the Cambodian Border and the Ho Chi Minh trail.

The time for payback had come. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces had been using Cambodia and its neutrality for over five years. The U.S. had respected the neutrality of Cambodia but had paid a heavy price for doing so. Coupled with the payback was the fact that large amounts of supplies and several divisions of NVA and VC were in the area in preparing for massive strikes against South Vietnam. In May 1970, the 4<sup>th</sup> Division with South Vietnamese Army conducted cross-border operations during the Cambodian Incursion.

First in was the Reconnaissance Platoon with Sergeant Milliken, which was part of a 60-helicopter assault. This was the largest combat air assault in Vietnam. The primary operational objective of the Allied forces was to conduct "search and destroy operations to find and eliminate NVA and VC sanctuaries in Cambodia and the troops defending them."

The results, by one estimate, the allies in Cambodia seized enough Russian and Chinese weapons and ammunition to arm fifty-five battalions of main-force infantry. Main-force offensives against South Vietnam's III and IV Corps were derailed for at least a year. Over 2000 structures were destroyed. More importantly, their tactical and operational efforts achieved most of President Nixon's strategic objectives for the campaign.

An interesting side light was the May 4 student riot at Kent State University in Ohio to protest of the Cambodian operation. They didn't understand that an invasion was what the North Vietnamese were doing to the South Vietnamese. An incursion is a military raid of limited time to reduce the military forces. More information is contained in "12 Days in May" by Jerald Berry.

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## **Administration**

Binnacle List: **Valerie Boston, Walter Ehlers, Archie Gregory, Bob Sternfels, Bob Stoddard, Bob Thomas and Gene Wallace.** Remember them in your prayers

**Tony Manrique** announced the **All American Boys Chorus** will perform on Thursday, *October 24<sup>th</sup>*, 6:30 pm, at our Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA. Tickets \$10. Boys meet Veterans. **Vets enter FREE.** Hear John Phillip Sousa Marches put to words. Proceeds will be donated to the Freedom Committee of Orange County.

**Howard Bender** spoke on board the Battleship Iowa Museum, on September 2 about his Pearl Harbor December 7<sup>th</sup> experience.

**Also** on October 25<sup>th</sup>, at Mission Viejo High School Football stadium, Veterans will be honored on the field. The Veterans will be honored with a football jerry (shirt) with the

Veterans Name emblazoned on the back. **In addition**, Howard will be speaking at UCI November 14<sup>th</sup>.

At Los Alamitos Joint Training Base on October 26<sup>th</sup>, the **Wings, Wheels and Rotors** will display Military Items. See civilian WWII-vintage planes. The Lyon Air Museum B-25 will be flown in for a demonstration.

**Veterans Day Remembered** will be held Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. as a "Sunset Service" at the Harbor Lawn/Mt. Olive Memorial Cemetery, Costa Mesa, This will be honoring all Veterans. This will also include a "flag retirement ceremony" by our Orange County Boy Scouts.

**Frank Pangborn** announced the required "Speaker Training Class" for all FCOC members will be Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. **Denise Weiland** said there is a Veterans history form to be filled out from the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

**Tom Langan** invited all Veterans to the Warrior Appreciation Day, Camp Pendleton memorial Garden. It will be held Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am - 3:30 pm. **Jack Hammett** is the lead speaker.

Starting next month, **Denise Weiland**, will start scheduling FCOC Veterans (that have completed the speaker training) for the Newport/Mesa School District six High Schools.

**Jack Hammett** displayed his laminated personal history sheet. **Buck Wall** will assist you with your personal history sheet. The finished product will cost about \$10.

**Bette Bell** reported on the October financial status of FCOC. Two items of importance are that we have received an honorarium of \$ 900 from the Rotary Club of Corona del Mar for Jack Hammett speaking there and FCOC has completed a ten month financial contracts with Newport Mesa Unified School District and Denise Weiland, to conduct Living History Programs in six high schools in NMUSD.

*Minutes prepared by  
Tim Richards*

*Jack Hammett*

Chairman