



LIVING HISTORY

PASSING THE TORCH OF LIBERTY ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER—VOL. 5 NO. 2

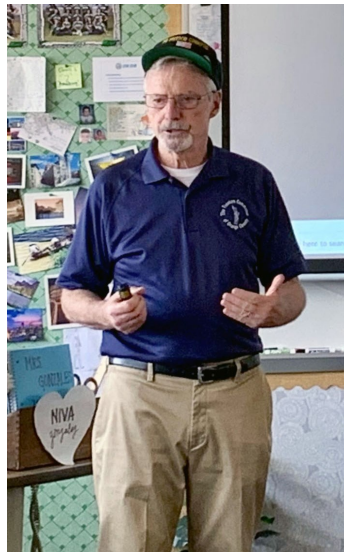
FEBRUARY 2020

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

A Message from President Scott Williams

The Freedom Committee of Orange County (FCOC) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and it is not organized for the private gain of anyone. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes. In Article II A of our Articles of Incorporation, the affairs of this corporation are exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. All of our Directors, James Baker, Sr., David K. Hayward, Tim Richards, James C. Grimm, Fred Whitaker, Maj. Gen. William J. Mall, Jr., Robert McClain, Tom Gorla, Dwight Hanson and John “Scott” Williams have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces. The Directors serve without compensation.

Article II B of our Articles of Incorporation provide that, “The specific purpose of this corporation is to enhance education by providing *qualified* (emphasis added) veteran military speakers who share their first-person experiences with the students.” Our veterans provide their military records to the corporation to verify their military service and that they



served honorably. Those who want to be an FCOC speaker must attend the FCOC speaker’s training.

A “student” is one who attends a school and is an attentive and systematic learner, according to Webster’s Dictionary. And coupled with my dad’s motto, “You’re never too old to learn,” our speakers speak to school students at universities and also at community and civic organizations. The Freedom Committee of Orange County’s Community meetings at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 2850 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, are on the second Wednesday of the month. 1,085 persons attended in 2019.

I want to thank our veterans who volunteered to speak in those school, community, and civic organization meetings in 2019. Listed here are the veterans who spoke at those monthly community meetings:

The presentations started out with Lance Cpl David H. Coop, USMC Infantry, Vietnam 1961, Boot Camp & Platoon 353. David Coop’s story about his journey as an 18-year-old high school graduate took him from Boot camp to advanced infantry training to the Vietnam battlefield in less than a year. David returned home and completed his education. After being a fireman and a policeman, he began a 30-year career as a teacher in the Long Beach School District.

In February 2019, SP-4 Edward J. “Ed” Bowen, USA told us about his training as a combat infantryman and his reassignment to cover the Vietnam war as an artist, as told in his story “*Illustrating the War.*” After the war, Ed returned to teaching and illustrating.

Lt. Kirby Matter, USA, infantry, Vietnam 1965-1967, told his story “*Infantry Playground for Pawns,*” of entering the service within weeks of graduating from high school and being selected for Officer

Candidate School (OCS) by showing high intelligence and aptitude test scores. After completing his training, he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. U.S. Army Infantry Corps. Kirby was wounded in combat. After finishing his military tour he completed his education and entered the teaching profession, retiring after a three-decade career in teaching and school administration.

Our April meeting was absorbed into our sponsorship of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall from April 9 to 14. Maj. General (Ret) Bill Mall was the opening day speaker and Frank Orzio was the closing day speaker.

On May 8, 2019, Lt. William Francis Pavone, Jr. spoke about his combat command of a mechanized infantry company in Vietnam.

David "Dave" K. Hayward, 1st Lt. USAAF, WWII, reflected upon his 1942 experiences of training at the Santa Ana Army Air Base, Orange County, at our June meeting. The base covered more than 100,000 acres and today is the site of Orange County Fair Grounds and Orange Coast College.

Capt. Gary D. Barnhill's June 10 presentation was titled, "**Nuke Alert and Combat Missions.**" Gary was an F-105 jet fighter pilot. His presentation was outstanding.

"**Understanding the High Cost of Freedom**" was presented by Pfc. George Ciampa, USA, WWII, 607th Graves Registration Company," August meeting.

In September, 1Lt. Muriel Philips "Phil" Engelman, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, told of experiences during the ***Battle of the Bulge.*** She was the first female military veteran speaker to make a presentation at our monthly meeting, and the first to do so by video. She was unable to attend in person due to poor health.

At the October community meeting, SP4 (E-4) Wallace E. Ziegler, USA, Medic, 4th Bn (ABN), 503rd Infantry 173rd Airborne spoke about his experiences in training through his placement in-line with a combat infantry company while serving in the Vietnam War.

Our November presentation was made by Quartermaster E-3 Lucky Walch, USN, U.S.S. Jenkins DDE447 titled, "**Destroyer and What I Did on One Tin Can.**"

The December meeting was special, as we had two presentations to close out 2019. Maj. John Hughes, USMC, Aviator, WWII, Pearl Harbor survivor, spoke about his military experience in a question and answer series organized by FCOC Board member Dwight Hanson, USMC. The Q & A covered Pearl Harbor and aerial support of the invading Marine Corps force on Iwo Jima.

December also included, "***The Ghost Squadron of Vietnam,***" a special presentation by Captain Bob Olds, USN and Captain Stephen Tucker, USMC. A fascinating story of a group of American airmen who flew their specially modified Navy antisubmarine aircraft. Their job was to fly low and slow over the jungle canopy while dropping delicate intrusion sensing devices. These devices embedded in the floor of the jungle and transmitted information about enemy forces traveling on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Thank you to our veterans who take up the challenge to bring their living history to students of all ages.

The Passing of H. Buck Wall

Our friend H. Buck Wall, 1934-2020, USAF, Staff Sergeant, 1954-1958 passed away this past month. He was born in Chicago and lived in the suburbs, where he developed a love of sandlot baseball and the Chicago Cubs. After his military service, Buck moved to California where he became a successful businessman in distribution logistics.

Buck met the former FCOC Chairman Jack R. Hammett when Buck was a docent at the Lyon Air Museum. They became friends. About 2010, Jack recruited Buck to oversee FCOC membership, requiring computer skills and attention to detail and many hours of volunteer time. Buck continued his duties as our Membership Chairman, processing associate and military member applications, taking pictures, interpreting handwritten applications and creating military bios, while receiving medical care with the help of his wife Cheri. One of the last emails he sent to me at 0350 hours was the military bio of a new military member.

Buck, one of FCOC's speakers, related to students about his duties training troops and living in Iceland as a USAF S/Sgt. He served on the FCOC Board of Directors and our Executive Committee. Buck will be sorely missed, but his memory will remain in our hearts and thoughts. He volunteered at The Farm at OC Fairgrounds, Lyon Air Museum, FCOC, and hospitals in Fountain Valley and Tustin. Buck is ever in our FCOC Volunteer Hall of Fame.



EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE FREEDOM COMMITTEE

As the students returned to their classes after the summer break, veterans of the Freedom Committee returned to making presentations at the schools and other public events. Here is a list of their presentations:

Nov 1. Ontario High School, Ontario. The presentation was made by veteran Al Harvard.

Nov 1. Edison High School, Huntington Beach. By Fred Whitaker.

Nov 5. Senior Center, Costa Mesa. By Gary Tegel.

Nov 6. Tustin. Steve Tucker spoke to the Santa Ana retired teachers and administrators.

Nov 7. Sonora Elementary School, Costa Mesa. Six veterans attended.

Nov 7. Golden West College, Huntington Beach. Presentations made by Kirby Matter, Danny Bern, Tom Bell and Gary Crest.

Nov 7. Mariners Elementary School, Newport Beach. Presented by Dwight Hanson.

Nov 7. Friends Christian School, Yorba Linda. By Dwight Hanson.

Nov 8. Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa. Presented by Ray Walls.

Nov 8. Canyon Vista Elementary School, Aliso Viejo. Presented by Sven Akesson.

Nov 8. Golden Springs Elementary School, Diamond Bar. By Marc Flanary.

Nov 9. Heroes Hall, Costa Mesa. Gary Tegel presenting.

Nov 11. Vanguard University, Costa Mesa. Presented by Jack Linscott and Dave Hayward.

Nov 11. John the Baptist Catholic School, Costa Mesa. By Al Harvard and General Bill Mall.

Nov 11. Senior Center, Laguna Niguel. By Ted Tanner.

Nov 11. VFW Post 9557. Veterans Park, Fountain Valley. By Kirby Matter.

Nov 14-15. Costa Mesa Middle School, Costa Mesa. Eleven veterans participated.

Nov 17. Costa Mesa Historical Society, by Gary Barnhill.

Nov 19. Cub Scout Pack 567, Fountain Valley. By Dave Hayward.

Dec 2-3. Early College High School, Costa Mesa. By ten veterans of the Freedom Committee.

Dec. 10. Nixon Presidential Library. Al Harvard and Gary Barnhill.

Jan 15, 2020. Back Bay High School, Newport Beach. By 16 veterans of the Freedom Committee.

Veteran Fred Whitaker is greeted by teacher Allison Nollan at Edison High School. His story of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II was popular with the students.



Gary Tegel (left) at the Navy birthday ceremony at Heroes Hall, Orange County Fairgrounds.



Bob Tegel (far right), at the Cutting the Cakes ceremony at Heroes Hall.



Sonora Elementary School Veterans Day ceremony

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11, WAS A VERY BUSY DAY FOR THE FREEDOM COMMITTEE.



Veteran Ted Tanner told his story to citizens in Laguna Niguel, attended by the City Council.

The American Legion was also there...



...and the Scouts who presented to Ted Tanner a birthday cake to celebrate his upcoming 99th birthday.

Councilmember Elaine Gennawey of Laguna Niguel wrote this letter of appreciation to Scott Williams, President of the Freedom Committee:

"Thank you so much for your presentation assistance at the 9th annual Laguna Niguel Military Support Committee Veterans Day Ceremony. Many people have said that this year's program was the best one yet, and I know that is due to Ted Tanner speaking and all the technical assistance that you provided for during his presentation.

"The Freedom Committee is to be commended for keeping the important history alive and for the stories to continue to be told. Your commitment and continued work is greatly appreciated."



Veteran Al Harvard talked to the students at...



...John the Baptist Catholic School.



Veteran Kirby Matter spoke to a group of 400 guests at Veterans Park in Fountain Valley.

This was sponsored by VFW Post 9557. The Freedom Committee of Orange County has been providing speakers for this event for the past 5 years.





Costa Mesa Middle School invited eleven veterans of the Freedom Committee on November 14 and 15 to make their presentations. President Scott Williams is shown here, telling his story to the students.



After their presentations, the veterans were treated to lunch by the school.



On November 19 Veterans Dave Hayward (right rear) and President Scott Williams (right front) brought the Living History program to Cub Pack 567 in Fountain Valley.



Veteran Al Harvard, (center, back row) spoke to these attentive students at Ontario High School.



Marc Flanary (center, back row) of the Freedom Committee made this presentation at Golden Springs Elementary School in Diamond Bar. The teacher is Noelle Vogt. The visit was arranged by Ronnie Guyer of the Freedom Committee.



Freedom Committee veterans visited Early College High School on December 2nd....

...and again on December 3rd.





In a South County parade on December 14, Associate Audrey Miller drove while Veteran Jim Grimm saluted from the back seat.



On January 15th, 17 veterans of the Freedom Committee met at Back Bay High School for interviews with small groups of students.



Five veterans attended Early College High School,



where Veteran Vic Real told about his experience in the Korean War.



At Costa Mesa Middle School on November 14th, Freedom Committee veterans visited the students' classrooms. Top to bottom, leading the classes, are veterans Bob Olds, Al Harvard and Vic Real.



At the Laguna Niguel Senior Center on Veterans Day, veteran Ted Tanner appeared, along with Council member Elaine Gennawey and veterans Scott Williams and Steve Tucker.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB BOLIN

We lost Robert N. Bolin, age 89, on November 16, 2019. He was born in Brockton, MA, in 1930, and lived in Costa Mesa prior to his death.

Bob served during the Korean War, from February 1952 to February 1954. He was with the U. S. Army as a physical therapist in France. Upon returning home, he attended Boston University where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Physical Therapy. Bob spent 37 years as a Registered Therapist for the State of California.



As a youth, Bob was a member of the Boy Scouts. Two generations have followed in his footsteps with his two grandsons making the rank of Eagle Scout.

We knew Bob as a longtime member of the Freedom Committee of Orange County, a regular attendee at our monthly community meetings.

Bob was also a member of the Mojave River Valley Museum. His love for adventure and nature filled his life as evidenced by his frequent camping trips, dirt bike riding, four wheeling, rock hunting, and a passion for wildlife photography.

He loved animals of all shapes and sizes. Throughout his life he had turtles, rabbits, a snake, horses, cats, dogs and even a pet cow. Bob loved to make people laugh while living life to the fullest. He cherished every moment with his family and friends.

Bob is survived by his best friend and wife Shirley and their three children Roger Bolin, Gary Bolin and Robin Perkins. They had three grandchildren, Aidan, Zoe and Ethan.

Funeral Services were held at Harbor Lawn-Mount Olive Memorial Park in Costa Mesa, which is well known to the Freedom Committee as the sight of our annual Memorial Day event.

Bob's wife Shirley has provided us with some additional stories about her husband Bob. How did he not get sent to Korea, where war had been raging for more than a year prior to his enlistment? Well, during his basic training he told someone that he had taken a course in general physical training. That resulted in his orders being changed from Korea to a general hospital in France, in the town of La Rochelle. He was assigned to the Army football team who played other

Army football teams in Europe during the season. He didn't play, but carried out training exercises and taped up the players' injuries. This experience influenced his decision when he was discharged, leading to his degree in Physical Therapy.

He took a job at a local hospital, but friends who had moved to California encouraged him to come here to live and work. This led him to Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa, where he spent 37 years as a Physical Therapist for the State of California.

Shirley told the story of how Bob was not a friend of motion sickness. The two weeks while he was on a ship going to France was not fun. His return to the States across the Atlantic in mid-winter, even with plenty of Dramamine, was even worse. The ship was advised to go down to the Azores where they hit an even bigger storm. The ship split a seam and had to be tipped to prevent water from entering the hold.

Then Shirley told of some of the more pleasant experiences that she and Bob had. They camped at many places when their three children were young. They would rent a cabin at Yosemite Lodge and use their camp stove to cook meals down by the river.

They have hiked and camped many times in the Mammoth Lakes area, which included back-packing in the Sierras. They had been friends of the Lone Pine Film Festival and attended several "Concerts in the Rocks." Shirley told of their climbing Mount Whitney when they were in their 50's.

Shirley also told of their belonging to the Mojave River Valley Museum in Barstow and Goff's Schoolhouse Museum at Essex on old Route 66, and of their visits to the Goldstone Deep Space Community Complex at Fort Irwin.

They had a four wheel drive Toyota truck and drove it over 200 thousand miles on camping trips to Oregon, Colorado, Montana, Utah and Nevada. The only downside to those memories, Shirley said, was that someone stole the truck right off their driveway one night. That was several years ago.

Well, we'll miss Bob at our monthly community meetings, but the good news is that Shirley remains with us as an Associate of the Freedom Committee of Orange County. □



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Kaaron Carver, who is an Associate of the Freedom Committee and a valued member of the Freedom Committee's own Newsletter Committee, also produces a newsletter for the Casta del Sol Military Veterans Club. She calls it the "E-Newsletter."

It is full of interesting reports of the Club's activities, including regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month and special events through the year.



Kaaron gives credit to our own organization with the statement on Page One: "The Freedom Committee of Orange County has been one of our main sources of speakers." As I read through her newsletter, I recognized speakers who were indeed veterans of our own organization: Dave Coop in January, Al Harvard in February, Kirby Matter in April and Hammond Salley in June. Reading onward, I found more familiar names such as Bill Moynihan and Pat McLarney.

Thank you, Kaaron, for sharing your talents with the Casta del Sol group and, in that way, helping to bring our veterans together. President Scott Williams expressed his agreement, "Our relationship with Casta del Sol veterans and others like them makes all of the veterans organizations better."

RONNIE GUYER IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Summarized from the Chino Hills Champion, Nov. 28-Dec. 6, 2019. Vietnam veteran **Ronnie Guyer** of the Freedom Committee caught the eye of the President of the United States during a Presidential Citizens Medal ceremony at the White House November 7 when he was introduced with 60 fellow veterans. Ronnie, who is known locally



for his enthusiasm, held up his hands, spun around, and saluted the president long enough for Mr. Trump to point at him and say, "Whoa! That's pretty good. That's pretty good."

Ronnie Guyer attended the ceremony to honor Lieutenant Rick Rescoria, with whom he served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, for saving 2,684 people in the World Trade Center when it was destroyed by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001. Ronnie had been working with Mrs. Escoria for 18 years to recognize her husband with the Presidential Citizens Medal.

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR

In celebration of Pearl Harbor Day at the December community meeting of the Freedom Committee of Orange County, Pearl Harbor survivor and veteran member of



the Freedom Committee **John A. Hughes** made a special appearance. He was interviewed by veteran **Dwight Hanson**, who showed slides of John's experience. John went out to pick up his newspaper on that December 7th Sunday morning and soon began firing his M-1 rifle at low-flying Japanese bombers. John lost 4 good friends that day, but survived to go on to flight school and 150 dive bombing missions as a pilot in the southwest Pacific, retiring as a Major.

FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF ORANGE COUNTY

President...John "Scott" Williams
Executive Vice President...James Grimm
Secretary...Tim Richards
Treasurer...Kirk Hayward

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John "Scott" Williams, James Baker, Sr., David K. Hayward, Tim Richards, James C. Grimm, Maj. Gen. William J. Mall, Jr., Robert McClain, Tom Gorla and Dwight Hanson.

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: WEBSITE: www.fc-oc.org, PRESIDENT: Scott Williams, 3465 Santa Clara Circle, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Phone: 714-979-1049, Email: swllmsca@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Dave Hayward, JeanneDave@aol.com, Tim Richards and Kaaron Carver.

WE ARE A: Section 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation.

OUR EIN IS: 90-0736962.