



Great Birthday Month 4 Wings Over Wendy's, "Greatest Generation," WWII Veterans turn 100, 99, & 98, in the same month

Over the twenty-one years of the group, many WWII veterans have lived long lives, but in only one other year, we had more than one 100-year-old birthday, and they were **inactive** members. This year as we emerged from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we had two **active** members celebrate their 100th birthday in the same year, and in the same month, we had Ethel Margolin turn 100, Jimmy Weldon, 99, Bill Dillon and Barney Leone, 98 years old.



Photo by Mike Sugar
Jimmy Weldon – 99 years old



Photo by Larry Kushner
Ethel Margolin – 100 years old



Photo by Mike Sugar
Bill Dillon – Barney Leone – 98 years old

Inflation hits Wings Over Wendy's

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The Cost of a Coffee & Donut will be \$2.00 effective October 3rd

As with everything we buy, the Donut vendor raised his price effective October 1st and the cost of coffee, paper plates, and cups have increased, so effective October 3rd we have to charge \$2.00 for a cup of coffee and a donut.

In addition, the cost of printing the newsletter requires the patron fee be raised from 83¢ to one dollar per month.

Another fee that affects Wings Over Wendy's is that to meet in the Auditorium on Federal Holidays, we will have to pay the ECRCHS a fee to cover an employee's overtime to open and close the parking lot and Auditorium on holidays. However, on school holidays that are not federal, the school's salaried staff will open and close at no cost to Wings Over Wendy's. The Permit will also cover the liability of meeting on those dates and guarantees that we can meet every Monday year-round, pending any outside event imposed on the school.

One of those outside events is if the Auditorium is used on November 7th and 8th as a polling location,

Howard Swerdlick has been able to hold the price of a hat and shirt at \$35

September 8, 2022 VFW Military History Museum Tour



Photo by Micheal Sugar

On September 8, 2022, a small Wings Over Wendy's group toured the VFW Military History Museum in the Simi Valley, Simi Town Center.

Lee Ambers, Dave Anderson, Mark Ax, Barry Chapman, David Greenberg, Ed Reynolds, Larrie Rhodes, and Michael Sugar attended the tour.

Founder and Curator Nigel Boucher has created

an excellent museum of war relics from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars.

It is a museum where Wings Over Wendy's members should donate their military memorabilia. In addition, Nigel conducts an active program for students to learn about the history of American military actions.

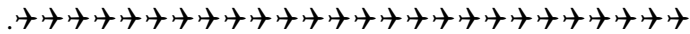


Museum Store Front #220 in the Simi Town Center



Photo by Mike Sugar

Founder and Curator Nigel Boucher.



September 2022

Meetings

September 5, 2022



Pabst Blue Ribbon Presents: The Greatest Beer Run Ever

On Labor Day, September 5th, the El Camino Real Charter High School could not find a salaried volunteer to open the Auditorium, so the in-person meeting was canceled, and only a Zoom meeting was held.

Following the business meeting, two videos were shown. The first was *Pabst Blue Ribbon Presents: The Greatest Beer Run Ever*. The true story of at a time when the Vietnam War was at its height, one man, John "Chickie" Donohue, snuck back into the war zone to find his 3 closest friends and buy them a beer.

Crazy or caring, Chickie gave his friends more than beer; he gave them hope. Hope that helped each one safely return home when the war was over. Now, 47 years later, the group is reunited to relive the greatest beer run ever.

Note: A book and a movie have been produced about the story. The film stars Zac Efron and Russell Crowe. Its on Apple TV+.



Photo from Zoom

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The F-35 World's Most INSANE Stealth Fighter Full Documentary

The featured presentation on September 5, 2022, was *The F-35 World's Most INSANE Stealth Fighter Full Documentary*.

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is an American family of single-seat, single-engine, all-weather stealth multirole combat aircraft that is intended to perform both air superiority and strike missions. It is also able to provide electronic warfare and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. Lockheed Martin is the prime F-35 contractor, with principal partners Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems. The aircraft has three main variants: the conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A, the short take-off and vertical-landing (STOVL) F-35B, and the carrier-based (CV/CATOBAR) F-35C.

The aircraft descends from the Lockheed Martin X-35, which in 2001 beat the Boeing X-32 to win the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. Its development is principally funded by the United States, with additional funding from program partner countries from NATO and close U.S. allies, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Italy, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and formerly Turkey. Several other countries have ordered, or are considering ordering, the aircraft. The program has drawn much scrutiny and criticism for its unprecedented size, complexity, ballooning costs, and much-delayed deliveries, with numerous technical flaws still being corrected. In addition, the acquisition strategy of concurrent aircraft production, while still in development and testing, led to expensive design changes and retrofits.



USMC F-35B



USN F-35C
(Continued page 4)

The F-35B entered service with the U.S. Marine Corps in July 2015, followed by the U.S. Air Force F-35A in August 2016 and the U.S. Navy F-35C in February 2019. The F-35 was first used in combat in 2018 by the Israeli Air Force. The U.S. plans to buy 2,456 F-35s through 2044, representing the bulk of the crewed tactical airpower of the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps for several decades. The aircraft is projected to operate until 2070.

September 12, 2022



Photo by Larry Kushner

Dave Nesbitt Retired Ventura FBI Chief

On September 12th, 2022, the featured speaker was Dave Nesbitt, retired Ventura County FBI Chief. Dave talked to the group about his interactions with three famous people when he was a Supervisor in the Los Angeles FBI Office..

The FBI occupies floors 14 to 17 in the West LA Federal building. The 17th floor has a lobby for visitors and meeting rooms. One day Dave was supervising a bank fraud case involving Clint Eastwood. After Clint met on the 17th floor with the agent assigned to his case, the agent returned to Dave's office on the 14th floor. He reported that Clint had stayed on the 17th floor to take pictures with the agents.

Dave went to lunch and asked the agent if Clint had exited the building when he returned. The agent reported he was still in the building and had his picture taken with all the supervisors, secretaries, and agents on all four floors. However, he didn't exit the building until the end of the work shift.

Dave told us the second story about a program he established in Los Angeles titled "FBI Bank Day." The program was an annual event where the FBI conducted a

seminar on bank fraud, suspicious activity, and other cases the FBI had with financial institutions.

Every year, Dave looked for good speakers for the event, and one year called FBI Headquarters for recommendations. They suggested Fred Abagnale of "Catch Me You Can" fame.

When Fred was scheduled to speak following the movie's release, the FBI invited the cast to attend the speech. Dave met with Fred, Tom Hanks, and Leonardo DiCaprio in the "Green Room" before Fred's talk. Dave gave Tom Hanks, who played an FBI agent in the movie, an FBI hat. When Leonardo asked for a hat, Dave instead gave him an FBI black BBQ apron with a white target bull's eye printed on it and told him that was because he was the "bad guy" in the movie.

Story three was about Dave's agents' need for more space for all the documents they were analyzing for banking irregularities. He was offered secure offices on the top floor of the Fox Plaza in Century City. The Secret Service has leased the space for President and Mrs. Reagan.

Mrs. Reagan did not need her leased space, and it was vacant. So when Dave surveyed the area and saw it would fit his needs, he accepted it but needed to find furniture for his agents. He was surprised that the Secret Service could have the furniture ready in 24 hours.

After they moved in, the President would enter the area with a pair of binoculars, walk to the window with a view of the gulf course, and watch the action. Frequently he would shake an agent's hand and state 'Ron Reagan, pleased to meet you.'

Dave finished his take by showing the group his pictures and answering questions from the audience.



Photo by Larry Kushner

**Ed Reynolds presents Dave Nesbitt with a
Certificate of Appreciation & WOW bumper logos**

September 19, 2022



Photos by Larry Kushner

Joe Weber Introduces Sue & Bruce Froude and the Big Fish Story

On September 19, 2022, Joe Weber introduced his good friends and fishing buddies Sue and Bruce Froude. Bruce is ex-Navy and a retired fireman.

Joe showed a picture of them with the fish they caught and argued about who had caught the largest. Finally, Sue settled the argument when she told the group that she actually caught the biggest!



Joe and Bruce display their fish

Ethel Margolin's 100th Birthday Party

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, Ethel Margolin's sons Bill and Rob hosted a birthday party at the home of Gladys Sturman in Calabasas.

At the Monday, September 19, 2022, meeting, Larry Kushner showed the group pictures he took at the event.

Ethel was transported from her home in West Hills to the party in a fire truck. She was thrilled that the firefighters carried her into the Fire truck's driver's compartment and then out of the truck and into Gladys' backyard.



(Continued page 6)



All photos by Larry Kushner

The Sheriff's Department honored Ethel at the end of the party. Ethel donated the remains of the cake to the Fire Department.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Abe Hoffman Honors Constitution Day

The featured speaker on September 19, 2022, was Abe Hoffman, who talked about the United States Constitution. He remarked that the date of the signing of the United States Constitution is not a Federal Holiday like the fourth of July.

Abe started with a review of the Articles of Confederation adopted by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. It created a national government that could declare wars, make peace, direct foreign affairs, and establishes a Postal Service. Nine of the thirteen states were required to pass a law, but all 13 states were required to amend the Articles. It was really a league of sovereign states. Each state had one vote in Congress. It did not have the power to create taxes or import duties. It could not regulate foreign or interstate trade., nor the power to coin money or force laws on individuals.

A debate arose in 1786 over the boundary between Maryland and Virginia in the Potomac River. A meeting was scheduled in Annapolis, and only 5 states showed up. Alexander Hamilton proposed a conference in 1787 in Philadelphia to fix the Articles. Rhode Island didn't attend, making it impossible to amend the Articles, so a new constitution was written.

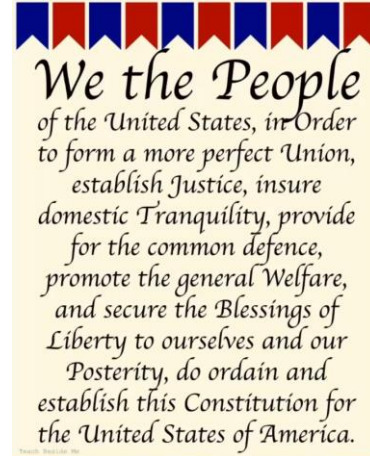
Abe called it "a bundle of compromises." First, he discussed the various proposals for the houses of Congress and the representation sizes. That led to the compromise of counting slaves as 3/5th of a person in determining the size of Congressional Districts.

Initially, the Constitution was not accepted by all, and those favoring it were called "Federalists" and those opposed "Anti Federalists."

Jefferson was concerned by the initial draft and said it needed a list of basic rights to protect the people from abuse

by the government. Five states approved the Constitution but recommended a "Bill of Rights" be added.

It took two years to approve the Bill of Rights.



Abe then discussed the Preamble of the Constitution. He calls this a Promissory Note to the people of the United States. It states the intention of what the government is going to do. He pointed out that "We the People" differed from the Articles of Federation that said "We the States." Therefore, when it states, "in Order to form a more perfect Union," it implies that it is a work in progress and recognizes that things will change. This is reinforced in Section 8 - "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

Next, Abe discussed the Amendments. In Amendment I, he talked about not establishing a religion, freedom of speech, or of the press, which he interpreted in today's terminology as all media. He expressed concern over the Second Amendment's wording concerning current terminology.

Abe continued reading each Amendment providing examples of the application of the Amendments



Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds presents Abe Hoffman with a Certificate of Appreciation & WOW bumper logos

September 26, 2022



Photo by David Timmerman

Wings Over Wendy's Visited by Dogs

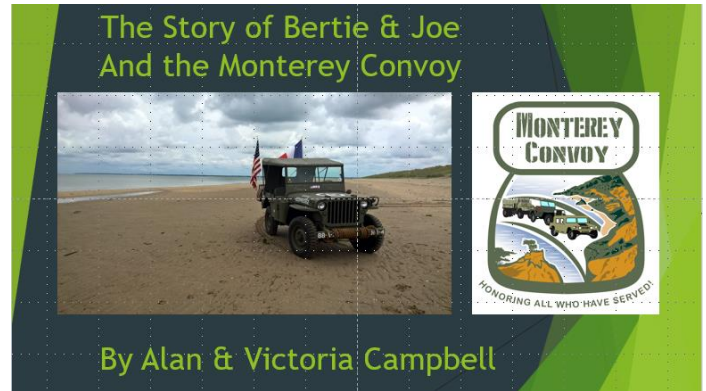
On September 26, 2022, the meeting was visited by three dogs. Rosalie Rifkin brought her small service dog, and Peter Helm brought his two dogs to the meeting. Hunter wearing a Wings Over Wendy's hat in the above picture was the most vocal of the three.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Joe Weber's Granddaughter and Great Granddaughter Visit WOW

Also, on September 26, 2022, Joe Weber's Granddaughter, Wendy Wilson, and his Great-Granddaughter, Mekenzie Wilson, visited the meeting from Reno, NV. It was difficult to tell them apart.



The Story of Bertie & Joe And the Monterey Convoy by Alan & Victoria Campbell

The featured presentation on September 26, 2022, was *The Story of Bertie & Joe And the Monterey Convoy* by *Alan & Victoria Campbell*. Alan started the story of why they bought and restored their jeeps and created the annual Monterey Convoy. It was a colorful tapestry woven from the history of airplanes, WWII, the Blitz of Belfast, movie studios, MG sports cars, and interesting people.

Alan's father, Les, migrated to California from his family farm in Iowa after hog cholera devastated the farm. In 1930, Les purchased a former Richfield gas station located right outside the main gate of Paramount Studios whose owner had left two years earlier. He rehabbed the slightly run-down building and set it up as a Texaco station.

The Depression had little effect on him and he saved enough to pay cash to build a lovely Spanish-style home in 1938 out in "the country" in Sherman Oaks in the San Fernando Valley.

With the prospects of war and gasoline rationing on the horizon and being too old to enlist in the military, Les leveraged his background in auto mechanics and aviation into a good-paying job as an aircraft technician with Lockheed in Burbank CA in 1941.



(Continued page 9)

In 1941, the UK and U.S. governments and Lockheed formulated plans to build 4 civilian-operated air depots in the UK to “support American-built aircraft in British use.”

The sites chosen included: Liverpool (Speke Field), two bases at Glasgow on the west coast of Scotland (Renfrew and Abbotsinch Fields), and Belfast (Langford Lodge).

Belfast was chosen as one of the 4 sites for its many advantages:

- Belfast featured a large, deep-water port and a large industrial design base, manufacturing, and aircraft supply.
- It was a long distance for any German planes to travel to attempt to bomb it. (The UK government actually believed the Luftwaffe could not reach Belfast. It was also thought that the distance would give the RAF the chance to defend against any potential attack.)

In 1941, Belfast had the highest density of any city in UK. Because the government did not believe the German planes could reach Belfast, no searchlights or smoke machines were installed to protect the city and only 22 anti-aircraft guns were positioned around the city, 16 of which were heavy. Only 200 public shelters were constructed for a population of 500,000. It was truly a “soft” target.

A major objective of the German air force was to shorten the war by destroying the UK’s manufacturing capacity and supply lines. The Germans were well aware of the importance of Belfast to Britain’s war effort.

The Germans conducted bombing raids over Belfast in 1941 simultaneously with the second phase of their bombing of England’s industrial cities.

The 1st Blitz bombing of Belfast occurred on 7 Apr 1941, nicknamed the “Dockside Raid.” The Germans intended this raid to be a test of the Belfast defenses. Six Heinkel He111 bombers, from Kampfgruppe 26, flying at 7,000 feet, dropped incendiaries, high explosive bombs, and parachute mines. This raid completely destroyed the H&W shipyards.

The 2nd Raid was on Easter Tuesday, 15 Apr 1941. 200 He111 bombers joined in the 6 hour raid. Half the houses (50,000) in Belfast were destroyed or damaged and churches and hospitals were not spared. 900 civilians were killed, 1500 injured – the UK’s highest casualty rate for one night’s bombing during the 1940 - 1941 Blitz attacks.

The 3rd and 4th raids occurred on the nights of May 4/5 and 5/6. The purpose of these raids was to burn the rest of Belfast to the ground. The Germans dropped 100,000 incendiary bombs from 200 aircraft, which flew over the city in waves spaced ½ hour apart.

After the May 1941 raids, the German high command believed that Belfast’s industrial base had been devastated beyond recovery. Also, they felt England had been crippled with the Blitz attacks on its major industrial cities.

No further bombing raids were conducted over the UK and the Luftwaffe then turned its attention to the upcoming

invasion of Russia

Aided by its allies in late 1941, the UK quickly rebuilt the major facilities in Belfast that had been destroyed or damaged by the blitz.

The Harland and Wolff shipyard was reconstructed, and it built 6 aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers, and 131 other naval ships; and repaired over 22,000 vessels with a workforce that peaked at 35,000 employees.



With the Blitz over and reconstruction underway, the USAAF turned its attention to working with Lockheed to get the air depots built.

The 8th Army Air Forces arrived in Northern Ireland in January 1942 to supervise construction of a depot. The site selected for Belfast was Langford Lodge, on the grounds of a stately home on shores of Lough Neagh, 25 miles west of the city. (This home belonged to the family of Edward Pakenham, the British general defeated by Andrew Jackson’s forces in the Battle of New Orleans.)

The depot was to be built and run by the Lockheed subsidiary “Lockheed Overseas Corporation” and supervised by the US Army Air Force.

In early 1942, Lockheed sent hundreds of the USA’s most highly skilled aircraft technicians to Langford Lodge. They arrived by ship at the ports of Larne and Belfast and Alan’s dad Les was one of these technicians, arriving in Jun 1942.



Langford Lodge was designated Base Air Depot No 3, AAF Station 597
(Continued page 10)

Langford became the 2nd largest USAAF base outside of the continental US. In June 1943, the depot was given technical responsibility for modifying all aircraft in the European Theatre of Operations.

As of January 1, 1944, there was 6,900 personnel at Langford: 2,913 locals, 2,883 LOC civilians, and 1,104 US military.

By July 1944, the crew at Langford Lodge had assembled, modified, and repaired battle damage to 22,500 of 30 different types of aircraft, including B-24 bombers, C-47 transports, and P-38 fighters.

The LOC techs worked long days, 6 days a week. LOC spent a lot of money to entertain them in their off hours on the base, including building bowling alleys and tennis courts, organizing baseball games, and flying in actresses Glenn Miller and Bob Hope from Hollywood and Joe Lewis for exhibition boxing.



Alan's dad met a charming Irish lass, Betty Hughes, at one of the Langford Lodge dances. They were married in April 1944. Alan's dad left his Langford Lodge assignment in Jul 1944 and was shipped back to the US. Betty followed shortly. Soon she gave birth to two boys. Ian and Alan.

Alan was fascinated by his neighbor's MG-TC. And the book titled "The Red Car" by Don Stanford which is about a teenage boy who finds a beat-up MG-TC, restores it, and gets the girl in the story.

After earning a degree at UCLA, Alan was commissioned in the US Navy served aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Duluth with two combat tours to Vietnam.

Vicki then took to the podium and told the group of her family's background in the military. They have served in the US Army since the Revolutionary War, through the ages to Vicki's grandfather, who served in Army Intelligence in WWII and was at the Nuremberg Trials, to her dad in WWII, whose duties was a jeep driver in Italy. Her aunt and uncles also served during WWII. One uncle, Burke "Joe" Scates, died 12 Jul 1944 in Normandy and is buried in the American cemetery at Colleville.

After WWII, Vicki's father earned degrees in electrical and nuclear engineering. He took his family on camping vacations using Army surplus tents and cots. As a

result, Vicki and her brother Marc became indoctrinated to believe that the smell of Army canvas is a "good thing." Marc served in the US Army 41st Brigade 1/27 Battalion Field Artillery at Babenhausen, Germany, and was there when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.



After hearing Alan's stories about his neighbor's MG TC and how he always wanted one, Vicki bought a 1937 MG TA for Alan. Unfortunately, it needed a total restoration, so Alan restored it to Concours condition. Alan named the TA "Albert," "Bertie" for short.

Marc and Vicki decided to organize a family trip to Normandy for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day to honor all of their family's WWII service. Vicki thought it would be a great idea to have a jeep to drive around Normandy.

Each sibling purchased a WWII-era Jeep and restored them in September 2018.



The Jeeps were put into a container shipped to France and were driven on Omaha and Utah beaches for the commemorative activities.



(Continued page 11)

When they returned from Normandy in 2019, they participated in Monterey Car Week including entering both jeeps in the Little Car Show in Pacific Grove and the Ocean View Cruise.

Vicki & Marc realized that there was no recognition as part of “Car Week” of the role that military vehicles have played in automotive history. So they decided to create an annual Monterey Convoy that would take place during “Car Week” to showcase these vehicles. With the broader objectives:

- To interest people in the history and variety of military vehicles.
- To encourage, preserve and share the relevance of military history.
- To remind the public that the purpose of the military is to serve the nation by supporting and defending the Constitution in a way that upholds the rights and interests of the American people.
- To promote the values of the services: do one’s duty, lead and follow with discipline, strive for excellence, learn how to put the needs of others above one’s own and to accomplish the mission as a team.



Monterey Convoy 2021

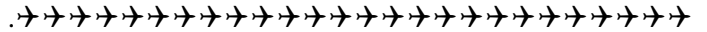


Monterey Convoy 2022

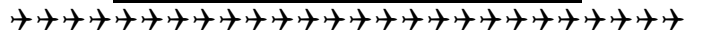


Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds presents Alan and Vicki Campbell with a Certificate of Appreciation & WOW logos



In Other News



Personalized care packages to troops from Operation Gratitude lift morale and may have saved a life

Carolyn Blashek's compassion and lightbulb moment cheer soldiers who don't get letters from home



1st Lt Jordan Blashek on deployment receiving Operation Gratitude care package with team June 2013 (far left). (Photo courtesy Jordan Blashek)

By [DENNIS MCCARTHY](#) | PUBLISHED: September 24, 2022

The Bob Hope USO lounge at LAX was empty the day a young soldier walked in and asked to speak with a chaplain. The volunteer on duty told him she’d call and see if there was a chaplain available to come out to the airport.

His flight was leaving in 45 minutes, he didn’t have time to wait. Could he just talk to her for a few minutes? Sure, Carolyn Blashek said. They sat on the couch and the young soldier poured out his broken heart to a 46-year-old mother with two teenage children.

He was on emergency leave from Iraq because his mother had died. His wife had left him soon after their only child died in infancy, and now he was on his way back into a war zone and wasn’t planning on coming back. There wasn’t anyone left who cared if he did.

(Continued page 12)

She'd care, Blashek said. The American people would care. The soldier thanked her for listening, and left to catch his flight - leaving her sitting there wishing she had found the right words a chaplain would have used to ease the soldier's mind.

She did a lot of thinking on the drive home to Encino that night. After 9/11, she had tried to join the Marines to fight this war so her children wouldn't have to. She was too old, the recruiter said. So, she signed up to volunteer at the USO, but after talking with that young soldier she began to question if she was doing enough.

"I needed to do more than just serve hot dogs to soldiers in transit to their duty stations," Blashek said. "I needed some way to show him and other combat veterans that people do care."

From her living room, with the help of two friends, Nancy Levy and Cheryl Zerah, she began assembling care packages, each with a letter from a child written to a specific person, not just "To a Soldier," like other care packages. It had to be personal to be felt, that was important.

She called her care packages Operation Gratitude, and also included a letter inside asking for the names and military addresses of other troops who weren't getting mail from home. Her efforts caught the attention of a general in Iraq who passed her request down to all his company commanders.



Carolyn Blashek with 1st Lt. Jordan Blashek — Homecoming from 1st deployment June, 2012. (Courtesy Carolyn Blashek)

It wasn't long before she had a thousand names to put on her Operation Gratitude care packages — not long, also, before she began getting letters back from Iraq thanking her, and some that broke her heart.

"I had a young man in my platoon who never received anything at mail call," wrote a staff sergeant. "He was estranged from his family and the only package he had ever gotten in an entire year in Iraq was labeled 'to any service person.' Not to him.

"One night he returned to the barracks and there was a package from your Operation Gratitude on his bunk addressed to him. He couldn't believe it. He opened the package and began reading the letters from elementary school kids wishing him a safe return home.

"This soldier had been contemplating suicide he told me later, but that care package with his name on it and the letters from those kids made him seek out counseling, and reach out to his family back home to reconcile their differences.

"You've let an old sergeant bring one more of his soldiers back home safely, and for that I am forever in your debt."

She thought of that young soldier in the USO lounge who never got to talk to a chaplain. In a way, her care packages were like a chaplain — lifting morale and showing our troops far from home that there were people thinking of them, people who cared.

It wasn't long before Operation Gratitude outgrew her living room, and the packages were then assembled at the Army National Guard armory in Van Nuys by hundreds of volunteers who had read her story in the Los Angeles Daily News, and wanted to help.

Many were retired Vietnam, Korean and World War II veterans who knew how important care packages from home were. These old soldiers stood in assembly lines filling boxes and talking with teenage kids and their parents, spending a Saturday afternoon bonding for a good cause.

There were seniors, police officers, firefighters, nurses and a wide array of people from across the San Fernando Valley who were there because they cared. They were joined by returning Gulf War veterans who had received Operation Gratitude care packages themselves.

They wanted to meet Blashek, and tell her how much it meant to come back to their barracks at the end of a long day on patrol and see a care package addressed to them on their bunk.

It's been 21 years since 9/11, and more than 3.5 million Operation Gratitude care packages have been sent to deployed troops, military children, wounded soldiers, caregivers and first responders.

Carolyn Blashek wanted to join the Marines but she was too old, so she formed her own army. They've been fighting this war with pens and paper, labels and cardboard boxes, and letters from schoolchildren.

And, they've been winning.

That old staff sergeant telling Blashek he'd forever be in her debt is not alone.

Information on Operation Gratitude and how to help: www.operationgratitude.com/

(Note: See page 14 to volunteer)

Dennis McCarthy's column runs on Sunday.

He can be reached at

These Are the Most Popular Bases New Soldiers Are Volunteering For



U.S. Army combat engineers assigned to the 588th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, prepare to conduct breach training at Santahamina, Finland, June 28, 2022 (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Hassani Ribera)

23 Sep 2022 Military.com | By Steve Beynon

Some 6,000 new soldiers recruited this year have chosen their first duty station as part of a relatively new Army effort to give young troops more flexibility as the service scrambles to make enlisting as enticing as possible amid historic recruiting struggles.

The most popular duty station by far is Alaska, home of the newly revamped 11th Airborne Division, which 825 new soldiers have selected. Fort Polk, Louisiana, had 83 soldiers volunteer for duty there, the fewest among the seven original duty station options the Army set in February.

Since February, the service has slowly expanded the number of first duty stations recruits can choose from. Now, the Army offers 32 options, effectively all of its major bases. The most recent additions in August include bases in Virginia, Maryland, and Georgia.

In July, the Army added some of its premier combat installations including Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Vicenza, Italy -- effectively guaranteeing a new recruit can be a paratrooper, or serve in the prestigious 101st Airborne, an air assault division, which can be a powerful recruiting incentive.

The Army aimed to recruit 60,000 new active-duty soldiers into its ranks this year, a goal that the service will fall 15,000 short of, according to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth. In addition to letting soldiers choose where they're stationed, the service has beefed up recruiting

bonuses and kicked off a program in which recruits who otherwise were out of compliance with weight standards can lose weight and qualify for service. It also allows other applicants who failed the entrance exam to get tutoring.

The sheer number of volunteers might not paint a full picture of where troops want to go. Whether a soldier is assigned to a specific base of their choice ultimately depends on vacancies for their job specialty. For example, in July, Korea only had 11 different job options.

Requests for Original Six Locations New Recruits Could Choose From:

- Alaska: 825
- Fort Carson, Colorado: 679
- Fort Hood, Texas: 657
- Fort Drum, New York: 293
- Fort Riley, Kansas: 202
- Fort Polk, Louisiana: 83

Full List of Requests:

- Alaska: 825
- Fort Carson, Colorado: 679
- Fort Campbell, Kentucky: 659
- Fort Hood, Texas: 657
- Europe: 546
- Fort Bliss, Texas: 475
- Fort Lewis, Washington: 475
- Hawaii: 415
- Fort Stewart, Georgia: 392
- Fort Drum, New York: 293
- South Korea: 232
- Fort Riley, Kansas: 202
- Fort Polk, Louisiana: 83
- Fort Benning, Georgia: 76
- Fort Irwin, California: 42
- Fort Sill, Oklahoma: 42
- Fort Meade, Maryland: 30
- Fort Eustis, Virginia: 15
- Fort Gordon, Georgia: 15
- Fort Story, Virginia: 10
- Fort Belvoir, Virginia: 8
- Fort Bragg, North Carolina: 8
- Lackland Air Force Base, Texas: 5
- Fort Rucker, Alabama: 5
- Fort Detrick, Maryland: 3
- Fort Huachuca, Arizona: 2
- Fort Knox, Kentucky: 1
- Fort Lee, Virginia: 1
- Fort Sam Houston, Texas: 1

-- Steve Beynon can be reached at Steve.Beynon@military.com. Follow him on Twitter @StevenBeynon.

Wings Over Wendy's Future Events:



MOAA/MOWW CHAPTER MEETING 19 October 2022



Wayne Scott

Wayne Scott served for over 29 years as a Communications and Information Officer in the United States Air Force. His Air Force career took him through 19 different assignments at 11 different locations, including three tours as a squadron commander responsible for the morale, welfare, and discipline of up to 500 personnel. Under his leadership, one of those units was named best large communications unit in the Air Force in 1999. He retired as a Colonel from the Air Force in November 2005.

Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2022

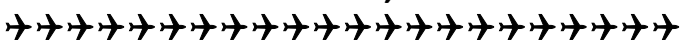
Check in starts at 5:30

Buffet line starts at 6:30

Program starts at 7:30

**RSVP to Dan Pemberton at
dhpinto@aol.com or 805-807-7788
NLT 14 October**

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



Help Operation Gratitude Stuff Battalion Buddy Teddy Bears for the Children of Deployed Troops

**Mondays in October from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Thursdays in October from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Assembly Days

9409 Owensmouth Ave, Chatsworth

October 8th

Saturday, 9am - 12pm

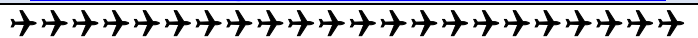
and

October 22nd

Saturday, 9am - 12pm

Sign up to attend @

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



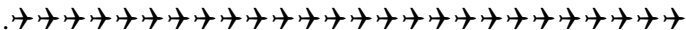
In Memoriam

During September, no Wings Over Wendy's member was reported to have "flown west."

Prayers

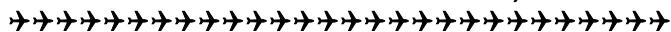
Unfortunately, several of our most active members were hospitalized, in Nursing Homes, or at home, recuperating from their injuries or illnesses. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings:

Howard Davis, Howard Swedlick & Rosalie Rifkin



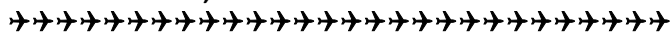
October Birthdays

Rosalie Rifkin	October 01, 1938
Steve Bordofsky	October 04, 1942
Andy Romanisky	October 07, 1947
David Freeman	October 10, 1943
Harvey Krasner	October 12, 1924
David Tostenson	October 12, 1946
Bob Shattuck	October 20, 1948
Bill Garland	October 22, 1943
Howard Lewis	October 23, 1946
Michael Castro	October 25, 1958
Joe Weber	October 27, 1926
Bruce Schultz	October 28, 1949
Bill Tapp	October 28, 1936
Chris Voronin	October 29, 1981



New Members & Guests

We welcomed the following new members, guests, friends, and relatives to our meetings during September 2022: **Dave Nesbett, Bruce and Sue Froude, Wendy and Mekenzie Wilson, and 'Buster' Helms**

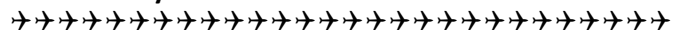


Wings News Patrons

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

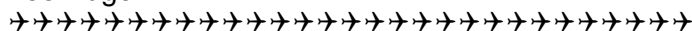
David Alvarez	Lee Ambers
Dave Anderson	Lillian Anderson
Shirley Andrews	Lee Auger
Phil Aune	Mark Ax
Peggy Jean Bassett	Tom Bates
Bob Bermant	Karl Boeckmann
Thyra Boeckmann	Ron Boggess
Paul Boghossian	John Boiko
Rod Boyce	Richard Burns
Marge Callahan	Michael Castro
Barry Chapman	Harvey Cohen
Stanley DeCovnick	Bob Donovan
Jan Edwards	Bob Eisenhart
Mike Emch	Nancy Emch
Gordon Fell	David Freeman
Frank Garrett	David Greenberg
Carter Greene	Richard Gross
Marilyn Hauck	Peter Helm
Richard Hernandez	Abe Hoffman
Manny Iglesias	Carol Jensen
Fred Kaplan	Steve Klausner
Jerry Knotts	Andy Kopetzky
Erick Lace	Robert Lanthier
Robert Lee	Barney Leone

Sherry Levitt	Hillard Lewinson
Howard Lewis	Vivian Lewis
Martin Light	Morris Litwack
Marion Lovelace	Barry Maiten
Ethel Margolin	Claude Maugein
Shannon Muchow	Dan Pemberton
Maurice Portnoy	Anne Marie Radel
Marcene Rankin	Richard Raskoff
Bill Ratner	Ed Reynolds
Larrie Rhodes	Rosalie Rifkin
Maria Rodriguez	Ray Rodriguez
Andy Romanisky	Stanley Salmore
Bruce Schultz	Sam Schultz
Jim Sivazlian	Doc Stafford
Dave Steinbacher	Bob Stiles
Alice Stone	Howard Swerdlick
Rob Swihart	Bill Tapp
David Timmerman	Karen Vegtel
Karen Velarde	Tony Velarde
Lucie Volotsky	Howard Waldman
Joe Weber	Bill Wishard
Dave Worley	



Wings Staff

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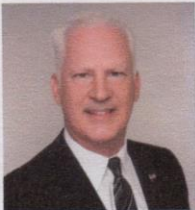
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earlr45@gmail.com

6040 E Larkellen Ct. Oak Park, Ca. 91377

Reminder

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



**For Help with your Zoom
Connection**

Contact: Charles Scott

(818) 448-1737

pcinfoman@gmail.com.

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

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

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