



LIVING HISTORY

PASSING THE TORCH OF LIBERTY ON

TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

QUARTERLY DH NEWSLETTER

VOL. 7 NO. 4 AUGUST 2022

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

Would the community come to the 68th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony, scheduled for Monday 30 May, or would they stay home?

During the 2021-2022 lockdowns, our veterans observed this sacred day, but without an in-person audience of our previous, public, events of up to 2,000 in attendance. These improvised events were video only, posted to our websites www.FCOCmemorialday.com and www.fc-oc.org.

Things had finally opened up. But would the community come to remember and honor those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom? At 10:15 AM people began to filter into the park on this beautiful day. Maj. Al Harvard welcomed the audience, and the USMC band began to play, the Boy Scouts of America, Troops 711 and 106 lit the Eternal Flame, and the bag piper stepped off leading the Color Guard opening ceremony. From above the C-130 flight crew of 146th Air National Guard swooped over the ceremony and the 1,000 spectators and participants. Maj. Hammond Salley, keynote speaker spoke eloquently. The community responded with applause. The ceremony concluded with USMC playing Echo TAPS and the missing "man" fly-over by the Dawn Patrol Aero Squad.

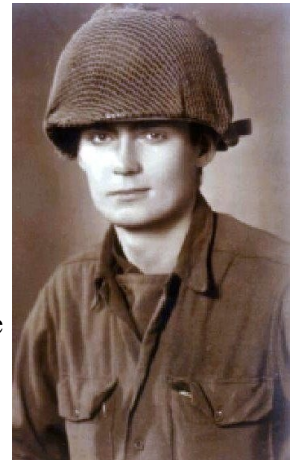
We thank our sponsors for their continued support: Dignity, Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation and The Freedom Committee of Orange County. The video of the 68th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony can be viewed at The Freedom Committee website: www.fc-oc.org.

After the ceremony, over eight hundred meals were enjoyed by the veterans and their families, prepared by In-N-Out Burger's staff, completing a momentous day.

FRED M. WHITAKER MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

Jon Williams

The inaugural, Fred M. Whitaker Memorial Essay Contest 2022, concluded with four winners selected from the six NMUSD high schools and Cloud Campus. Contestants were asked to discuss the generational responsibility to serve in defense of the freedom and liberty we all hold



so dear. The Essay Committee gleaned much information during the long process and that information will be used in the future to ensure the Essay Contest's success moving forward.

This year's \$500 winners were Eduard Ventura of Estancia HS, Helena Yuhan Sun of Early College HS, and Jose Toscano from Costa Mesa High School. Each of these students displayed understanding of the prompt and also the mission of the Freedom Committee, and ably articulated this within the 350-500 words required for each submission.

This year's Grand-Prize winner of \$1,000 was Brandon Hart of the Cloud Campus.

(Article continues Page 2)

LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

Scott Williams

The Freedom Committee was proud to conduct its Living History Program at Mater Dei High School, Santa Ana, CA, one of the premier high schools in the nation.

Mr. Jacques Tuz, American History Teacher, is the son of a career USMC member who served in WWII and Korea. He believes it is important for his students to hear from those who served in the military.

Mr. Tuz' students read about the Vietnam War and he wanted his students to hear from those veterans who "lived it."

On April 7th and April 8th, from 0750 hrs to 1450 hrs, FCOC veterans 1st.Lt. Chase Wickersham, USA Missiles to Dusters; Maj. Hammond Salley, (Retr.) Inf. Special Forces at Khe Sanh; Lt. Gen. Bill Mall (Retr.) USAF, the Special War; Capt. Bob Olds (Retr.), USN, Navy Action during Vietnam War; Maj. Al Harvard (Retr.), USA, My tour of duty as a Company Commander in the Vietnam War; CWO 4, Sven Akeson (Retr.) Pilot, USA, Flying helicopters during the war; SSgt. Doug Miliken, USA Infantry, Invasion of Cambodia; 1st. Lt. Tim Brown, USA, Combat Engineers in the war; and 1st. Lt. Scott Williams, Ordnance Forward Support Co. at Ben Luc, Vietnam.

During the two days, the FCOC veteran speakers spoke to an estimated 375 students (all of the U.S. History and World history classes).



*Freedom Committee Living History Event,
April 7-8, American History class,
Jacques Tuz, Teacher,
Mater Dei High School*

FRED M. WHITAKER MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

(Continued from Page 1)

Brandon's submission was clear, well written and focused directly on the prompt. A short passage from Brandon's essay follows:

"Revolutionaries dreamt of a country of independence, built on the idea that through hard work and perseverance, every citizen could have equal opportunity to prosper. They would put their hearts into this cause; however, achieving and maintaining this goal did not come without self-sacrifice. This concept of testing democracy would be put into full throttle, once again, during the dreadful times of World War II. Fred M. Whitaker was an Infantry Rifleman in the US Army. He served in conflicts like the fierce Battle of the Bulge, along with numerous amounts of courageous soldiers who would give their being to the dream and future of America. Similarly, my own great-grandfather, Sumner Spector, an Ashkenazi Jew, went into service on the Pacific front in WWII. At just 17 years old, he proved to not only his country, but family as well, that protection is a generational duty."

Thanks to our contestants, NMUSD, and also to Jim Grimm, the committee and essay readers for making this the success that it was.



*Award ceremony, Heroes Hall. Left to right:
Scott Williams, FCOC; the four winning
contestants, Eduard Ventura, Helena Yuhan Sun,
Brandon Hart, Jose Toscano; Jon Williams, FCOC*

68TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



PRESENTED BY
The Freedom Committee of Orange County
MONDAY, MAY 30 at 11 AM
Harbor Lawn—Mt. Olive Memorial Park
1625 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa
(714) 540-5554



LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Freedom Committee is proud to engage with students in the classrooms of Newport-Mesa Unified School District and is thankful for the enthusiastic support of the students, teachers, principals, School Board members, and liaison Denise Weiland.



Ensign Middle School, March 2: Veterans Dwight Hanson, Billy Hall, Gary Tegel; Sixth Grade History Teacher Lindsey Charron; NMUSD School Board Member Karen Yelsey



Estancia High School, March 31: Veteran Gary Tegel; Students; Principal Michael Halt; Teachers Cierra Fullmer; Darius Otero; Margaret Cannon; Paul Cao



Veteran Jim Grimm; Estancia Teacher Paul Cao, whose family had successfully escaped Vietnam via boat journey



Early College High School, April 8: Veterans Wally Ziegler, Ken Cornelison; Students of Ninth Grade History class; Teacher Jessica Wurn



TeWinkle Middle School, April 18: Veterans Frank Pangborn, Wayne Scott, Bob Olds, Gary Tegel, Don Pageler, Vic Real, Al Harvard; Teachers Michelle Delgado, Carly Jahangiri, Eric Taylor, Jackie Washington; NMUSD School Board Member Carol Crane



Newport Harbor High School, May 24: Veteran Bob Olds in small group interview with students



Costa Mesa High School, May 27: Veteran Marc Flanary with students



Costa Mesa High School, May 27: Veteran Gary Tegel with students



Costa Mesa High School: May 27: Veterans (front row) Don Pageler, Marc Flanary, Wally Ziegler, Al Harvard, Ben Schwachman (back row): Teacher Gary Gonzales; NMUSD Superintendent Dr. Wesley Smith; Teacher Chris Flores



Mariners Elementary School, April 21: Veterans Billy Hall and Dwight Hanson with Teacher Jeff Qualey's Sixth Grade students



Corona Del Mar High School, May 16: Veteran Marc Flanary and Teacher Daniel O'Shea

WELCOME TO NEW MILITARY MEMBERS

IN MEMORY OF THOSE DEPARTED

Bus Cornelius
Muriel Engelman

PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS THE FREEDOM COMMITTEE

May 4. *Marina High School*, Sgt. Victor Real, USMC and FTCS George Chambers, U.S. Navy, E-8.

May 7. *City of Orange Veterans Parade*, Maj. Billy Hall, 1st Lt. Scott Williams, Senior Chief Gary Tegel, Cpl. Dwight Hanson.

May 7. *University of California Irvine Baseball*, Maj. Billy Hall, 1st Lt. Scott Williams, 1st Lt. Tim Brown, Senior Chief Gary Tegel, Cpl. Dwight Hanson, guests of honor, introduced at Anteaters stadium pre-game.

May 11. *In Memory of My Father*, Gold Star Daughter Jeanette Chervony.

May 19. *Fred M. Whitaker Essay Contest Winners*, Heroes Hall, Jon Williams, Essay Chairman, and Scott Williams, President, presented Certificates of Achievement and cash prizes to the four winners of the inaugural 2022 Fred M. Whitaker Essay Competition (story on pg. 2).

May 30. *68th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony*, Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Mem. Park, Costa Mesa.

June 8. *Connecting the Past to the Present - Santa Ana Army Air Base*, Carol F. Singleton, E-4, U.S. Army, Cold War, Brent Ogden, Heroes Hall Historian. Special Guest Pvt. Joseph Eskenazi, WWII, U.S. Army, Pearl Harbor Survivor, 104 years, guest of FCOC member Guy Colombe. Mr. Eskenazi, told his story of December 7, 1941.

June 9. *Marina High School*: Donald Pageler, Crypto Tech 2nd, U.S.S. Liberty, Cold War, Vietnam War Veterans CWO 2 James Grimm, 1st Frank Pangborn, and 1st Lt. Scott Williams.

June 12. *Flag Day Parade, City of Anaheim*, FCOC associate members Tina Carey, Linda Williams, and veteran 1st Lt. Scott Williams.

FCOC CHALLENGE COINS



Living History Program: Costa Mesa High School, May 27: Principal Jake Haley being presented Freedom Committee Challenge Coin by veteran Al Harvard



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, Capt. Tim Richards, James Grimm, Maj. Gen. William J. Mall, Jr., Dwight Hanson, Capt. Robert Olds, Gary Tegel, Kirby Matter, Doug Milliken, Alan Harvard, Col. Wayne Scott.

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Kirk Hayward

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