

A Day Full of Honor



Once more we gathered in the Bank of America parking lot.

The Memorial Day morning was clear and cool as we loaded up Bob Jacobi's truck with boxes of decorations and sixteen W.O.W. members for the parade.

My 009 spy and conspirator for the day was Boyd Davis. As a member of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce he gave me advanced notice of where to park, decorate the truck and wait for our turn to enter the parade.

Position number 009 put us near the start of the procession with Politicians, Brass bands, and flag waving Boy Scouts. The time came and half a league onward rode the sixteen. "Forward the Light Brigade!"

Was there a man dismayed? "Charge for the guns"! He said. Into the valley of death rode the six hundred.

Cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of left of them, cannon in front of them Volleyed and thundered; Stormed at with shot and shell, Boldly they rode and well, Into the jaws of Death Into the mouth of hell Rode the six Hundred

Thank you Alfred Lord Tennyson

This fine Memorial Day morning down Sherman Way was a day of remembrance of our past deeds and fallen heroes.

It's a time of being with friends in the present and never forgotten comrades in arms of the past.

It is a time of reverence.

Thank you good friends for riding with me in this 25th annual Memorial Day Parade. Now on to the BBQ and celebration at the American Legion Post 826 on Fallbrook.

Fred Kaplan
Editor
Master at Arms

Association of Naval Aviation

The June Speaker of the ANA's San Fernando Valley Squadron, the Two-Block Fox Squadron, will be Ken Collins, A USAF pilot who flew the A-12 & SR-71 Blackbird. The meeting will be at the Odyssey restaurant on Thursday June 19th.

The Meeting starts at 1800 for a social hour, with dinner at 1900, and the speaker at 2015. Reservations can be made by contacting Anarg Frangos at 818-341-0517

Upcoming Trips & Events

June 7 Saturday 10:00am 70th Anniversary at Berth 49 in San Pedro for WWII Veterans and their guests. We will tour the SS Lane Victory, Art Sherman has Info

June 21 Saturday 3:00pm to 5:00pm Conversations With Heroes at the Studio City Library, located at 12551 Moorpark St. Studio City, Barney Leone and Lee Levitan will be the speakers.

Profile

Politis Favored
To Reach 100

If we were to put together odds on who would reach 100 first in Wings over Wendy's, Steve Politis would be our California Chrome favorite. Politis, set to celebrate his 98th birthday January 11, has been a WOW member since 2002, just a few months after the group was formed.

He was an engineer in civilian life after playing quarterback for coach Lou Little at Columbia University, then transferring to CCNY. Early in '42 Steve was in the Signal Corps, not subject to the draft, but he joined the

Army, went to Algiers with the 1st Division and invaded Sicily as a warrant officer.

The Air Force needed people to jam radar, so Politis jumped into B17 duty and was stationed in Benghazi, a name you may be familiar with.

Politis (Po lee' tis) of Greek heritage, was married for 52 years, has a son who served on the City Attorney staff, and an attractive daughter, and has five grandchildren. He fell down at Wings in 2004 at Wendy's on Clyde East's birthday, coincidentally, broke his leg but he's been fine ever since. For the past five years he has volunteered for Operation Gratitude.

Besides East, others pressing him for the 100 mark are our chairman, Elmo Maiden will be celebrating his 95th birthday in July, Art Sherman, 93, and a couple of 90 year olds, Ed Nolan and Al Olivari. Place your bets now.

Ray Rosenbaum
Reporter

Into the Wild Blue Yonder

After ringing the doorbell, I was greeted by a big barking dog.

From inside the house, he barked and barked. Finally Don "Judge" Foster hid the barking dog and invited me into his home. As we walked through his family room, photos of his wife, their grown kids, grandchildren and other persons lined the east wall. Don took me outside to show me the status of his solar power panels and his smart meters.

We briefly discussed why DWP has taken so long to install the smart meter from the inverter and then inspect the system in order to begin its use. He quickly began sharing his several careers.

It all started in Peoria, Illinois where he attended elementary school. During his high school years he attended more than one military school. He was in ROTC at the Virginia Military Institute and as a plebe was treated as a RAT. Don then went to Bradley University in Peoria on a program funded by the Department of Commerce. He received pilot training. Apparently, the government perceived that hostilities might come in the near future and so it was preparing a reserve of pilots.

Next came more training at the Roscoe Turner Aeronautical Institute. Don learned acrobatics, night flying, instrument flying, and cross country flying. This led to him becoming an instructor

He taught flying pre gliders in Minnesota for the Elmer Hinck Bros Flying School. The story is told that Elmer flew for Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. Villa's soldiers would be inside the plane shooting down at their enemy. It was probable that a few of the pre glider pilots that Don trained might have been flying gliders in Normandy during the invasion.

His next adventure was training V12 cadets for the Navy. The training took place at Evansville, Indiana and Bloomington, Illinois. Don was sent to Rochester, Minnesota to teach night flying and cross country flying. This was followed with training on the C46. The C46 was to be used in the Middle East. At Nashville, Tenn. Don attended OCS and also received his Wings. Then at Deming, New Mexico, Don received training on the C 45 - a twin engine plane. As an officer and full pilot he was assigned to fly personnel and supplies to Naples, Italy from Oran, Algeria flying C 47s

As he was telling me about ferrying planes in the United States and also to Alaska, I interrupted him. "What was your most memorable moment while you were in the service?"

Without hesitation he answered, "when I received my wings after my training at Nashville, Tennessee." He added, "my dream was to be a test pilot after the war."

Don remarked that for years he has been active with photography and computers. He recalled the fun he had building model airplanes including the ones with tissue paper. Furthermore, when he is not doing projects around the house or cooking, he watches the news and some of the old movies on Turner Classics. Don, a ham radio operator, hit a familiar cord with this writer. I too, while in the service on Okinawa, was a ham radio "operator" - J9AAW.

After three hours of recalling his first career, I promised I would return to hear about his second career - law. The "Judge" assured me that he would hide his barking dog next time. . . . hopefully, before I rang the doorbell.

Reporter
Ed Moreno

Postscript, Prop WASH

Boyd Davis is our new sponsor this month for the Wings News.

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