



# LIVING HISTORY

PASSING THE TORCH OF LIBERTY ON

TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

QUARTERLY DH NEWSLETTER

VOL. 8 NO. 1 NOVEMBER 2022

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

## VETERANS DAY—2022

**Stephen Tucker**

Over 70 years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt signed what many historians consider the greatest social legislation ever passed by the U.S. Congress. As popular as the G.I. Bill remains today, it took the horrific cost and bloodshed of WWII to remind Americans just how great a debt is owed to our deceased and living veterans.

Our veterans who came home, from that and every war since, never forgot the sacrifice of their brothers and sisters in arms. Neither will the Gold Star families who have to cope without the embrace of their loved ones.

Military spouses have always had to endure long, and in many cases, numerous deployments, career interruptions, frequent moves, and all of the parental responsibilities. Spouses have usually suffered as much or more as their men and women deployed.

Should their veteran be lost in battle, the innocence of their grieving children will be challenged by the dramatic change affecting the balance of security and comfort in their homes. The hearts of the families will feel the sting of their loss. All they will have are memories of their loving mom, dad, son, daughter, brother, husband, and wife. No matter what, life as they have known it, will be much harder, forever.

It's important for us as citizens to be free to hate a war, but not our warriors. They did not fight of their own accord. Today, most Americans profess to truly love, honor and be thankful for our veterans, especially at gatherings on Veterans and Memorial Days. While we may be sincere, it's important to know that veterans defend us 365 days a

a year. Their heroism has been visible from the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism, sometimes unnoticed, by those who sleep peacefully in their beds because of our treasure who protect their very existence.

Fewer than 10% of Americans can claim the title "veteran." Far less than 1% of Americans, are currently defending us in the Global War on Terror. And yet many seem intent on trying to play with the federal budget by diminishing the quality of life programs designed for the families who have made such sacrifices. The results of being forgotten by society for the veteran are: suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, spousal abuse, and rampant PTSD. There are few jobs, and little to do for a handicapped or even healthy vet coming home in our current society.

Our debt to these heroes can never be repaid, but our gratitude, respect, and especially our wealth must flow their way forever. We need to remember them out on the frontiers of the world, ready to give their lives for us and those who profess a love for freedom, more than just on Veterans Day. We must: Honor them; Help them.

May God bless you, our Veterans, and God bless America.

## ON THE 11th HOUR

**Stephen Tucker**

On the 11th hour... of the 11th day... of the 11th month... the fighting of WWI ended in 1918. Due to the conclusion of “the war to end all wars,” November 11 became a universally recognized day of celebration.

The day was originally declared Armistice Day eight years after the end of WWI, and honored only veterans of that war. Then, in 1954, after WWII and the Korean War, it was named “Veteran’s Day” to honor all veterans who served America in war and in defense of democracy. Thus, we honor these men and women who unselfishly placed their lives on the line for our freedoms.

These men and women are ordinary people, until they hear the call of duty, and answer it. They leave their homes, their families, and their lives not for recognition, fame or even the honor we bestow upon them on Veteran’s Day. They have fought, and do fight, to protect our country and to maintain our way of life. They fight for those who cannot fight for themselves, who also long for freedom like ours.

The War on Terror has helped us all realize how truly unique the American way of life is. These Middle Eastern Wars are challenging our men and women with multiple deployments, some having made as many as six. All around us, men and women serving on the frontiers of the world are dying for our country and the freedom of others. On August 6, 2022, the terrorist ISIS-K bomb killing one Army soldier, one Navy Corpsman, and 11 Marines at the Kabul, Afghanistan, Airport. It took four of our treasure from Orange County and Southern California. One of those killed, Sgt. Nicole Gee, had a picture taken of her carrying an Afghan baby prior to that fateful day. The picture has become famous. She said about the image, “I love my job.” Sgt. Gee’s home was in Sacramento, California. She was married to Jared Gee, 25, her high school sweetheart, also a Marine. Sergeant Gee was 23 years old.



*Sergeant Nicole Gee*

Paraphrasing author James Michener, Ronald Reagan, many years earlier, said while presenting a Medal of Honor, “Where do we find such men and women? We find them where we’ve always found them: in our villages and towns, on our city streets, our shops, and on our farms.”

Thank you for honoring our veterans. Let us walk toward tomorrow still honoring them, by living courageously in the freedom they protected.

## 2,200 STEPS

**Scott Williams**

The Fairhaven memorial park, Santa Ana, sponsored an inaugural event to honor 9-11 First Responders. "2,200 Steps" is a way to never forget one of the most tragic days in American History and to honor the first responders who lost their lives in the World Trade Center. On 9-11 three hundred forty-three first responders lost their lives. 110 flights of stairs (2,200 steps) symbolize the brave ascent of the first responders on 9/11/2001.



## FCOC AT PACIFIC AIRSHOW HUNTINGTON BEACH

**Scott Williams**

FCOC members Tim Richards, Jon Williams, Ken Cornelison, Tina Carey, and Scott Williams took on a Herculean task of promoting our organization at a major event on a shoestring budget.

We worked from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for the three days of the Pacific Airshow, Friday September 30 to Sunday October 2. We told each of the hundreds of contacts made each day that the purpose of our organization was for our veterans to tell their personal history stories to high school students in classrooms, interviews, and auditoriums in thirty schools throughout Orange County, plus Martin Luther King High School, Riverside County, and Rancho Cucamonga High School, San Bernardino County. We gave out 200 FCOC tote bags containing an FCOC Newsletter, "What We Do" letter, and a business card.

When we explained our mission to our visitors, the typical reply was: "Today's students need to know American history and those who served..." One elder Vietnamese gentleman who fled communism said he didn't believe we could speak in the schools because of the current political atmosphere.

The Airshow highlights: the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, celebrating the branch's 75th anniversary, headlined the show. The parachute teams from the Navy's Leap Frogs and the Army's Golden Knights made daring, precision jumps to open the show. There were performers each day: Red Bull Air Force, Air Force's T6-A, F-16, Navy's F-35C and F/A-18 super Hornet demo, and the Lyon Air Museum highlighted a B-25 Mitchell Bomber.

More than one million proud Americans were in attendance—an amazing experience.

Next year I'll remember to buy a box of earplugs for our staff.



## KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE COMMEMORATION

**Scott Williams**

The 69th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Commemoration was proudly observed July 27, 2022 at the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, CA.

FCOC military members FTCS (E-8) George J. Chambers (Ret.) U.S. Navy, Sgt. (E-4) Victor "Vic" P. Real, Marines, and 1st Lt. Scott Williams, Vietnam War Veteran, attended the event.

Fourteen FCOC veteran members are listed as "Korean-Era" in the FCOC military roster. 28,500 U.S. Military forces, soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are currently stationed in South Korea.

The Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos is home of the U.S. Army Reserve, 40th Infantry Division. In 1951 the division deployed to Republic of South Korea and served there through 1953. During the deployment 350 soldiers were "KIA" and 1,500 were wounded in action. They are not forgotten.

The Association of the Republic of Korea Army, U.S. West Chapter, with the Association Greater LA chapter of the U.S. Army sponsored the event to honor those who gave so much in the "Forgotten War."

The youth of America was represented at the Ceremony by the Korean Dance Academy who performed a Korean traditional sword dance.



## LIVING HISTORY AT LIBERTY CAMP

**Gary Tegel**

Summer visit to my daughter's house in Dickinson, North Dakota, was special this year as my daughter was assisting in running what is known as Liberty Camp. This was held in Belfield, North Dakota and the focus this year was the Cold War. I was able to share my Navy Story with 67 kids who were attending the camp. I was able to share my story with my granddaughter and her friends.



## ANAHEIM CITY FLAG DAY PARADE

**Scott Williams**

Pearson Park, Anaheim, June 12, came alive for the 2022 Anaheim City Flag Day event.

The Freedom Committee hosted a booth at the event, operated by veteran Scott Williams and Associates Linda Williams and Tina Carey.

The event featured a parade of classic cars, Scott got to ride in a 1968 Maserati convertible.



## VISIT TO MISSION VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FCOC veterans Bill Stewart (below with student Isaiah), Dwight Hanson, and Scott Williams visited Mission Viejo Christian School, in April.



## LIVING HISTORY LETTERS FROM THE STUDENTS

*From one of the students at Newport Harbor High School, to FCOC veteran Gary Tegel, after a FCOC event there May 23...*

May 30, 2022:

Dear Mr. Tegel,

I firstly would like to thank you for your service in the U.S. Navy. Secondly, I would like to thank you for taking time to visit our school, and for enlightening us with your personal experiences. In my AP U.S. History Class, we go in depth about the events that have taken place in the past, and how they affect the way we live today. We learn about the causes and effects of these events, rather than just memorizing dates and people. Hearing your experience as Senior Chief in the U.S. Navy has given me a new perspective to learn from. I admire your courage and willpower to fight for our country, regardless of the challenges and risks that you knew you would face. I was truly fascinated learning about the bailing system, and I enjoyed being educated on other new things. Once again, thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Kaitlin Tejada

*Here is another wonderfully written letter from a Newport Harbor High School student relating to the May 23 event...*

Dear Gary Tegel,

I first wanted to thank you for coming and speaking to our history class. I know that we all enjoyed hearing your stories and memories from your time in the military. I really appreciated connecting your stories and real first person perspective experiences to what we have been learning all throughout this year in our textbooks. I lastly wanted to thank you for your service and time in the military. This day gave me more of an idea of what real people were going through and experiencing during times of war. During your time speaking I took away your strive to learn in all aspects of life I would hope to apply those skills. Not only did you keep this strive

to learn but all the while with a positive outlook.

This kind of hard work and attitude I wish to apply in my life. I appreciate all the time you spent with my class and hope to achieve greatness just as you did in your career.

Sincerely,  
Haley Allen

## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS BREAKFAST— NMUSD

**Denise Weiland**

Newport-Mesa Unified School District held their State of the Schools breakfast at Newport Harbor High School, October 11. Thank you Principal Sean Boulton for recognizing FCOC veterans Bill Mall (Cold War, Vietnam), Wayne Scott (Iraq, Afghanistan), Scott Williams (Vietnam), Timothy Richards (Vietnam), Dwight Hanson (Iraq) and Billy Hall (WWII, Korea, Vietnam). And thank you to NMUSD school board members Karen Yelsey and Carol Nohra Crane for your continued support of our Living History Program! *"Passing the torch of liberty on to future generations."*



**NEW MEMBERS:**

LTC David L. Priddy, USA (Ret.)  
 CDR Claire Friend, USN  
 1SG Margarito Peter "Pete" Valdez, USA (Ret)  
 (Associate) John W. Hecker

**IN MEMORY OF THOSE DEPARTED**

None Reported

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**PRESENTATIONS BY VETERANS OF  
 THE FREEDOM COMMITTEE**

Jun 14. *247th U.S. Army birthday*

Jul 13. *T/Sgt. Charles "Chuck" L. Johnson, USAAC, WWII, MIA 10 April, 1944*, by Maj. Gen. William "Bill" Mall, USAF (Ret.)

Jul 27. *69th Anniversary of Commemoration of Korean War Armistice*, at Joint Forces Training Center, Los Alamitos. FCOC members George Chambers, Victor Real, and Scott Williams attended ceremony.

Aug 8. *FCOC Living History Presentation*, by First Lt. Scott Williams, USA, at Roundtree Gardens Senior Center, Stanton.

Aug 10. *Levant "Rise,"* by Capt. Nick N. Saifan, Jr., USA.

Aug 25. *FCOC Living History Luncheon*, to recognize military members for their service to the United States of America and their community,  
Sep 14. *Korea War Era Panel*, by Capt. Timothy Richards, USA (Ret.), FTCS (E-8) George J. Chambers, USN (Ret.), and Sgt. Victor P. "Vic" Real, USMC

Sep 19. *100th Birthday—Sgt. June Ashton*, USA, WWII, celebrated at her home with her niece and grand niece from PA, and two members of FCOC. June is in good health and great spirits.

Sep 30-Oct 2. FCOC's recruiting team and booth, *Pacific Airshow*, Huntington Beach Pier Plaza.

Oct 11. *NMUSD State of the School's 0700 Breakfast*. FCOC hosted its Board of Directors and its veterans were acknowledged for service to country and community.

Oct 12. *U.S.S. Liberty*, by Crypto Tech 2nd Class Donald W. Pageler, USN.

Oct 13. *247th U.S. Navy birthday*

*"The test of success is not what you do when you are on top. Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."*

*"If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."*

*"Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results."*

*"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."*

*"Better to fight for something than to live for nothing."*

*"An active mind cannot exist in an inactive body."*

*"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."*

*"Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory."*

General George S. Patton

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**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

**WE ARE:** Section 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Corp.

**OUR EIN IS:** 90-0736962.