

An Eventful Month

The month of November 2016 will go down in history as one of the most memorable months in the history of the United States. But in addition to the Presidential Election, the members of Wings Over Wendy's were extremely busy representing and honoring veterans and Active Duty members of the country's Armed Forces and at some events our city's First Responders. Over 110 of our members attended at least one of the seventeen events we were invited to attend.

St. Martin-In-the-Fields Episcopal School

Two dozen of our members started the month by attending the Veteran's Day Service and Celebration on November 2nd at the St. Martin-In-the-Fields Episcopal School, Winnetka, CA. The event featured performances by each grade in the school, a flag ceremony by the Ronald Reagan USMC Honor Guard, a fly over by the Condor Squadron, Jimmy Weldon's tribute to the Star Spangled Banner and a lunch for the attendees.



Veterans Honored at St. Martin-In-The-Fields School
Reported by Ed Reynolds

Canoga Park Woman's Club

On Saturday, November 5th over two dozen of our members were honored at a catered luncheon at the Canoga Park Woman's Club. Keynote Speaker was Councilmember, Bob Blumenfield. World War 11 veterans were given special recognition.



Canoga Park Women's Club
Reported by Ed Reynolds

Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary School

A small group of us attended the Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary School Patriotic Assembly and Reception on November 8th in Porter Ranch. Richard Hernandez was singled out since he had served as a volunteer crossing guard when the school had to be relocated because of the Aliso Canyon/Porter Ranch Gas Leak Disaster. After the reception, we were asked to meet with classes to tell our stories and answer their questions.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

Election Day



November 8th was also election day and several of our members worked at the polling places around the valley. Howard Swerdlick arose early and took a folding chair to be the first one to cast his vote at his polling place. He found the door locked but soon he was surprised to see Ethel Margolin arrive with the key since she was assigned to work at the polling place. Howard assisted her in setting up the booths before casting his vote. Wings Over Wendy's members are volunteers!

Reported by Ed Reynolds

State Senator Bob Hertzberg

The morning after the election I attended a "Conversation with Heroes" hosted by State Senator Bob Hertzberg's Pacoima staff. The Senator was not in attendance but several veterans and First Responders were there. They provided a coffee mug and coffee and then

after we told our “war stories” the conversation turned to the election and specifically the state proposition on marijuana. The mothers in attendance admitted that they were users but were concerned about the effect it was going to have on their children. Since I had no firsthand knowledge of the effects (except secondhand when I used to attend Oakland baseball games), I departed for the next scheduled function. Reported by Ed Reynolds

North Valley Military School

A short distance down the road was the campus of the North Valley Military School. They put on one of the outstanding events honoring veterans in the area. Over a dozen of our members signed up for the event. It provided me with the opportunity to meet several veterans on our roster that no longer are able to attend our Monday or Tuesday meetings. Kay Deitch, puts on a great event with a “Hero’s Wall” that displayed pictures and a short bio of veterans that have attended the event. Each attendee received a bag with Certificates of Recognition from Councilmember, Sixth District, Nury Martinez and State Assemblymember Patty Lopez. After a light brunch and a “meet and greet” session we were grouped by service and escorted to the parade field. I found myself walking out with Congressman Adam Schiff, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Since I am a former USAF Intelligence Officer and world traveler we had some interesting conversation as we waited on the effect the Presidential Election was going to have on the world situation. Eventually we were seated and then stood during the student’s military pass in review. It was a very impressive event.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

Carlos Santa Arts Academy

On Thursday, November 10th we were invited to three events. The first event was the Carlos Santa Arts Academy, North Hills. This was the first time Wings Over Wendy’s was invited to attend their event. There were several members of the local VFW and American Legion groups in attendance. We were treated to a nice brunch and then the student assembly where there was singing, a patriotic skit and then each veteran recited their military history and answered questions from the students. After my turn, I left to drive across the valley to the next event.

Ernest Lawrence Middle School

One of the Wings Over Wendy’s favorite Veterans Day events is the program conducted at the Ernest Lawrence Middle School, Chatsworth. Over two dozen members attended. It started with a reception, coffee and sweets in the school library. Each veteran was interviewed by students. I think there was a competition

among the students to conduct the most interviews. We then were marched to a rousing welcome by the students in their assembly hall to have a sit down lunch. During lunch, we were entertained by the band, skits and singing by a retired USAF Officer.



Cliff Wolf, David Plumb and Steve Politis with a School Board Member, Principal Dan Schar, students and an Army vet,
Reported by Ed Reynolds

Canoga Park Elks Lodge Veterans Dinner

Thursday’s events finished with a dinner at the Canoga Park Elks Lodge. A half dozen Wings Over Wendy’s attended the event with Dennis Zine as the keynote speaker. It was a good dinner and a very enjoyable occasion. (Reported by Ed Reynolds)

November 11, 2016 Veterans Day

Finally, the actual Veterans Day arrived and Wings Over Wendy’s members attended at least six events, spread across the west San Fernando Valley.

San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade

A dozen members of Wings Over Wendy’s rode in a truck provided by Karl Boeckmann, Galpin Ford, and driven by Fred Kaplan, in the 13th Annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade in the City of Mission Hills. Following the parade there was a carnival at the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center.



Photo by Howard Swerdlick

Calvary Community Church Worship Center: Oaks Christian School

At 09:15 several of our members attended the Veterans Day Assembly and service at the Calvary Community Church Worship Center for the Oaks Christian School, Westlake Village.

Veterans Day Commemoration at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

At 10:00 another group of our members attended the Veterans Day Commemoration at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library where they were honored by a flyover by the Tiger Squadron, musical performances by local high schools and a keynote address by Vice Admiral Fred Midgett, Pacific Area Commander, Coast Guard Defense Force West.

MalibUSA Veterans Day Public Ceremony

Eight Wings Over Wendy's members were transported from Platt Village by a Stretch Hummer Limo to Malibu to attend and be honored by the Malibu Chamber of Commerce, Pepperdine University, Kiwanis Club of Malibu, HRL Laboratories and the City of Malibu's, 17th Annual "Veterans Day" public ceremony. This year they were "Honoring Wounded and Disabled Veterans". The Master of Ceremonies was USN Chief Ana Sarver and her service dog. Ethel Margolin and Ed Reynolds spoke on behalf of Art Sherman who was unable to attend the event. Several wounded and disabled veterans spoke at the event.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

Fairwinds – West Hills

Several of our members attended the Veterans Day Lunch at the Fairwinds – West Hills, Retirement Community.

American Legion Post 826

Following the morning events several dozen Wings Over Wendy's members attended the American Legion Post 826, Veterans Day BBQ at the post's Woodland Hills facility.

Tony Cardenas Veterans Day Forum

Veterans Day events ended for a little over a half dozen Wings Over Wendy's members that attended Congressman Tony Cardenas Veterans Day Forum at the Richard E. Byrd Middle School in Sun Valley. A large crowd attended the event with musical entertainment provided by the North Valley Military Institute band, a keynote address by the Congressman followed by picture taking with the Congressman during which he handed out a challenge coin.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

Temple Aliyah Shabbat Service

On Saturday, November 12th over a dozen Wings Over Wendy's members attended the Temple Aliyah Shabbat Morning Service which included a brother and sister bar and bat mitzvah initiation ceremony and confirmation. Following the religious service the congregation was treated to a lunch provided by the parents of the brother and sister. After the meal, the veterans were invited into a separate hall where they were honored and told stories of their service.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

Pomelo Community Charter School

The most popular veterans' event occurred at the Pomelo Community Charter School, West Hills, on November 15th. The 'Heroes Feast' event not only honored veterans but also first responders. Close to 50 Wings Over Wendy's members attended and were treated to music from the Chaminade College Preparatory High School band, a sign language Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, performances by the students and a lunch provided by Stonefire Grill. The event was featured in the Los Angeles Daily News with the following picture of Jan Edwards and Mike LaVere:



Photo by David Crane

Speakers

**November 7, 2016
Marion Lovelace**



Photo by Harlis Brend

On November 7th, Marion Lovelace read to us a tribute to her father-in-law Captain Thomas T. Lovelace that credits him as one of the early pioneers in the design and development of aircraft and aircraft engines. He is credited with configuring fuel injection on a dirigible in Europe in 1907. His success caught the eye of the Wright Brothers financial backer who then asked Lovelace to improve the performance of the Wright Brothers aircraft that was in Europe to train pilots in France. He was then asked to return to New York City to address audiences on the success of aircraft. In addition to his improvements in aircraft engine performance he was also credited with aircraft design changes that overcame the flaws in the Wright Flyer the contributed to the 1908 crash at Fort Myers that killed Lt. Thomas Selfridge.

Marion's reading of the newspaper article was just the tip of the iceberg. If you "Google" his name you can find a wealth of information including his patent for rotary engines, "the Lovelace Monoplane" and many more accomplishments. Truly one of aviation history greats.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

November 7 & 14, 2016 Kent Kellegrew



Photo by Harlis Brend

On April 1, 1944, the United States Army conducted the largest amphibious landing in the Pacific theater of World War II. Kent Kellegrew participated in that landing as a "wireman". The invasion of Okinawa cost more lives (US plus Japanese) than were killed by both atom bombs. Kent's job as a Field Wireman required that he carry a roll of wire over 1.5 miles long and string it between the Command Post and Forward Observers. He told us about his experiences which involved killing not only Japanese soldiers but inveterately, civilians and animals. On one occasion, he dropped explosives into a tunnel and heard a baby cry after the explosion. (War is hell!)

He spoke to us on both the 7th and continued the 14th. His stories were very grim with descriptions of his killings and his getting wounded on the 81st day of the 82 day campaign. He described receiving the wound and his

getting buried with from the explosion. His helmet helped him breathe until his buddies dug him partially out. He had to finish extracting himself despite a wound in his arm. The bullet was removed by at a Field Hospital and he was flown to Guam. He had not had a bath in 80 days and stood out among the other patients in the Guam Hospital. When a nurse told him she was going to have to wake him every 3 hours to administer medicine he told her he would probably kill her. She replied that she understood and she would wake him by poking him with a long pole.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

November 21, 2016 Roy Firestone



Photo by Harlis Brend

We were honored to again have Roy Firestone address our group. On July 4th he told our group about his friendship and interviews with Ted Williams. At this meeting he not only gave us a short story about Ted Williams but then told us stories about:

His first meeting with the flamboyant Wilt Chamberlain in a flashy outfit, a white Rolls Royce convertible and a buxom blond telling Roy he was trying to maintain a "low profile".

Several interviews with Shaquille O'Neal. An interview with Hakeem Olajuwon and Charles Barkley. His interviews with the coach Abe Lemon. Several interviews with Mike Tyson and finished with stories about Muhammad Ali.

The last story about Muhammad Ali was one that impressed him because an old man had confused him with Joe Louis and it didn't bother Ali. His entourage tried to correct the old man but Ali stopped them and told them "if the old man thinks I am Joe Louis then tonight I am Joe Louis."

Roy told us the lesson he learned from Ali was a champion is somebody who uplifts other human beings.

He ended his talk thanking us for our service.

Reported by Ed Reynolds

November 28, 2016

Bob Donovan

Bob thanked everyone for the support they provide Operation Gratitude. He told the group about his tour of Pearl Harbor two years ago, and then about his work on Kwajalein Island and his diving experiences on the islands and atolls in the Pacific.

Ted Davis

Ted told us about a diver that entered the remains of a ship in Pearl Harbor and found a uniform hanging in a cabin, still intact because of the depth of the location.

Member Profile

Bob Donovan



Photo by Harlis Brend

Donovan, Still Young Is a Super Volunteer

By Ray Rosenbaum

Bob Donovan, a member of Wings Over Wendy's for several years, served two tours in Viet Nam from 1968 to '70. He was raised in Boston. His father served in the US Navy and was stationed at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked by the Japanese. Bob felt a real affinity for the military, so he declined a deferral and enlisted in the Air Force in 1966 at the age of 18.

He was assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing in Thailand which conducted what was called the secret war in Laos. Bob was stationed at the Udorn AB, Det 1 which trained Hmong, Lao and Cambodians to fly.

When he left the service he first worked for Otis Elevators and then as a Civilian Contractor on Kwajalein Island Missile Test Range in the Pacific that supported missile shots from Vandenberg AFB, CA.

After a visit to San Diego he decided to settle in California. He became involved in residential real estate, while his wife, Susan, an intensive care nurse, served, and still does, at the Sepulveda VA hospital.

They have two girls and live in Van Nuys.

But that's only the tip of the story. Bob, retired for 20 years now, is sort of a homebody, cooking and managing the house. That doesn't mean he's inactive.

On the contrary, he's a super force behind Operation Gratitude, working with that organization and reporting their activities to us every week. In addition, he's active as a speaker at the Reagan Library, works regularly with the VFW and American Legion and volunteers for virtually everything.

Hobbies? Plenty of them, shooting, hiking the Sierra and lecturing. Only 68, one of our less elderly members, Bob is constantly on the move and often up at the podium reporting on so many of his activities.

"I just like to keep in the middle of things," he explains.

If you want something done, just ask Bob. He's a super guy, and a super volunteer.

In Memorial

Clyde Reynolds



November 24, 1923 – November 10, 2016

We lost one of our devoted members last month. Although Clyde had not been attending meetings this year, Bob Rose would visit him after our meetings and kept him up-to-date on our activities.

Clyde served in the U.S. Navy for 5-1/2 years, enlisting at the age of 18. He served on the destroyer tender USS Dixie in the South Pacific arena during World War II. After his military service, he entered the education profession and was a principal at various adult schools throughout the Los Angeles City School system, where he was held in high regard. Clyde is survived by his wife Cleo, children Linda and David, and granddaughter Kelsey. (Continued on page 6, column 1)

An outdoor memorial service and internment including military honors are scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 11:00 am at the Oakwood Memorial Park, 22601 Lassen Street, Chatsworth, CA.

AOPA Memorial-Bob Hoover



Photo by Harlis Brend

The memorial for Robert A. "Bob" Hoover was to say the least, Outstanding.

You can watch it on YouTube: *A Celebration of Life Honoring Robert A. "Bob" Hoover*. It was held at the Clay Lacy Aviation Hangar in Van Nuys on November 18, 2016. Invited guests numbered over 1,000, aviation people and many close friends. The program began with the Presentation of the Colors, the National Anthem, a Bob Hoover video Tribute, many speakers, and military honors. Then outside for the flyovers, that included the US Air Force Heritage Flight, the Hoover flight, and the Missing Man formation. Next was presentation of our country's flag to the family—then time to visit with each other and enjoy a fabulous bountiful buffet, with lovely decorated tables. Clay Lacy was graciously greeting the guests; also, much in favor, especially with the ladies, was actor Harrison Ford, who was very cordial. It was a fine memorial that Bob would have been proud of - "Our friend, one of a kind, "Gone West", Rolling 16 in heaven." Bob was the greatest aerobatic, air show pilot, test pilot, fighter pilot, "Pilot" who ever lived. Over and Out.

Attended and Reported by Peggy Jean Bassett



General Patton

By Bruce Monkman

I left America on Dec. 12, 1942 and on Jan 1944 I and some others ran across a public bath in Naples, Italy. Naturally we took advantage of it. Just think, a little over a year without a tub or shower. Good thing we lived outdoors then.

On Jan 15, 1944 the entire division was assembled for a dress parade. We had been in a rest period after about 6 month fighting on the Cassino front and were ready to start out again with an amphibious landing, our third, at Anzio, Italy, about 30 miles from Rome.

The gathering was to award medals to those who earned them and to give us the pep talk to go after the enemy. General Clark was first, then Eisenhower and I am sure our General Truscott also gave one. The last one given was by a general who used all the dirty words to go after the Nazis in his high-pitched voice. Mumbling could be heard all thru the ranks of 'who is this guy?', then someone commented it was General Patton. Even though a lot of us used the same dirty words but not in public, just among ourselves, why would he talk in such a manner. This was my second and last time to see this guy. A good military person that I had read about in the Stars and Stripes but as a human person, no way.

A Joyful Holiday Season to All!

Poem by Peggy Jean Bassett

It was great to be a veteran in November—well, all the other months too, as I remember.

With one swell event after another, I'm sure blessed to be a veteran mother too.

My belt doesn't meet the way it used to—guess more yard work, I'll surely have to do—with Christmas coming next on the calendar of events—a morning workout won't make a dent—I hope I get a robe to hide the belly—no more pancakes with marmalade jelly—I can always resolve for the new year—jogging again and run like a deer.

Thank you to all the thoughtful event givers—my stomach is full—and my belly quivers—wishing a Joyful Holiday Season to all of you—keep yourself warm and don't catch the flu.

Wings Over Wendy's folks - Have a great New Year—filled with loving friends and much Holiday Cheer.

REMINDERS

Food drive is Monday, December 5th

Christmas toy drives are: Monday, December 5th and December 12th

December Birthdays

Chuck McNary	December 03, 1937
Shirley Andrews	December 04, 1936
Perry Sperling	December 04, 1954
David Greenberg	December 04, 1965
Howard Swerdlick	December 07, 1936
David Plumb	December 07, 1952
Roy Stratton	December 08, 1929
Roscoe Frazier	December 08, 1939
Judy Reynolds	December 11, 1936
Brian Anderson	December 12, 1980
Cliff Rose	December 16, 1926
Dick Thackston	December 18, 1924
Sharon Para-Lavender	December 18, 1946
Peggy Jean Bassett	December 20, 1938
Jerry Watts	December 21, 1946
Bob Hill	December 22, 1939
Ken Deitch	December 22, 1947
Alan Hill	December 22, 1966
Lee Auger	December 23, 1929
Don Foster	December 24, 1920
Lee Levitan	December 24, 1923
John Helm	December 24, 1929
Barbara Wright	December 24, 1931
Juan Camacho	December 24, 1945
Doug Rankin	December 26, 1929
Claude Maugein	December 28, 1952

Wings News Staff

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New Members:	Marion Lovelace Shirley Andrews
Reminders:	Connie Hein

New Members

We welcomed the following new members during the month of November:

Geoff Schaaf
George Westfall
Gordon Douglas
Steven Goodman

Wings News Patrons

The following is a list of WOW members who have contributed \$10 to fund the publication of the Wings News for 12 months.

Al Lewis	Andy Kopetzky
Art Sherman	Barry Chapman
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Bob Rose	Bob Stiles
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Jack Taube	John Helm
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Lezar Saunders	Malcolm Dipperstein
Marion Lovelace	Mike & Boots LaVere
Morris Litwak	Neil Houston
Patrick Daly	Paul Boghossian
Peggy Jean Bassett	Peter Helm
Phil Aune	Phil Shapiro
Ray & Maria Rodriguez	Ray Rosenbaum
Richard Gross	Richard Hernandez
Richard Jeffress	Richard Raskoff
Richard Ruby	Roscoe Frazier
Shirley Andrews	Sid Maiten
Steve Politis	Ted Davis
Tom Villanueva	Toni Mattlock
Tony Velarde	Warren Weinstein

WOW 2 Group Picture



By Bill Tapp

DECEMBER EVENTS

Museum of Tolerance Tour
12noon - December 7, 2016

Meet at Wendy's @11am to drive to the museum.

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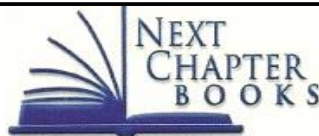
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