



HEWS

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Wings Over Wendy's Vietnam Veterans Honored



National Defense Service Medal,

Vietnam Service Medal,

Vietnam Campaign Medal

April 2025 marked the 50th year since the fall of Saigon, which took place on April 30, 1975, marking the end of the Vietnam War. The above ribbons represent medals awarded to each member of the US Armed Forces who served in Vietnam The National Defense Service Medal is awarded to all military personnel who served during the periods of armed conflict or national emergency. The Vietnam Service Medal is presented to service members who served during the Vietnam War, specifically between July 4, 1965, and March 28, 1973, in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, or Thailand, or their airspace, if they were in direct support of operations in Vietnam. The Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese award given to allied forces for service in the Vietnam War. Specifically, it was awarded to those who served a minimum of six months in South Vietnam or those who provided direct combat support from outside the country.

Many organizations throughout the area held events commemorating Vietnam Veterans. On March 29, 2025, David Alvarez, Mark Ax, Ron Boggess, John Cromwell, Bob Donovon, Bob Eisenhart, Gordon Fell, Bill Garland, Glenn Gates, Richard Hernandez, Fred Kaplan, Victor Korechoff, Larry Kushner, Erick Lace, Ed LeBlanc, Chuck Mathews, Bill Ratner, Ed Reynolds, Ray Rodriguez, Andy Romanisky, Ronald Roscoe, Bruce Schultz, and Bruce Wiener, were honored at a Mindful Veteran Project event. John Wordin, "JW," founder of Life Aid Research Institute, arranged for the following individual honors:

- Bruce Wiener, on March 28, 2025, as the Military Hero of a Dodger Baseball Game.
- Vic Korechoff, on April 2, 2025, as the Military Hero of a Dodger Baseball Game.
- Bruce Wiener, on April 22, 2025, as the Military Hero of a Kings Hockey Game.
- Bob Donovan on April 29, 2025, as the Military Hero of a Kings Hockey Game.

Bob Donovan and Ed Reynolds were honored on the Honor Flight to Washington. DC, on April 25-27, 2025, and numerous other organizations throughout the area held events to honor Vietnam veterans.

Many Wings Over Wendy's members have served in the military prior to and after the Vietnam War and did not experience the negative reaction that Vietnam Veterans experienced upon returning to the United States from overseas or just by being identified as a military veteran. Now, after 50 years, they are receiving the recognition they deserve for accepting the responsibility of the oath they took when they entered the service.

April 2025 Meetings

<u> April 7, 2025</u>

San Fernando Valley Gold Star Deaths of the Vietnam War



San Fernando Valley Gold Star Deaths of the Vietnam War

On April 7, 2025, Ed Barkett, president of the Canoga Owens Mount Historical Society, gave a presentation on San Fernando Valley Gold Star deaths from the Vietnam War.

Ed started his talk with a review of the San Fernando Valley War Dead in the last wars.

WWI: 21
 WWII: 509
 Korean War: 21
 Vietnam War: 336

Ed then listed many of the Vietnam deaths.

USA SF Capt Harry G. Cramer, Jr.

- The first American death in Vietnam
- 10/12/1957: training ARVN SF. Died in a training accident
- First West Pointer to die in the Vietnam War.
- *Note: Originally considered the first American to die in the Vietnam War.

USA Major Dale Buis

- 7/8/1959: Died in Viet Minh attack at Bien Hoa with MSgt Ovnand.
- First Californian to die in the Vietnam War.

USAF 1LT Richard L. Hatlestad

• 4/12/1963: Crashed and died at Royal Thai AB.

• First SFV man and the first City of LA man to die under NHD in the Vietnam War.

USAF 1LT Arthur E. "Skip" Bedal

- 8/16/1963: KIA when the wing on the B-26 bomber broke off (mechanical failure/wing spar failure) while supporting ARVN soldiers.
- First SFV man and the first City of LA man KIA in South Vietnam.

USA Sp 5/C William Albert Reid

- 2/16/1964: Died in a bomb explosion by Viet Cong in the Capital Kinh-Do movie theater in Saigon.
- First SFV Army man to die.

Navy PO 1/C James Irving Pratt

- 2/25/1965: NHD helicopter crash in China Sea in Military Region I.
- The body was not recovered.
- First Navy man to die from SFV

Navy PO 3/C William H. Amspacher

- 6/2/1965: KIA, on a search and rescue off the coast of North Vietnam - Crashed on land
- 7/13/1988: Body returned.
- First man from SFV and City of LA to be KIA in North Vietnam

USMC PFC Ronald H. McNees

- 6/5/1965: KIA in Quang Nam Pr.
- First Marine to die from the SFV

USA Sgt Elmer Frederick "Fred" "Cool Wig" Kenney

- 7/11/1967: KIA with four other soldiers while on a regular search and destroy mission in Long An Pr. (Recon squad ambushed).
- YouTube video: "Cool Wig," by Bill Reynolds, 4:09 min.

USA Sp 4/C Philip "Phil" A. Ferro

• KIA with Kenney.

USA Sgt James Paul Arraiz

• 7/29/1967: KIA in Dinh Tuong Pr.

USMC Cpl William T. Perkins, Jr.

- 10/12/1967: KIA in Quang Tri Pr. during Operation Medina.
- He fell on a grenade to save four Marines.
- The first SFV man awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam
- First combat photographer ever awarded the Medal of Honor.
- YouTube video: "Rochester's Forgotten Hero; Medal of Honor Recipient William Perkins," 3:05 min.

(Continued page 3)

USMC Cpl Richard A. Rumley

• 1/8/1968: NHD with 44 other Marines. The helicopter was off course in fog and slammed into a mountainside near Hue in Thua Thien Pr.

USMC LCpl Arthur Bustamente

• 1/13/1968: KIA in ambush by NVA while on convoy security in Quang Tri Pr.

USMC Cpl Callen "Cal" J. Courtemanche

- 1/31/1968: KIA in Quang Tri Pr.
- First SFV man to die in the Tet Offensive

USMC Cpl Larry L. Maxam

- 2/1/1968: KIA in Quang Tri Pr. during Operation Kentucky.
- The second SFV man was awarded the Medal of Honor.
- YouTube video: "Captain Richard Weede, USMC, Discusses Vietnam and CPL. Larry Maxam," 5:32 min.

USA PFC Douglas Duane McMahon

• 4/5/1968: KIA in Kien Hoa Pr.

USA Sgt Bruce Joseph Torturici

4/5/1968: KIA in Kien Hoa Pr.

USA MG Keith L. Ware

- 9/13/1968: KIA when command helicopter shot down.
- *Note: Second general officer to die in Vietnam War.
- **Note: WWII Medal of Honor as CO of 1/15th Inf Regt.
- ***First SFV Medal of Honor awardee.

Navy 1LT Larry J. Stevens

- 2/14/1969: MIA was shot down on a night mission near Tchepone, Laos.
- Beeper heard "five to ten seconds."
- Mother Gladys Fleckenstein was a leader in the MIA/POW movement.

USA Capt Benjamin Bugarin

• 4/27/1969: KIA in Hau Nghia Pr.

USMC PFC Jimmy W. Phipps

- 5/27/1969: Died while attached to C Co when defusing an enemy artillery shell under hostile conditions in Arizona Territory near An Hoa in Quang Nam Pr.
- The third SFV man awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War
- YouTube video: "US Marine Corps Jimmy Phipps-Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient," 59 sec.

USN Seaman James W. Kerr

- 6/3/1969 at 3 a.m. between Vietnam and the Spratly Islands collision with an Australian aircraft carrier HMS Melbourne while on maneuvers.
- USS Evans bow was cut off and sank in two minutes. Seventy men lost.
- *Note: None are on the Vietnam War Wall.

USN LCDR John G. Graf

- 11/15/1969: MIA over Vinh Binh Pr.
- POW: Died while escaping the fourth time.

USA SFC Carl W. Crowe

• 5/26/1970: First man from SFV KIA in Cambodia.

USA SF Sgt Gary M. Rose

- DSC, then Medal of Honor on 10/23/2017.
- Fourth SFV to be awarded the Medal of Honor
- YouTube video: "Medic Under Siege: The Unstoppable Bravery of Gary Michael Rose"

Army SF SSgt Dale W. Dehnke

- 5/18/1971: On his birthday, Dehnke, the SF men, and 1 Nung KIA near Laos.
- The pickup helicopter was shot down. The copilot was KIA, and the other 3 crew members survived

Army SF MSgt Don R. Gilbreth

- 9/14/1971: KIA jeep ran over a land mine in Quang Nam Pr.
- Last SFV Army man to die in war.

USMC Cpl Luis "Louie" Alonzo

- 8/1/1972: KIA from rocket attack at Bien Hoa Airbase in Bien Hoa Pr.
- Last SFV Marine to die in war

USAF Major Warren R. Spencer

• 12/20/1972: MIA in air crash over North Vietnam during Operation Linebacker II (Dec 18 to 29).

USN LT (jg) Robert A. Clark

- 1/10/1973: MIA over North Vietnam.
- Last SFV Navy man to die in war.

SFV POW's Released

USAF Capt Donald K. Logan of Northridge. GHHS grad.



Navy LT George P. Swain of Montrose and USAF 1LT Brian Seek of Encino. NDHS grad.



(Continued page 4)

Operation Baby Lift (4/3 to 4/26/1975)

USAF SSgt Michael Paget

Elizabeth Fujino of Los Angeles.

• 4/4/1975: Died aboard a C-54 that crashed.

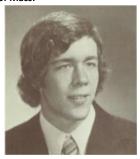
USAF SSgt Donald T. Dionne

• 4/9/1975: DOI from crash of C-54 on 4/4/1975.

Last US men to die in So. Vietnam (Tan Son Nhut AFB, Saigon) on 4/29/1975

USMC Cpl Charles McMahon, Jr., of Mass.

USMC LCpl Darwin L. Judge of lowa.





Last SFV Gold Star Death of the Vietnam War

USAF Airman 1/C Robert P. Mathias of Granada Hills.



- Granada Hills
- · Granada Hills H. S. grad '71.
- 56th Sec Police Sqdn, 56th Sp Ops Wing, 7th AF.
- 5/13/1975: Died in helicopter crash with 22 other USAF men in Thailand near Laotian border.
- *Note: The Pentagon lied that the flight of the helicopter was not connected to any efforts to free the crewmen of the Mayaguez.
- BSM.
- Last SFV USAF man to die in war.

Last California men to die (helicopter shot down) near Koh Tang

USMC PFC Richard W. Rivenburgh of San Diego, CA.







Last Americans to die in Southeast Asia in May 1975

USMC LCpl Joseph N. Hargrove of NC shot on 5/16/1975. Captured and shot 5/16/1975.



His brother Army PFC Lane K. Hargrove KIA on 4/21/1968 in Vietnam.



Murdered on 5/29/1975 in Cambodia

USMC Pvt Danny G. Marshall of West Virginia.



USMC PFC Gary L. Hall of Kentucky.



SFV Men Missing in Action

USN O-2 James A. Beene of Burbank, MIA 10/15/1966 over No. Vietnam.

USA E-4 William M. Copley of Northridge, MIA 11/13/1968 in Laos.

USA E-5 Lawrence J. Englander of Van Nuys, MIA 5/2/1968 in South Vietnam.

USMC E-2 Edward L. Krausman of Burbank, MIA 3/16/1968 in South Vietnam.

USN LT Larry J. Stevens of Woodland Hills, MIA 2/14/1969 over Laos.

USAF 1sLt John Weger, Jr., of San Fernando, MIA 10/22/1965 over South Vietnam.

Sources for Research

- Vietnam War Virtual Wall.
- Wall of Faces.
- Honor States.
- Van Nuys Valley News, etc.
- Los Angeles Times.
- The Men on the Memorial: Biographies of the men listed on the Montrose Vietnam Memorial (pdf).
- Burbank Veterans Memorial Book (pdf).
- FamilySearch.org.
- Various SFV high schools.

April 14, 2025

THE TESLA EXPERIMENT

The Mysteries of Nikola Tesla

On April 14, 2025, due to the High School Holiday break, the meeting was conducted at the Canoga Park Elks Club. The presentation was titled "*The Mysteries of Nikola Tesla*."

The video narrators presented a detailed overview of Nikola Tesla's life and work, highlighting his genius and contributions to electricity and technology.



They discuss Tesla's rivalry with Edison, his development of alternating current, and his vision for wireless power transmission. The video narrator also mentions Tesla's claims of receiving extraterrestrial communications and his work on anti-gravity devices.

The video narrators explore theories that Tesla may have been influenced by or in contact with extraterrestrial beings and suggest that otherworldly sources could have inspired his advanced ideas and inventions.

Tesla allowed the world to be electrified, and not only that, he brought electricity from being just a useful thing to becoming a universal thing that could be used throughout society.

Nikola Tesla is one of the most amazing genius humanities has ever had. His ideas went far and beyond what was accepted at the time. If it hadn't been for Tesla, we would have been living in very different times.

Nikola Tesla not only efficiently electrified the world, but His legacy includes groundbreaking work on electric railroads, fluorescent and neon lights, wireless radio communications, X-ray remote control, turbine engines, speedometers, helicopters, and even tornadoes.

By the time of his death, Tesla held nearly 700 wide patents. He was one of the world's greatest inventors. He was like Leonardo da Vinci, come on, a Futurist, and he was able to do incredible things.

During Nikola Tesla's time, the Industrial Revolution was firmly taking hold.

Steam and coal-powered factories replaced manual labor, and extensive railway networks transformed society.

But this extraordinary innovation came at a price with complete disregard for the environment. Nikola Tesla said that there was a difference between progress and technology.

Progress benefits mankind. Technology does not necessarily do that. If you have a technology that is polluting the planets, that's not progress. But just how is it that Nikola Tesla was so far ahead of his time?

For decades. The forward-thinking inventor

man shrouded in mystery, has fascinated scholars and researchers. Tesla came from a very strange area, actually wasn't too far from Transylvania. He was tall and thin, he spoke 11 or 12 different languages, and he made fantastic inventions and performed fantastically. So he had this mystique about him. Nikola Tesla was born at a time that coincidentally coincides with an ancient Zoharic prophecy that speaks about the opening of the gates of wisdom upon the earth. And who was born at this time Nikola Tesla?

The presentation concludes by questioning whether Tesla's work was part of a larger plan to advance human technology and if his full potential was realized.

April 21, 2025



Photos by Larry Kushner

Randy Silverman Joins Wings Over Wendy's

(Continued page 6)

April 21, 2025, US Army veteran Randy Silverman from Westlake Village attended the meeting as we returned to the El Camino Charter High School North Campus Auditorium. Randy served in the 1st Calvery Division and 1st Infantry from 1962 to 68.



Photos by Larry Kushner

Joe Guevara Joins Wings Over Wendy's

On April 21, 2025, US Army Vietnam veteran Joe Guevara joined Wings Over Wendy's. Joe lives in Agoura Hills and served from 1969 to 1971 as a Ouartermaster.



Photos by Larry Kushner

Brad Uselmann Joins Wings Over Wendy's

On April 21, 2025, USAF veteran Brad Uselmann attended a meeting after a fifteen-year absence. Brad now has the time to attend Monday meetings. He served as a B-52G Crew Chief at Castle AFB from 1986 to 1990. Welcome back, Brad.



Photos by Larry Kushner

Marissa Wu Visits Wings Over Wendy's

Karen Velarde's Daughter, Marissa Wu, visited Wings Over Wendy's on April 21st and helped serve the donuts.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Larry Flys with Max

On April 21, 2025, Larry Kushner showed photographs he had taken during a flight from Van Nuys Airport with Max Carlisle from the local area.

(Continued page 7)



Photos by Larry Kushner

They flew past the Griffith Observatory, the Hollywood Sign, Pierce College, the Santa Monica Pier, the Pacific Palisades burned-out area, and the Pacific Coast Highway, showing the destruction in the area.



Photos by Larry Kushner

From the Hollywood sign, they flew over Pierce College and the Santa Monta Pier.

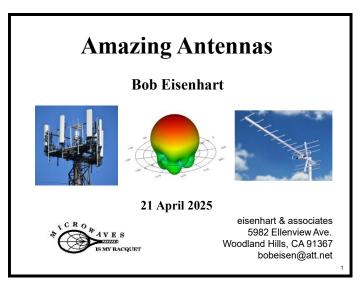


Photos by Larry Kushner

From the pier, they flew over the Pacific Palisades burned-out area, showing us the destruction of the area.



Photos by Larry Kushner
The destruction along the Pacific Coast Highway.



Amazing Antennas

On April 21st, Bob Eisenhart gave a presentation on "Amazing Antennas."

Bob started his presentation by informing us that we are totally inundated by radiation from everything electrical. Fortunately, the levels are very low.

He then defined an Antenna that transforms electrical energy into "Electromagnetic" energy, which is commonly referred to as "Radiation." With antennas, you create this Radiation on purpose. Antennas are reciprocal in that they also can receive radiation and turn it back into electrical energy.

Bob then discussed the history and development of antennas, focusing on their ability to convert electrical energy into electromagnetic energy. He highlighted the work of Maxwell, who figured out how electromagnetics works, and the subsequent development of radio technology by Marconi. His discussion also covered the concept of antenna arrays, which can be used to create various patterns of radiation. Bob explained the design of different types of antennas, including omnidirectional, broadcast, and electronically scanning arrays. He also touched on the use of monopulse arrays in missile guidance systems. Bob emphasized the importance of pattern design in antenna development and the role of computer simulations in modern antenna design.

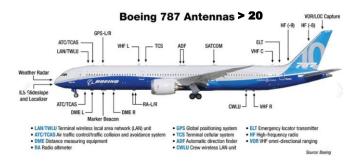
Bob then discussed various types of antennas, their radiation patterns, and their applications. He explained the concept of polarization and how it affects antenna performance. His discussion also covered the use of arrays and reflector antennas for increased gain and directionality. He also touched on the design of cell phone antennas and the challenges of achieving a specific radiation pattern.

He defined frequency and pause, polarization, wavelength, and dipole. Bob described the design of Coaxial Cables and their use in transmitting signals.

(Continued page 8)

Bob discussed Monopole and dish antennas. Monopole is the most common antenna type, and the ground is often the base structure, such as a vehicle. He reminded us that cars used to have whip antennae, and early radios had adjustable whip lengths and orientation for vertical or horizontal polarization reception.

He explained dish antennas, which are common in receiving satellite transmission.

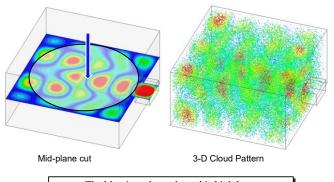


A high density antenna system like this plane uses many frequencies of operation and specific circuits to to reduce or eliminate mutual interference

RL Eisenhart 40

The presentation ended with a brief overview of microwave oven technology and its limitations.

Microwave Oven Electric Fields Distribution



The blue is no heat, the red is high heat. What we desire is all green, uniform medium heat.

What we see across the middle of a microwave oven is the local concentration of high-heat areas in red, along with the low-heat areas in blue. Therefore, the only way to even out the cooking is to rotate the food around on a platter to average the heating. Note that rotating doesn't move the food at the center, and in this case, the center is blue.

Conclusion – always put your food item off the center of the rotating platter to get the best heating.

The 3-D cloud pattern

shows the electric fields as local spots for the full volume of the oven as a "heating cloud." You can see the nonuniformity through the oven.

In fact, when you heat with a microwave oven, the moisture content is heated by the moving particles inside the water in the food. A microwave oven won't heat dry

food, and it doesn't do well with frozen food either. Thaw food out first with low heat and then heat for uniformly.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds presents Bob Eisenhart with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

April 28, 2025



Photo by Larry Kushner

Bob Donovan – Honor Flight San Diego

The first presentation on August 28, 2025, was Bob Donovan describing the Honor Flight San Diego that he and Ed Reynolds were on over the weekend.

"My name is Bob Donovan, and I generally represent Operation Gratitude, which I will do right now. I want to thank you all for everything you've done in the past and what you're going to do in the future for Operation Gratitude. Ed and I had the distinct pleasure over the weekend of going on an honor flight. It was a particularly good honor flight, simply because this is the very 1st time it was actually for Vietnam veterans."

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"Normally, they've had a few go, but it was always for World War II and Korea. But this time, it was for Vietnam, and we drove down to San Diego, spent the evening there, and then hooked up. Oh, probably about 5 o'clock. I had breakfast early and went to the airport about 6. We didn't take off until about 8. Actually, it was 8:50. We were 50 min late, which was not our fault. We don't fly."

"But from the very beginning, you understood this was particularly special. You were honored from the very start by people, law enforcement, and everything, and I had the distinct pleasure of having our names on the back of our seats, which most don't have. So, we knew right away we were the honored guests, thanks to Captain Shepard. If he's on there, we want to thank him. Oh, yeah, Shep, hey? It's great to see you. Great to see you! He is a remarkable individual, but he's sort of the head of the whole thing. Let me say he doesn't officially have that title, but he really is. We know that he's the "man" - you are the man. Thank you. Another great Navy day, and a great Navy man, as you know, over here, anyway. It was absolutely spectacular beyond my wildest imagination. I belong to a lot of military organizations. I go to a lot of events. None can compare with this. A big part of it was the fact that the people who organized this on a flight from San Diego did a remarkable job. We have people that are wheelchair-bound. We have people who actually can't walk, and other people would literally pick them up out of their chairs by young women. You realize how strong these women could actually pick up. When you can't walk at all, you're dead weight. They couldn't stand, and they would pick them up and walk them, and then they'd hand them off to someone else, put them in the chair, and then go along. We had some great meals. We visited all of the Memorials."

"I'm sure Ed did as well. I've never seen so many veterans so willing to open up and talk to one another, not on that casual basis, but in great depth about their true feelings about what they saw, what they did, and the love for each and every one of the other veterans. The ranges in age were pretty good span, probably 20 years. We did have one wonderful fellow who spent 7 years in Hanoi Hilton as a prisoner of war, and they were kind enough to present him with a flag. They did this on the sidewalk in Washington, DC, which is really pretty amazing. Everything we did would have brought tears to your eyes. It was just that amazing from the very start to the very finish. And when we came home, which was yesterday afternoon, we were welcomed by probably 5,000 people. You could not get to your baggage carousel because the people were so deep. It was kind of amazing to see. And when you first came into the terminal, you were honored by sailors, all in their whites, saluting you as you went down the hall. Then you're greeted by marines, devil dogs, which are the young marines, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cheering Crowds, which was, you just don't see that we have a man saluting, thank you, sir, and on the back of all of the people that were the guardians. Everyone needs a guide. I said it had a great quote from Will Rogers, one I thoroughly love, and it said, "We cannot all be heroes. Sometimes we must stand up and cheer from the sidewalk, from the curb," and that's exactly what it was.

This was absolutely phenomenal, like, I say, I've seen the Taj Mahal. I've been lots of places. This was so emotional. I wasn't quite ready for it because I don't think that's really going to happen, and I'm sure Ed had the same feeling. Still, it was one time after another every place you went, and, thanks to this fine gentleman here, and his speech was just terrific, and he had a personal touch in it because of his father-in-law, which even makes it more powerful. When you hear someone who has that firsthand knowledge, you have the participant and then the participant observer. Well, here we had a real touch. Some of the fellows had some terrific stories, one that you would never hear again, and you probably won't, and you never did before. But everybody felt so comfortable."

You understood that every single person was being honored beyond their own beliefs. And that's what you heard said. I can't believe they're doing this for me. I kind of felt like Sally Field. They really do like me, you know. But Ed can tell you a little bit more about it.

I'm not often lost for words, but I am lost for words because this was just so powerful that I didn't expect it. And then I saw my two daughters and my wife with big signs. Welcome home, Dad. My wife didn't have that, of course, and then my grandchildren wow! They could have knocked me over with a feather, and to hear them. Somebody must have shouted because my girl's voice wouldn't have carried over the din. I mean, it was louder than a freight train or a fighter Jet. But it was that high pitch because there were so many little girls and women; there was that high-pitched screech that just nothing breaks that sound. Somehow, I found my daughters, the people that we had. We had one lovely lady. Her name was Jane, and she said she had 3 of us. We were supposed to be with her from the final debarkation from the plane, and it was, "Now look, boys, boys, I want you to file up right behind me. Now, every place I go, boys, you're going to be right behind me."

"So I said, you're like the mother duckling. We're just your ducklings, she said. That's exactly it. I don't want to lose you, she said, coming down the escalator. Boys, stay right. Didn't we hear that every time? But actually, being a hockey player, hockey players, everybody is. Boys, it doesn't matter how old you are or how good you are. Look, boys, we're going to win today. It was absolutely wonderful, and I would say to anybody who has had an inclination to go, please go. You will not regret it not at all, and if you do regret it, come to me, and I'll pay you money to go away, because it is just so spectacular."

(Continued page 10)

"And that's why I'm not wearing my normal shirt. I'm wearing this one, which I would say I'm very proud of, and we're given nice little gifts along the way. Like John Pardo, we have wonderful parting gifts for our guests today, which was a lot of fun. And some of you guys, I know you can line up. You've got some Vietnam guys, even if you're not. If you get a chance to go, please, I beg you, you will not regret it. You'll feel so much better when you go. Washington, DC. It's always fun. It's a great place to be. One of the highlights for me was, for those of you know, Colonel Paul Cucinotta, USMC, retired. He met me at the Marine Corps Memorial, which was really really something to make that effort to come and meet us there. He was at one time the CFO of Operation, Gratitude, and a fine friend. We've come here and far to meet each other, and unfortunately, Colonel Schmiegel couldn't be there. I think many of you know both of those guys. But it was like, I say, just absolutely spectacular, and it's mostly ladies. There are a few men, but they are the ones who are the guardians. They keep it going all the time. They kept it together, and it was an absolute pleasure, a pleasure that I wasn't really anticipating. I was anticipating having it be good, but never emotionally, that powerful and done so well to corral some in our unit. I think we had 90 people to corral 90 people. When you've got 25 or 30 who are wheelchair-bound, get everybody to the right place at the right time and keep them all smiling and happy. That takes some planning. And so the planning was masterfully done. So. Anyway, if you have more, Eddie. If there are any questions, I'll answer them real quick. If not, I'll say thanks so very much. And to any of you that happened to one of the things that kind of amazed me after we got airborne, and that about 30,000 feet in the typical fashion of old military was mail call, and they came around. Then they said your name and your rank gave you an envelope. Then they handed you the mail that they sent out. I don't know how they did it or who did it, but I found friends and family and had them write letters." "I probably had 20 pounds of letters, so if any of you were nice enough to write a letter to me. I thank you from the very bottom of my heart. So thanks so much."

Ed Revnolds

"Thank you, Bob. What he's left out, and if we can get Shep up there on the screen – there is Shep, of course, he lives on the East Coast. So he's the Washington DC. Commander of the organization when they get to Washington, and he's the first one you see when you come off the airplane. And what hat was he wearing? You have all these veterans wearing Vietnam Veteran hats, and Shep greets the plane by wearing his Wings Over Wendy's hat!

CAPT Steve "Shep" Shepard

It was just an absolute honor to escort both Ed and Bob on this trip.

To thank them for their service in Vietnam and to welcome them home in a way you should have been welcomed home at the end of the Vietnam War.

It was, as Bob said, "it was an amazing time for veterans to come together to connect and perhaps share things they hadn't been able to share." I can tell you at the Vietnam Wall it was very moving. I had a Vietnam veteran from the 1st Infantry Division, and you know, we shared things and talked about what happened to Vietnam that he probably hadn't shared since the war.

I think it was also just a powerful time for us to come together, particularly in light of the anniversary of the fall of Saigon. We had several veterans in the audience with us, and I think it was just a time when our veterans were honored, but they were just not getting that recognition. They should have gotten back at the end of the war. You also were part of a continuing Wings Over Wendy's tradition. You know, we had Barney and Leon with guardians, and they went on a trip in 2014. I was one of their guardians. My wife was Dick Kinder's guardian a while back, so we're continuing to tell their stories. Transition from World War 2 to to Vietnam, and I just can't thank you all enough for what you've done for our country.

You know the thing, I said, when you guys boarded the plane, was remembering the words of Jeremiah Denton at the end of the Vietnam war, when he came off the plane in the Philippines, he said. We're honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country in difficult circumstances. I just want to thank all the guys in the audience night at Wings Over Wendy's for serving our country in difficult circumstances. And we hope that you'll get an opportunity to go on an honor flight to participate in one. We can also just be thanked, and we can never thank you enough for your service.

And the final thing I'll say is, we were fortunate. My father-in-law, when he left Saigon in 1975, took the American flag and the South Vietnamese flag from the Defense Attache compound. He didn't want to leave them for North Vietnamese army, so we had both those flags on display Saturday night in DC. And to think that the last time those flags were flying on flagpoles was in April 1975, during the evacuation, for people now don't have to come and touch that flag was to connect with their past and connect with one another.

So it was. It was an honor, and I'm happy to report that the police dropped all charges against Ed and Bob for anything they did in DC during the weekend.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Sonja Telias – "My life as a hidden child during WWII in Holland"

On April 28, 2025, the featured presentation was Sonja Telias, who talked about "My life as a hidden child during WWII in Holland."

Sonja started her talk by thanking us for inviting her and giving a special thanks to her friend Richard Burns for coordinating the talk. They have been friends for 60 years, and she hopes for another 60.

She was born in 1939 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and lived in a house with her parents. She told us about wooden shoes and that there are more bikes than people in Amsterdam. The language spoken is Dutch,

Her father was the leading toy manufacturer in Holland, and one of his most popular items he produced was an item where you had a little stand, and girls could cut out their little clothes.



This was on the market in Holland, so she was all over the place. Her dad was an extremely intuitive man, and stayed well informed of the activities that were occurring in Europe. He became very involved with the underground. He located families that were willing to hide his family, and each member of her family was put in a home where people were willing to give up their lives to protect them.

Her mother's parents never believed that this would happen as badly as it did. They refused to go. Their sons did not want to leave them, so they also stayed. And, one day, while the sons were visiting, the Germans came into the home. The boys fled to the roof in fear and started to smoke. Later, they found out that as it was the middle of the summer, one of the soldiers looked up and saw the smoke, and said, that doesn't fit a picture. So all of them were taken away to the concentration camp and passed there.

Before the war. 140 Jews were living in Holland, and 102 Jews were murdered during Hitler's time.

(For the size of the country, they had more losses than any other country in Europe in 1942.) One day, her dad told her mother. "I'm coming home for lunch, and then we will all go out for a walk, and we're not returning home, so remember to wear 3 or 4 outfits, be sure to take all your jewelry, and not look suspicious."

He knew that money was going to be of no value during the war. So, he went to the diamond center and bought as many loose diamonds as he could afford.

He had false papers and had to change their name and birth date.

Sonja's new name was Ricky Knox for the next 3 years. Since she was blonde and light-eyed, she did not look Jewish.

Her dad's thought was to get her to live on a farm with a family so that she could be outdoors and participate in the activities. He found a willing family, and she was taken there. It was a very traumatic time in her life. She was 3 years old.

On the farm, there lived a 6-year-old son, who was very resentful of the attention she was getting. He started talking to some neighbors about how his family is hiding a little Jewish girl. Sonja was moved immediately during the night. She was taken to a family by the name of Heidel, in a town called Zande.

Her new home consisted of a mother, father, and four daughters, who were a little older than Sonja. The house was extremely small, yet another lady was being hidden there, and later on, an older couple joined them.

A hiding place was created for us. The wall behind the bed in the master bedroom opened up, and a passageway was created. At the end of the passageway, they entered the rain gutters. The rain gutters were large due to the amount of rain that Holland receives. Sonja was instructed that if she had to go into the hiding place. She could not make any noise, not even cough or sneeze. We had to do that 3 times during the time I was there. (Continued page 12)

Many years later, Sonja had the privilege of showing her daughters and grandson her hiding place. One of her war sisters arranged for them to visit the house. Of course, there were new tenants, but they kept the hiding place. As it was a memory of the four people that were saved.

It was such a surreal scene for her, looking at her children, and to see where she was hidden during a very sad time in her life. It was an incredibly emotional day.

As her memory allows. Life with the Heidels was at as best as it could be under the circumstances. The children were advised that it was a big secret that she was living there, and not to be told to anyone. They were not allowed to bring home any friends in case she was discovered. The whole family sacrificed a lot for her, She was told never to stand in front of the window during the daytime. She had to crawl around the floor to get anywhere. This was done so there would be no chance that any neighbors could see a new person living in the home and start asking questions. Unfortunately, many Dutch citizens became informants for Germans, therefore she was never allowed to go outside.

All the adults were very, very good to her Whenever they would use their stamps for food. They would always say, "We have a sick sister at home. Could we have some extra food for her?"

During the day they all went to school. Sonja drew and colored, and there was an old coffee grinder, which she was allowed to play with. Sonja found it fascinating and spent a lot of time just turning the handle to keep her occupied. On one of her trips back to the Netherlands, she was fascinated by a coffee grinder on the shelves.

Her war mother noticed her looking at it and was told that it was the grinder she used to play with. Sonja was given the coffee grinder with a note inside, written in handwriting, a memory she will treasure forever.

Sonja slept in one bed with 3 of the sisters. Feet to feet. They were foot to foot, but it worked out fine. When the younger sister came home from school she would share with her some of the things she learned that day. On Sonja's 70th birthday, her war sister and her husband came to see her.

They did not have much food during the war, but they shared whatever the Heidels had. Mostly they had rice every day. As a result, Sonja no longer eats rice.

However, there was a man, a trusted friend, who came to see the family and brought us some eggs, which were such a specialty at that time, and it was very hard to come by. She was allowed to meet him, and she thought he was a really nice man. She looked forward to his coming for a visit, especially since once in a while he would hand her some chocolate. Sonja named him the Egg Man.

Meanwhile, her father rode around the countryside on a rickety old bicycle and old overalls to find farmers with whom he could trade diamonds in exchange for food. Sonja's dad was very tall and spoke German fluently. One day he was stopped by a German soldier, who asked to see his papers, and asked what his business was. Sonja's dad told him his paper showed he was an agricultural specialist and was given the job to visit the farmers and see how he could help them. The German said "Give me your wallet."

After he took out the money, he threw the wallet back on the ground after her father. After he left, her father said a little prayer of thanks. He picked up the wallet and was so happy because all the diamonds were still in the hidden compartment.

About a year later the Heidels had to call a doctor friend to come over and examine Sonja. She was looking very pale and sickly. The doctor informed them that she was suffering from a lack of fresh air and sunshine. He advised that she undergo sun lamp treatments. The problem was how to get her there.

None of them could take me because it would look too suspicious.

Many homes in Zandyke hid Jews. The Heidels knew of a family about a block away from them, who had a daughter about 15 years old. Her name was Johanna, and they asked her if she would walk Sonja to the doctor's. It would just look like a girl walking with her younger sister down the street. She agreed to do so, knowing that if something went wrong we would be picked up, and both of us would be sent to a concentration camp.

For about 3 months she took Sonja there twice a week. About 50 years later one of Sonja's daughters received a call from Holland, and the voice, on the other hand, said, my name is Madeline, and my grandmother thinks she knows your mother.

Madeline was working for the Government and following up on some of the lives of the survivors of the war. She had seen Sonja's article in the Jewish journal which she was featured, and told her grandmother about this article, she said. Her grandmother always talked about this little girl whom she walked down the street during the war. We sent my picture to her, and after the grandmother looked at the picture, she said. "that's the girl that's the girl I walked to take her for sun treatment so many years ago." So Sonja personally got to thank her in person 50 years later.

She said. She never got over how the Jews were treated, and she herself wore a star of David around her neck as well as her cross. She also had a Menorah on her bookshelf with a little picture of me.

It was an incredible meeting, and Sonja continues to have a relationship with Madeline, her granddaughter.

When the war was over. In 1945, Sonja was told that her parents were coming to get her.

She didn't know what to expect. When her father walked in she screamed because her father was the eggman.

Oh, my God!

(Continued page 13)

Also she found out that the elderly couple that had been staying in the house were really her grandparents, but of course, didn't want to say anything in case anyone got caught.

Sonja's mother was a different story. Her personality changed completely after she found out her family was murdered in the camps. She was never able to tell Sonja she loved her, even though she knew she did. Sonja have been told that this is a very common reaction to how many people reacted to their loss.

In the 19 nineties, Sonja attended a Congress of the Second World War child survivors, and the second generation was also invited.

They had many meetings and exchanges of ideas. Interestingly enough, the second generation stated that their mother and father would not talk about their experiences, their curiosity kept nagging at them. Many of them started investigating. And as a result, 75% of the second generation group wound up working at mental health jobs. Sonja's father and her had the most wonderful relationship he tried to fill in for her mother, who was not able to give her, but actually Sonja felt closer to her war mother and that's the lady in the piture

The ages of 3 to 6 are extremely formative years, and the warmth of Mother Heidel stayed with Sonja her whole life.

In 1995, her mother, and her war mother, were to receive a medal from the Israeli Government also her name would be inscribed on the wall of the righteous. At Yat Vashem. Two of her daughters came with her to that ceremony which was held in a government building in Rotterdam.

The ambassador of Israel presented her with the medal. Mother Heidel asked me to sit next to her, even though all of her daughters were there. Sonja asked, what made you decide to hide us when you knew what a great risk it was. "I have 3 children of my own. I don't know if I would risk the lives of my children to save another child." Her response was," we saw what was happening, and felt we needed to do something."

"We also thought it wouldn't last that long, she said. My greatest pleasure today is that you are here with me to help me accept this award."

They were somewhat of a celebrity, because they wound up on the front page of this little town when her war mother passed. She requested that she be buried with her medal because it's a memory of something she did during her life that she was most proud of.

"In 1995, when the Steven Spielberg Shower group came to interview me in my home, they asked me a very interesting question.

Could I name one thing that has most affected me as a result of the war? Without thought, I answered abandonment." (Continued page 13)

Sonja said "Even though I don't remember many things about the war. It's a feeling I carry with me every day. I tried to go for therapy several times to address this issue, but every time I was asked about my life and feelings during those years, I cried.

The conclusion was that it's just too painful and traumatic for me to address and just to let it be.

I had the opportunity to speak at all of my children's and grandchildren's schools about the Holocaust, as well as some temples and other rotary clubs. The show recorded my story, and I was also featured in the City of Hope Book, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Stem Cell transplant program, which I survived.

So if you're ever near the Washington, DC. Museum or the Shoah Foundation at USC. You could see part of my interview on their screen. Antisemitism is an all-time high all over the world.

At a school in Texas, the study of the Holocaust has been removed in a library, and Frank's books have been removed. My main goal. Speaking with you today is to implore you to speak to your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren about the horrible atrocities that took place. There are many deniers in our lives at this time, and they must be stopped.

Please educate people about this horrible time in the world and allow this never, and don't allow this ever to happen again. Thank you!"



Photo by Larry Kushner

Bob Eisenhart and Ed Reynolds present Sonja Telias with a Certificate of Appreciation for her presentation.

In Other News

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The real story behind that iconic Saigon evacuation photograph



Hubert Van Es' photograph capturing the 1975 fall of Saigon became one of the most enduring images from the Vietnam War.

It has become an iconic symbol of American involvement in Vietnam: Scores of desperate Vietnamese attempting to board an American UH-1 "Huey" helicopter on the rooftop of the US Embassy in Saigon in the spring of 1975.

Yet the photograph, "like so many things about the Vietnam War," Hubert Van Es, the man behind the famed photograph, wrote in 2005 for The New York Times, "it's not exactly what it seems."

The men and women jostling to get aboard the American aircraft were not atop the US embassy at all, but on the roof of the Pittman apartment building, which housed senior Central Intelligence Agency employees during the tail end of the war.

The Dutch photographer, assigned to Vietnam since 1969 for The Associated Press and United Press International, managed to get the iconic shot purely by chance.

Fall of Saigon

On this day, the beleaguered citizens within the city of Saigon witnessed the largest helicopter evacuation in history, with two United States Marine Corps helicopter squadrons, 10 US Air Force helicopters and Air America carrying out 1,373 Americans and 5,595 people of other nationalities.

"At around 2:30 p.m. on April 29, 1975, Van Es captured the shot that came to symbolize the frenetic

Saigon evacuation mission, known as Operation Frequent Wind," Lauren Coontz wrote in Coffee or Die.

Working four blocks away from the Pittman building, the photographer was tucked away in a dark room when he heard a colleague shout, "'Van Es, get out here, there's a chopper on that roof!"

"I grabbed my camera and the longest lens left in the office — it was only 300 millimeters, but it would have to do — and dashed to the balcony," Van Es recounted.

After shooting about 10 frames, Van Es returned to the darkroom to process his shots.

Bad communication

"In those days, pictures were transmitted via radio signals, which at the receiving end were translated back into an image," Van Es said. "A 5-inch-by-7-inch black-and-white print with a short caption took 12 minutes to send."

Despite clearly identifying the downtown Saigon building, "apparently, editors didn't read captions carefully in those days, and they just took it for granted that it was the embassy roof, since that was the main evacuation site."

The misidentification of the iconic photo's location persisted for decades. Van Es routinely attempted to dispel the false narrative, to no avail.

"Thus one of the best-known images of the Vietnam War shows something other than what almost everyone thinks it does," he said.

This story originally appeared on HistoryNet.com. ナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナ

Compton's Sgt. Joe Harris, who died at age 108, honored for legacy with all-Black battalion



This June 2024 photo provided by Tracie Hunter shows Sgt. Joe Harris at his 108th Birthday party in Compton, Calif. (Tracie Hunter via AP) (Continued page 15)

INGLEWOOD — Sgt. Joe Harris, who was believed to have been the oldest surviving World War II paratrooper prior to his death last month at age 108, was laid to rest Saturday with a celebration honoring his life and an enduring legacy.

Family, friends, veterans and military officers filled the Lewis Metropolitan CME Church to give Harris a final farewell. Several speakers, including Harris' grandson Ashton Pittman, stood above his casket, covered by an American flag, and spoke of a man known by many for his courage, kindness, grace and love.

"Together, we come together not only to say goodbye, but to honor and celebrate the life of a truly remarkable man, my grandfather," Pittman said. "A man, who was not just the patriarch of our family, but the heart and soul of it; a man whose presence filled every room with wisdom, love and unshakable strength."

Harris, a member of the US Army's first all-Black parachute infantry battalion, died at age 108 on March 15.

According to Harris' family and WWII Beyond the Call, a nonprofit organization that documents veterans' accounts, he was among the last surviving members of the historic 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, nicknamed the Triple Nickles.

The battalion protected the US from deadly Japanese balloon bombs in 1944 and 1945. Those bombs were used to attack the US mainland, explode and start fires.

Harris was among hundreds of Black men trained and sent to fight fires on the West Coast.

Black Americans faced racial segregation in the military during World War II, often being relegated to support-level jobs. President Franklin Roosevelt, under pressure, later allowed Black Americans in combat units.

"He served his country with courage, even when that same country didn't always serve him in return," Pittman said.

Harris broke barriers and defied limits — completing 72 combat jumps, earning the admiration of his unit, and whose feats were featured by The New York Times, The Washington Post and CNN, among others, according to his family.

"Just as much as Joe Harris was a hero in history, but to us he was simply Papa Joe," Pittman added. "He was our rock, and the foundation upon which generations have been built. He showed us, time and time again, that true greatness is not just found in the battles you fight, but in the love that your give and in the lives that you touch."

Harris was born on June 19, 1916, in West Dale, Louisiana. At 25, he joined the military in 1941.

After WWII, he worked for the US Border Patrol, and spent more than 60 years living in Compton. Harris is survived by his son, Pirate Joe Harris Sr., and two daughters, Michaun Harris and Latanya Pittman, and five grandchildren. His wife, Louise Harris, died in 1981.

The Lewis Metropolitan CME Church, Los Angeles

County Board of Supervisors led by Supervisor Holly Mitchell, state Sen. Laura Richardson, Assemblyman Mike Gipson, the city of Compton and its school district provided the Harris family with certificates honoring the sergeant.

Rev. Omar Bradley, who gave the eulogy and previously served as mayor of Compton from 1993 to 2001, asked current Mayor Emma Sharif to entertain a motion, renaming 131 Street in honor of Harris. A request she was "happily" willing to take up with the City Council, Sharif said, which resulted in an eruption of applause.

In other honors, retired Sgt. Jordan Bednarz, a representative of Liberty Jump Team and Round Canopy Parachuting Team, presented Pittman with a uniform of his own — and inside one of the pockets a photo of his grandfather.

"So my takeaway... this man inspires," Bednarz said. "I was looking for a reason on why that is, and it didn't take me long."

"It's because I know that inside each of you is more than a little Papa Joe. My only prayer is that leaving here today all of us that were fortunate to know Joe, to know you, and for all of those out there that will someday know us — because we are now custodians of this history — is to bring this story forward," Bednarz added.

Bednarz, with assistance from the Harris family, galvanized a movement, known as Operation Perseverance, to honor African American men for their resolve during World War II. During this time, Pittman completed paratrooper training in Texas through the Liberty Jump Team, another organization that works to preserve the memory of veterans.

Prior to Harris' death, they dedicated a landing zone in Tuskegee, Alabama, named Sgt. Joe Harris Dropzone.

According to Bednarz, the practice of parachuting in the US military didn't begin until 1940, and at the time, the concept of smoke jumping — to jump in front of a fire and stop or attempt to change its trajectory — was new technology.

"The reason that this thread of history is so important is that at this point in time, African Americans were not given these advanced roles," Bednarz said with tears forming in his eyes. "They (Triple Nickles) honestly changed the face of the military."

Elton Corvtt, a retired Air Force master sergeant and member of the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, added that Harris paved the way for African Americans.

"When I talk to my grandchildren, I can talk to them about various things that I read in history, but now I can talk about something that I experienced in history and the significance of it, and so that gives it new weight and new meaning," Corvtt said.

Following the funeral services, a procession departed with a WWII Willy Jeep escort to Inglewood Park Cemetery, where Harris was placed to rest.

Wings Over Wendy's Future Events:







MOAA/MOWW CHAPTER MEETING Next meeting 21 May 2025

Next meeting 21 May 2025 Program

BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)
BGen Lopez, a native of Santa Barbara, retired in July 1998 after 31 years on active duty and in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. General Lopez will discuss his many assignments to include his positions as Commanding General 4th Marine Division, and Deputy Commanding General 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

He is a Past Commander in Chief, Military Order of the World Wars, past Commander, MOWW Region XIV and Commander, Col Woolsey Chapter, Santa Barbara, California., they all shared one common attribute: Leadership.

The cost is \$35

Date: Wednesday, 23 May 2025

Check-in starts at 5:30
Buffet line starts at 6:30

Program starts at 7:30

RSVP to Dan Pemberton at 177 Erten St.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

NLT 16 May

dhpinto@aol.com 805-807-7788

Los Robles Greens Banquet

299 S. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Center



FOB Assembly Day

May 17th, Saturday, 9 AM to Noon Sign up to attend @

https://www.operationgratitude.com

CANOGA - OWNESMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, 7 PM, 14 May

MOBILE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL IN THE SFV

Paul Lawler, Senior Vice Commander of American Legion Post 826 will present the fascinating story behind the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall's display in the San Fernando Valley this year.

This story will be the Historical Society's Memorial Day Program. Please bring a friend to pay homage to our fallen heroes.

Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Avenue Canoga Park, CA 91303

RSVP to Dave Anderson: 818-515-2336

AMERICAN LEGION POST 826 MAY 12, 2025



Second Saturday each month 7 pm to10 pm \$25 couple RSVP to Bucky 818-692-0701

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Prayers

Two of our most active members are recuperating from injury and illness. Our prayers are for **Lee Auger and Connie Hein.**

In Memoriam

Wings Over Wendy's had two reported passing during

February and April 2025



VERNE WARREN DISNEY JR SEP 08, 1925 TO APR 16, 2025

Verne Warren Disney Jr., a proud member of the Greatest Generation, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on April 16, 2025, at the age of 99. Born in 1925 in San Dimas, California to Nelma and Verne Disney, Verne's life was marked by deep devotion to his country, his community, and most of all, his family.

As a child, Verne moved throughout Los Angeles and Kern Counties before graduating from George Washington High School. At the age of 17, with his mother's permission, he enlisted early in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. It was there that he trained to fly his beloved P-51 Mustang, a plane that remained dear to him all his life.

After the war, Verne returned to Los Angeles and joined the LA. City Fire Department in 1947, beginning a long and impactful career. He met the love of his life, Rose Marie Montano, and they married in 1949. Together, they built their life in the San Fernando Valley and raised five children.

An advocate for safety and fairness, Verne was instrumental in a landmark case that went to the California Supreme Court, compelling the city to provide uniforms and protective equipment for its firefighters. He also volunteered to serve in one of the first racially integrated

firehouses in Los Angeles, helping to pave the way for equality within the department. Rising through the ranks to become a Task Force Commander II, Verne was admired not only for his unmatched work ethic, but also for his good humor, memorable antics, and especially for coaching and mentoring countless aspiring young men to help them realize their dream of becoming firefighters.

After retiring in 1979, Verne and Rose traveled throughout California in their motorhome, enjoying the freedom they had worked so hard to earn. Known as a jack-of-all-trades and master of many, Verne was a gifted mechanic, watchmaker, inventor, builder, plumber, electrician, and carpenter. Friends, family, and neighbors knew they could count on him, and he was always glad to lend a hand. One of his hallmarks was the great big bear hug that he loved to give everyone. Verne, an avid fisherman, was in remarkable health and was an inspiration to everyone as he continued his daily walks right up to the time of his passing.

Those who knew Verne will remember his signature response to the question, "How are you?"-a cheerful, "You know me, I'm wonderful." And wonderful he was. Verne was a loving husband, father, grandfather, greatgrandfather, and friend. He cherished his family above all and found his greatest joy in the time he spent with them.

Verne is preceded in death by his beloved wife of nearly 70 years, Rose; his son, Verne; his granddaughter, Laura; and great-granddaughter, Maya. He is survived by his four children, Deb Disney, Daphne Capaldi, Celes Miller, and Dennis Disney, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and his beloved caretaker, Patrick Dy, all of whom carry his legacy forward with love and pride.

A celebration of Verne's remarkable life will take place on May 18. His memory will be cherished always, and his spirit will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him.



Vern, when he flew with Max Carlisle, DEC 2024

May Birthdays

Glenn Gates May 04, 1947 **Robert Lanthier** May 11, 1948 **Bob Bermant** May 12, 1940 **Robert Bremer** May 12, 1938 Michael Sugar May 12, 1946 May 13, 1932 **Rosadel McClure** Karen Vegtel May 16, 1950 **Gordon Osborne** May 17, 1932 **Bob Peters** May 17, 1939 May 17, 1959 **Jim Sommer Maurice Vasquez** May 22, 1968 Anne Marie Radel May 25, 1960 Lee Ambers May 27, 1935 Corinne Ho May 29, 1972

Wings News Patrons

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

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For Help with your Zoom Connection

Contact: Charles Scott (818) 448-1737

pcinfoman@gmail.com.

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

Reminder

Wings Over Wendy's monthly food drive is Monday, APR 7th





Wings Over Wendy's
Order Jackets, Shirts and/or
Hats
from David Alverez
818-389-2035

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or

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bschultz49@gmail.com

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ed_reynoldsjr@msn.com

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: kswpwdaeovnb1jans4

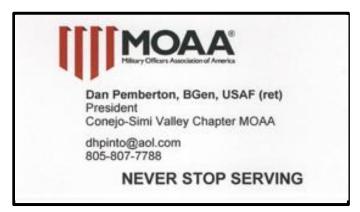




















PIERCE FLORIST Lori Brainard 10621 Victory Boulevard North Hollywood, CA 91606 (818) 761-4280











PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM

6060 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

TOUR MAY 15th, 2025 **8:15 AM Bus at Burlington Coat Factory** Parking lot Victory & Fallbrook return around 4:30 PM Free Admission Pre-ordered Free Lunch