



LIVING HISTORY

PASSING THE TORCH OF LIBERTY ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER—VOL. 3 NO. 4

AUGUST 2018

Voices of veterans who have served their country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, 1st Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We all came to The Freedom Committee's *Living History* program with the understanding that we weren't spring chickens. The military veterans' membership is heavily weighted toward veterans in their senior status. Our WWII veterans would simply say, "...just doing our job." Or as Bob Davis explained, "...just young American boys with a love of country, going to do a man's job the best way they knew how." So, it should be no surprise that we have veterans departing on eternal leave. When we joined up, we knew in our heart of hearts that this period would come, but we believed in longevity. "Touching Shoulders" with members of the "Greatest Generation" and other veterans made us a better person, citizen, and countryman. It was better to have known our heroes, because heroes are forever. I think we all made the right decision in joining The Freedom Committee of Orange County, as the experience made us better people.

We are fortunate to have WWII veterans with us today: Fred Whitaker, Ted Tanner, David Hayward, Jack Linscott, Roberto "Bob" Ruiz, William "Bill" Schultz, George Emerson and Dick O'Brien continue to make presentations at our local high schools and service clubs. WWII veterans with emeritus status are: Robert "Bob" Meyer, Harry Selling, Lloyd Glick, Major John Hughes, Kelly Alcala, and Howie Beach. We are slipping into a period of change that brings into the classroom the voices of veterans who have served their country later in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, 1st Gulf War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War, and the War on Terrorism. These veterans love

their country, served honorably, sacrificed, and deserve the respect of our citizens.

FCOC is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation. Our bylaws prohibit pay for members of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee. We do contract out services from HKA Marketing and Communications for the Memorial Day Ceremony advertising and marketing of the event. And we do contract our liaison service for the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

We thank you, volunteers! Without you our program would be hard pressed to continue the FCOC's newsletter, our schools program, our community program, and our Memorial Day Ceremony. It takes time, energy, effort and hard work to accomplish the mission of "Passing the Torch of Liberty on to Future Generations." And our volunteers have performed and continue to perform exceptionally.

FCOC has applied to be a sponsor for "The Wall That Heals" in Costa Mesa. This ceremony is planned to last for three and a half days in the Spring of 2019. The wall is a replica of "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall" in Washington, D.C. It is a three-quarter scale model of the original seven-foot tall wall and stretches to 389 feet in length. An educational classroom is also part of the exhibit. The wall is planned to be open 24 hours a day for three days, for all to observe. We will be notified in September if we are awarded the event.

Scott Williams
President
The Freedom Committee of Orange County

Better Listen

The black sands are stirring on Tarawa and Iwo
Soft murmurs pass between the crosses in Henri-Chapelle
Sands shift angrily at the water's edge at Omaha and Utah
The ones who gave all are stirring—growing restless
Better listen—better listen



*"So long, folks.
It's been nice
knowing you!"*

Soft rumbles can be heard through the skies over Schweinfurt and Ploesti
Leaves are beginning to quiver on the trees hiding the old prison camps
The hurried re-writing of history will never erase the sacrifices at Guadalcanal and Bougainville
Unease is growing among the fallen about their country
Better listen—better listen

Watch Old Glory—she unfurls and snaps angrily in disgust
She has no trouble hearing those who are now growing restless
They are stirring—Anzio, Po River, Remagen, Pearl
Better listen—better listen

This is still their country—left in your care
They did not stain their country's Flag or Honor
In God they trusted and gave all for that trust
They heard their country's borders are unprotected and they are growing restless
Can't you hear them?
Our Country, my Country, our Flag, my Flag, our Honor, my Honor, they are priceless
Better listen—better listen

Three thousand in five years?—Try three thousand in one day—day after day
Better listen—you who claim to be taking care of their country
They gave their lives for their own united nation—not a United Nations
Better listen—they are growing restless
Don't wait until you can hear them clearly

Robert D. Davis, An American Veteran

Robert Davis was born in Belle Center, Ohio, March 17, 1924. His family moved to Central Lake, Michigan, in the fall of 1930 and returned to Ohio in 1934. As a typical child of the depression, he lived in several small towns before moving to Springfield, Ohio, in 1938, where he graduated from high school in June of 1942 and enlisted in the Army Air Force in November. As a radio operator/gunner on a B-24 heavy bomber crew flying out of England, his plane was shot down May 29, 1944, on his 23rd mission. After his prison camp—Stalag Luft 4—was evacuated on February 6, 1945, he and his fellow prisoners marched over 550 miles before being liberated on May 4, 1945. He was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Prisoner of War Medal, and the French Legion of Honor Medal, and was honorably discharged in November of 1945.

In 1948, under the G.I. Bill, Mr. Davis entered Wittenberg College in Springfield. He graduated in June of 1951 with a degree in business. His career was distinguished, both with the federal government and in private industry, in the aerospace field. During that time he was granted four U.S. patents and several foreign patents, in the field of high temperature plasma processing.

As an author, one of his books is about his time in the service called, "Before I Forget," which is available at amazon.com and authorhouse.com. This book is also the basis for a documentary film which is now in the process of being made. Among his other activities, Mr. Davis was an active member of the Freedom Committee of Orange County, which sends its veterans to local high schools and other events to give them first-hand stories by Living History of World War II. Mr. Davis and his wife, Diane, were residents of Costa Mesa. Unfortunately, Bob passed away on June 21, 2018, at age 94. The Freedom Committee is very sorry to see him go.



1954 2018

64TH Annual

MEMORIAL DAY

CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY

The Freedom Committee of Orange County
Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation

MONDAY, MAY 28 at 11 AM

Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Memorial Park
1625 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa

www.FCOCMemorialDay.com





Capt. USNR Tom Gorla announced Standard Bearers



A wreath-laying ceremony honored all military branches



OC Fire & Rescue Color Guard



FC President Scott Williams, 1st Lt. USAR, Col. USAR Denton Knapp, CW2AR James Grimm

Patriotism Alive at Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Memorial Park on Memorial Day 2018



Scouts light the Eternal Flame

Patriots were eager to show their gratitude, either as part of the hundreds of guests or through food (1000 treated to In-N-Out Burger), Scouts support, song (Orange Empire Chorus), music (3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band) or benediction (Rabbi Jon Konheim, Lt. USNR.) Keynote speaker Retired Army Col. Denton Knapp thanked but reminded the crowd that Memorial Day is about the heroes (1.4+ million) who never came home.

Proud Freedom Committee veterans and Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue members carried flags or laid wreaths for their fallen brothers and sisters who served and sacrificed for freedom.



Vietnam POW Edison Miller carries Marine Corps wreath



1st Lt. USAR Frank Pangborn speaks about his Vietnam experience at the City of Mission Viejo



3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band



WW2 POW and poet Bob Davis watching the fly-over

PRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE FREEDOM COMMITTEE

March 28. South Bay Chapter 53, Vietnam Veterans of America, Torrance.
 April 12. Grandpa Pettibone Squadron, Association of Naval Aviation, Garden Grove.
 April 30. Chapman University, Orange.
 May 1-4. Corona del Mar High School, Newport Beach.
 May 4. Early College High School, Costa Mesa.
 May 8-11. Corona del Mar High School, Newport Beach.
 May 10. Boy Scouts of America, Aliso Viejo.
 May 10-13. Lyons Air Museum, Costa Mesa.
 May 17. MOAA, Lake Forest.
 May 17-18. Mater Dei High School, Santa Ana.
 May 18. Edison High School, Huntington Beach.
 May 22-23. Newport Harbor High School, Newport Beach.
 May 22-23. TeWinkle Middle School, Costa Mesa.
 May 22-25. Corona del Mar High School, Newport Beach.
 May 23. Tustin Ranch Elementary School, Tustin.
 May 24-25. Costa Mesa High School, Costa Mesa.
 May 24. Rancho Joaquin Middle School, Irvine.
 May 25. Killybrooke Elementary School, Costa Mesa.
 May 28. Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Mem. Park, Costa Mesa.
 May 28. City of Mission Viejo.
 May 28, City of Fountain Valley.
 May 30. Big Bear High School, Big Bear.
 May 30. Edison High School, Huntington Beach.
 June 1. Ocean View High School, Huntington Beach.
 June 12. Hermosa Beach Rotary Club.
 June 14. Corona del Mar High School, Newport Beach.
 June 21. Kiwanis Club. Huntington Beach.
 June 25. College of Sequoias, Visalia.
 July 4. 4th of July Parade, Huntington Beach.



Buck Wall, Jim Grimm, Brian Burlingame and Dave Brooks at the Challenge Coin Ceremony at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa.



Frank Pangborn, General William Lyon, Dave Hayward and Gary Tegel at the Lyons Air Museum.



James Grimm brought Freedom Committee veterans to Edison High School in Huntington Beach.



Douglas Milliken of the Freedom Committee was the keynote speaker at Fountain Valley on Memorial Day.



General William J. Mall (Ret) of the Freedom Committee shows photos of his military experiences.



Veteran Ted Tanner tells of his World War II flying experience to students at Newport Harbor High School.



Vietnam veteran Frank Pangborn spoke to students at Big Bear High School in Big Bear.



At Ocean View High School, Huntington Beach, veterans Jack Linscott and Dick O'Brien told their stories.



The Newport Mesa Unified School District invited 60 Freedom Committee veterans to a luncheon with the students at Corona del Mar High School.

**SEND YOUR STORIES, LETTERS, PHOTOS AND
COMMENTS TO DAVE HAYWARD AT**

JeanneDave@aol.com

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WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET

2nd Wednesday of the month

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

2850 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa

HOW TO REACH US

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