

A WEEK OF MOVIES

We watched and members were featured in videos

The month of June was a little unusual because the members of Wings Over Wendy's were invited to see five videos, one of which featured several of our members.

Premiere Screening



On Flag Day, June 14th, twenty-two members of Wings Over Wendy's attended the premiere screening of *True Honor, Jewish War Heroes* in the Louis B. Meyer Theater, at the Motion Picture and Television Home. Tickets were provided by Kathleen Sterling, Valley News Group.

Since the Medal of Honor was created during the American Civil War, at least 27 American Jews have received the medal. The Documentary Film paid tribute to 17 of the Jewish War Heroes who were cited for the honor but in some cases the award was not processed for approval until many years after the action. Col. Leo J. Thorsness, Medal of Honor Society, said of the film:

“The true story of Jewish heroes who ultimately received the Medal of Honor and the respect of our nation. Their courage and sacrifice should inspire pride in our young and tolerance in those of all faiths.”

The film was narrated by many of Hollywood's most familiar celebrity voices – all of whom were veterans – including the late Orson Wells. *True Honor* was produced by the Jewish War Veterans, America's oldest veteran organization chartered in 1896 to remember and honor their friends and colleagues that went to war and didn't return.

Those profiled in the film were:

- Abraham Cohn: Civil War
- Leopold Karpeles: Civil War
- Benjamin Levy: Civil War
- David Urbansky: Civil War
- Samuel Margulies: Haiti
- Simon Suhler: Indian Wars
- Sydney Gumpertz: WWI
- Benjamin Kaufman: WWI
- William Sawelson: WWI
- William Shemin: WWI (See note 1)
- Isadore Jachman: WWII
- Ben L. Salomon: WWII
- Raymond Zussman: WWII
- Leonard M. Kravitz: Korean War
- Tibor Rubin: Korean War (See Note 2)
- Jack H. Jacobs: Vietnam War
- John Levitow: Vietnam War

Note 1: It took 98 years before he was awarded the MOH
Note 2: It took 55 years before he was awarded the MOH and then the VA renamed the Long Beach, CA, VA hospital, after Tibor Rubin on May 10, 2017.

Tibor Rubin, was a Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor who emigrated to the United States in 1948. He enlisted in the US Army and served as a rifleman in Korea. When his unit was forced to retreat he was ordered to stay behind and keep the road open for the withdrawing unit. During the 24-hour battle he single-handedly fought off an overwhelming number of North Korean troops, inflicting severe casualties on the attacking unit and assisted in the capture of many prisoners. (Continued Page 2, column 1)

A few months later Chinese forces staged a night-time assault on his unit and Rubin manned a machine gun allowing the unit to retreat southward, again inflicting heavy casualties on the attacking unit. During the battle, he was severely wounded and was eventually captured by Chinese forces. Although the Chinese offered to release him early and return him to his native Hungary, he refused, remaining a prisoner and risking his life repeatedly by sneaking out at night to get food and medical supplies for other wounded prisoners.

A 1993 study commissioned by the United States Army to investigate racial discrimination in the awarding of medals. During the investigation, it was determined that one Veteran American Jew and Holocaust survivor, Tibor Rubin, had been the subject of discrimination due to his religion and should have received the Medal of Honor. In 2005, 55 years later, President George W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor to Rubin in a ceremony at the White House, for his actions in 1950 during the Korean War.

Following the screening, a panel discussion was conducted on the discrimination of the Jewish religion in the military over the years and if it is perceived to still exist. The panel ended with the question on whether the Jews in the audience considered themselves American Jews or Jewish Americans. The answer was **American Jews!**

Heroes of WW2, The European Campaign

ANG Brig Gen Dan Pemberton on behalf of the Thousand Oaks Republican Women Federated, invited Wings Over Wendy's to attend the Thursday, June 15, 2017 Reception, Michael Regan Book signing and screening the video *Heroes of WW2, The European Campaign*. Those attending and were presented with certificates of appreciation included: Barney Leone, Leon Waldman, and Elmo Maiden.



In addition, Bob Donovan, Jan Edwards, Dan Pemberton, Avery Willis and Ed Reynolds attended.



The documentary video featured among other WWII veterans: Guy Chookoorian, Al Lewis, and Elmo Maiden. It was produced by Jay Hoffman and Doug Stebleton, with narration by Michael Regan.



Michael Regan, son of America's 40th President, narrated the firsthand perspectives of 22 soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the European Theater. *World War II. Heroes of WW2: The European Campaign* delivers a rare account of what it took to fight and survive in the Allied invasion that brought an end to Germany's Third Reich.

Many of them had not yet reached their 21st birthdays when they were called to action. Rich and poor, from cities and towns, farms and factories, conscripted or enlisted, these young heroes pledged their lives to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. It took more than military muscle. It took fortitude, faith, family and friends. *Heroes of WW2: The European Campaign* is a documentary tribute to those who fought to ensure a future of global freedom envisioned by President Reagan and preserved by the few who are unafraid to lay down their lives for the security of others.

"Heroes of WW2, The European Campaign is an important film that shows how ordinary men performed extraordinary feats to save the free world from tyranny"

-Oliver North, LtCol, USMC (Ret)

California State Commanders Veterans Council & SAG-AFTRA Salute to Vets

On June 17th, Barney Leone, Bob Donovan, Ed Reynolds, Jimmy Weldon and Stephanie Pofcher attended an event Honoring: Those Who Served, Those Serving & Those About to Serve at the Palace Theater, downtown LA.



(Continued Page 2 Column 1)

Kevin Dobson was the event MC and the program started with Jimmy Weldon's "Old Glory"; Memories of SAG/AFTRA members that served. Then Lt. Gen John Thompson, Commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles AFB, spoke about the base and support of the surrounding community.



Bob Donovan, Lt Gen Thompson, Barney Leone & Ed Reynolds

Also included were a series of SAG/AFTRA speakers such as: Esai Morales, Nancy Sinatra, Dan Lauria, Frances Fisher, Jane Austin (President of SAG/AFTRA), and then The California State Commanders' Veterans Council members. Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, addressed the meeting via video.



At the end of the program USAF Lt. Gen. Wendy Maisiello swore into service new recruits from the Marines, Air Force, Army and Navy that lined the four aisles of the theater. It was a very moving ceremony to see so many young men and women take the oath to serve the country.



Lt. Gen. Masiello & Barney Leone

Another State Award



Photo by Cameron Gil

On June 3rd, Lee Auger, Ken Mayer, Stan Opatowsky, Ed Reynolds, and Howard Swerdlick of Wings Over Wendy's attended State Assemblymember Matt Dababneh's Budget Town Hall Meeting at the Rose Goldwater Community Center, Westfield Topanga Mall. Following the meeting Ed, Howard and Ken met with the Assemblymember and he presented to Wings Over Wendy's an **Assembly Certificate of Recognition**:

For all of your hard work in organizing this group of former airmen. Wings Over Wendy's has become an important institution here in the valley and serves to represent our veterans with honor in the many community events you host and participate in. It is through such endeavors that we are able to bring the people of the San Fernando Valley together. On behalf of the State of California and the people of the 45th Assembly District, Thank You! Signed: June 3rd, 2017; Assemblymember Matthew Dababneh; 45th Assembly District.

In addition to the Certificate of Recognition, Assemblymember Dababneh informed us that a check was in the mail to contribute to the cost of our January luncheon.

Norton Simon Museum Tour



After a one day delay so members could attend the premiere screening of *True Honor, Jewish War Heroes*, 24 members toured the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena on June 15th. Those that attended found it very interesting.

Fred Kaplan Honored



Photo by Harlis Bend

On June 5th, Fred Kaplan was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his effort to organize, decorate and drive one of the floats in the 28th Annual Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2017.

June Speakers

June 5, 2017

Howard Swerdlick & Mike LaVere Memorial Day Parade Video

During the Memorial Day Parade, Howard Swerdlick video recorded the parade on his iPhone. He worked with Mike LaVere to edit, add sound and produce a video that was shown to the attendees on the June 5th meeting. They did an outstanding job and Howard added humor by not wearing a WOW shirt as he captured on the video the comments made by WOW members as they passed his viewing point.

June 12, 2017 Stuart Bird-Wilson



Photo by Ed Reynolds

On June 12th, we were privileged to have Stuart Bird-Wilson, SAS, Capt. Ret, visit our meeting. He showed us a picture of his father's Hurricane fighter in which his father was shot down by German Ace Adolph Galland at the end of the "Battle of Britain". The print was signed by 86 survivors at the 90th anniversary at RAF Bentley Priory, the WWII Fighter Command HQ. His father survived and commanded units during the war and went on to fly 225 different aircraft in 30 years in the RAF Fighter Development Command.

Stuart joined the British Special Air Service (SAS), the British Army's most renowned special forces unit. He served in Laos and other locations with Air America and US CIA "adventures" which he is not at liberty to discuss.

He invited us to attend the British United Serves Club of Los Angeles which meets monthly at the Altadena Town & Country Club

David McAlexander



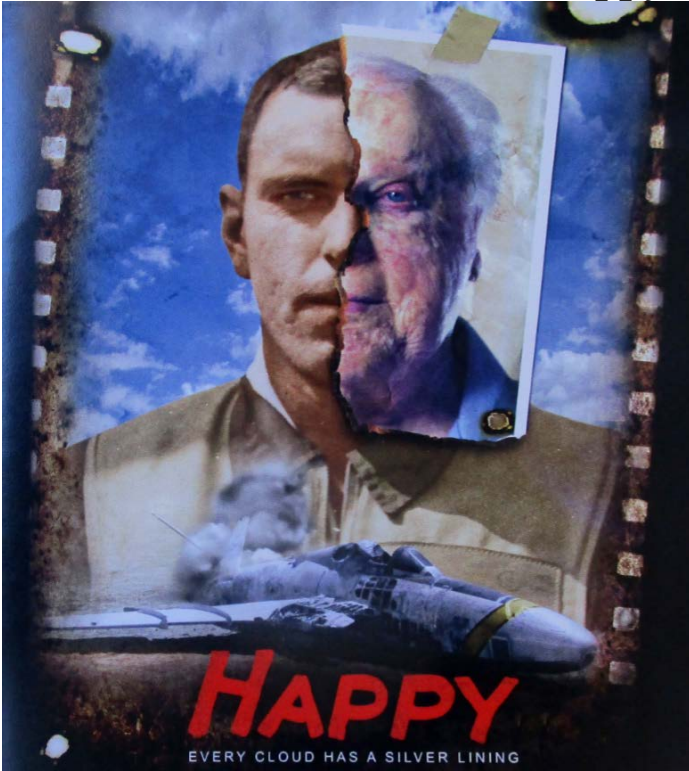
Photo by Ed Reynolds

Our guest speaker for July 12th was David McAlexander, a former US Navy aviator. He flew as a "Backseater" (Navigator) on the E-2C Hawkeye. It was the first carrier-based aircraft designed from the outset for the all-weather airborne early warning and command and control mission.



David gave a Power Point presentation on the mission of the E-2C. He told us about an air-to-air "kill" during Operation Desert Storm that he directed and the US Navy air missions in the Middle East. He profiled the different aircraft that flew in those wars.

June 19, 2017 David Timmerman & *Happy*



David Timmerman showed us the video on the life story of Larry Powell. Larry has spoken to Wings Over Wendy's on several occasions so the material in the film was familiar but it was interesting to see it combined into one movie. He titled his film *Happy*.

Happy tells the story of the WWII P-51 fighter ace who survived traumatic burns in a fiery plane crash, and went on to build an incredible career as an assistant director in Hollywood.

After crashing on his 68th mission he became a POW in Germany. Following the war, he miraculously survived two more plane crashes – but took seven years and 150 surgeries to recover from his final accident, in which his fighter jet burned during an emergency landing. He should never have survived, but Larry refused to give up, and he went on to enjoy a decades-long career as an assistant director in “The Land of Make Believe,” working on Hollywood classics that included *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Pe yton Place*, *The Right Stuff*, *Iron Eagle*, and many more.

Distinguish Visitors June 19, 2017 Gary Sinise Foundation



Photo by Harlis Brend

On June 19th, we were visited by Gary Sinise's daughter, Sophie; son, Mac; granddaughter (not in picture) and son-in-law, Bobby George, representing the Gary Sinise Foundation. They attended to interview and invite WWII veterans to join them at no cost to tour the WWII Museum in New Orleans.

Bobby George also attended the WOW 2 meeting on Tuesday to invite WWII veterans from that group to join the trip.

June 26, 2017 Doug O'Brien



Photo by Harlis Brend

Doug O'Brien, a new attendee from Malibu, spoke on June 26th about his time in the US Navy and with the LA Fire Department. Doug was a Torpedoman's Mate on the submarine USS Greenfish (SS-351) during the Korean War. He told us of his duties, and what it was like under the sea on a diesel submarine.

Following his service commitment, he joined the Fire Department and told us how he became a cook and hand ball player on duty between answering calls for help or to extinguish fires.

PROFILES

A Successful Professional

By Ed Moreno



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Howard A. Davis lived his younger years in Cumberland, Maryland. In 1954, he graduated from Fort Hill High School. His father supported the family as a plumbing contractor and his mother stayed home to raise the six children. His older brother served in the Army during the second World War. On Howard's 18th birthday, July 7, 1954, he enlisted in the United States Air Force.

He took his Basic Training at Sampson AFB in upstate New York. After Basic Training, he was sent to Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas to train as a Medic. To qualify as a Combat Medic, he finished at the Brooke Medical Training Center. Upon completion of training he was assigned to Spangdahlem AFB, Germany. At the base hospital, his duties included the Treatment Room, and Night Emergency. He was also assigned as a paramedic on flying status. Howard enjoyed his three years stationed at Spangdahlem AFB and visited many countries in Europe. His final assignment was to a base in New York City and he was discharged from there.

Upon returning to Cumberland, Maryland, he kept busy working at different occupations. Then he enrolled in Frostburg State Teachers College in Western Maryland and completed his studies in two years. Years later he received his A.A. from Los Angeles Valley College in the Administration of Justice. He also earned a B.A. in Management from Redlands University.

The summer of 1963 was very special for Howard. He married his high school, sweetheart. The couple moved into a triplex owned by her parents in Beverly Hills, Calif.

On June 1, 1964, he became an officer for the Beverly Hills Police Department. Howard served for 30 years. During his distinguished career, he served in all divisions: patrol, traffic, detectives and special assignments. When he retired, he was as a senior training officer. He served twenty years in the Police Association. Howard was the President of the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association the last ten years of his career.

In February 2005, Howard started attending Wings Over Wendy's and rarely has missed a meeting since then.

Chip Stevens Has Traveled the World Many Times Over

By Ray Rosenbaum



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Chip "Charlie" Stevens, without the need for a military assignment has crisscrossed the globe several times in his daily duties as a travel agent.

Chip, 59, and looking much younger, was born in Santa Monica but moved to Granada Hills many years ago. Chip and his father Hugh, met George Pappas at church. Noticing the military patch of Hugh's, George invited them to attend Wings Over Wendy's in August of 2009 and they attended ever since. Unfortunately, Hugh passed away in January 2017, but Chip has continued to attend and he has helped many of the members with their travel plans. (Publishers' note: he helped me with an outstanding tour of the Balkans on my quest to visit every country in the world.)

In addition to helping with travel plans, Chip helps those with walkers and wheel chairs navigate to and from their vehicles at every meeting. He is often seen talking to Steve Politis after a meeting and with others that need assistance getting to their vehicles.

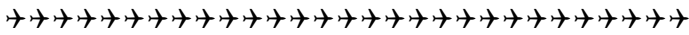
He was already attracted to the aviation field, so it was easy to work with Wings Over Wendy's members. Very often he included a tour of a local airbase.

Chip is always smiling like he knows something we don't know.

He likes everything old, so that may be why he fits in so well with us.

Chip even has accompanied his clients on some of the trips he has planned. His wife, Audrey, and son Nick occasionally go along.

For local WOW trips, he leaves that to Warren Weinstein, but if you want to see the world, Chip is your man.



Peggy Jean's Hanger

A monthly column by Peggy Jean Bassett
pjbflyer@gmail.com



Tom Reilly's Twin Mustang, XP-82 is nearing flight status



The owner Tom Reilly is no stranger to warbird restoration as he owned the Flying Tigers Warbird Restoration Museum in Kissimmee Florida. Hurricane "Charlie" destroyed the facility in 2004. Tom is presently into restoring B-25s to flight. Tom has completed over 34 restorations to date.

Tom Reilly with visions of a Twin Mustang in his head started searching for parts and investors for a very extensive and expensive restoration project. The XP-82 Twin Mustang 44-83887, was one of two prototype planes for production that had dual controls. The switch was made to single-cockpit controls with weapons and radar control in the second cockpit to meet the needs of the military.

In 2008 Walter Soplata called Tom Reilly and they negotiated to buy the XP-82 Tom had previously discovered. The restoration project began with the nearly nine years of continuous work. The XP-82 is nearing its flight status with two completely restored Merlins hung on the front. This was an excellent rebuild job by "Vintage-12s" of Tehachapi, California. A superjunkyard find was the vertical and horizontal tail from Walter Soplata's property yard. The airframe was discovered at the Warbird Heritage Salvage yard. Fortunately, the XP-82 had not been vandalized and most of its original data tags were still on the airframe. The canopy frames took a lot of work. "Well, you get the idea". Just touching on some of the numerous part and tedious work. What a mighty fine looking aircraft. Rare and unusual. This rebuilt and restored XP-82 Twin Mustang, almost a forgotten aircraft.

Researched and written by Plane Peggy.

P.S. The North American F-82 was the last piston engine aircraft ordered into production by the USAF based on the P-51 Mustang. The F-82 was originally designed as a long-range escort fighter in WWII. The war ended before

the first production units were operational. The first flight was on June 15, 1945, and the F-82 was retired in 1953. Only 273 were built. The XP-82 was developed from the P-51 two stretch fuselages joined together by a common wing and a horizontal tail. The twin Mustang served with distinction during the Korean War (1950-1953) hitting the first air kills of the conflict. It was a long-range/ground attack /night-fighter aircraft, and a very fast and nimble dog fighter. The P-82 could fly distances of more than 2,300 miles and had a remarkable ceiling of 40,000 feet!

I'd call her Double Trouble!

Barnacle Bill the Pilot

A parody of *Barnacle Bill the Sailor* by Oscar Brand.
"The Air Force is the life for me" said Barnacle Bill, the Sailor.

"I'll jump my ship & I'll leave the sea" said Barnacle Bill, the Sailor.

"I'll fly so high, I'll pass the sky & gravitation, I'll defy.

"I'll make the ladies faint & sigh" said Barnacle Bill, the Sailor.

"Pretty soon, you'll lose that grin, pretty soon, you'll lose that grin,

pretty soon, you'll lose that grin" cried the fair young maiden.

"Well, I'm rough & tough & I know my stuff" said Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

"I'll fly this ship, 'til I've had enough" said Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

"Oh, I know the struts, I know the fins, I know the barrel rolls & spins. I know the Outs, I'll learn the Ins," said Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

"You're out of gas, you must go down, you're out of gas, you must go down, you're out of gas, you must go down" cried the fair young maiden.

"Well, I'm a cockeyed Fin, if I give in" said Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

"I've made my way through thick & thin" said Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

He kicked the bar, he pulled the stick, he hit the ground like a ton of brick. I'd tell you more, but it makes me sick, for Barnacle Bill, the Pilot.

"Here's some flowers for his grave, here's some flowers for his grave, many brave hearts lie asleep in the deep" cried the fair young maiden.

Post Script: This Air Force version of "Barnacle Bill the Sailor" was recorded by Oscar Brand on his 1956 album: **"The Wild Blue Yonder songs for a fighting Air Force"**. Oscar was a folk singer, songwriter, author and a radio host with quick wit and humor. "His life works will live on," said Plane Peggy.

Rare B-25H Flies Again



Barbie III flew at the Sun Fun Airshow in Lakeland, FL, April 12, 2017. (Continued Page 8, Column 1)

It is a rare B-25H model. The Warbird is owned and operated by History Flight Inc. Barbie III is the last H Model B-25 still flying in the world and the only one equipped with the huge Howitzer 75 MM cannon in the nose for ground attack purposes.

The "H" model followed the "G" model that featured the Howitzer Cannon in the nose and fired a M-46 high explosive 75MM shell and a similar gun system and upward of 18 defensive machine guns positioned throughout the aircraft. Dedicated ground strike models were even featured with a devastating array of 8X-50 caliber machine guns in a forward fixed assembly in the nose.

Barbie III was built in Englewood, California in 1943 and was the number 2 prototype of the "H" model of which 1,000 were built. This B-25H served Stateside until 1947 when it was declared surplus and the government sold it to the Bendix Corporation. It was used for ten years as a test aircraft in the development of new jet fighter landing systems. Bendix sold it off and it went through several owners and eventually ended upon the auction block in 1969 and was purchased by D. Richard Lambert, an Illinois farmer and aviation enthusiast for the winning bid of \$3,500 (a steal).

The B-25H was flown from Michigan to a private airfield known as "Lambert Field" near Plainfield, Illinois. It was put on display and occasionally taxied around the airport and was flown on a few short hops a few times a year. Then it was sold in the early 1980's to another group of aviation enthusiasts. They wanted to bring this piece of history back to life and after two engine failures they were able to fly the bomber off the farm in 1981 to a location near Chicago where full restoration began. The solid nose with the unique 75 MM cannon was reinstalled, making it the only flying B-25H model in the world. History Flight Inc. and generous donors purchased her in 2009.

The name "Barbie III", was chosen to honor a B-25 that was flown by Lt. Col. Robert T. Smith, which he named in honor of his wife Barbara Bradford. Lt. Col. Smith flew a total of 55 combat missions in the B-25 in the India, China-Burma theater of the war with the First Air Commando Group. He commanded the group's B-25 Squadron in low-level attacks and flying missions, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star Air Medal.



Researched and reported by Peggy Jean Bassett.

"I'm an Airplane"

A poem by Peggy Jean Bassett

Hello there, fellas - please don't pass me by - I'm lonely in this desert, so hot and dry.

Won't you pick me up and take me away - I'll make you happy - I'll make your day. Find some more parts and build me again. It's an airplane I am supposed to be.

I can remember when I was strong and shiny and complete. Now I just lie here in all this heat - I'm just a pair of wings; can you find me a fuselage? A propeller, a tail, rudder and much more.

Give me a Merlin a V-12 and hope that it starts. Cough, spit, and sputter. This is an old engine - with all these old parts. Just think of me flying - won't you please try? Maybe you won't just pass me by. You can polish me and fuel me and love me for a while. Just look at me in the sunlight and you will see my smile. The war is over and no more flak is on my back - I'm home now and once again I'll fly. "I'm an Airplane" - Once again I will soar the sky!

Dedicated to my son Lon Charles Solmes, once torn apart, too; you too will soar again. God Bless.

The Condor Squadron



The Condor Squadron Officers and Airmen's Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization that flies North American AT-6s out of Van Nuys Airport, their home base.

The squadron's mission is to honor military aviation through flight, exhibition, and remembrance. Thank you, Chris Rushing, President of the Squadron, for having two T-6's on display and a sit-in for the children at the Career Aviation day event at the Clay Lacy Hanger, May 19th.

"Wings Over Wendy's" was on board with a booth display of military items and actual World War II veterans to tell their stories and answer questions. The Condor Squadron flies eight AT-6 Texans. They fly their formation flyovers with 6 Texans over parades, memorial services, and events commemorating veterans flying over California skies for 55 years. The Texans were used to train pilots during WWII and the Korean War.

The Condor Squadron President, Chris Rushing, has visited us at WOW several times. "Hey, Chris, we're ready for another visit", said Plane Peggy.

P.S. The T-6 Texan is a North American built, advanced trainer aircraft use to train pilots of the U.S. Army Air Forces, Navy, RAF and others. It is a single engine (Radial) two seater fore and aft, with a cruising speed of 145 and a ceiling of 24,200 feet. (Continued Page 9, Column 1)

There are still over 500 still airworthy in the U.S. The plane is good looking and challenging. It is more difficult to land and taxi because of rudder limitations and is narrow between the landing gears.

F-16 “Falcon Flips”

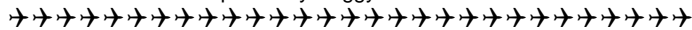


The Thunderbirds’ F-16D Falcon flipped over on landing at Dayton Ohio’s International Airport on June 23. The jet slid off the end of the runway on its top side, bursting into flames. The weather was high winds and thunderstorms. It took 90 minutes to extract the two airmen from the damaged plane. The pilot was Capt. Erik Gonsalves and passenger Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Cordova. They were in good condition with only minor injuries “thank God” and received medical attention. Capt. Erik Gonsalves is an experienced fighter pilot with over 1,600 flight hours and combat experience. He is the “Thunderbirds’ Advance Pilot and Narrator.

The Air Show went on schedule with only Saturday’s Thunderbirds performance cancelled. They did fly on Sunday, June 25th. The F-16 Falcon is an Air Force jet of the United States Air Force Demonstration Squadron and is based at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Thunderbirds were created in 1953, and are the third oldest formal flying aerobatic team in the world, after the United States Navy “Blue Angels”, formed in 1946, and the French Air Force Patrouille de France, which was formed in 1931. The F-16 Falcon’s Thunderbirds’ colors are Red, White, and Blue. The F-16D is a two-seat model.

Reported by Peggy Jean Bassett.



USAF 'doomsday' Planes Damaged



Ten USAF planes, including two E-4B "doomsday" aircraft, were damaged when a tornado hit near Offutt AFB, NB, June 23rd. Nicknamed the Air Force's "doomsday" plane, the Boeing E-4B serves as an aerial command center in case of national emergency or destruction of ground bases. It provides a highly survivable command, control and communications center to direct US forces, execute emergency war orders and coordinate actions by civil authorities. (Publisher’s note: It was the last USAF aircraft I flew in before I retired in 1979.) Reported by Ed Reynolds

In Memoriam

We lost another World War II veteran on June 23, 2017.

Abraham Alkana August 31, 1924 – June 23, 2017



Abraham Alkana, 92 years old was born in New York, NY and passed away on June 23, 2017 in Tarzana, CA. Abe was a B-17 Ball Turret Gunner during World War II. He exited our physical world gracefully and peacefully with his family by his side. Abraham was a devoted husband to his wife Thelma for over 72 years of marriage. He will be remembered and missed by his three sons Jeffrey, Eugene and Terry as well as his 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Services were Wednesday June 28, 2017 at Mount Sinai Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills.

Prayers

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

- David Plumb (The Chief)**
- Earl Minkin**
- Ellie Harrison**
- Mort Green**

New Members

We welcomed the following new members during the month of June 2017.

- Tom Bates**
- David McAlexander**
- Chris Voronin**
- Bruce Eacrett**
- Doug O'Brien**

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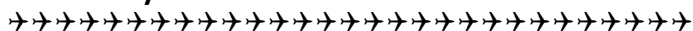
July Birthdays

Joe Birg	July 02, 1932
Donna Brend	July 02, 1941
Marge Callahan	July 03, 1927
Kevin Larosa Sr	July 03, 1950
Gordon Maxson	July 04, 1925
Chuck Slezak	July 04, 1943
Dave Steinbacher	July 06, 1937
Steve Morse	July 06, 1948
Howard Davis	July 07, 1936
Kurt Rademacher	July 07, 1961
John Kuzma	July 09, 1939
Avery Willis	July 11, 1943
Joyce Pearson	July 12, 1947
Bob Thomas	July 13, 1924
Thomas Cleaver	July 13, 1946
Louis Kridelbaugh	July 14, 1944
Warren Phelps	July 16, 1936
Anita Green	July 17, 1938
Patrick Huff	July 19, 1948
Ken Sobel	July 21, 1944
Nathan Wolfstein	July 21, 1949
Joe Goldfarb	July 22, 1926
Jack Taube	July 23, 1927
Patric Daly	July 24, 1946
Lezar Saunders	July 26, 1932
Keith Patri	July 26, 1960
Elmo Maiden	July 27, 1919
Herbert Dodge	July 27, 1929
Art Sherman	July 29, 1921
Ray Johnson	July 29, 1928
Richard Myers	July 31, 1951
David Timmerman	July 31, 1963

Wings News Patrons

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

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Nonie Lann	Andy Kopetzky
Al Lewis	Lee Levitan
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Elmo Maiden	Ginger Lyon
Claude Maugein	Ethel Margolin
Joan Mueller	Chuck McNary
Stan Opatowsky	Joe Mueller
Ed Phillips	Charles Othold
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Richard Raskoff	Marce Rankin
Judy Reynolds	Ed Reynolds
Ray Rodriguez	Maria Rodriguez
Bob Rose	Jack Rolston
Abe Rosenzweig	Ray Rosenbaum
Bruce Schultz	Sam Schultz
Phil Shapiro	Lezar Saunders
Chip Stevens	Art Sherman
Alice Stone	Bob Stiles
Bill Tapp	Howard Swerdlick
David Timmerman	Jack Taube
Karen Vegtel	Maurice Vasquez
Avery Willis	Warren Weinstein



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New Members: Marion Lovelace
 Shirley Andrews
Reminders: Connie Hein
Speakers: Barney Leone
Tours: Warren Weinstein

WOW's monthly food drive is Monday, July 10th.



We all want raffle prizes!

Please search your closets and garages and bring your items to the next Wings Over Wendy's meeting.
 Suggested Items: Military books, magazines, DVD's, tools, etc.
Thank you!



The Wings Over Camarillo Air Show and The City of Camarillo are Commemorative Partners in the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration.



Please join us on **Saturday August 19th** or **Sunday August 20th** at our Veteran's Tent for a special Vietnam War 50 Year Commemoration event at the Wings Over Camarillo Air Show, *presented by California Aeronautical University*. Around the country, venues are honoring veterans of the Vietnam War with a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin – *A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks* and special events honor Vietnam Veterans! Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.



The Birth of America's Flag Obsession

Reprint from TIME magazine

Flag day might officially be on June 14 but for many Americans it's a year-round celebration. Look no further than the countless hats, towels, bumper stickers and other paraphernalia that have been emblazoned with Stars and Stripes; recently, one Omaha teen made headlines for creating a flag out of more than 680,000 plastic bricks.

This wasn't always the case. Most "Americans used to see a flag as little more than a utilitarian marker for government buildings and military outposts. After the U.S. approved its flag design in 1777, it took nearly a century for civilians to get excited about the idea.

The turning point came in 1861 when the Civil War began. Suddenly, the flag, a military symbol of the Union, gained a new level of importance. "It has been said that when the flag came down in Fort Sumter, it went up everywhere in the North. almost like magic" says Marc Leepson, author of "**Flag: An American Biography**".

When the war ended, the flag became a symbol of the reconciliation effort. And thanks in part to advances in color printing and mass production, it increasingly began appearing on national produce and advertisements. (Early flag protection regulations were created only after its images started appearing on beer and whiskey bottles) This groundswell of Stars and Stripes support was bolstered by the 1931 selection of "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem and through the 1970's adoption of the flag lapel pin by politicians. Today that fervor shows no sign of lagging - Olivia B. Waxman

Lyrics or Words to Taps

The bugle signal (also known as *Butterfield's Lullaby*) is called *Taps* in common usage because it was used for the same purpose (to signal lights out) as the three drum taps. However, the U.S. Army still called it *Extinguish Lights* and it did not officially change the name to *Taps* until 1891. As soon as *Taps* was sounded that night in July 1862, words were put with the music. The first were, "Go to Sleep, Go to Sleep."

As the years went on many more versions were created. The most popular text to the tune of *Taps* is: "**Day is Done**"

"Day is done, Gone the sun,
 From the lake, From the hill,
 From the sky.
 All is well, safely rest,
 God is nigh."

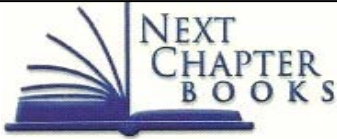
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