

August Events

August 2018 was a busy month for many members of Wings Over Wendy's. Our big event was the 16th Anniversary Lunch on Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 – 11am to 4pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 21433 Strathern St, Canoga Park. The event was to honor Dennis McCarthy whose column in the *Los Angeles Daily News* about the meetings in August 2002 publicized the meetings and attendance grew from a dozen or so meeting every Monday for lunch to 40 the week after his column was published and then 50 to 60 by the end of the year.



Photo by Ken Mayer



Photo by Harlis Brend

Honoree Dennis McCarthy and MC Bob Donovan

In addition to Dennis we honored Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Mitchell Englander plus District Director for Council District 12, Ron Rubine for all three's support of Wings Over Wendy's for many years.

Faithful attendees for over 15 years: Don Eisenberg, Don Foster, Art Sherman, and Jimmy Weldon were also honored.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Bob Donovan and entertainment was provided by Bonnie Bowden and a showing of scenes from *The Donut Dollies* Documentary.

125 members and 33 non-members attended, feasting on a buffet of beef and chicken, catered by Henri's Exquisite Catering of Canoga Park. Thanks to \$2,170 in donations over the ticket price of \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members the event made money.

Barry Chapman was in charge of the event committee which included, Mark Ax, Ron Boggess, Paul Boghossian, Harlis Brend, Jerry Detamore, Bob Donovan, David Greenberg, Julio Jimenez, Fred Kaplan, Kurt Rademacher, Bill Rattner, Ed and Judy Reynolds, Howard Swerdlick, Maurice Vasquez, Karen Vegtel, Warren Weinstein, and Bill Wishard.

Julio obtained permission to use the facility and managed the set-up; Warren, Karen and Ed handled the reservations, Ed, Bob and Bill Wishard coordinated the entertainment. Bill Rattner and Bob worked with Barry to select the caterer. David supplied the table setups, Fred Kaplan the decorations, Harlis the photography, Mark, Jerry, Paul, Ron, Maurice and Kurt helped with the set-up, parking and whatever else that was needed. Howard sold the raffle tickets and raised donations. It was a large team effort that made it a very successful event.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Howard selling the 50-50 raffle tickets.

Howard Swerdlick sold \$800 worth of 50-50 raffle tickets. The 50-50 was won by Sue Donovan and she donated the \$400 back to the organization. (Continued Page 2)

In addition Mark Reed donated \$250, Dennis Zine and Ginger Lyons, \$200 each; Carolyn Blashek, Steve Birgel and Al Lewis and Dan Pemberton, \$100 each. Bob Bermant, \$90; Patrick Daly \$80; Paul Swerdlick \$50. Members unable to attend but purchased tickets included Dan Stark \$40; Connie Hein, Steve Klausner, Morris Litwack, Toni Mattock, Bob Rose, George Rothman, Chip Stevens, Tom Villanueva, \$30 each and Lee Auger, \$10. These people really helped make the event a rousing success and are appreciated by all the members.



Photo by Ken Mayer

A USMC Honor Guard opened the ceremony with the presentation of the colors and Jimmy Weldon leading us in the salute to the flag. Next Dave Worley conducted the "Missing Man" ceremony.



Photo by Ken Mayer

Wil Walker from Operation Gratitude sang the National Anthem.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Howard selling 50-50 raffle tickets to Judy Reynolds.



Photo by Harlis Brend

A crowd around Al Lewis's table with Bonnie Bowden



Photo by Harlis Brend

Ed Reynolds awarded Dennis McCarthy a plaque from Wings Over Wendy's and Congressman Brad Sherman presented him with a flag that had flown over the Capital.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Warren Weinstein awarded plaques to Mitch Englander and Ron Rubine. (Continued Page 3)



Photo by Harlis Brend

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield was awarded a plaque by Ed Reynolds.



Photo by Harlis Brend

In return he awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles to Wings Over Wendy's.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Ed Reynolds awarded Don Eisenberg a plaque from Wings Over Wendy's for his 15 years of faithful attendance at the Monday meetings and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Ed Reynolds awarded Art Sherman a plaque from Wings Over Wendy's for his 15 years of faithful attendance at the Monday meetings and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Ed Reynolds awarded Judge Don Foster a plaque from Wings Over Wendy's for his 15 years of faithful attendance at the Monday meetings and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Ed Reynolds awarded Jimmy Weldon a plaque from Wings Over Wendy's for his 15 years of faithful attendance at the Monday meetings and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles. (Continued Page 4)



Photo by Harlis Brend

Following the award ceremony, we were treated to an outstanding buffet lunch.

Then the entertainment



Photo by Ken Mayer

Bonnie Bowden

The beautiful Bonnie Bowden entertained us with a thirty-minute concert. Bonnie sang eight songs from a

variety of styles. They included: *Fools Rush In*; *You Make Me Feel So Young*; *You'll Never Know*; *One Note Samba*; *Mambo Italiano*; *O Mio Babbino Caro*; *Music of The Night*; and the surprise of the performance was the song: *Everlasting* which was written by Wings Over Wendy's member Al Lewis as a love song to his wife Doty.

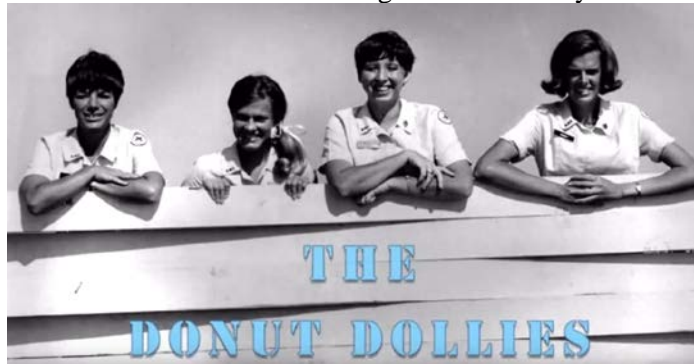


Photo by Harlis Brend

Norm Anderson, Dorset Anderson and Jim Gardner

The Donut Dollies Documentary

The entertainment concluded with scenes from The Donut Dollies Documentary by Norm Anderson and Jim Gardner which featured scenes of Norm's mother, Dorset Anderson returning to Vietnam to retrace her steps as a volunteer USO "Donut Dolly" in 1968. It was an emotional experience for many of the Vietnam Veterans in the audience. It is amazing that Dorset still fits in her uniform.

Overall, it was a great event enjoyed by all who attended.

Veterans Hanger at Wings Over Camarillo Airshow

(Continued Page 5)

The other major event for Wings Over Wendy's members in August was participating in the Veterans Hanger at the annual Wings Over Camarillo Airshow with displays of their military experiences. The layout of the area around the hanger was different but inside the hanger Frank Lopez had setup ample room for the members' displays.

The following people had a display: David Alvarez Roscoe Frazier; Fred Kaplan, Neil Baliber, Richard Kinder, Barney Leone; Don Foster and daughter; Elmo and Tom Maiden, Ed Reynolds, Larry Kushner, Mike Sugar, Shannon Muchow (for Greg Stathatos), and Warren Weinstein. Assisting were: Ron Boggess, Howard Davis, Steve Eide, Don Foster's daughter Laurie Jones, Kurt Rademacher, and Howard Swerdlick.

In other areas Phil Aune, Bob Donovan, Harlis Brend, Neal Houston, Peter Helm, Frank Lopez, Avery Willis, Bill Wishard and Jim McMichael supported the Air Show. Ron and Diane Ross were major sponsors of the show.



The entrance to the Veterans Hanger



Photo by Harlis Brend

Howard Swerdlick, Ron Boggess, Fred Kaplan and Neil Baliber greeting people under a Wings Over Wendy's banner and explaining what our group is all about.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Elmo and Tom Maiden sitting at their display.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Roscoe Frazier at his display



Larry Kushner, Kurt Rademacher and Ron Boggess at the table in front of Mike Sugar and Larry's picture displays.



Photo by Harlis Brend

LtCol Richard Kinder at his display.



Barney Leone explaining the pins on his hat at his display.
(Continued Page 6)



Photo by Harlis Brend
Ed Reynolds at his display.



Laurie Jones, Don Foster and David Alvarez on Saturday.



Photo by Harlis Brend
Harlis Brend and his camera taking pictures at the show.



Photo by Harlis Brend
LtCol Richard Kinder in his uniform on Sunday.

August Speakers

August 6, 2018



Photo by Harlis Brend

David Burg

“WWII Veteran’s Scrap Book Donation”

On August 6th David Burg, a Simi Valley Realtor, with R.R. Gable Inc. donated a scrapbook from one of his clients whose husband was a WWII veteran and has passed on.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Robert Lanthier

“Silver Spur Award Dinner”

Honorary member, Robert Lanthier, President of the Reel Cowboys spoke to the group about the upcoming Silver Spur Awards scheduled for September 21st at the Sportsman’s Lodge, Studio City. It is one of the great events that we attend.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Frank Lopez

“Wings Over Camarillo”

On August 6th Frank Lopez visited the meeting to describe the procedures for parking and access to the Wings Over Camarillo Air Show. Note his raffle ticket on his hat.

August 13, 2018



Photo by Harlis Brend

Steve Birgel

Steve's Military Career

On August 13 one of our newer members who started attending meetings in January of this year was given the opportunity to tell the group about his military experience.

During his senior year in high school the various military services tested all the senior boys. Since Steve wanted to be a pilot, he enlisted in the aviation cadet program.

Ten days after he graduated from high school he found himself at Keesler AB attending basic training during July and August. Upon completion of basic training he was sent to Syracuse University where he was given ten hours of flight training in a Piper Cub. Steve soon found out he could not take spins and loops, so he changed to navigation school.

Steve was sent to Monroe LA for navigation training. Upon completion of the training he was sent to California, where he met the crew he was going to serve with.

They did their crew training in Walla Walla, Washington. Since they were training on the west coast they thought they would be going to the Pacific but instead they were put on a train and sent to New Jersey. From there he went to Hardwick AB near Norwich, England.

They flew two missions, one as tail end Charlie, and one as lead crew and Steve was sent to radar school and became a “Mickey” operator.

Note: The “Mickey set” was officially known as the AN/APS-15, an American ground scanning radar system used for blind bombing during World War II. It was a development of the British H2S radar, the first ground mapping radar to be used in combat.

After school he rejoined his crew and they flew two more missions before the Germans surrendered. As the European War was over, he was sent to March AB and started training in B29's. Then the Japanese surrendered. Steve had enough points to get out, but he enlisted in the inactive reserves and was called up for the Korean War and decided to make a career of the USAF.

He was sent to Mather AFB where he completed navigator training in B-52's and he stayed on there as an instructor in Air Training Command. Steve was transferred to Brooks AFB for the last five years of his career. At Brooks he was working with the engineers and scientists in the space program. This was the most interesting assignment of his career.

Steve retired as a Major with twenty years active duty and five years of reserve time and stayed in San Antonio working with the engineers and scientists in the space program for another 18 years. His children convinced him to move to California and join Wings Over Wendy's.

August 20, 2018



Photo by Harlis Brend

Kevin Schmiegel “Operation Gratitude Update and Plans”

LtCol Kevin Schmiegel USMC (Ret), CEO of Operation Gratitude (OG) returned to a meeting to give an update report and plans for the future. He started by telling us that he had brought his wife, Amy and 14 year old son and 11 year old daughter from Arlington, Virginia to see the Care Package Assembly Day on Saturday August 18th. He wanted them to meet the 580 people that assembled 11,000 packages in which some included the Wings Over Wendy's post cards.

Kevin thanked Wings Over Wendy's for the post cards, participation of the assemblies and our support of the Operation Gratitude organization and believing in their mission.

He is excited to be part of OG right now because he thinks they are on the brink of doing something that is significant for the country and it's solving a national problem that a lot of people been talking about for years and that is a phrase that's commonly referred to as the “civilian military divide”.

Kevin talked about the disconnect between the civilian population in our military, and the fact that there was a lack of understanding, a lack of empathy between the 99% who don't serve and the 1% who do and it's that phrase civilian military divide in his mind can actually be extended out to include first responders to include police and firefighters who are serving in harm's way every day because he thinks

the same lack of understanding exists with them. So OG across the country is going to start to bridge the civilian service divide through hands-on volunteerism like they do in LA but also in communities across America.

He plans to create a movement across the country to do that. Our nation has been at war for 17 years with 13.1 million men and women on active duty, guard and reserve. He asked us “What about the 2.3 million first responders that take an oath of office as well? And what about a 22 million veterans.” OG is uniquely positioned to help bridge that divide like no other organization in the country.

His thoughts are a little bit about that, through engagement and gratitude, OG has been bridging the divide every day. Kevin wakes up in the morning and there are five or six emails that he gets back from the deployed troops that receive OG care packages, and there is this astonishment in their words that Americans actually do appreciate their service, but more than that there's an acknowledgment that there is an understanding amongst the servicemembers that Americans do acknowledge their service and sacrifice and that's the start of bridging the divide.

Since Carolyn started OG in 2003 they have been bridging the divide but only kind of on a surface level. Now OG is ready to start to do that in communities across the country. Imagine OG, who has 89,000 volunteers across the country who made donations to host a collection drive to make these paraquat bracelets, wrote letters and they made that connection because they wanted to show their appreciation, but they didn't know how. Imagine if you take those 89,000 volunteers that we know we have 350,000 in a database, since the beginning when Carolyn started this.

Imagine if OG started to allow them to present the care packages directly to the recruit graduates that are receiving the care packages at Lackland Air Force Base, Cape May, New Jersey Great Lakes in Michigan and here down in San Diego. Imagine if they were connected to the first responders and communities were already delivering it and they can deliver the care package to have conversations about their service and have a deeper understanding and appreciation for what those men and women who are abroad in harm's way, but also at home what they're doing every day and we start to bridge the divide in a much deeper level. That is the type of impact that OG can have.

So how are they poised to do that? He talked about the 9000 volunteers. Kevin wants to talk about the growth of the programs because that is what's elevated in his mind. The opportunity for OG is that it is the vehicle for care packages. Last year alone they did 50,000 care packages for deployed troops to share between 60 to 65,000. That's great.

Looking at the veteran community. Last year OG sent 18,000 care packages across the country. This year it will be for 26,004 veterans and that's in large part to the partnership that Kevin started. (Continued Page 9)

In March he told us about coordination with the Honor Flight Network. This year OG will send 8,000 care packages to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans from 50 honor flight hubs across the country before they get on planes to fly back to our nation's capital.

First responders got 67,000 care packages last year, up to 200,000 this year. For recruit graduates at the four locations that he told us about with the Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy and now the Marine Corps in San Diego. OG went from 11,000 care packages to 80,000 this year.

It's pretty amazing how quickly OG can make things happen, because he thinks it ties together with what OG is going to start to do in San Diego. Kevin went down there on July 26 and met with 12 Marines and it was a tough crowd, but Kevin is a Marine too, so he knew how to work that group. OG had lost that program for several reasons.

The USMC stopped accepting care packages, because logistically, they couldn't handle it. OG wasn't providing the products that they wanted. So OG customized the care packages, made them smaller and Kevin presented to them what the new care packages would look like. They agreed to accept 20,000 care packages for the new Marines that walk off the parade deck in San Diego. That is like a gift from God. But, they said they has one condition: OG volunteers had to come down there and hand them out every Friday to the 500 Marines that are walking off the parade deck.

Kevin thought about time and gas and had to figure out how to do that. OG had already hired a part-time coordinator military spouse in San Diego to help coordinate the program and OG has volunteers that are willing to drive down here from LA. But there is also a huge volunteer base south of Camp Pendleton, and that's when he had the idea that OG can do this for first responder departments at the other Recruit and Boot Camps because when those volunteers hand out the care packages and see the joy and elation, they have conversations with young Marines who did the biggest thing in their lives. Since they don't have family members there, they would have a feeling that they are bridging the divide and never want to be part of that over and over and over again,

Kevin then told us a story about a movement Carolyn started in South Carolina. OC received a request from a Police Department in a small, predominately African-American community and there were huge tensions between the community and the police force, which obviates the need for doing this at first responder departments too, and not just calling it "civilian military divide" to call it "civilian service divide". They had asked for care packages for placement and presentation working with the church in South Carolina's African-American church for four years. They would do letter writing and host collection drives so OG asked them to host the delivery and that church and their families came together with the Police

Department and their families. They had a ceremony for placement of the year and they presented OG care packages, and then afterwards they had a picnic. That's bridging the divide.

Kevin continued to tell us more stories about how OG care packages has bridged the divide in New Jersey. He then told us about a program by student veterans at universities that have started service projects with the students. The student vets told entering freshman at orientation about how they appreciated the letters in the care packages when they were deployed. As a result at LSU 2,000 students wrote letters to deployed troops.

He finished by tell us "Operation Gratitude is now going to hire in the next six months to a year regional managers, go out, to find young veterans who can do this in all the states in different regions across the country, and they'll start working with our corporate partners to do volunteer activities, start speaking publicly, start organizing delivery of care packages and that's how we can create a movement across the country and bridge the divide, and that's all working to meet the demand for care packages because we can actually start doing the care package production on a smaller scale with the pouches that we do for first responders and new recruits all over the country, so that's where we are as an organization that's has begun to grow and it's what I want you all to know that you're part of that by writing those letters and being part of what we do at Operation Gratitude, you play a part in bridging the divide by your experiences as veterans or a family member of a veteran or supporter of veterans you can play part in that as well by sharing your own experiences in continuing to write letters and even coming out to OG to be part of what we do there."

August 27, 2018



Photo by Harlis Brend

Linette Stone
"Donut Dolly"

(Continued Page 10)

We were visited on August 27th by Linette Stone, a Vietnam “Donut Dollie”, friend of Dorset Anderson. She was told about our group and encouraged to attend our meetings by Sam Gardner, Co-Producer of *The Donut Dollies Documentary*. We hope she will return.



Photo by Harlis Brend

Corinne Ho

The former President of the Canoga Park Neighborhood Council, Corinne Ho, visited our meeting on August 27th to thank us for including her in the 16th Anniversary Luncheon. Corinne is a native of Madagascar who only recently became a US Citizen.

In a corny effort for some fun this publisher wore a t-shirt I acquired on my visit to Madagascar and “flashed” it at the meeting when Howard welcomed her to the meeting.



Photo by Harlis Brend



Photo by Harlis Brend

Dennis Richard Playwright

A chance encounter with Barney and Howard at Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt, West Hills, lead to getting Dennis Richard to speak to our group on August 27th.

Dennis is a playwright and he talked to us about his play *Oswald: The Actual Interrogation*. He told us the story of his background investigations on Oswald, the JFK assassination and addressed many of the conspiracy theories about the JFK assassination. He drew no conclusions but did refute several of the theories expressed by members of the audience.

He described the events of the shooting and the known movements of Lee Harvey Oswald after the shooting drawing no conclusions on the motives of why JFK was shot or why Oswald shot at General Walker, shot J.D. Tippit, or why Jack Ruby shot Oswald.

His play focused on the interrogation in which Oswald would not admit to anything just stating, “My story will come out.” His Interrogators told Dennis that Oswald had “Eyes of ice”.

The audience asked about a lot of theories and Dennis did the best he could to address each one.

His next play will be about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. We look forward to his returning to talk about that play.

PROFILE



Photos by Harlis Brend

John Helm

MY MILITARY STORY

Written by John Helm

My name is John Arthur Christie Helm. I am a United States Air Force veteran who served in the Korean Conflict from 1950-1954. My A.F. serial# is 19390919 and my A.F. specialty# was T30151. I earned an Honorable discharge and was discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant.

My story; I was born the 24th of December 1929 in Emerson, Manitoba Canada. When the 2nd World War started in 1939, when Great Britain declared war on Germany and Canada being part of the British Empire, was also at war. The Canadian Government along with various war preparations created an Air Force Cadet program in the Canadian school system. At the age of 10 I became a Royal Canadian Air Cadet. The training consisted of calisthenics, formation drills, aircraft recognition, target practice, and regulations. It also included a two-week assignment to an active Royal Canadian Air Force Base which included the rigors of base life and flying. Our school contingent was assigned to the RCAF base at Dauphin, Manitoba. At the end of the war the program was disbanded.

I finished school in 1947 and came to California as there was little that interested me in Canada, plus I found that my father who had abandoned the family was living in California. I found an assortment of jobs to sustain myself and ended up in Tacoma, Washington where I had a sister. There I worked as a bridge man for the Milwaukee Railroad until the Korean conflict started. I was impressed with the presence of the military personnel from around the world

preparing to embark to the action in Korea from McCord USAF base and Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington.

I wanted to be a part of that and was directed to an enlistment office where I attempted to enlist. The problem that arose was that I was not a citizen. Even though I had a S.S. number and a draft registration card they would not accept me. I wondered how it would be possible to draft me into the military service but that I could not enlist. As I was born to an American father and a Canadian mother and I understood that I had a dual citizenship. That evening a phone call from a USAF Major in the Provost Marshals office instructed me to return to the recruitment center, state my name, take the physical, take the Pledge of Allegiance and he would proceed with the "paperwork".

At the enlistment center a funny thing happened when we had removed our clothes except for skivvies and shoes and assembled in a large room to have our physicals. Everyone's attention was drawn to the guy in cowboy boots. Not for the cowboy boots but the white "Long Johns". Most all the rest of us were wearing white also in either briefs or shorts.

That took place and I was off to Lackland USAF Base, for basic training. Subsequently when I finished basic training the aptitude tests assigned me to Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi to the USAF Electronics School. The course was 26 weeks in duration and took up instruction in basic mathematics, electronics theory, instrument building and testing, laboratory and field trouble shooting and repair. Upon graduation I was retained as an instructor and became Permanent Party in the USAF School of Electronics. One day a judge knocked on the door of my residence as I was now married and swore me in as an American citizen and gave me a Certificate of Naturalization.

Many of my students that graduated and went to state side and Korean assignments came back to Keesler for advanced training on new developments. The balance of my enlistment gradually advanced me to teaching in the Officers' school and the grade of Staff Sergeant. They were of much greater rank and with formal education degrees, but were required to take the course. That was quite an experience as their course was more from a familiarization of the training their personnel received rather than learning the material.

My discharge date was approaching, and I was close to an upgrade to Tech. Sergeant. I was interviewed concerning reupping with the enticement of a further upgrade and some cash. I said that I would consider it if it was put in writing. That didn't happen and when my discharge came out, I took it. Shortly thereafter having relocated to California where I had lined up a job in the new aerospace industry prior to my discharge, I received the first of two letters from the Air Force offering me a position in the newly opened Air Force Academy. I ignored them both and stayed with Aerospace. (Continued Page 12)

My maternal grandfather was an enlistee in the military force commanded by the British Colonel Wolseley that was dispatched by the British Government to put down the

The Land Rover Jaguar of Ventura Car Show beginning at noon, starting with the National Anthem tribute to the firefighters. (Continued Page 13)

First performer was Judy Phelps, a long-time favorite, flying her Pitts 2-B from Santa Paula. Judy's performance in her aerobatic bi-plane was exhilarating and breathtaking. Judy is a flight instructor. She has many aviation-worthy accomplishments and is the President of the Aviation Museum of Santa Paula, and so much more. Judy likes the saying "a good pilot is always learning." Next, we saw the trainer's PT-22 and PT-19's. John Caliver in Wardog, followed, and then D-Day doll and C-53 (C-47). There was a break in the flying for a Classic Car Parade up and down the ramp that was "cool" and provided a chance to get that "Crick out of your neck".

Back to looking aloft we watched Sam Mason flying his Pitts 2-S Special Sammy, a master of aerobatics and feats of spectacular flying maneuvers, son of the flying Masons, Pete and Rowena Mason.

Skipping along to the European Theater—my favorite, the B-25s Executive Sweet and PBJ Semper Fi, next to a P-47 Thunderbolt, P-63 King Cobra, P-51 Mustang "Cadillac of the Sky" and a Spitfire. Up next was an amazing pilot, the very well-known Vicky Benzing flying her EA 300, a two-seat aerobatic monoplane. Vicky is a contest winner, Air Race champion, skydiver, and much more. She has over 8,000 hours of flight to her credit and pilots everything from gliders to jets. Vicky entertains at about 16 air shows a year. One time she flew her 1940's vintage Big Red Stearman bi-plane to Oshkosh and back to California at 500 feet to the delight of ground folks like "OMG did you see that beautiful flying machine."

Next which some consider vintage jets, the Vampire jet and the Viper L-29 with Jerry Conley piloting the Vampire. He is the President of the Vampire Aviation LLC and its Chief Pilot. At one point he was the youngest pilot at Southwest Airlines making Captain at age 24. The other jet pilot was Jason Somes. Jason is the operations air show officer, and a pilot for the CAF at Camarillo Airport. Jason fixes all of their planes and helps maintain the aircraft of the CAF Museum. So much more to tell about these two amazing aviation men would fill a book or two. Next came the Pacific Theater P-38 Lightning, F6F Hellcat, F8F Bearcat, P-51 Mustang, and the only one of the still flying, CAF's Japanese Zero. Finishing up was the Condors T-6's formation with the Missing Man flying west.

Just go to mention the B-25 Sales Booth to visit with our WOW Peter Helm. He was showing off the newly designed B-25 Executive Suite tee shirt. It looked pretty classy in dark blue. Also at the booth was my favorite pilot Dana Dorsey, who was the first and second pilot of my B-25 experiences, and with my Dad WWII B-25 pilot Keith Muchlandan. Amazing experiences we shared. Oh, yes, my son Tracy and I enjoyed watching the airshow with Bill Wishard. Lucky for us, we had VIP seating under a canopy and front seats, great viewing and photo taking area.

We stayed to the finale, The End.

Enjoyed and written by Plane Peggy.

Richard "Beebo" Russell's Grandeur flight finale on August 10, 2018

A few words about the young man Richard "Beebo" Russell, 29 years old who gave his life to fulfill his life's passion. OMG, he did it! Only a few will understand this kind of ultimate heart's desire to fly freely and alone becoming one with the plane and own the sky for an hour. His flight was not meant to be a suicide act but to accomplish his burning desire. He trained for it in his own way. Surely many hours of learning and preparation that he gave his life for, an exceptional accomplishment. The airplane was chosen, not a weekend small single engine airplane, but a 107-foot twin engine turboprop airliner, large and beautiful, a De Havilland DHC-400, (Dash 82400). He knew exactly what he was doing and that the ending would take his life in that aircraft doing what no one has ever done before. Probably never again, he dove deeply, broad looped upside down rolled, he barreled rolled and was the star of his air show.

It was planned carefully. His last words were "I think I'm going to try to do a barrel roll, and if that goes well I'll call it a night." Beebo said to the Controller. Then the plane dove and plunged into the thick island forest of Ketron Island near Seattle. He went up in flames and down in aviation history. He wasn't crazy. A few of his words to the Controller were: "I got a few screws loose. I never really knew it until now. "I gotta lot of people that care about me. I'm kinda going to disappoint them. I would like to apologize to each and every one."

Richard's family and friends nicknamed him "Beebo" and said he was kind and gentle, a faithful husband loving son and a good friend. He had described his job as getting to visit those I love most (the airplanes). "God bless you"

Richard worked for Horizon Air for more than three years, handling baggage, de-icing planes, towing for Taxi. Richard towed the Dash 8 by tractor to the runway, taxied and just took off. He did know how to put the landing gear down.

Richard Russell's act is a wakeup call, perhaps saving thousands of lives in the future. "Wake up, Security and Ground personnel.

Written by Peggy Jean Bassett, "Plane Peggy".

Aviation Synopsis

Any pilot can describe the mechanics of flying, what it can do for the spirit of men is beyond description - Barry Goldwater.

Pilots take no special joy in walking. Pilots like flying
— Neil Armstrong. (Continued Page 14)

WOW in the News



E-News for the Week: August 24, 2018 **Celebrating the Veterans of** **Wings over Wendy's**



One of the greatest privileges of serving as Councilmember has been the opportunity to support the local veterans organization Wings Over Wendy's. This organization is made up of veterans of all services who've served in every American military engagement since the Second World War. Attending one of their meetings is like coming face-to-face with history.

That is why I was so honored when Wings Over Wendy's held a special event to thank my office this week for our support over the years. In addition to helping fund and plan events, my office has also regularly had a presence at their meetings to listen to veterans and make sure we are serving this community as well as they have served us.

And while my District Director Ron Rubine and I are proud and deeply humbled to accept this acknowledgement, I want to make it clear that it is Wings Over Wendy's and its members that truly deserve the recognition. The generations of service represented in this organization is awe-inspiring and an incredible source of pride for our community.

Jim McMichael briefs **Congressman**

On August 25, Jim McMichael flew to San Jose, CA with Gary LaPook and Don Eisenberg in Don's Cessna T-210, to brief US Congressman Ro Khanna on the tactical pilot repetitive strain injuries that he had been working on.

The Reserve Officers Association sponsored the event.

Medical Claims without Medical **Records**

Lt. Col. James McMichael, USAF-(Ret.), Executive Vice President, ROA Department of the Golden West, noted that since 2016, over 1300 USAF F-16 pilots have claimed an injury yet over a third have been denied by VA. Many never reported to a flight surgeon and thus, when filed for VA Disability, the claim was quickly denied due to "lack of Line of Duty Related Documentation to Support Claim." His presentation was well organized, complete, and passionate, again with use of a chair to demonstrate how specific injuries occur and create extensive chronic pain over time.

Lt. Col. McMichael explained that in the F-16, 9-g turns and other maneuvers are routine, and their effects are multiplied by the 30 degree reclined F-16 crew seats, which cause a twisting of the neck and spine when the flight crew members are looking back at their "six"; thereby causing the spine and neck to be twisted and compressed simultaneously. Pilots and flight crew members on flight status are disinclined to report such injuries to medical personnel until after their retirement from military service, either because their careers require they stay on flight status, or because those injuries did not fully manifest themselves until after retirement. Lt. Col. McMichael said, "Our job was to fly, fight, and win but not complain. We did our job and would do it again!"

Congressman Khanna provided reactions and some sense about the way ahead. He was gracious and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be present and hear the testimony. He said, "You are very credible in terms of what you have done for your country." He said he was appalled that the VA would deny benefits, particularly when those involved represent less than 1% of the U.S. population and the money is not significant. "We need to honor the service and any liability involved," he said. He declared that "we will bring this up, get the process started, extend outreach, let others know what is going on, and find ways to treat everyone fairly." Something positive should result because, "you are not asking for a handout, no opposition is likely, and this is a non- partisan issue." He said with assistance from Mr. Tom Pyke, Director of Constituent Services at the district office, he will try to provide a response/answer in about four weeks.

September Birthdays

Abe Brownstein	September 1, 1923
Henry Siderman	September 5, 1926
Sid Maiten	September 9, 1925
Louis Marini	September 10, 1926
Jonathan Schaefer	September 10, 1960
Steven Goodman	September 11, 1943
Carl Schena	September 13, 1921
Olfredo Castillo	September 15, 1943
Dale Edmundson	September 16, 1932
Ethel Margolin	September 17, 1922
Bill Attig	September 19, 1940
Reuven Zeavy	September 19, 1948
Martin Light	September 20, 1932
Dov Landau	September 21, 1948
Barry Chapman	September 22, 1943
Duane Buckley	September 23, 1943
Mark Casala	September 23, 1945
Jimmy Weldon	September 23, 1923
Charlie Fuller	September 24, 1923
Abe Hoffman	September 25, 1938
Barney Leone	September 25, 1924
Neil Houston	September 26, 1931
Ken Mayer	September 26, 1942
Joshua Hummel	September 27, 1983

Wings News Staff

Publisher: Ed Reynolds

Editor: Judy Reynolds

Reporter: Peggy Jean Bassett,

Photographers: Harlis Brend, Larry Kushner, Ken Mayer

New Members: Marion Lovelace, Shirley Andrews

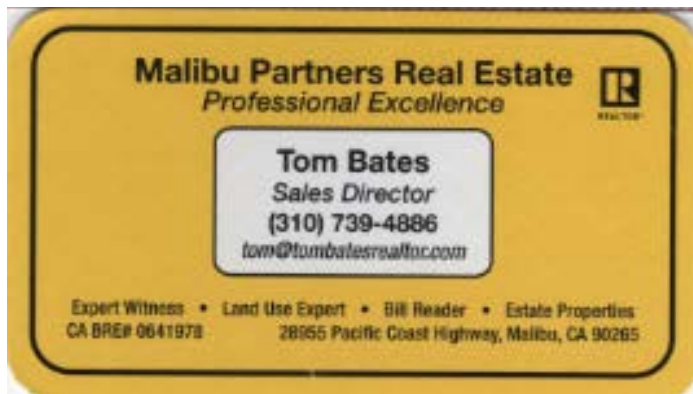
Reminders: Connie Hein

Speakers: Barney Leone

Tours: Warren Weinstein

Treasurer: Barry Chapman

Store: Bob Bermant & Howard Swerdlick



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

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Chip Stevens	Bob Stiles
Howard Swerdlick	Bill Tapp
Jack Taube	David Timmerman
David Tostenson	Karen Vegtcl
Tom Villanueva	Leon Waldman
Avery Willis	Warren Weinstein

We all want raffle prizes!

Please search your closets and garages and bring your items to the next Wings Over Wendy's meeting.

Suggested Items: Military books, magazines, DVD's, tools, etc. **Thank you!**

September Events

Warren Weinstein has been contacted by the TV game show "Let's Make A Deal" to invite Wings Over Wendy's members to attend a "Fund Raising" taping on Tuesday, **September 25th**, 9am to 4pm, at 7915 Haskell Ave, Van Nuys, CA.



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Bring your own lunch you can bring a guest or family member. Wings Over Wendy's gets \$50 per person. Warren will purchase dinner for everyone out of the \$50 we get from each member who shows up.

Reel Cowboys Silver Spur Awards – September 21st

In Memoriam

Fortunately, no members 'flew west' during the month of August 2018.

Prayers

Unfortunately, several of our most active members were hospitalized or are either in Nursing Homes or at home recuperating from their injuries or illnesses. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings:

Ellie Harrison
Mort Green
David Plumb
Alice Stone,
Ed Moreno
Lee Levitan
George Rothman
Ernest Dutcher

View: www.wingsoverwendys.com

To see the:

- Newsletters
- Roster
- Calendar of events
- Pictures & Videos of members

Wings Over Wendy's Post Box

Wings Over Wendy's has rented a Post Box at:



Located in the Smart and Final strip mall the Wings Over Wendy's address will be:

Wings Over Wendy's
22647 Ventura Blvd, #504
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

The address will be printed on the next post cards for inclusion in Operation Gratitude Care Packages

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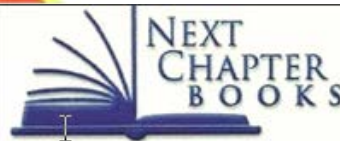
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