

After the war, his first job was helping his father in Westwood as a shoe repairman. Within three years Gil decided to apply at North American Aviation by the airport as a radio installer for the F86s. Soon there was an opening for bolt degreasers at \$1.63 an hour. In nine months he was the lead man for the section coating parts at \$2.10 an hour. Because of his strong work ethic, he became supervisor of processing all the parts used by the F86s.

At Rocketdyne in Canoga Park, Gil became an expeditor for parts used by the F1 engine. He traveled to companies in and out of state and enjoyed being involved in space activities.

Gil was happily married to June, his first wife for 45 years, until her death. They danced swing and ballroom in many dance venues in Southern California. Other dancers would form a ring around them as they danced. They had talent and joy in their dancing. Gil and his wife won 40 exhibitions and contests. Now he has continued dancing the swing of the 1940's with Ursula, his second wife. After their recognition in the dance venues in Las Vegas, Gil and Ursula are sought after by casinos as dancers who can occupy center stage.

"I'll see you," he remarked as he left to meet Ursula who had come to take him home.

Ed Moreno
Reporter

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We are very sorry to report that we have lost a national hero and honored member of W. O. W. Clyde East passed peacefully in his sleep on July 29, 2014

"Conversations with Heroes"

On June 21st, 2014, 3 of our members visited the library in Studio City to tell their experiences during World War II, to a full house of 69 adults and kids, Barney Leone, Lee Leveton, and Mike La Vere spun tales that thrilled the enthusiastic audience. As Barney spoke he and Mike La Vere, held up the flag that flew on Barney's ship during the Iwo Jima campaign. Lee took the audience on a B-26 mission over France with his tales and Mike finished his navigation stories of directing his B-17 during combat missions over Europe.

After the tales were told the audience asked questions and one kid flabbergasted Barney with his question "what is a Kamikaze", that question expressed how little WWII history is being taught in the schools today. This proves the need for "Conversations with Heroes to libraries and schools today so at least some kids will learn about what we did during WWII.

p.s. We can expose your tales to kids and adults if you will volunteer to speak at the San Fernando Museum which we will be a part of in the fall of 2014.

Art Sherman



Barney Leone & Mike La Vere display the flag that flew on Barney's fuel tanker during the battle for Okinawa

Submissions to Wings News no later than the last Wednesday of the month!

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