



# Two Major August 2023 Events: 2023 Wings Over Camarillo 2023 Annual Awards Luncheon



Photo by Andy Kopetzky

Max Carlise and Fred Kaplan at Mike Castro's display next to Tom and Rebecca Maiden's display, with Neil Houston, Erick Lace, and Barry Chapman selling WOW model airplanes and military vehicles in the background.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Sue Donovan, Glen Schecter, and Penny Korechoff at the buffet line with the 160+ attendees in the background

## 2023 Annual Awards Luncheon

## 2023 Wings Over Camarillo Air Show

Wings Over Wendy's had a dozen displays in the Veterans Hanger at the 2023 Camarillo Air Show. **Max Carlise, Mike Castro, Tom and Rebecca Maiden, Chuck Mattews, Ken Mayer, Larry Kushner, Neil Houston, Fred Kaplan, and Ed Reynolds** had displays. **David Greenberg, Barry Chapman, Erick Lace, Andy Kopetzky, Ray and Maria Rodriguez, and Frank Lopez** assisted.

Over 50 airplane and military vehicle models inherited from departed WOW member George Musser were sold. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Hillary, the Sunday Air Show was canceled.

On August 24, 2023, 160 Wings Over Wendy's members and friends attended the Annual Awards Luncheon at the Woodland Hills Country Club. **Bob Donovan** was the MC, with **Maria and Ray Rodriguez** greeting attendees at the door and **Nancy Eisenhart** guiding them to their table. **Bob Bermant and Barry Chapman** sold 50/50 Raffle Tickets, and **Dave Anderson** managed a silent auction, **Max Carlise** managed the audiovisual, **Jasmine Mirfakhraei** sang the National Anthem, **Gunny Napper** led the Pledge of Allegiance, **Bob Donovan** recited a roll call of those who had departed since the last Luncheon. **Dave Worley** conducted the POW/MIA Table and **Joe Weber** the Invocation.

(Continued page 2)



**Master of Ceremonies - Bob Donovan**



**Marine Corps Color Guard – Max Carlise AV Controls**



**National Anthem sung by Jasmine Mirfakhraei.**



Photos by Larry Kushner and Joe Peduto

**Pledge of Allegiance, led by Gunny Napper**



Photo by Larry Kushner

**Councilmembers John Lee and Bob Blumfield, with Ed Reynolds, present Boyd Davis a 15-Year Attendance Award.**



Photo by Larry Kushner

**Councilmembers John Lee and Bob Blumfield, with Ed Reynolds, present Steve Klausner a 15-Year Award.**



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Councilmembers John Lee and Bob Blumfield, with Ed Reynolds, present Mike Emch a 15-Year Attendance Award.**

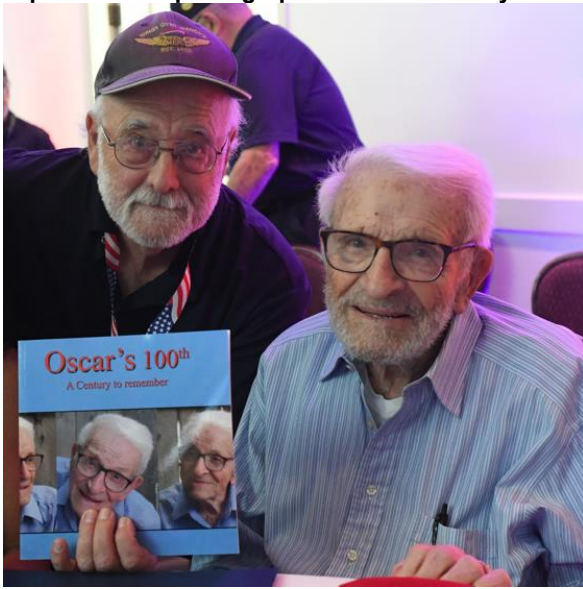


Photo by Joe Peduto

**Councilmembers John Lee and Bob Blumfield present Oscar Stein, City of Los Angeles 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Greetings.**

(Continued page 3)

Larry Kushner presents Oscar Stein with a book he produced of photographs of Oscar's 100 years



WWII Vets receiving Certificates



Barney Leone



George Rothman



Ed Phillips



Keynote Speaker: Scott Duncan COL USMC (Ret)



Joe Weber, Who also Conducted the Invocation



Keuroghlian Taleen from Congressman Brad Sherman's office presents Wings Over Wendy's with a US Flag flown over the Capital and the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognitions to the WWII Veterans

Photos by Larry Kushner and Joe Peduto



Dick Burns

Photos by Larry Kushner and Joe Peduto

(Continued page 4)



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Dave Worley, LTC USAF (Ret), Conducts the POW/MIA Table Ceremony**



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Avi Ben-Shabat – Our newest US Citizen announcing a donation to Wings Over Wendy's**



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Ray and Maria Rodriguez, the Receptionists**



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Nancy and Bob Eisenhart. Nancy led people to their table.**



Photo by Joe Peduto

**Steve Oliver, Singer, provided the entertainment.**



Photo by Andy Kopetsky

**Bob and Susan Bermant, assisted by David Goodyear, at the Howard Swerdlick Memorial 50/50 Raffle table.**

(Continued page 5)



Photo by Larry Kushner  
**Dave Anderson Managed the Silent Action**



Photo by Larry Kushner  
**Silent Auction tables**



Photo by Joe Peduto  
**City of Calabasas Mayor David Shapiro and Councilmember Edward Albrecht presented Wings Over Wendy's a certificate of recognition.**



**GARY SINISE**  
★ FOUNDATION ★



“Welcome!  
It’s *our*  
honor to  
serve YOU!”  
*-Gary*

**A special thank you to the  
GARY SINISE FOUNDATION  
For providing the initial  
funding**

# August 2023

## Meetings

### August 7, 2023



Photo by Larry Kushner

## Stuart Olesker

### Age Well Drive Smart

On August 7, 2023, the featured presentation was conducted by a team of Senior Volunteers from the California Highway Patrol. Stuart Olesker started the presentation by introducing the team: Fred Beck, Paul Kayne, Mark Silverman, Warren Sefton, and Alan Scher. He then described some of their functions, such as Ambulance Inspections, School Patrols, and Ticket Signoffs for “Fixit Tickets” things like a tail light that doesn’t work.

Fred Beck conducted the first part about

#### **Purpose of this Workshop:**

To help keep you driving safely for as long as possible!!!

#### Pertinent Factors

- Age group statistics
- Effects of aging
- How to extend your driving years
- Becoming a better/safer driver

#### **YOU decide IF and WHEN to stop driving**

- No absolute criteria
- Anticipate the inevitable
- Understanding alternatives

#### Age Group Statistics

#### Predictions @ age 70

	Men	Women
Years of driving	11.5 (81.5)	11.2 (81.2)
Years remaining	17.7	20.6
Years w/o driving	6.2	9.4

#### **MYTHS about Older Drivers**

- Driving risks increase with age
- We would be safer if all older drivers were off the road
  - All older drivers know when to restrict or stop driving
  - Your doctor will tell you when it’s time to stop driving
  - When renewing your driver’s license, DMV will automatically check your driving ability
- Older drivers know when their driving is unsafe
- It’s easy to use public transportation
- This program is all you need to be a safe driver

#### **Self Awareness Questionnaire**

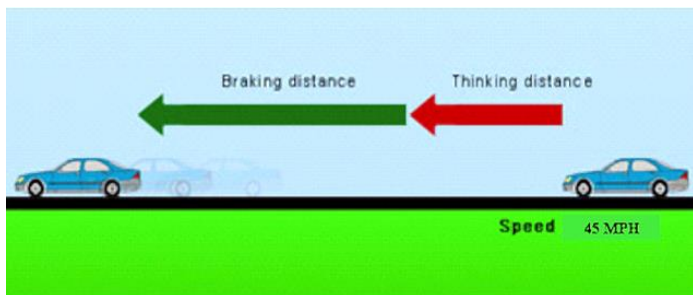
1. How important is driving to your life?
2. How confident are you with your current driving ability?
3. How would you rate your vision?
4. How would you rate your reaction time?
5. How would you rate your flexibility?
6. Does driving make you feel anxious? In which of the following situations are you least confident?
  - On freeways
  - In the rain
  - At night
  - When I’m being tailgated
  - When merging into traffic
  - When driving in unfamiliar places
7. Have you reviewed your prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal medications with your doctor or pharmacist to see how they may affect your driving?
8. When you think about your transportation future, how aware are you of transportation resources other than your car?

(Continued page 7)

Paul Kayne conducted the second part of the presentation.

### TAKING CONTROL

- Vision and hearing changes
- Mental vitality
- Physical fitness
- Sleep and rest
- Nutrition
- Medication/Alcohol
- Reaction time



### You Can Be A Better Driver

- Plan your trip
- Check your vehicle before starting the engine
- Safe driving practices
- Rules of the road
- Collision avoidance

### ICE

Paul emphasized the importance of carrying emergency contact information in the car and on your person. He titled it **ICE**.

#### In Case of Emergency

Put Emergency Contact Information In Your Phone Contacts

OR,

On The Back of Your Phone

OR,

PUT IT ON THE BACK OF YOUR LICENSE!

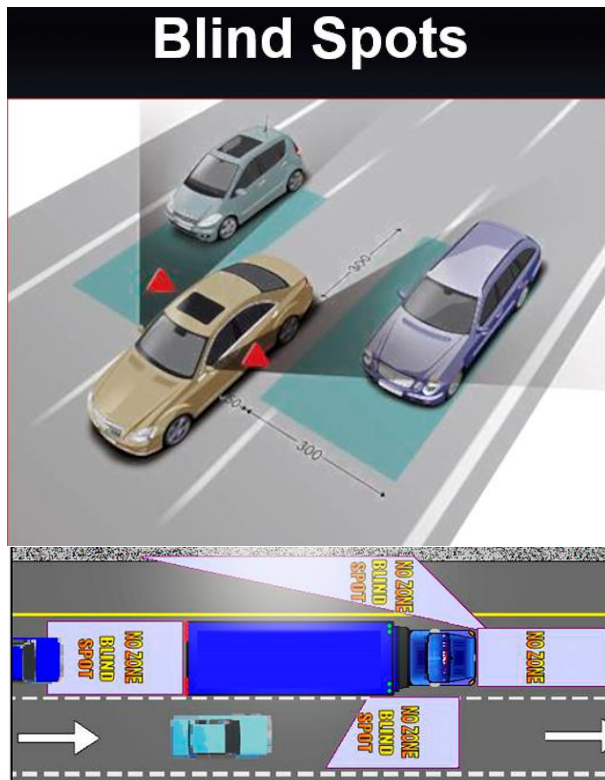
### Before Starting Your Engine

- Adjust your seat
- Adjust your headrest
- Adjust your mirrors
- Buckle up

Several slides were shown on adjusting your seat and headrests.

### ADJUST YOUR MIRRORS

Then Paul went into a more extended discussion on adjusting your mirrors, emphasizing that you need to view cars on the lanes on your right and left. Too many people adjust them to view the side of their vehicle and not the lanes on their left and right sides, which are the blind spots in the following slides.



### SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

- Be aware of stress
- Avoid distractions
- Shave or apply Makeup at home
- Ignore road rage

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

## Summary

- Acknowledge significance of driving
- Many pertinent factors
- Age group statistics
- You can take control of your driving life
- Becoming a better driver
- There will be a time to stop
- Understanding alternatives



Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds presents Stuart and the team with a certificate of appreciation and WOW bumper stickers.

# August 14, 2023



## **The Genius Behind Skunk Works: Kelly Johnson's Top Secret Airplane Designs That Will Blow Your Mind**

On August 14, 2023, the featured presentation was a video on YouTube called "**The Genius Behind Skunk Works: Kelly Johnson's Top Secret Airplane Designs That Will Blow Your Mind**" by DroneScapes. It is a historical documentary about Kelly Johnson and Skunk Works, a division of Lockheed, and the makers of many American iconic aircraft, such as the SR-71 Blackbird, U-2 Dragonlady, and F-104 Starfighter.

The video starts with Kelly Johnson as a college student analyzing the design of a Lockheed twin-engine transport in the wind tunnel at the University of Michigan. In 1933, Kelly Johnson started working as a tool designer for the Lockheed Aircraft Company in Burbank, California.

After transferring to the engineering department, he was assigned to the company's Model 10 Electra project. Johnson identified a stability problem with the airplane's design, and he was sent back to the University of Michigan to conduct a wind tunnel study, which resulted in his proposal of the twin vertical tail configuration, which was a characteristic of many Lockheed airplanes that followed. Johnson also served as a flight test engineer for the aircraft.

After assignments as flight test engineer, stress analyst, aerodynamicist, and weight engineer, he became chief research engineer in 1938. In 1952, he was appointed chief engineer of Lockheed's Burbank, California plant, which later became the Lockheed-California Company. In

1956 he became Vice President of Research and Development there.

Johnson became Vice President of Advanced Development Projects (ADP) in 1958. The first ADP offices were nearly uninhabitable; a smelly former bourbon distillery was the first ADP location, the site where his secretive team built the first P-38 Lightning prototype. Moving from the distillery to a larger building, the stench from a nearby plastic factory was so vile that Irv Culver, one of the engineers, began answering the intra-Lockheed "house" phone "Skunk Works!"

Skunk Works is an official pseudonym for Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Programs (ADP), formerly called Lockheed Advanced Development Projects. It is responsible for a number of aircraft designs, beginning with the P-38 Lightning in 1939 and the P-80 Shooting Star in 1943. Skunk Works engineers subsequently developed the U-2, SR-71 Blackbird, F-117 Nighthawk, F-22 Raptor, and F-35 Lightning II, the latter being used in the air forces of several countries.

The Skunk Works name was taken from the moonshine factory in the comic strip Li'l Abner. The designation "skunk works" or "skunkworks" is widely used in business, engineering, and technical fields to describe a group within an organization given a high degree of autonomy and unhampered by bureaucracy, with the task of working on advanced or secret projects.

A modern Skunk Works project leverages an older one:

- LASRE atop the SR-71 Blackbird.
  - Lockheed P-38 Lightning (unofficial)
  - Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star
  - Lockheed XF-90
  - Lockheed F-104 Starfighter
  - Lockheed U-2
  - Lockheed X-26 Frigate
  - Lockheed YO-3
  - Lockheed A-12
  - Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird
  - Lockheed D-21
  - Lockheed XST (Have Blue)
  - Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk
  - Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor
  - Lockheed Martin X-35
  - Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II
  - Lockheed X-27
  - Lockheed Martin Polecats
  - Quiet Supersonic Transport
  - Lockheed Martin Cormorant
  - Lockheed Martin Desert Hawk
  - Lockheed Martin RQ-170 Sentinel
  - Lockheed Martin X-55
  - Lockheed Martin SR-72
  - Lockheed Martin X-59 QueSST
- Not only is it what he did, but the way he did it.**



# August 21, 2023



## Allen Chandler - Legal self-defense and the Constitution

On August 21, 2023, LAUSD and El Camino Real Charter High School canceled school late in the afternoon of the 20th because of Hurricane Hilary, forcing Wings Over Wendy's to conduct a Zoom-only meeting.

The scheduled speaker, E. Allan Chandler, Jr. from Texas, was able to conduct his presentation from a hotel room near LAX.

Allen is an LTC USA (Retired) Attorney at Law and a Lawyer for legal self-defense and the Constitution. He started his discussion with a brief history of his career. He was commissioned as a US Army Artillery Officer with a Law Degree. After a couple of years, Allen was able to take leave to pass the Bar exam and was then transferred to perform attorney duties in Europe. He assisted in the setup of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He started the presentation with what happens AFTER the use of force.

**General Rule** - You Have the Right to Defend Yourself with **Reasonable Force**, up to and including

**Deadly Force**, if you are greeted with **Imminent Deadly Force**.

**Protected places with Presumption(s)**. There are generally three places where you are presumed to be correct in defending yourself with force. These are: [1] Your **Residence**; [2] Your **Business**; and [3] Your **Vehicle** - if you are in it.

**CA Judge's Benchbook - 505.**

**Justifiable Homicide: Self-Defense or Defense of Another.**

You are **not** guilty of murder or manslaughter or attempted murder or attempted voluntary manslaughter if you were justified in using force against someone in self-defense or defense of another. You acted in lawful self-defense or defense of another **if**:

[1.] [**reasonable belief - imminent danger**] You have to have a reasonable belief that you or someone else was in **imminent danger of being killed or suffering great bodily injury**. [Or was in imminent danger of being (raped/maimed/robbed or other forcible and atrocious crime)];

[2.] [**reasonable belief - deadly force necessary**] You have to have a reasonable belief that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to defend against that danger;

**AND**

[3.] [**reasonable force**] You may use no more force than was reasonably necessary to defend against that danger.

\* **Possible "Future" Harm**. Bottom Line = If not imminent, then not reasonable.

**Belief in future harm is not sufficient, no matter how great or how likely the harm is believed to be. You must have believed there was imminent danger of death or great bodily injury to yourself or someone else.** The defendant is only entitled to use that amount of force that a reasonable person would believe is necessary in the same situation.

\* **Reasonable Belief**. Totality of the Circumstances. When deciding whether the defendant's beliefs were reasonable, **consider all the circumstances as they were known to and appeared to the defendant** and consider what a reasonable person in a similar situation with similar knowledge would have believed.

\* **Retreat**. A defendant is not required to retreat. You are entitled to **stand your ground** and defend yourself until the danger of death or great bodily injury has passed.

\* **If You Have Used Force Call 911 and say.**

1. **There has been a shooting;**

2. **My name is** \_\_\_\_\_;

3. I am located at \_\_\_\_\_

(use intersection or place known (i.e., a store);

4. Please send an ambulance. **Then** Hang up and Call You Criminal Defense Lawyer.

(Continued page 10)

\* After the 911 Call, call the **Emergency Phone With**

**Lonestar Firearm Defense** - where a **lawyer answers and can speak to the police for you** when they arrive for members - 24/7/365.

Allen provided a description of his company to be published in the *Wings News*.

#### **About Lonestar Firearm Defense**

Lonestar Firearm Defense is a veteran owned, lawyer-run, membership organization that provides education and instruction on the Constitution, Second Amendment, important Supreme Court Cases that affect those rights, and local instructions on when, where, and under what circumstances you are allowed to defend yourself, your family, your business, and, where appropriate (and state dependent) your property.

Our primary function is to inform, educate, and provide instruction in a non-threatening environment where questions are welcomed and encouraged. We believe that dialogue and discussion with a lawyer providing a general overview on relevant State statutes, Federal Law, and local issues is important.

We believe in the Constitution, the Second Amendment, and the Right to Bear Arms. We help responsible Americans understand and manage the legal process and better afford the sometimes incredible costs of a legal defense that can come when a member lawfully protects self, or family, or friends.

We believe in training responsibly, making good decisions, understanding the law of self-defense, and making ourselves and our families safer through education. We give classes on self-defense, use of force, and how to behave in critical situations.

Beyond instruction, if you choose to become a member, you are supporting our ability to provide classes and instruction. Also, as a benefit of membership, we provide our members with legal protection when they are forced to use a legal weapon, any legal weapon, in lawful self-defense. The membership is offered at a price anyone can afford.

As attendees of one of Allen's talk at last week's meeting, you will receive our special Class/Veterans discount should you choose to sign up for membership. We offer 3 plans affordable: Gold - Individual, Platinum - Premium Individual, Platinum - Family that all include access to an attorney 24/7/365 via direct call (no call centers when time is of the essence), Legal defense both civil and criminal, bail bond protection, and legal fee coverage. Platinum Plans also includes coverage in all 50 states (Gold is CA only), firearm reimbursement, expert witness coverage, psychological counseling support, and incident clean up.

For more details on the membership coverage, please visit our website at:

<https://www.lonestarfirearmdefense.com/> , reference the attached membership form, or you can email/call Allen Chandler or Heather Hawke at the contact information

below. You can also review our full Membership Agreement.

To sign up for membership, you can complete the form online & use the Promo Code: 8888

**Lonestar Firearm Defense Contacts:**

**Allen Chandler**

Cell: 214-551-1958

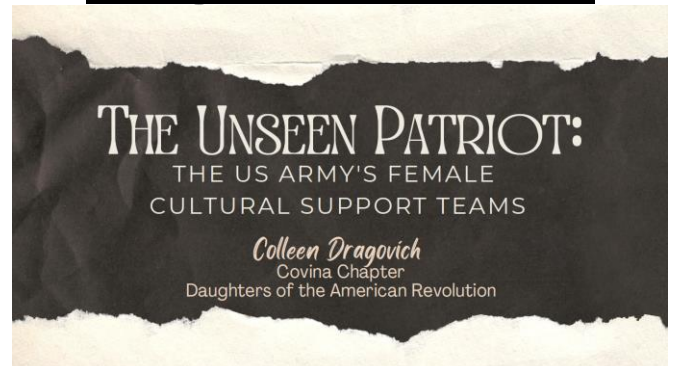
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## **August 28, 2023**



### **Colleen Dragovich - US Army's Female Cultural Support Teams that served in Afghanistan**

(Continued page 11)

On August 28, 2023, the featured presentation was

conducted by Collen Dragovich, a former University Professor who grew up on a military base. At her University, she met some female Afghan refugee students and learned about the US Army's Female Cultural Support Teams.

**WOMEN IN SPECIAL OPS**

- Extraordinary Women in Special Operations Command and the Cultural Support Teams
- Historical and cultural context and timeline within the War in Afghanistan
- The impact this program had on Afghan women and communities

*Women in Combat: In their own Words*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKXTPS\\_PaOU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKXTPS_PaOU)

Jaclyn "Jax" Scott  
 Special Operations  
 Warrant Officer  
 US Army

After her introduction, Collen showed us a video of US Army Special Ops females. From 2011 to 2014, approximately 200 female soldiers were embedded with special forces units in Afghanistan as Cultural Support Teams. On December 4, 2015, SecDef Ash Carter officially opened all combat roles to women.

**SIT REP AFGHANISTAN**

In the Middle East, the female population is roughly 50%. Cultural sensitivity towards men speaking with women presented a problem for the male-dominated SOF elements.

The difficulties in communicating with half the population presented problems for intelligence gathering as well as building trust with locals. As a result, Operators could often find themselves left in the dark.

Collen emphasized male soldiers' difficulties in Afghanistan, where the Afghan Woman would not speak with them.

**IN CONTEXT**

**2008**  
 "Collateral Killings" by the Taliban take thousands of civilian lives - mostly Afghan women and children.

**2009**  
 President Obama recommends to the war in Afghanistan

**2010**  
 US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) issues a Task Order for CSTs and the US Army begins recruiting and training

**2011**  
 1LT Ashley I White is KIA in Kandahar Province, the first CST killed in action

**2013**  
 Afghan women signed up to fight themselves and were recruited and trained in Special Ops by the CST Teams

**2011**  
 US Army CST begin recruiting Afghan women for Military training

She then reviewed the history of US involvement in Afghanistan. In 2011, the first female Cultural Support Team member was killed. In the same year, the US Army began recruiting Afghan women for military training, and by 2013, they were recruited and trained in Special Operations by the CST Teams.

**CULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM**

"The Cultural Support Program provides capability to Special Operations Forces by assessing, selecting and training select [female] volunteers to engage the female population in a secured objective area when such contact may be deemed culturally inappropriate if performed by a male service member."

**FEMALE SOLDIERS**  
 BECOME A PART OF HISTORY  
 Join the US Army Special Operations Command Female Engagement Team Program

The Female Engagement Team (FET) program will challenge you. You will undergo intensive physical and physical training designed to prepare you for the rigors associated with supporting operations with Special Forces and Ranger units in Afghanistan. You will be trained to think creatively, interact with Afghan women and children, and integrate as a member of the unit and team. Once trained, you will be assigned to an FET program for up to 1 year as either a Specialist or a Cultural Support Team member.

Minimum Requirements:  
 -Sgt. 4th grade or higher  
 -18-35 years old  
 -US Citizen or US Permanent Resident  
 -Must have and wear all skin exposed to the sun  
 -Must be able to lift 25 lbs  
 -Must be able to work in a hot environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-altitude environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-stress environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-risk environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-visibility environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-temperature environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-humidity environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-pollution environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-noise environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-vibration environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-pressure environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-speed environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-velocity environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-acceleration environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-deceleration environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-impact environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-force environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-torque environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-moment environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-energy environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-power environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-current environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-voltage environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-frequency environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-wavelength environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-amplitude environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-intensity environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-contrast environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-resolution environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-contrast environment  
 -Must be able to work in a high-resolution environment

She then talked about the US Army Task Order to recruit female members of the Cultural Support Teams.

**CRITICAL TASKS OF CST'S**

1. Directly interacting with Afghan women and children.
2. Providing medical care for Afghan women and children.
3. Searching and questioning Afghan women and children.
4. Supporting information operations messaging to the female population and "minimiz[ing] civilian interference with military operations".
5. Advising Special Operations Task Force commanders and small unit leaders on female aspects of Civil-Military Operations.

**FEMALE CULTURAL SUPPORT TEAM**

Collen reviewed the specific tasks that a CST member was expected to perform, which required the members to learn and speak Arabic.

Food & Supplies  
 Community Support  
 Medical Support

On the above slide, Collen showed pictures of the various tasks performed by the female CST members.

**WOMEN WARRIORS**

**CST-4 at Bagram Airbase Afghanistan 2012**

CST-2 1LT Ashley I. White, Medical Service Corps, 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina Army National Guard, is killed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, while supporting 275th Ranger Regiment on October 22, 2011.

CST-5 member CPT Jennifer M. Moreno, Army Nurse Corps, Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, is killed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, while supporting 375th Ranger Regiment on October 6, 2012. She was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.

Collen then honored two CST women who were killed.

(Continued page 12)



We then watched a video about the Women in the Afghan Army, learning that many were not pure Afghanees and belonged to sects that support females in schools. 5,000 female officers served in the Afghan Army.

### BRINGING EFFORTS BACK HOME





#### Lessons Learned

- Reducing stigma of female soldiers
- Providing specialized training for females in Spec Ops
- Increasing awareness about the service of the CSTs
- Ensuring that female veterans and especially those in Spec Ops get specialized support from the VA
- Making a difference for future female soldiers serving in active war zones

**Jax Scott**

Conducted nearly 20 Combat Missions as a part of the CST and was awarded a Bronze Star for her actions.

Colleen talked about Jax Scott, who is no longer in the military and is now working as a female veteran advocate.

# THANK YOU

Colleen Dragovich

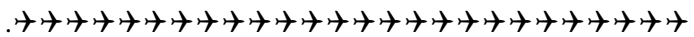
colleend1776@gmail.com

330-861-4943 / 626-780-2953

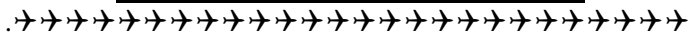
Women Making History Shall Never Be Forgotten!

## SOURCES

- <https://soaa.org/women-special-operations/>
- [https://arsof-history.org/articles/v12n2\\_cst\\_timeline\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/v12n2_cst_timeline_page_1.html)
- [https://www.army.mil/article/147493/cultural\\_support\\_team\\_women\\_serve\\_with\\_distinction](https://www.army.mil/article/147493/cultural_support_team_women_serve_with_distinction)
- <https://www.ktvq.com/national/newsy/afghan-women-trained-for-combat-in-secret-by-u-s-army>
- <https://www.politico.com/interactives/2022/afghan-women-soldiers-taliban-us-refugees/>
- <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>



# In Other News



## TOPANGA NEW TIMES

### Saluting One of Our Own: Bill Dillon's Story

Jill Cotu, July 28, 2023 0 9 min read 432



Topanga resident Bill Dillon is almost 99, but his age isn't slowing him down. The 98-year-old WWII veteran lives a full and active life. He recently shared his wartime experiences as a submariner on the USS Saffish with author Stephen L. Moore, whose book, *Strike of the Saffish: Two Sister Submarines and the Sinking of a Japanese Aircraft Carrier*, will be released in December and he remains active and interested in the Topanga community that has been his home for more than 50 years.

I like to refer to myself as a World War II scholar, a label my husband reminds me might more appropriately be termed 'buff'. My father was born on D-Day, the 1944 invasion of Normandy, France that marked the Allies' advancement and the turn of the tide for control of the region. The nurses who should have been assisting my grandmother with her labor and delivery were huddled around a radio, anxiously awaiting news from the front.

My maternal grandfather was a tank commander and later sergeant in the Battle of the Bulge, another turning point of the war in Europe.

An interest in WWII is in my blood. So I was heartened to learn of a spry vet living in my neighborhood, hopeful I could put his story, or at least a humble part of it, into print. A week after my discovery, we were sitting down in his Topanga home for a long chat.

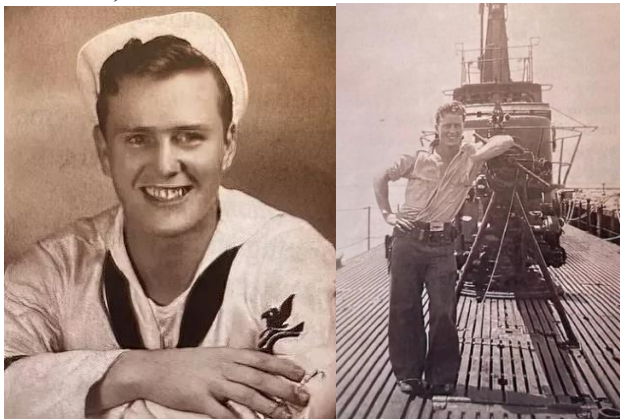
William (Bill) "Skip" Dillon was born near Pittsburgh, PA in 1924. He is nearly 99 years old, but you wouldn't know it to speak with him. He is quick-witted with a warm smile, making it easy to connect. "You have to remember," he tells me, "I was a child of the Great Depression. There was no bacon, no sugar, no eggs, no jobs to be had. When I gave my father the papers that would give his permission (to go into the Navy), he just asked where to sign. I was just another mouth to feed, you see."

(Continued page 13)

Families with scarce resources often felt their children would be better taken care of by the US government. They would have food, pay, and—if they took advantage of the GI bill, as Bill later did—an education. When asked about the temperament of WWII soldiers, Bill said, “the Depression gave us discipline and taught us how to get along; it’s what made us the people we were.”

Remembering is something Bill is well suited to. “My memory is as clear today as when I enlisted at 17 years old,” he tells me, continuing, “but if you’ve got a question to ask, you better ask it now.”

I imagine this joking attitude toward one’s own mortality is something ingrained in all soldiers. I asked Bill my most pressing question, the one that despite all the books I have read has not been answered: how did he come to terms with all the death around him, and with the knowledge that he was not just saving lives, he was taking them? His response was simple: overwhelming patriotism. “We never gave it a thought, because we never saw the men we killed,” he said.



Bill Dillion was just 17 when he signed up for military service. He received two Bronze Stars, one with valor, but it’s what he did after the war that he says is most important to him. “During the war I was killing people,” he recounts. “After the war I began helping them.”

(Above right) The young Bill Dillion poses on the deck of the USS Sailfish, the submarine he served on as a radioman first class in the Pacific Theater during WWII. His wartime experience is now part of a book on the exploits of the Sailfish that is due out in December.

Bill was a submariner on the USS Sailfish, radioman first class in the Pacific Theater. As such, he and fellow submariners often wouldn’t know if a fired missile hit its target until days later. They relied heavily on radar, a new technology at the time that the Japanese didn’t yet have. They had to compartmentalize to do their job. With each enemy vessel sunk, Bill and his comrades toasted each other, feeling they had done their part to bring the war to an end and restore peace.

Unlike conflicts that would follow, WWII was unique in that there was never a question as to why we were fighting. There was never a concern about the appropriateness of US troops on foreign soil. The only question was whether or not our boys would return home safely. Getting home in one piece was the motivating factor for Bill to volunteer for submarine duty. He informed me that you could not be drafted onto a sub, and even those

who were on board voluntarily had to be reassigned should they request it. There was a lot of seasickness as men acclimated to two months at a time on a sea-faring vessel. Life on a WWII submarine was different from infantry work in other ways as well. There were no opportunities to make phone calls or send letters home because there was no ‘leave’. The sub only came to land if it ran out of fuel, food, or ammunition.

Bill stuck it out, as he felt his chances of survival were greater at sea than in active combat. In his four year tenure aboard the Sailfish, he and his crewmates sunk or damaged 21 Japanese ships, and rescued 12 American pilots that had been shot down during the battle of Formosa.

Some of his exploits are so gripping they are the subject of a book by Stephen L. Moore, *Strike of the Sailfish: Two Sister Submarines and the Sinking of a Japanese Aircraft Carrier*. It will be available in December, but can be pre-ordered now on Amazon.

The book description reads, “In 1939 off the New England coast, the submarine USS Squalus is accidentally sunk during a training exercise, killing half her crew. Coming to the rescue is the USS Sculpin, in many ways the Squalus’s twin. The remaining crew aboard the Squalus are saved in a lengthy, white-knuckle operation, and eventually the sunken submarine is raised, repaired, and returned to duty, with a new name: the Sailfish.

Four years later, on patrol during the darkest days of the Pacific War, the Sailfish’s radarman picks up the tell-tale signs of a Japanese aircraft carrier, the greatest of all enemy ships. Never before has an American submarine taken down a carrier (by themselves, without backup). Immediately, the crewmen swing into action, embarking on a deadly game of cat-and-mouse as this once-dead boat evades enemy cruisers to stalk closer and closer to their prized target. Little do they know that aboard the Japanese carrier are the sole survivors of an attack on the USS Sculpin, the very boat that saved the Squalus-turned-Sailfish back in ’39.”

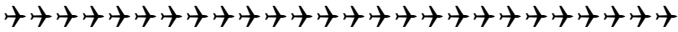
Bill Dillion collaborated with the author to tell the harrowing story. Today, he is the sole survivor of the 200 men he served with on the Sailfish, and the last American survivor of the battle of Formosa.

One might presume that with so much adrenaline, intrigue, adventure, and camaraderie, Bill’s WWII years were his glory days. Yet he says his work after the war is what he is most proud of.

“During the war,” he recounts, “I was killing people. After the war I began to help people.”

He returned home to his fiancé, Janet, whom he married in January 1946. The couple went on to have seven children, but first, Bill needed to complete his high school education. He got his GED before earning an associates degree, and then a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and masters degree in systems management from the University of Florida. (Continued page 14)





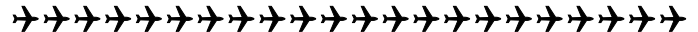
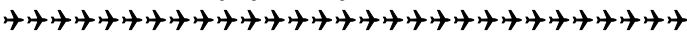
**MOAA/MOWW CHAPTER MEETING  
20 September 2023**

**TOM MORGENFELD**

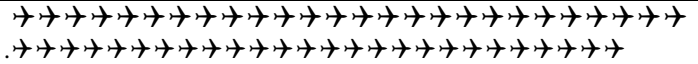
Thomas A. Morgenfeld, a 1965 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, was designated a Naval Aviator in 1967. He had two fleet tours flying the F-8 Crusader where he flew 90 combat missions and amassed over 500 carrier landings. Between those tours he attended the United States Naval Postgraduate School where he earned his MS degree in aeronautical engineering. In 1975 he attended the Empire Test Pilots' School in England, winning the McKenna Trophy as top student in his class. In 1976 Tom was ordered to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron FOUR where he participated in several classified test programs in addition to serving as the F-18 Project Pilot. In 1979 Tom went onto USAF exchange duty with the 4477th Test and Evaluation Flight where he was responsible for all USN involvement with the then top secret flying of MiG airplanes for exploitation purposes. At the end of that tour, he left active duty but went on to complete a 26-year naval career. His final billet was as commander of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake reserve unit.

Tom joined Lockheed's Skunk Works in December 1979. He was first assigned to the F-117 program and went on to fly almost 1300 hours in developing that aircraft. In 1989 he went to the Advanced Tactical Fighter program where he was primarily responsible for flying the second YF-22A prototype. Tom was the Chief Test Pilot on the Joint Strike Fighter program where he performed the first flight on the X-35 and tested all three versions of the airplane. Over the years he has accumulated over 7,000 hours in more than 80 different aircraft.

**Date: Wednesday, 20 September 2023**  
**Check in starts at 5:30**  
**Buffet line starts at 6:30**  
**Program starts at 7:30**  
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**Charles has offered to help Wings Over Wendy's members with their computer problems for FREE.**



**Memoriam**

During August 2023, we learned a Wings Over Wendy's member died.



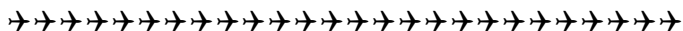
**Rosalie Rifkin**  
**10/01/1938 – 08/31/2023**

Rosalie Rifkin passed after many years of suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). Rosalie led a very active life, living one day at a time for twenty years fighting the illness.

She served as a teacher and counselor in the LAUSD for many years.

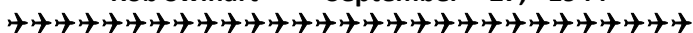
Her husband, Robert, served in Korea and passed in 2018. Rosalie visited Wings Over Wendy's in June 2021 and found a group to socialize with.

Rosalie is survived by her children, Drew Rifkin and Nancie Parker, and her grandchildren, Garrett, Cobi, Erin and Kayla. Services are at 2pm Sunday, September 3, 2023 at Hillside Memorial Park, 6001 West Centinela Ave., Los Angeles.



## September Birthdays

Nancy Shattuck	September	02, 1952
William Dillon	September	06, 1924
Jill Lace	September	11, 1955
Chuck Mathews	September	11, 1933
Ethel Margolin	September	17, 1922
Reuven Zeavy	September	19, 1948
Martin Light	September	20, 1932
Barry Chapman	September	22, 1943
Tony Cubarrubia	September	23, 1958
Abe Hoffman	September	25, 1938
Erick Lace	September	25, 1949
Barney Leone	September	25, 1924
Neil Houston	September	26, 1931
Ken Mayer	September	26, 1942
Rob Swihart	September	27, 1944



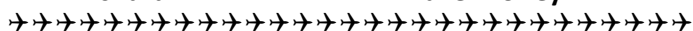
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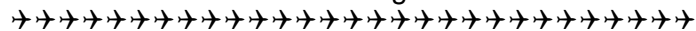
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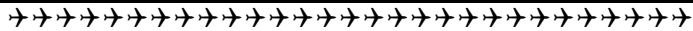
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### Reminder

**Wings Over Wendy's monthly food drive is Monday, September 11th**









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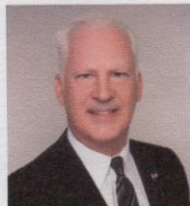
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