



Photo by Karen Vegtel

## 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon

On July 25, 2019 over 180 people checked in with Warren Weinstein, Karen Vegtel and Ed Reynolds to obtain their table assignments for Wings Over Wendy's 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebration of WOW's long-time member Elmo Maiden's 100th birthday Luncheon.



Photo by Ken Mayer



Photo by Bill Ratner

The event was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Canoga Park, Managed by WOW member Julio Jimenez.



Photo by Ken Mayer

At the start of the event Jimmy Weldon recited a poem about Old Glory while a Marine Color Guard keep the flag close by. A rendition of the National Anthem was sung by another Marine and then the Pledge of Allegiance.



Photo by Ken Mayer  
(Continued page 2)





Photo Ken Mayer

The room was filled with members in their blue shirts at the start of the program.



Photo by Ken Mayer

Following the salute, Lt Col Dave Worley, USAF (Ret) did his usual outstanding job with his explanation of what all the items on the POW/MIA table represent and why we should never forget those heroes who never returned.



Photos by Ken Mayer

Bob Donovan performed his usual outstanding job as the Master of Ceremonies.

Tom Maiden gave a presentation on Elmo's life. Including Elmo's WWII B-25 Bomber pilot experiences including a crash landing outside Paris, France and a dead stick landing in England when his plane ran out of fuel when he encountered head winds on his way back from a bombing run. After the war he had a distinguish career in electronics at Hughes, PSI and as a consultant. He holds many patents in integrated circuit designs (see his bio on page 12). Many of his family pictures were also shown.



Photo by Ken Mayer

The incredible and beautiful singer Bonnie Bowden was there to perform specially selected songs to honor Elmo.



Photo by Ken Mayer

LA City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield presented Elmo with a "Happy Birthday" Proclamation from the City. (Don't you wish you would look as good as Elmo when you reach 100 years old!)

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In addition to Elmo the event also honored the many organizations throughout the San Fernando Valley that support Veteran's with lunches, dinners and programs. They included in attendance:

**Cary Bird & Lillian Anderson:** Canoga Park Woman's Club – Annual Veterans Lunch.

**Edra Rowe:** Canoga Park Elks Lodge - Annual Veterans Dinner.

**Susan Emslie:** St. Martin's Memorial and Veterans Day Chapels.

**Gunny Napper:** St. Martin's Memorial and Veterans Day Brunches.

**Franky Ortega:** Daniel Pearl Magnet HS - Veterans Events.

**Harvey Keenan:** Temple Valley Beth Shalom and Temple Allyah Veterans lunch and veterans recognition program.

**Ron Rubine:** CD12 Breakfast and buses, lunches on our tours.

**Ron & Diane Ross:** Wendy's Restaurant meeting space and general support of Wings Over Wendy's for 17 years.

**Ted Faye:** Annual Bohemian BBQ.

**Gloria Pollack:** Annual Justice Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Awards Luncheon.

Not in attendance:

**Congressman Tony Cardenas:** Annual Veterans Dinner.

**Karl Boeckmann:** Memorial Day and SFV Veterans Day Parade's vehicle and general support.

**Kay Deitch:** North Valley Military Institute Salute's to Veterans several times a year.

**Erika Figueroa:** Northridge Academy Memorial Day Assembly.

**Avi & Liat Ben-Shabat:** Host of an Annual Hanukah Celebration.

**Bob and Jane Jacobi:** Memorial Day Parade vehicle.

**Judy Saute:** Annual Pomelo School "Heroes Feast".

**Kathleen Sterling:** Valley News Group for support of our organization and individual members.

Vendors supporting the event included:

**OLOV Corporation:** Knights of Columbus Hall, Julio Jimenez, Manager.

**Nelsons Greenhouse and Nursery, West Hills:** Plants.

**Linen Lenders, Van Nuys:** Table Linens.

**WWII Posters Provided by:** Richard and Peggy Learman.

**Henri's Exquisite Caterers, Canoga Park:** Meal.

**Kevin Favela & Johnathan Benn, Ametron:** Audio Visual and Lighting.

**Mark Williams,** Trophyman, Canoga Park: Awards and Plaques.

**Joshua Lang,** Mechanical Dragons LLC: Videographer.

## Wings Over Wendy's Member Awards

In addition to the above honorees, Ed Reynolds also presented the following plaques:

### FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE FOR OVER 15 YEARS

**Peter Helm**  
**Neil Houston**  
**Elmo Maiden**

### FAITHFUL SUPPORT FOR OVER 15 YEARS

**Jan Edwards**  
**Skip Madsen**  
**Alice Stone**

After lunch, singer and Vietnam Veteran Rick Jarrett gave his rendition of golden oldies was well received by all.

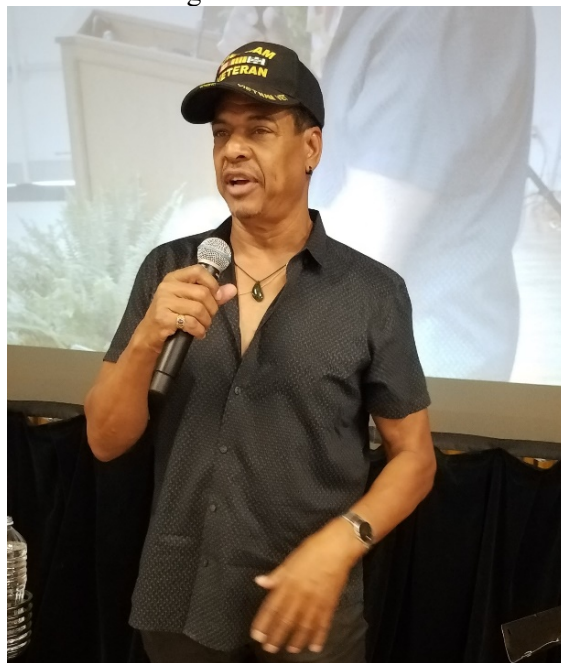


Photo by Ken Mayer  
(Continued Page 4)



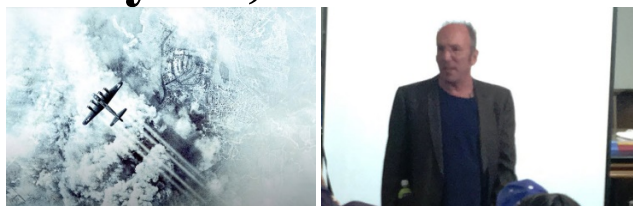
It was another wonderful day with fellow veterans. Lt Col Maiden, USAF (Ret) was a USAAF B-24 Pilot in WWII. He was joined at the event by his children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

## **Special Thanks to the Committee and Participants**

An event like this could not have been the success without the hard work and time of:

Shirley Andrews, Mark Ax, Bob Bermant, Ron Boggess, Paul Boghossian, Barry Chapman, Jerry Detamore, Bob Donovan, David Greenberg, Julio Jimenez, Fred Kaplan, Lou Kridelbaugh, Larry Kushner, Mike LaVere, Barney Leone, Ken Mayer, Bill Ratner, Ed Reynolds, Karen Vegtel, Warren Weinstein, Jimmy Weldon, Bill Wishard, Dave Worley,

## **July 11, 2019 Event**



Photos by John Duffy

## **Peter Hankoff The Cold Blue**

### **Documentary Showing**

On Thursday, July 11th close to 50 people packed the Bernstein Library, 2nd Floor of Valley Beth Shalom at 11am to see a special showing of the documentary "The Cold Blue". It was shown by the Producer, Peter Hankoff and contained a postscript film of the making of the documentary. Peter talked about the travels and interviews he conducted for the film.

Attending included: Lee Auger, Peggy Jean Bassett, Phil Binderman, Paul Boghossian, Barry Chapman, Stanley DeCovnick, Bob Donovan, John Duffy, Jan Edwards, Ron Fleishman, Anarg Frangos, Peter Hankoff, John Helm, Abe Hoffman, Sue Hoffman, Andy Kopetzky, Larry Kushner, Mike LaVere, Hillard Lewinson, Frank Lopez, Elmo Maiden, Rebecca Maiden, Thomas Maiden, Claude Maugein, Jim McMichael, Monte Merken, Earl Minkin, Joan Mueller, Joseph Mueller, Anne Marie Radel, Kurt Rademacher, Ed Reynolds, George Rothman, Bob Shattuck, Nancy Shattuck, Carole Stark, Dan Stark, Marya Stein, Oscar Stein, Bob Stiles, Jack Taube, David Timmerman, Maurice Vasquez, Leon Waldman, William Webb, and Warren Weinstein.

See Peggy Jean's Hanger column, for more details.

## **July Speakers**

### **July 1, 2019**



Photo by Larry Kushner

## **Paul Boghossian**

In honor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Paul Boghossian told the audience how proud he is to be an American and to thank all the Veterans in the room that served.

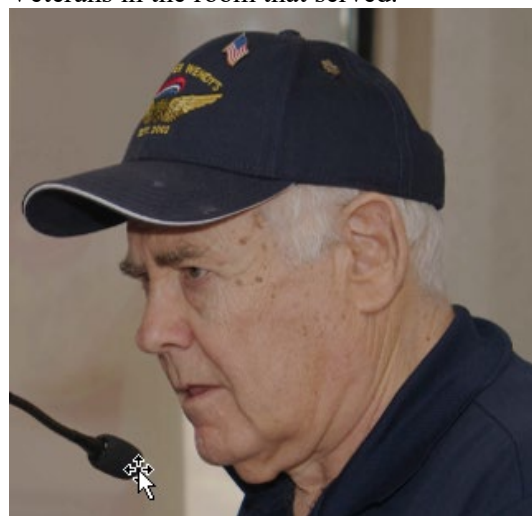


Photo by Larry Kushner

## **Abe Hoffman**

(Continued page 5)

# History of the Declaration of Independence



On July 1 Abe Hoffman discussed the underlying history of the Declaration of Independence. He first called attention to the \$2 bill with Thomas Jefferson on the front and the famous mural painting by John Trumbull on the back of the bill. Trumbull's painting inaccurate in that Trumbull painted portraits of some delegates who were actually not there. No fireworks were set off on July 4, 1776, as the Declaration was not formally announced until six months later after the Continental Army won victories at Trenton and Princeton.

Abe also described the sacrifices made by the delegates in putting their signatures on the famous document. During the war the British captured five signers, and killed six others, one of whom, Richard Stockton of New Jersey, was put into a filthy prison and treated brutally. He died at age fifty, leaving his wife and son destitute. Seventeen of the signers had their houses burned, looted, or wrecked. John Hart of New Jersey was kicked out of his house as his wife lay dying. He died soon after. Thomas Nelson of Virginia commanded an artillery battery at the Siege of Yorktown. British officers had taken over his Yorktown house. When he noticed his artillerymen were not firing their cannon at his house, they said they were not doing it out of respect for him. Nelson ordered them not to spare his house as it was a military target. So they blew it up.

It was the practice at that time for officers taken prisoner could be exchanged for officers of the opposing side if they took a pledge not to take up arms again after being released. However, it wasn't unusual for officers to renounce the pledges and continue fighting. To ensure that this didn't happen, both sides took hostages. The wife of Francis Lewis of New York was arrested, treated badly, and died a few months after being exchanged for two British wives.

Jefferson was a highly educated man and wrote about 90% of the Declaration; Benjamin Franklin and John Adams contributed a small part. It's interesting to note that Parliament, the source of all the complaints and grievances about taxes and representation in government, is not mentioned in the Declaration. Jefferson accused King George III in a lengthy series of statements that showed the

failure of the king to treat his colonists fairly. When the Declaration was presented to the Congress it contained a sentence written by Jefferson calling for an end to the slave trade. Ironically, Jefferson was a slaveholder but couldn't figure out a way for dealing with the economic need for slave labor. The sentence was deleted when southern delegates argued they would not sign the document unless it was removed, and it was.

At the time of the Declaration almost all of the nations of the world were monarchies. European rulers considered the Declaration a radical document that threatened their own rule. This didn't stop France from allying with the Americans as France wanted to settle old scores with the British, but six years after the War of Independence the French had their own revolution.

Only eighteen of the 56 delegates could be considered "rich" by the standards of the time. Some were famous (Hancock, Franklin, Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams). Most were obscure delegates from their colonies; a few signed after the original delegates refused to do so and were replaced. Jefferson concluded the Declaration by pledging "our lives, fortunes, and sacred honor," but it was a risky undertaking. Had the British won the War of Independence, the signers in effect would have signed their own death warrants. Fortunately, it didn't work out that way.



Photo by Larry Kushner

## Franky Ortega Pictures of D-Day

Following Abe we were treated to the pictures that Franky Ortega had to support the trip report published last month (See page 8 July 2019 Wings News). Franky brought his son Levi, to the meeting and then showed pictures of the preparation for D-Day; the aircraft interiors; views of the country side enroute to the Drop Zone; and scenes after he landed. He was able to describe the events in greater detail than in last month's trip report and answer questions.





Photo by Larry Kushner

## Tom Bates

### Old Glory A Soldier's Tribute

Tom Bates fended the meeting by reading a tribute to "Old Glory" he wrote while on active duty in the US Army.

*She's Old Glory, she's the symbol of our country, the flag of our nation. She is dipped to no king or man, she is held upright, proud, her banner can never touch the ground. She is bugled up in the morning at reveille and down in the evening with taps.*

*She a wonderful history. She crossed the Delaware with George Washington. She has flown over Fort McHenry, Old Ironsides and was with John Paul Jones when he had "not yet begun to fight." She went to Tripoli, was bloodied at Gettysburg and honored Lincoln's casket. She was at the Halls of Montezuma, flew above the battleship "Main" in Havana harbor. She went to Europe with Black Jack Pershing, Eddie Rickenbacker, and was with the Marines at Bella Wood.*

*She was blown off her staff at Pearl Harbor, trampled into the ground at Corregidor and went down with the carrier "Yorktown" at the Battle of Midway.*

*She was down, but she came back! Oh, how she came back, and with a vengeance! She went ashore on D-Day, flew in the sky with the 8th Air Force in Europe, on the ground with Patton's 3rd Armored, the Red Ball Express and the 442nd in Italy.*

*She made it all the way back to Corregidor via the*

*Solomons, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and the Battle of the Coral Sea to Tokyo Bay with the battleship "Missouri."*

*She did her duty in Korea with the 40th Armored. In Vietnam it was the First Air Cavalry, Green Berets and Special Forces. She went to the Gulf when she was needed and came home with honor!*

*She's Old Glory, the symbol of my country, the flag of my nation. She's to be admired, respected and honored! She's never to be treated with disrespect, trampled or burned by any American for any reason. Especially when I am around to honor her and protect her as she has protected me! She's my flag, she's Old Glory.*

Sergeant E-5 Thomas N. Bates 1st Squadron 18th Armored Cavalry

## July 2, 2019



Photo by Ed Reynolds

## Benjamin Ferencz Chief Prosecutor in 1947 Einsatzgruppen Trial

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at WOW2 in Tarzana, Carla Ross, Abe Rosenzweig's daughter, played the June 30<sup>th</sup> episode of 60 Minutes about Benjamin Ferencz. The episode recapped his life, education, service in the US Army, assignment to the Nuremberg Trials, his discovery of reports on the murder of Jews, Gypsies and Communists his prosecution of the Nazi leaders that committed the murders and his life after the trail.

After Carla showed the episode there was a general discussion of the events.

## July 8, 2019



Photo by Ed Reynolds

### SLO Duke Dao

Senior Lead Officer Duke Dao visited on July 8<sup>th</sup> and gave up an update on crime in the Valley and tips on protecting our valuables. The Super Markets have a rash of purse snatchings and wallet removal from handbags from shopping carts as customers are searching the shelves for items and leaving their handbag in the cart unattended. He reiterated his recommendation to not leave valuables in your car, even if it is locked.

He further reminded of security concerns that included not picking up your telephone if it is an unknown number that is calling you because they are most likely trying to scam you and steal your information.

Also, if an unknown person knocks on your door, tell them you aren't interested in whatever they are trying to do. After that, Duke mentioned if you see someone shoplift at a store, don't get involved. He also talked a little bit about traffic safety. Duke also discussed actions we should take to reduce harm and damage during earthquakes and preparation for the days following the quake.

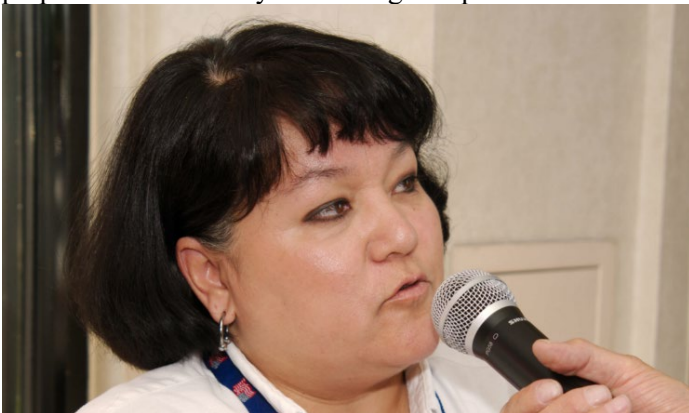


Photo by Larry Kushner

### Monica Fairbanks

With Duke, Monica Fairbanks Police Services Representative visited to sell tickets fund raising tickets for a chance to use the Force Option Simulator.



Photo by Larry Kushner

### Bill Tapp

### Picture Book for Art Sherman

Also on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Bill Tapp co-leader of WOW2 that meets on Tuesdays in Tarzana visited the Monday meetings with a book of pictures that had initially been compiled by Facebook pictures taken by Nathan Wolfstein of WOW2 and other Wings Over Wendy's events. The purpose of Bill's visit was to get people to sign the book before he presents it to Art Sherman on his birthday.



Photo by Nathan Wolfstein

## July 15, 2019



Photo by Larry Kushner

### Captain Alfonso

### Mendoza

(Continued Page 8)



On July 15, 2019 we welcomed, Captain Alfonso Mendoza, newly assigned as patrol Captain to the Topanga Community Police Station. Captain Mendoza is a US Army veteran who worked in the LAPD Traffic Division before his current assignment.

He told us, his son is a US Army pilot who was just sent to Fort Benning, GA. After Captain Mendoza introduced himself, he answered many questions about his work as a public servant as well as some other details.



Photo by Larry Kushner

## SLO Fernandez

Following Captain Mendoza's talk he introduced the Senior Lead Officer for Woodland Hills,

## July 22, 2019



Photo by Ed Reynolds

## Elmo Maiden Receives Flag

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Scott Abrams, District Director for Congressman Brad Sherman presented a flag flown over the US Capital and certificate of authentication to Elmo Maiden in recognition of 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Photo by Ed Reynolds

# Elmo Maiden Receives CA State Assembly Recognition

In addition to receiving the flag, Elmo also received a Certificate from CA State Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, presented by Jake Itzkowitz, Field Representative for the Assembly District



Photo by Larry Kushner

## Tom Maiden THE YEAR 1919: LIFE BEFORE ELMO

In recognition of his father's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Tom Maiden gave us a recap of the year 1919.

- Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I
- League of Nations formed

### Who died in 1919?

- Teddy Roosevelt, Andrew Carnegie

### Who (other than Elmo) was born in 1919?

- Nat King Cole (d. 1965), Jackie Robinson (d. 1972), Sir Edmund Hillary (d. 2008)

### What was life like in 1919?

- Back in 1919, Americans drove their model T's to see silent movies and dealt with new fangled inventions, such as toasters and zippers. It's safe to say a lot has changed since then.
- The Eiffel Tower was the tallest structure on earth (built for the World's Fair in Paris, 1889) at 984 ft. Today, the tallest standing structure is 2,722 ft. in Dubai of the United Arab Emirates.
- In 1919, "teenagers" did not exist- not until the 40's

(Continued page 9)



- Woodrow Wilson was President
- There was no NFL
- Kids played with Raggedy Ann dolls and Lincoln Logs
- Mary Pickford was "America's Sweetheart", the "girl with the curls" silent film star
- People took street cars to get around
- Groceries were a lot cheaper: avg price of bread 10 cents; butter cost 68 cents; eggs 63 cents
- A middle class family made \$1,500/year and saved less than \$100 annually
- Model T's were the most popular car, built by Henry Ford
- The 1919 World Series was a scam. The Chicago White Sox (or Black Sox) were accused of throwing the Series to the Cincinnati Reds.
- Alcohol was officially illegal
- Movies were silent, with stars Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks
- Songwriter Irving Berlin dominated the radio
- Women still could not vote (the 19th Amendment came the following year in 1920)
- Minimum wage did not exist - not until 1938, which set minimum wage at 25 cents/hour
- Mass produced foods were becoming a new thing (Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Oreos, Moon Pies)
- With the advent of the automobile, dating replaced courtship
- Babe Ruth became a New York Yankee after winning the 1918 World Series with the Boston Red Sox. Ruth won games 1 and 4 as a pitcher. Boston defeated the Chicago Cubs, 4 games to 2, and scored only 9 runs in the entire 6 games, a major league baseball record for a winning team in the World Series. Boston lived with the "curse of the Bambino, Babe Ruth" until 2004 when Boston became champions once again.
- Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali founded modern abstract art
- And finally, The Tickle Me Elmo doll wasn't around in 1919, but was released in July 1996, when Elmo was just turning 77.

Perhaps you may have heard Elmo say the secret to long life is dark chocolate and root beer. His favorite root beer is A&W. Also celebrating 100 years, A&W's signature label reminds us... **"SINCE 1919"**.

Tom finished with "Thank you for your love of our Dad these past 17 years of his life at Wings Over Wendy's."



Photo by Larry Kushner

## Jack Norris

Following Tom, Jack Norris talked to us about his career as an engineer in aviation, the aerospace industry and with the Disney Corporation, and space vehicle design. He showed us a display of unique control valves and other hardware he designed for the Apollo and other missions.

Most interesting was his work for Walt Disney to design the audio and electronics to control the lights, sounds movements and speech in the Abraham Lincoln display and the Pirates of the Caribbean ride.

## July 29, 2019



Photo by Lorin Hadlock

## Loraine Lundquist CD 12 Candidate

On July 29, 2019 we were visited by Loraine Lundquist, candidate for LA City Council District 12. Loraine wanted to introduce herself to the Wings Over Wendy's West Hills and District 12 residences. She told us that her Grandfathers were WWII veterans and her father was a career US Army Officer. He was awarded two bronze stars and two purple hearts for his service as a pilot in Vietnam. Loraine is an Astrophysicist with a Ph.D. in physics and teaches at CSUN. She is pledged to increase City Services in the district, address homelessness issues and promote clean energy in the city.



Photo by Ken Mayer

## Kevin Taylor

Accompanying Loraine was her Campaign Manager, Kevin Taylor, a long-time friend and supporter of Wings Over Wendy's. Kevin was Director of the Tarzana Community Center when Art Sherman, Howard Swerdlick and Mike LaVere were looking for a location east of West Hills to form WOW2. Kevin arranged for the Community Center to host the meetings. He then moved on to be the Mayor's West Valley Representative, then Jesse Garcia's Campaign Manager for State Assembly.



Photo by Ken Mayer

## Dick Edwards awarded 15-year Attendance Plaque

Unable to attend the Luncheon, Dick Edwards was awarded a plaque for his 15 years of Faithful Attendance.

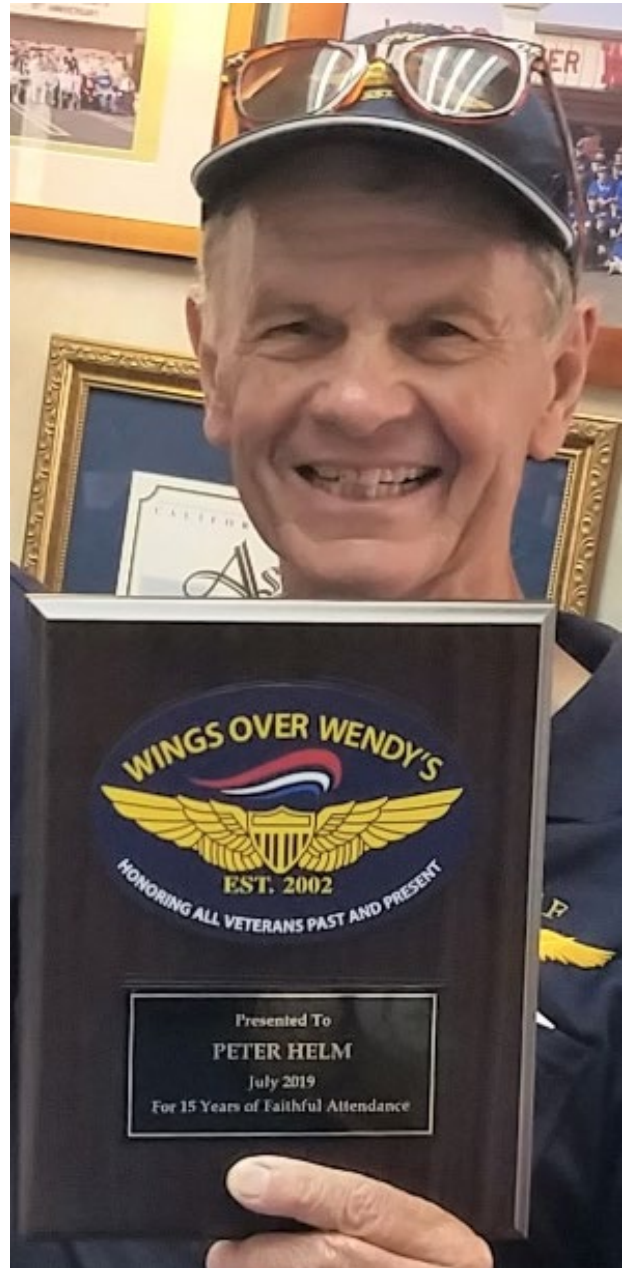


Photo by Ken Mayer

## Peter Helm awarded 15-year Attendance Plaque

Ed Reynolds also awarded a 15 years of Faithful Attendance plaque to Peter Helm.





# Art Sherman's 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday

July 29, 2019 marked the 98<sup>th</sup> birthday for Art Sherman, Chairman Emeritus of Wings Over Wendy's. Celebrating the occasion were his two daughters. Art lead the Monday meetings for eight years, was responsible for the establishment of the Tuesday meetings in Tarzana.



When Art arrived to the meeting members celebrated with a cup cake decorated in Red and Blue sprinkles on white frosting.



Bill Tapp and Nathen Wolfstein presented a book of

photographs of Wings Over Wendy's events and meetings, they had taken over the years since the establishment of WOW2 in Tarzana. Pages in the book were autographed by members.



# Fred “Crash” Blechman Flight Jacket

Marvin Mellon, a long time colleague of Fred “Crash” Blechman, co-founder of Wings Over Wendy’s gave Fred’s flight jacket to the organization. Marvin, who was a member of Fred’s Computer Technical Writers Club had been given the jacket following Fred’s funeral by a relative the Fred.

For over ten years it has hung in Marvin's closet not knowing what to do with it. Jeff Mazur a member of the Computer Technical Writers Club that still meets (just like Wings Over Wendy's) suggested that it would be better appreciated by Wings Over Wendy's. Ed Reynolds was contacted by them and as they told him would rather pass it to Ed than have to get up early on a Monday morning and present it to the organization.



## Elmo- This is your life 100 years

By Tom Maiden

**1919** Elmo gets his start in Kansas City, Missouri, July 27, 1919

**1924** At age 5, Elmo's family moves to Miami Station, a small town about 100 miles east of Kansas City. Elmo's dad took a government job at a rock quarry. Elmo begins grade school.

**1931** Elmo's family moves to Lawrence, Kansas. His dad takes up business as a sign painter.

**1939** Elmo begins taking flying lessons. Elmo graduates from Lawrence High, having played running back on the football team.

**1941** Elmo completes 2 years of college at Kansas University in Lawrence, then goes west to San Diego to earn money working at Consolidated Aircraft, building B-24s for England to support the war effort overseas. Pearl Harbor is struck in December. Elmo's dad says, "This means war."

**1942** Elmo goes to sign up with the military in July 1942. He first gets into the Navy line, having a desire to fly fighter jets off aircraft carriers. However, seeing that the Army Air Corps line is shorter, he signs on with the Air Corps, then returns to Kansas, where he begins working for the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant near Lawrence. In August, Elmo first meets his future wife, Jeanne Peironnet, at a family reunion. Elmo's father passes away two months later.

**1943** Elmo is called up to begin Air Corps aviation cadet training through 1944.

**1944** On February 29 that year, Elmo, along with his 10 man crew, was in training in Charleston, South Carolina. A girl he met there cited it being Leap Year Day and felt entitled to ask Elmo to marry her. Elmo said, "I have a mother and two sisters to support and a war to fight, so I

can't."

Elmo's flight to England included refueling stops at Goose Bay, Labrador, and Iceland. The 10 man crew arrived at their destination, Attlebridge Army Air Corps base in Summer 1944. In September, Elmo flew two gas haul missions to the front line in support of General Patton and General Montgomery, fueling tanks for the ground war.

On October 4, Elmo flew as co-pilot with another crew on his first combat mission to gain combat experience before taking his own 10 man crew into combat. That first crew was all killed 3 days later, shot down on a mission over Belgium. For the next 6 months, Elmo strings together a total of 35 successive combat missions over German occupied lands as pilot of his 10 man B-24 Liberator bomber crew, of which he never lost a man, nor did any suffer injury in combat.

Elmo once crash landed with 3 engines out at Le Bourget Field northeast of Paris (the very airfield Charles Lindbergh landed on in 1927). The crash date was December 27, two days after Christmas. The field was frozen and the nose gear eventually hit a rut and broke. A British photographer who witnessed the crash told Elmo, "You know you killed a rabbit?" Elmo said, "I've been chasing that rabbit clear across France!" With that kill, along with a mallard that flew into Elmo's plane during cadet training, Elmo now has a duck and a rabbit to his credit! Upon returning to his base in Attlebridge, Elmo found that all his clothes had been divided up, the men in his barrack believing that Elmo went missing in action, never to return. Elmo went around crying, "Give me back my clothes!"

Elmo also lost all 4 engines in a mission to Berlin, where he had a strong tail wind going, but fought a head wind returning, thus losing all his plane's fuel. He used his B-24 as a glider from 30,000 feet, crossing the English Channel, and landing at a B-17 Air Force Base in England. His plane was refueled for a return to Attlebridge. As a side, no B-17s sent out that day returned.

**1945-** Upon Elmo's return to the States in May 1945, a troop train passing through Ohio derailed at Piqua. One died, 24 other soldiers were injured. Elmo's car, the last one, remained upright on the track, safe and secure from all alarms.

A month later, Elmo married Jeanne Peironnet. Elmo and Jeanne lived in Lawrence, Kansas from 1945 to 1950, Elmo continuing his education at the University of Kansas. Elmo earned both a Bachelor and Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering, all the while participating in sports and teaching engineering drafting at KU. Tom was born in Lawrence on April 4, 1949, four years to the day following Elmo's completion of his 35<sup>th</sup> and final combat mission.

**1950-** Elmo and Jeanne and Tom moved out to California, arriving January 1, 1950. (Continued page 13)











Wings Over Wendy's members: Bill Ratner, Ed Reynolds, Ken Mayer, Bob Donovan, Karen Vegtel, Oscar Stein, Marya Stein, Ethen Margolin and Leon Waldman along with other San Fernando Valley veterans were fêted at a luncheon on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at the Orange Grove Bistro at Cal State Northridge. Four San Fernando Valley Assembly members co-hosted the event, including Laura Friedman, D-43rd District; Jesse Gabriel, D-45th District; Adrin Nazarian, D-46th District; and Luz Rivas, D-39th District.

The veterans honored for their distinguished service included Gary William Aggas, Harold Bahrke, David Chianello, Robert 'Chef Bob' Gale, Maria Luisa Hernandez, Joe Lozano, Mark MacCarley, **Ethel Margolin**, Steve Pierce, **Oscar Stein**, Dan Stepenosky, Nancy Sumner, Carol Ann Van Natten and **Leon Waldman**. Two veterans, **Roscoe Frazier** and **Richard Kinder**, were unable to attend but also received the special resolutions from the state legislature for their military service.



Photo by Ken Mayer

## Ethel Margolin receives Certificate from Jessie Gabriel



Photo by Ken Mayer

## Oscar Stein receives Certificate from Adrin Nazarian



Photos by Ken Mayer

## Leon Waldman receives Certificates from Adrin Nazarian

The veterans served in various branches of the military, times and conflicts including World War II and Vietnam.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Vito D. Imbasciani, secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs. Imbasciani served for 27 years in the United States Army. He is the chief official for veterans' affairs in California. Gabriel, whose office organized the event, said "Many of these veterans continued to serve after they hung up the uniform – as first responders, educators, volunteers and active members of our community. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for everything they have done – and continue to do – for the San Fernando Valley and our nation."





## August Birthdays

Bob Donovan	August 01, 1948
Robert Lee	August 02, 1944
Olga Arbonies	August 03, 1973
Don Robbins	August 04, 1927
Robert Freud	August 04, 1961
Ed Reynolds	August 05, 1935
Daniel Zepeda	August 07, 1953
Justin Devine	August 07, 1996
David Escudero	August 08, 1953
Marcene Rankin	August 10, 1931
Marty Cohen	August 11, 1948
Leon Waldman	August 16, 1924
Richard Gross	August 16, 1926
Dwight Herr	August 16, 1948
Boots LaVere	August 17, 1930
Ray Rosenbaum	August 17, 1930
Stan Staten	August 18, 1937
Luanne Pomerantz	August 18, 1961
Ed Phillips	August 21, 1926
Richard Hernandez	August 21, 1953
Neil Baliber	August 22, 1941
Harlis Brend	August 22, 1941
Richard Zaitlen	August 26, 1946
Jack Norris	August 27, 1960
Joe Vernola	August 28, 1934
Dick Edwards	August 31, 1930
Harry Wachtel	August 31, 1950
Joe Herrington	August 31, 1951

## New Members

We welcomed the following new member during the month of July 2019: **Joe Vernola and Glen Schechter**

## Wings News Staff

**Publisher:** Ed Reynolds

**Editor:** Judy Reynolds

**Reporters:** Peggy Jean Bassett, Rex Roche and Mike LaVere

**Photographers:** Harlis Brend, Ken Mayer, Larry Kushner, Paul Boghossian, Ed Reynolds, Howard Swerdlick, Allan Hill, and Michael Sugar.

**Video:** Mike LaVere

**Secretaries:** Marion Lovelace & Shirley Andrews

**Reminders:** Connie Hein

**Speakers:** Barney Leone

**Tours:** Warren Weinstein

**Treasurer:** Barry Chapman

**Hats, Shirts & Name Tags:** Howard Swerdlick

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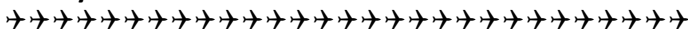
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# New Law Will Allow Thousands More Veterans to Join American Legion

24 Jul 2019, Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

Thousands of honorably discharged veterans will soon be able to join the American Legion under new legislation expected to be signed soon by President Donald Trump.

Under the new law, any honorably discharged veteran who has served since Dec. 7, 1941, may join the American Legion, meaning military veterans who served in what were previously considered periods of peacetime between wars are now eligible for membership.

The Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service, or LEGION, Act -- the first Senate bill sponsored by Arizona Democrat Sen. Kyrsten Sinema to become law -- is designed to recognize veterans who previously couldn't join, such as those who served during the Cold War.

"Expanding Legion membership improves services for veterans across Arizona and honors our brave service members killed or injured during periods of unrecognized war," Sinema said in a statement. "Our bill shows what's possible when we stay focused on getting things done that matter."

As a congressionally chartered organization, eligibility for the country's largest veterans service organization, with nearly two million members, is established by Congress. It had been open to veterans who served during declared wars, such as World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. Prior to this bill, there were seven recognized eligibility periods, beginning with World War I and concluding with the current period, from Aug. 2, 1990, to the present.

"In between those recognized periods of war, during so-called peacetime eras, the United States military has been involved in not fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the United States Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous United States personnel combat casualties," the bill states.

Membership in traditional veterans service organizations has declined over the past several decades as members age and pass away and veterans of recent conflicts have sought out other groups or social organizations.

This year, however, the Veterans of Foreign Wars reversed that trend, adding nearly 25,000 new members, according to VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. And the changes to the American Legion's eligibility may bolster its ranks as well.



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