

Ventura Aviation Career Day and Pt Mugu Airshow

After several years without a face-to-face Ventura County Aviation Career Day, the Ventura County 99s sponsored the STEM Hanger and invited Wings Over Wendy's to have a display at the Pt. Mugu Air Show.

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, a small group of Wings Over Wendy's members set up a display and then manned the display March 17 to 19, 2023



Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds, Erick & Jill Lace, Max Carlise, Bob Donovan, Mike Sugarman. (Larry Kushner was also on the Team)



Photo by Larry Kushner

WOW Picture Presented to Thunderbird CO

(Continued page 2)

Following the Thunderbird practice demonstration on March 16, 2023, Ed Reynolds presented a Wings Over Wendy's group picture to Lt Col Justin Elliott, thanking him for speaking to the group via Zoom on February 6, 2023. He was surprised at the size of the group.



Thunderbirds Diamond Formation



Thunderbirds in tight formation



Blue Angels' tight formation

Photos by Larry Kushner



Blue Angel's Diamond Formation

Lt Dan Band Concert on Saturday, March 18th

Following the Air Show on Saturday, March 18, 2023, Gary Sinise's Lt Dan Band performed. During the concert, Gary called out: *"My good buddy, WWII Veteran Barney Leone is in the crowd!"*



Photo by Tony Cubarrubia

Gary Sinise greeting Barney at the Concert

March 2023

Meetings

March 6, 2023



Celia Barnett Visits Wings Over Wendy's

On March 6, 2023, Celia Barnett, a collector of WWII photographs visited the Wings Over Wendy's meeting to solicit help in identifying the types and designations of aircraft her father photographed during his WWII service.



Photo from Zoom

Veteran Tales: Charlie Mohrle, P-47 Pilot

The featured presentation on March 6, 2023, was the Veterans History Project video of Charlie Mohrle, P-47 Pilot.

Charles D. Mohrle was born in 1921 in Oklahoma City to Charles A. Mohrle and Anne Downey Mohrle of Kansas City; he passed away at his home in Dallas on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at the age of 92. Charlie spent most of his youth in Galveston, Texas, where he graduated from Kirwin High School. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 1 in Galveston and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended the first National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, DC, in 1937.

He was attending UT Austin when he responded to the attack on Pearl Harbor, by volunteering for the Army Air Corps in February 1942. After completion of basic flight training, he was one of the original pilots assigned to the 510th Fighter Squadron, part of the 405th Fighter Group in South Carolina, which entered combat in Christchurch, England in 1943. He completed 97 combat missions flying a P-47 and was highly decorated. Among other recognition, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and 16 Air Medals.

He flew over the beaches of Normandy on D-Day and his Squadron was personally recognized by George S Patton for supporting the Third Army in France.

Following his military service, he rejoined his family in Dallas and worked in the property and casualty insurance business, where he met his future wife, Dorothy Onley. They were married in 1948 at Cathedral Guadalupe. Charlie entered a new career as a commercial artist, studio owner, and ultimately partner in a local advertising agency. He was active in both professional and community organizations, serving as the president of the Advertising Artists Association. He was an active Boy Scout volunteer, serving in many capacities including as Scoutmaster of Troop 43, and was one of the first Explorer Scout Advisers. He drafted the first manual for the organization and operation of an Explorer Post and he was recognized by Circle Ten Council and the National BSA Council for his volunteer service with the Silver Beaver Award. He served on the financial committee at Cathedral Guadalupe and the committee tasked with supervising the renovation of the Cathedral.

After his retirement, he became a volunteer docent at The Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas Love Field, where he has been a fixture for the past 15 years, passing along a love of aviation and his WW II experience to thousands of visitors each year. He was a founding member of the 510th Fighter Squadron Association and created much of the artwork in its history book of WW II.

(Continued page 4)



P-47

One incident that stands out for him happened on a mission when his plane was hit by enemy fire, and he had to crash land behind enemy lines. He managed to get back safely with some help from local citizens who provided shelter for him until Allied forces could rescue him. That experience gave him a newfound appreciation for life and made him realize how precious it is.

Charlie also speaks about what it was like coming home after World War II and the challenges many veterans face upon returning home from war—including feelings of guilt, survivor's guilt, PTSD, depression, etc.

He speaks about how difficult it can be to adjust to civilian life after experiencing combat firsthand. For Charlie, it took time, but eventually, he found solace in his faith, which helped him cope with his wartime memories and allowed him to move forward with his life.



The look of fatigue after 50 missions

His story is one that many veterans can relate to—the struggles of adapting back into civilian life after serving one's country overseas during wartime are not easy ones to overcome. But thanks to projects like the Veterans History Project, we can now preserve these stories so they are never forgotten or overlooked; we can learn from them and gain insight into what our service members went through while defending our freedom abroad during times of war.

Charlie's story reminds us all just how precious life is. We must cherish every moment we have here on earth as human beings united under common causes like peace, freedom, justice, love, and understanding for one another, regardless of our backgrounds or differences.

As long as stories like these continue to be shared, future generations will never forget what our service members sacrificed for us today so that we may live freely tomorrow—and that is worth celebrating!

March 13, 2023

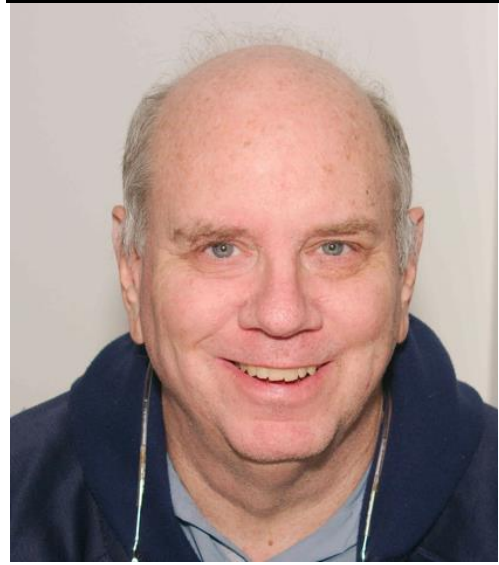


Photo by Larry Kushner

Jim Sommer, *Capt USCG (Retired)* Joins Wings Over Wendy's

On March 13, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's was honored to welcome Jim Sommer, Captain, USCG Retired, to join the group. Jim was a helicopter pilot in the Coast Guard and former Commander of the Terminal Island USCG Station.



James Mee Visits WOW

(Continued page 5)

Also, on March 13, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's was visited by James Mee, as he brought his Father-in-Law, Dick Gross, to the meeting.



Secrets of War: How Rommel Was Outsmarted In North Africa

On March 13, 2023, we watched the Youtube video: *Secrets of War: The Desert Fox: How Rommel Was Outsmarted In North Africa*

During World War II, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was renowned as a brilliant military strategist who seriously threatened Allied forces in North Africa. But how were the British able to outsmart him?

The documentary showed how the British successfully countered Rommel's tactics and strategies and ultimately emerged victorious.

The documentary covers how the Allies used intelligence-gathering techniques and clever strategies to gain an edge over their German opponents. Through interviews with military experts and historians, the documentary explores how intelligence was gathered by both sides, including signals intelligence (SIGINT) and human intelligence (HUMINT). It also looks at how this intelligence was used to inform tactical decisions on the battlefield.

The video examines one particular battle—the Battle of Alam Halfa—which saw Rommel's troops nearly completely surrounded by British forces. Despite his best efforts to break out of the encirclement, he was unsuccessful due to a combination of superior strategy and tactics employed by the British. Through reenactments and archival footage, we were taken through this crucial battle that ultimately saw Rommel's defeat in North Africa.

It also delves into other factors contributing to Rommel's ultimate regional downfall. These include the Allies' superior air power, which allowed them to gain the upper hand over their Axis counterparts, as well as logistical problems faced by Germany due to its limited access to resources in North Africa. Finally, it explores how Hitler's interference in military operations hindered rather than helped Germany's chances of success in North Africa.

March 20, 2023



Photo by Larry Kushner

LAPD Topanga Station Senior Lead Officers Visit Wings Over Wendy's

Jose Fernandez, LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for Woodland Hills, joined SLO Duc Dao on March 20, 2023, to attend the Wings Over Wendy's meeting.

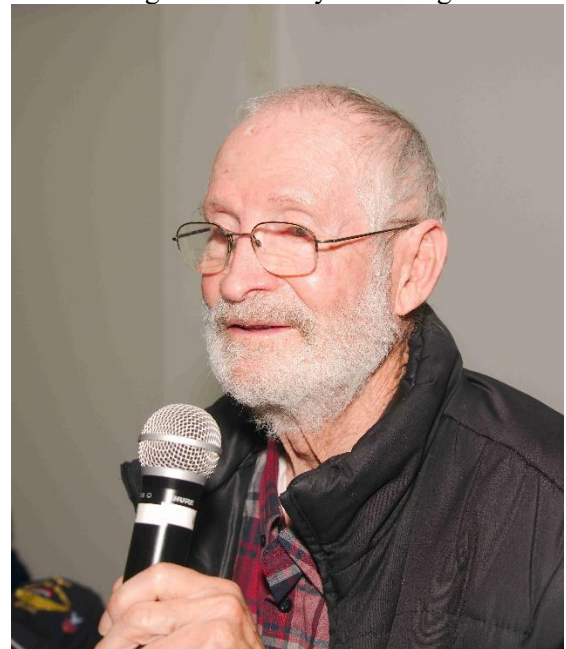


Photo by Larry Kushner

Tom Saegar, Retired American Airlines Pilot Visits WOW

On March 20, 2023, Tom Saegar, a retired American Airlines pilot, visited the Wings Over Wendy's meeting.

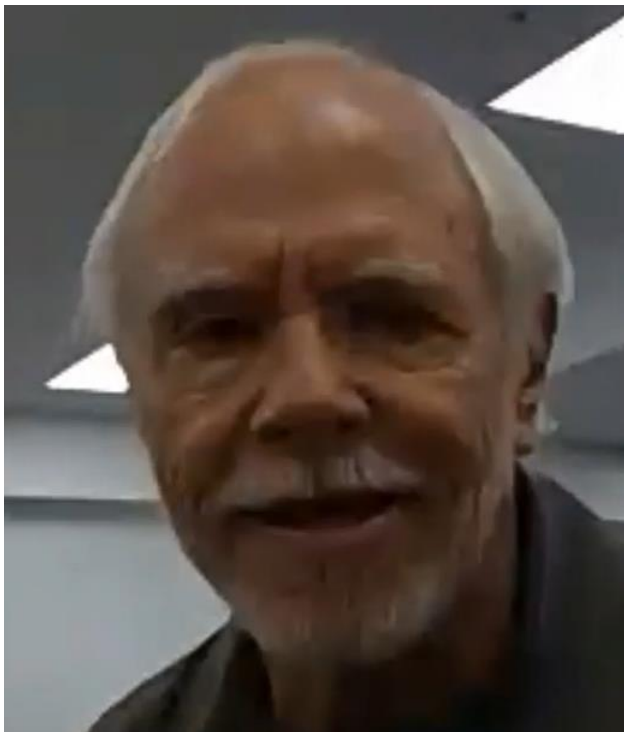


Photo from Zoom

Hillard Harper visits Wings Over Wendys

On March 20, 2023, Hillard Harper, a former USN roommate of Bill Ratner, visited the meeting.



Photo from Zoom

Bob Donovan Reports on Operation Gratitude's 20th Anniversary

Saturday, March 18th, Operation Gratitude celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a party and packing its 4 millionth box.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Steve Dunner Announces Knights of Pythias Speech Competition

At the March 20th meeting, Steve Dunner invited the group to attend the Knights of Pythias Beverly Hills Lodge Speech Contest on Thursday, March 23, 2023 Speech Competition. Wings Over Wendy's members: Dan Pemberton, Max Calise and Lucy Volotzky will serve as judges.



Air Warriors – B24 Liberator | S08E05

(Continued page 7)

On March 20, 2023, we watched the Air Warriors episode “B24 Liberator | S08E05,” which explored the history and technology of this iconic aircraft from its beginnings as an experimental long-range bomber to its eventual deployment in combat operations.

The Air Warriors episode begins with a look at the development of the B24 Liberator. The plane was designed to have unprecedented range, speed, and altitude capabilities compared to other bombers of its time.

It was also designed with a low silhouette profile, making it difficult to detect by radar. The first prototypes were built in 1938, and over 18,000 were produced.

Throughout World War II, the B24 Liberator saw extensive use in Europe as well as in the Pacific theater against Japanese forces. It played a key role in campaigns such as Operation Overlord and Operation Market Garden in Europe. At the same time, in the Pacific, it helped gain air superiority over Japanese forces by providing long-range bombing capability. In total, more than 200 Allied squadrons used this aircraft during WWII.

The documentary included an interview with a navigator of the B-24 Carpet Bager Special Operations unit that dropped weapons to the Belgium underground forces during the war and was key to the capture of Antwerp Harbor. Their mission was kept secret for 50 years to protect the Belgium underground identities.

In addition to exploring all aspects of the B24's design, construction, and usage throughout WWII, Air Warriors details some of its revolutionary technological features for its time. For example, it explains how steels alloyed with magnesium or nickel allowed for lighter-weight materials that could be made thinner than other existing designs.

How engine advances such as turbosuperchargers enabled greater speed and altitude capabilities for longer-range missions over greater distances without refueling or intermediate landings needed. Other technological features explored include navigational aids such as gyroscopic direction finders; defensive measures like remote-controlled gun links operated by gunners inside gun turrets; communication equipment; crew compartments; and deicing systems used on later models through WWII winter operations.

Overall, Air Warriors covers many fascinating aspects of the B24 Liberator aircraft, making it an iconic symbol of our nation's proud aviation history during World War II. Through detailed accounts from veterans who flew these planes during wartime missions and modern-day historians who still study them, viewers gain an appreciation for this incredible piece of technology that served valiantly during some of our nation's most important battles throughout WWII.

March 27, 2023



Photo by Larry Kushner

Paul Swerdlick Joins Wings Over Wendy's

On March 27, 2023, Howard Swerdlick's son Paul joined Wings Over Wendy's.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Nancy Eisenhart as Rosie the Riveter in Recognition of Women's History Month

On March 27, 2023, Nancy Eisenhart attended the meeting, dressed as “Rosie the Riveter” in honor of her mother, a WWII “Rosie the Riveter” in the LA Aircraft Industry.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Maria Rodriguez - The First Women in the Military Services

On March 27, 2023, in honor of Women's History Month, the featured presentation was a talk by Maria Rodriguez about the first women to serve in each of the Military Services.

Maria started her presentation with five facts about Women's History Month.

1. Women's History Month can trace its roots back to 1857. During this time, women from various New York City factories protested poor working conditions.
2. The first Women's Day celebration in the U.S. was in 1909. However, the catalyst for Women's History Month began as a local weeklong celebration in Santa Rosa, California. In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned a celebration that corresponded with International Women's Day, and the movement took off across the country.
3. Women's groups and historians lobbied for national recognition in 1980. In February of that year, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.
4. Congress designated the entire month of March Women's History Month in 1987.
5. Dr. Gerda Lerner, who was a key figure in the fight for this national observance, said: "Women's history is women's right."

Since the armed services were founded, young Americans from across the country taken oaths of service and enlistment to their respective branches. Women are no exception to this.

Before women were allowed to serve in uniform officially, some went to extreme lengths, hiding their gender in order to risk life and limb alongside their male countrymen.

Women have served in the US military from the air, land, and sea; in active and reserve capacities; and from the front lines, and they've been doing it for years.

The first women of each military service: Deborah Sampson, U.S. Army; twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard, U.S. Coast Guard; Opha May Johnson, Marine Corps; Esther McGowin Blake, U.S. Air Force; Loretta Walsh, U.S. Navy (Defense Department)

While the oldest military service in America does not officially state who the first woman to join its ranks was, most historians agree that it was Deborah Sampson.

An indentured servant, Sampson joined the Continental Army in May 1781 -- though some reports place the year at 1782 -- and because women were not permitted to serve in the military, she disguised herself as a man by the name of Robert Shurtliff.

Sampson was injured multiple times, sustaining a saber wound to her head and a gunshot wound to her thigh. According to one source, she allowed a doctor to look at her head wound but removed a musket ball from her thigh by herself for fear that her secret would be discovered if she sought medical attention.

According to a 1975 Army Times story, after Sampson fell gravely ill, her attending physician, Barnabas Binney, discovered her gender but kept it a secret.

However, her ruse would be short-lived. The doctor's niece became enamored with the battle-tested young soldier, and not wanting to lead her on, Sampson wrote a revealing letter, which the woman's uncle showed to the unit's commanding officer.

Gen. George Washington authorized her honorable discharge from the Army, and she returned to her home in Massachusetts in 1784.

Following the advice of patriot Paul Revere, Sampson lectured in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

Sampson died on April 29, 1827, and was buried at Rock Ridge Cemetery in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Her tombstone reads: "Deborah, wife of Benjamin Gannett, dies April 29th, 1827, aged 68 years." The reverse side of her tombstone reads: "Deborah Sampson Gannett, Robert Shurtliff, The Female Soldier Service 1781-1783."

While women served the Coast Guard as far back as the 1830s as civilian lighthouse keepers, it wasn't until World War 1 that they would wear the uniform of their service.

There's some debate between historians as to whether or not the 19-year-old sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker were the first women to join the USCG.

In 1918 the sisters transferred from the Naval Coastal Defense Reserves to the Coast Guard.

(Continued page 9)

However, Myrtle Rae Hazard is the first woman to take the oath of enlistment for her service officially.

Ultimately all three women are Trail Blazers and whether one party is first over another due to a technicality should matter little.

Ask any devil dog who the first female Marine was, and he or she will immediately bark out the words

"Opha Mae Johnson. 1918!"

In 1918, Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy, opened the Marine Corps Reserves to women for service in clerical roles, so battle-ready male Marines could be sent overseas.

By the luck of the draw, Opha Mae Johnson was the first in line among 300 other women and became the first female marine on August 13, 1918. She was 39 years old at the time of her enlistment.

Opha May was born May 4th, 1878, in Kokomo, Indiana. She passed on August 11th, 1955, at the age of 77 in Washington DC. Her years of service were 1918 to 1919 and she achieved the rank of Sergeant in the US Marine Corps.

Her grave remained unmarked until in 2017, the Women Marines Association began raising funds to place a marker that celebrated 100 years of Women Marines on August 29th, 2018. It's a beautiful monument located in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington DC. It reads OPHA MAY JACOB JOHNSON Sergeant USMC World War I.

The first women to serve in the Navy belonged to the US Navy Nurse Corps, which was established on May 13th, 1908. The first 20 nurses earned the nickname THE SACRED 20 and were assigned to duty at The US Naval Hospital In Washington, DC. for initial training.

There, Esther Hasson, the Superintendent, and Lenah Higbee, The Chief Nurse and 18 other women resided. The Navy did not provide room and board for them, so the nurses rented their own accommodations and provided their own meals.

Shortly after the formation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery campaigned to create a 'similar organization'. The women were required to be between the ages of 22 and 44, to be citizens of the United States, and could not be married. So, in 1908, they were chosen from various nursing schools and had training across a broad range of nursing skills.

The nurses were subsequently assigned to hospitals in Washington, New York City, Norfolk, and Annapolis for supervised duty. Later assignments were expanded to other cities, including Philadelphia and Puget Sound. Overseas, US naval hospitals were built in Guam, Samoa, and the Philippines where some of the Sacred Twenty served. By the end of World War I, the ranks of the Navy Nurse Corps had increased to 1,386. If any of you have spent time in a naval hospital you have the Army Nurse Corps to thank for your care.

Loretta Perfectu.s Walsh (April 22, 1896 -August 6,

1925) became the first American active-duty Navy woman, the first woman to enlist in the U.S. Navy, and the first woman allowed to serve as a woman in any of the United States armed forces, when she enlisted as a sailor in the U.S. -Naval Reserve on March 17, 1917. Walsh subsequently became the first woman U.S. Navy petty officer when she was sworn in as Chief Yeoman on March 21, 1917.

In memory of Walsh and her bold actions on March 21, 1917, the official History program of the Department of the Navy, the Navel Historical Center identifies March 21, 1917, as a date in American navel history. In 2821 the USS Constitution 24-pound long guns were name Perfectus in her honor.

Esther Blake was already a veteran of the Army Air Forces and was the first woman to enlist for regular Air Force duty when service within the newly founded branch was authorized for women on July 8, 1948.

Esther McGowin Blake was born in Alabama in 1897 and passed away in 1979 at the age of 81. Esther enlisted on the first minute of the first hour of the first day when women were permitted into US Air Force duty when it was authorized for women July 8, 1948.

Esther's reasons for joining the Air Force were very personal. She closed her desk as a civilian employee at the Miami Air Depot and joined the Women's Army Air Corps when she was notified her oldest son a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot had been shot down over Belgium and was reported missing. Her younger son was quoted as saying that her reason for joining was the hope of helping free a soldier from clerical work to fight, thus speeding the end of the war. During the months and years that followed Blake saw both of her sons return home from combat with only minor wounds and many decorations.

She remained active with the Air Force until 1954 when she separated due to disability. After separation she worked as a civil service employee at the Veterans Regional Headquarters in Montgomery Alabama until her death in 1979. She served for 10 years as a Staff Sergeant. Esther Mc Gowin Blake was a true female patriot.

Following her discussion on the first women to serve in each branch of the military, Maria then brieded us on her family's connection to the military.

On her father's side there were three brothers, Gaetano known as Thomas, Carmelo known as Charles and Vincenzo known as Vinny. Vinny was her dad.

Thomas was born in 1910 in Palermo, Sicily. He was drafted in September 1942. At the time he was living in Santa Paula after relocating from Brooklyn to California. He joined the US Navy and was in the Navy from 1942 to 1945.

Tom was a strong many. He was twice the wrestling champ of the US Navy. Later in life, he became a lay minister and built the Mens Rescue Mission in Oxnard. He preached the Gospel every Sunday at the local Jail.

(Continued page 10)

The last of the three brothers was Vincent Fragario, Maria's dad. My dad received his greetings letter the same as his two brothers but was classified as 4F.



Ray wanted to join the US Air Force but was told he had to wait six months before he could enlist. He enlisted in the Army instead. He was fresh out of high school and wanted to see the world; it was October 7th, 1958.

In June of 1960 he was awarded Soldier of the Month, Ray's last assignment was HQ Company USAG at Boussac, France. APO 215.

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In Other News



Photo by Larry Kushner
WOW at ONEgeneration




at an
“Honoring Their Service”
 event

Wednesday
March 29th, 2023

1:00 - 2:30pm
 includes time for refreshments

ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center
 18255 Victory Boulevard
 Reseda, CA 91335



FREE lunch provided for those 60 & over from 11:30 - 12:30

click [HERE](#) for
 (free) registration

OR

copy/paste/type URL into browser
bit.ly/VNCommem2023



**NATIONAL
 VIETNAM WAR
 VETERANS DAY**

29 March

*Join the Nation
 ... thank a
 Vietnam veteran!*

info@mindfulveteranproject.org
 818.616.2931
www.mindfulveteranproject.org

Mindful Veteran Project's "Honoring Their Service" Event

On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 29 March, the Mindful Veteran Project hosted a free lunch and awards program at the ONEgeneration Senior Enrichment Center. The Vietnam Veterans that pre-registered for the event received a Certificate of Appreciation from Congressman Tony Cárdenas and a goodie bag from the Mindful Veteran Project

Higher cancer rates found in military pilots, ground crews

By TARA COPP March 19, 2023

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon study has found high rates of cancer among military pilots and for the first time has shown that ground crews who fuel, maintain and launch those aircraft are also getting sick.

(Continued page 11)

Isolating potential causes is difficult, and the Pentagon was careful to note that this study “does not imply that military service in air crew or ground crew occupations causes cancer, because there are multiple potential confounding factors that could not be controlled for in this analysis,” such as family histories, smoking or alcohol use.

**First All-Space Force
Flight Graduates from
Officer Training School**

That team excelled in training, winning OTS's

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David W. Allvin told Air & Space Forces Magazine that top leaders are working the problem. Leaders late last year “put a team together to ensure that we are evaluating all of the things that we do to make sure we’re not unintentionally placing barriers [in front of] Americans who might want to join our formation,” Allvin said. (Continued page13)

The Barriers to Service Cross-Functional Team launched then. Now, with the Air Force facing a potential 10 percent recruiting shortfall in the Active-duty component—and even more in the Guard and Reserve—Allvin is leading the team, pushing for faster results.

“The numbers weren’t recovering as fast as we’d like,” Allvin said. “This team had already been formed, but I was called in to sort of help accelerate it.”

Now dubbed a Tiger Team, it consists of a “core” group of 10 to 15 leaders supported by almost 400 others, enabling leaders to tackle multiple efforts at once.

“We have Space Force representation, Air Force representation, military staff here on the Air Staff, the civilian staff as well, the major commands, of course [Air Education and Training Command] and the 2nd Air Force and the Air Force Recruiting Service,” Allvin said.

What barriers the team chooses to tackle are largely driven by suggestions from recruiters and data showing which problems affect the biggest swathes of recruits. Many of the proposed solutions didn’t actually come from the Tiger Team, he noted.

“They were making their way through the process,” Allvin said. The team chose some to accelerate “and see if we can’t get them done in days and weeks.”

Two such solutions have already been put into place, and more are coming.

Tattoos

The Air Force announced in early March new tattoo policies permitting one tattoo of no more than an inch per hand, in addition to the previously allowed “ring” tattoos, and one tattoo of no more than one inch on the neck.

The Air Force Recruiting Service’s data showed that tattoos were among the top reasons potential recruits get turned away: roughly 1,300 per year, Allvin said. Meanwhile, the Navy—and even the Space Force—had different, more lenient policies.

The Air Force had previously made it easier for recruiting commanders to approve waivers for hand tattoos, with AFRS commander Maj. Gen. Edward W. Thomas Jr. saying he had personally approved dozens based on pictures sent to his phone. Now the need for such waivers is gone, Thomas confirmed at the AFA Warfare Symposium.

“America is changing,” Thomas said. “And those applicants coming to us are changing. We’ve got to be able to adapt. We were literally turning away highly qualified applicants because of a small tattoo that was between their fingers and we were saying, ‘I wish we could make you an American Airman. But why don’t you walk next door to United States Navy, and they’ll be happy to enlist you.’”

Recruiting Incentives

Just a few days after the tattoo policy change, the Air Force announced it was bringing back the Enlisted College Loan Repayment Program, which helps enlisted recruits pay back student debt up to \$65,000 after an absence of

nearly a decade.

“We get a twofer out of it,” Allvin said. “We get to attract Americans, we can offer an incentive and have them really come into our formation and frankly, if they’ve got some level of college for which they have debt, that means we get a pretty well-educated cohort.”

The Air Force is also expanding the career fields in which incoming qualified recruits can receive enlistment bonuses. The new list will be released soon, An Air Force spokeswoman said.

To fund the two programs, the Air Force reprogrammed \$15 million for the loan repayments and \$25 million for the enlistment bonuses.

Still other changes are in the works, Allvin said.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense, alongside the services, is looking to revive an accelerated pathway to naturalization for immigrants at Basic Military Training.

“We have people who are here, who aren’t citizens yet but are willing to serve and die for this country,” Allvin said. “So the idea of being able to accelerate the naturalization process, the goal will be by the time they will complete [BMT] that they can become fully naturalized.”

That broader Pentagon effort is still ongoing, but the Department of the Air Force, alongside other departments, have signed a memorandum of understanding with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to start the process and are working on the logistical and procedural hurdles to make it happen.

Other efforts include providing more flexibility on the documents recruits need to make it through the enlistment process, Allvin said.

“When I came in forever ago, it made sense that there was a large percentage of our force that would require driver’s licenses for the things that we would do,” Allvin said. “It would almost be an assumption. So if you don’t have a driver’s license for these things, then we really can’t take you in the service. Which was OK when just about everybody, or a large percentage, had driver’s licenses. But these days because of the lack of a demand for it, with better public transportation or the advent of other capabilities that weren’t available before. Plus, there’s some access issues. There may be folks who are in the inner city who can use public transportation or don’t have the means or the access—it doesn’t mean they don’t want to serve the country.”

Those longer-term issues can be complicated, Allvin said, by different requirements across different states or bureaucratic hurdles—one of the issues that Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. has highlighted as part of his “Accelerate Change or Lose” action orders. And so the Tiger Team will stay in place “for the next several months at least,” Allvin said. “it’s very clear, it’s very tangible,” Allvin said. “Every week that we don’t do one of these things, you can count the number of Americans that are coming in that we’re having to turn away.”

Monday Zoom Meeting Agenda

The URL is always the same:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/661372701?pwd=NEZCWjlMUTArRW1tREtWUWRLNmpDOT09>

- Meet & Greet starts at 8:00 am.
- The formal meeting starts at 9:30 am.
- Visitors and guests interviewed about 9:40 am.
- The presentation starts around 10 am

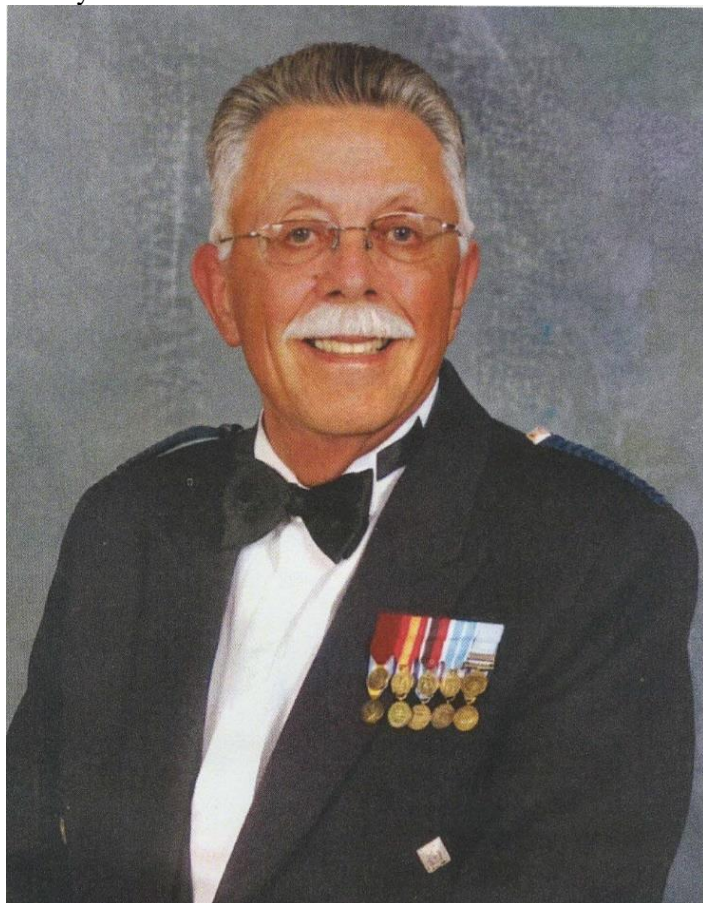
Meeting ID: 661 372 701

Password: 200220

THE MEETING ID and PASSWORD DO NOT CHANGE

Memoriam

During the month of March 2023 Wings Over Wendy's had one member "Sail West".



Gerald “Jerry” Lief
08/29/1933 – 03/13/2023

Gerald Murry Lief was born to Harry and Shirley Lief on August 29, 1933, in Brooklyn, NY. He was the second of four children.

Gerald had fond childhood memories of riding the subways and the El; going to Coney Island; eating Nathan's hot dogs; and spending time amongst his numerous cousins, aunts and uncles, and of his maternal grandparents.

Jerry, as his friends and family called him, retained a lifelong allegiance to all things Brooklyn, and never forgave the Dodgers for abandoning their fans at Ebbets Field; he professed to have lost all interest in baseball after his team moved to Los Angeles.

After graduation from New Utrecht High School in 1951, with the Korean War raging, Gerald had a discussion with his father about military service; his father, a veteran of the U.S. Horse Cavalry from before WWI through the 1920s, told Gerald that service in the trenches promised mud, rats, lice, and cold food, whereas the Navy would give him a bunk, fresh water, and four hot meals a day.

Gerald took his father's advice to heart and enlisted in the United States Navy, beginning a lifelong love affair with the ocean and the naval service. He served aboard the USS Passumpsic (AO-107), a fleet oiler, in the Sea of Japan, and aboard the USS Burton Island (AG-88), an icebreaker, making a record-breaking journey to the Arctic, documented in Life Magazine.

His battle station was manning a five-inch gun mount, and the blast from the weapon played a big part in Jerry's hearing loss over the ensuing years.

Although he'd considered a career in the Navy, Jerry suffered a serious medical condition while aboard ship, one that prevented him from reenlisting to his everlasting regret.

After receiving his honorable discharge, Jerry returned to Brooklyn and entered college to become a pharmacist. After graduation Jerry moved to Los Angeles where he worked as a pharmacist for L.A. County.

Jerry passed away Monday, March 13, with his family at his side and he was buried with military honors on Friday, March 17, at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park, in Los Angeles.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jane; son and daughter-in-law Michael and Rebekah Lief of Ventura, CA; daughter April Lief of Studio City, CA; daughter and son-in-law Tracey and Rick Watson of Woodland Hills, CA; son Kevin Wolfson of Los Angeles, CA; and grandchildren Alexander, Ethan, Addison, Brecken, Harrison, William, and Elizabeth.

A horizontal line of 20 small, stylized airplane icons flying to the right, used as a section separator.

Wings Over Wendy's Future Events:



**MOAA/MOWW CHAPTER MEETING
19 April 2023**



Our speaker for this month is John Blankenship. John graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. He was drafted that year and earned his Navy Wings of Gold in 1967. He played All-Navy volleyball for 2 years. He flew the P-3 Orion and was stationed in Iwakuni, Japan; Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, and Adak, Alaska. He has flown 13 different aircraft with over 6,000 hours. He and his wife Hazel live in Montecito. He is currently the Director of the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation.

The title of his presentation is
"America Strikes Back--
The Battle for Guadalcanal 1942."

Date: Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Check in starts at 5:30

Buffet line starts at 6:30

Program starts at 7:30

RSVP to Dan Pemberton at dhpinto@aol.com
or 805-807-7788

NLT 14 April

Los Robles Greens Banquet Center
299 S. Moorpark Road,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Cost is \$30 payable by check or cash at the door.



20th Anniversary Year
9409 Owensmouth Ave, Chatsworth

April 15th

Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

Sign up to attend @

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/events/los-angeles-fob-assembly-day/>

Prayers

Unfortunately, several of our most active members are at home, recuperating from their injuries or illnesses.

Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings:

Marion Lovelace

New Members & Guests

We welcomed the following new members and guests to the March 2023 meetings:

James Mee

Jim Sommer

April Birthdays

Thomas Maiden	April 04, 1949
Mark Ax	April 07, 1949
Jim McMichael	April 09, 1955
Richard Burns	April 11, 1927
Marion Lovelace	April 16, 1927
Margot Marty	April 16, 1991
Larrie Rhodes	April 20, 1943
Tom Bates	April 21, 1940
Connie Hein	April 24, 1947
Morris Litwack	April 24, 1941
Andy Kopetzky	April 25, 1951
Glenn Shindler	April 25, 1942
Joseph Mueller	April 26, 1949

Wings News Patrons

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

David Alvarez	Lee Ambers
Steve Andersen	Dave Anderson
Lillian Anderson	Shirley Andrews
Lee Auger	Phil Aune
Mark Ax	Peggy Jean Bassett
Tom Bates	Bob Bermant
Karl Boeckmann	Thyra Boeckmann
Ron Boggess	Paul Boghossian
John Boiko	Rod Boyce
Richard Burns	Marge Callahan
Michael Castro	Barry Chapman
Harvey Cohen	Bob Donovan
Ricard Dunner	Steve Dunner
Jan Edwards	Bob Eisenhart
Mike Emch	Nancy Emch
David Freeman	David Greenberg
Carter Greene	Richard Gross
Marilyn Hauck	Peter Helm
Richard Hernandez	Abe Hoffman
Neil Houston	Manny Iglesias
Carol Jensen	Fred Kaplan
Steve Klausner	Jerry Knotts
Andy Kopetzky	Erick Lace
Robert Lanthier	Robert Lee
Barney Leone	Hillard Lewinson
Howard Lewis	Vivian Lewis
Martin Light	Morris Litwack
Marion Lovelace	Barry Maiten
Ethel Margolin	Claude Maugein
Shannon Muchow	Dan Pemberton
Maurice Portnoy	Richard Raskoff
Bill Ratner	Ed Reynolds
Rosalie Rifkin	Maria Rodriguez
Ray Rodriguez	Andy Romanisky
Earl Roth	Esther Roth
Stanley Salmore	Bruce Schultz
Sam Schultz	Jim Sivazlian
Doc Stafford	Dave Steinbacher
Bob Stiles	Alice Stone
Howard Swardlick	Rob Swihart
Bill Tapp	David Tostenson
Karen Vegtcl	Karen Velarde
Tony Velarde	Lucie Volotsky
Joe Weber	Jimmy Weldon

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Wings Staff

Publisher: Ed Reynolds
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Tours: Barry Chapman
Events: Erick Lace, Maria Rodriguez
Treasurer: Barry Chapman
Hats & Shirts: Bob Bermant
Name Tags: Ed Reynolds
Raffle Tickets: Fred Kaplan, Lee Ambers
Decorations: Fred Kaplan, Bill Ratner
Technical Assistance: Charles Scott
Coffee & Donut Crew: Barry Chapman, Mark Ax
Tim & Karen Velarde, Rod Boyce, David Greenburg
Room Set-up Crew: David Greenburg, Fred Kaplan,
Ron Boggess, Bill Ratner, Lee Auger

[illegible]

ANA Meetings

MOAA/MOWW Meetings

Non WOW Events

Operation Gratitude Events


WOW Events/Tours

WOW Meetings

WOW Events Calendar Additions

Because of Wings Over Wendy's members' high participation in their events, the **teamup.com WOW Events Calendar** has been extended to include: ANA Meetings, MOAA/MOWW Meetings, and Operation Gratitude Events.

The key is: **kswpdaeovnb1jans4**



Reminder

Wings Over Wendy's monthly food drive is Monday, April 3rd

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For Help with your Zoom Connection

Contact: Charles Scott

(818) 448-1737

pcinfoman@gmail.com

The WOW Zoom Equipment GoFundMe account link
is: gf.me/u/x9pst6.

Charles has offered to help Wings Over Wendy's
members with their computer problems for FREE.



Richie Mills
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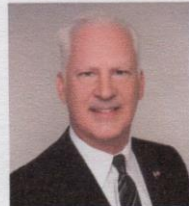
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