

# Veterans Honored at November Events



(Photo from Bob Donovan)

## West Valley Christian School Veterans Chapel

On Friday, November 3, 2023, the West Valley Christian School conducted its annual Veterans Chapel organized by Susan Emile and featuring Gunny Napper, Marine Corps League, Rolling Thunder Motorcycle group, and Wings Over Wendy's.

Attending the event were **Ron Boggess, Tony Cubarrubia, Boyd Davis, Bob Donovan, Susan and Bob Emslie, Fred Kaplan, Erick Lace, Barney Leone, Marion Lovelace, Gunny Napper, Ed Reynolds, Maria and Ray Rodriguez, Maurice Vasquez, and Joe Weber.**



(Photos by Dave Anderson)

## Canoga Park Women's Club Veterans Luncheon

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, the Canoga Park Women's Club held its 22nd Annual Veterans Luncheon. The Guest Speakers were Bill Ratner, CAPT USN (Retired), and Councilmember Bob Blumenfield.

Dov Cohen performed the Invocation.

The POW/MIA table ceremony was conducted by Dave Worley, Lt Col USAF (Retired).

Steve Oliver, Singer, provided the entertainment.

Attending the event were **Dave and Lillian Anderson, Shirley Andrews, Mark Ax, Ron Boggess, Gerald Detamore, Jan Edwards, Bill and Dolores Garland, Abe and Sue Hoffman, Fred Kaplan, Penny and Victor Korechoff, Tom and Rebecca Maiden, Rosadel McClure, Bill and Mary Ratner, Ray and Maria Rodriguez, Earl and Ester Roth, Bob Stiles and Sharon Fine, and Dave Worley.**

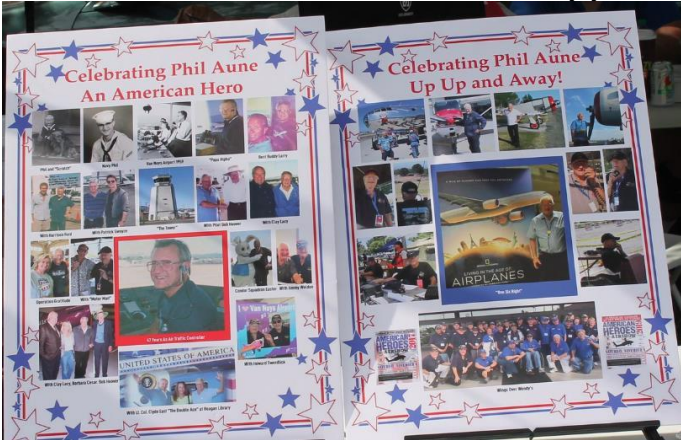


Phil Aune's daughter Kris with Connie Hein

## American Heroes Helicopter Air Show

Also, on Saturday, November 4, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's had a booth in Partnership with Wings Over Camarillo at the American Heroes Air Show.

The booth had a display honoring Phil Aune, who had been the air traffic controller at the show for many years.



In addition to the display honoring Phil Aune, Wings Over Wendy's sold model airplanes and military vehicles to the attendees



(Photos by Andy Kopetsky)

Attending the event and helping in the booth to sell the models were **David Alvarez, Richard Burns, Bob Donovan, Ron Fleishman, David Greenberg, Connie Hein, Peter Helm, Andy Kopetzky, Frank Lopez, Stephanie Pofcher, Richard Raskoff, Ed Reynolds, Bruce Schultz, Jim Sommer, Maurice Vasquez, and Karen Velarde.**



(Photo by Ed Reynolds)

## City of Calabasas Veterans Day Celebration

On November 7, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's members attended the City of Calabasas Veterans Day Celebration. Among the Veterans honored was Wings Over Wendy's member Art Hershey. In addition, Wings Over Wendy's was presented with the following canvas framed picture of an American flag produced by the children in the Little Learners Preschool Calabasas Klubhouse.



Since Wings Over Wendy's does not have a wall to hang the picture on, it was presented to the Calabasas City Council on November 8th to be hung in the Calabasas City Hall for all residents to be able to see it.



(Photo by Ed Reynolds)

**Roscoe Frazier, Joe Weber, and Lee Auger display their plaques**

## Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Veterans Assembly

On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Glendale held its annual Veterans Assembly.

The following is from the Glendale News-Press:

*Schools across Glendale Unified School District held celebrations for Veterans Day, including Woodrow Wilson Middle School, which had a special assembly on Wednesday.*

*The assembly, which focused on veterans from World War II and the Vietnam War, presented plaques to four veterans, Joe Weber, Roscoe Frazier, Leland Auger, and Ethel Margolin, and saw performances from Crescenta Valley ROTC Color Guard and award-winning Wilson Middle School choirs and bands.*

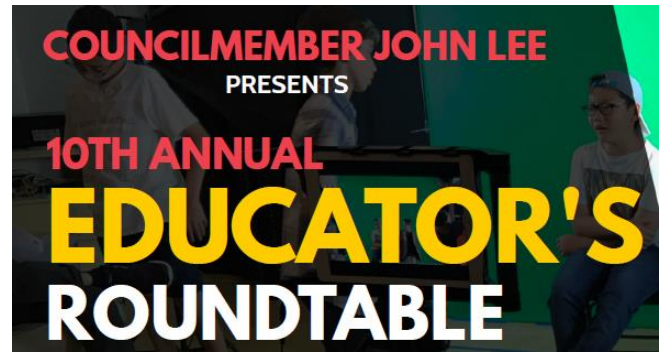
*Weber is one of the last airmen alive who remembers World War II in the Caribbean. His plane was given the task of sinking submarines, rescuing military personnel and civilians out of the ocean, transporting supplies, and patrolling during WWII.*

*Frazier was awarded six Bronze Stars for heroism while he served in Vietnam. He served as a paratrooper in the prestigious 173 Airborne Brigade and also served with the 101st, 25th, 82nd, and 3rd Infantry Divisions.*

*During the Cold War and the Korean War, Auger served as an aviation radioman from 1948-1952.*

*Margolin played a key administrative role in the Air Transport Command of the 8th Air Force during WWII. The 8th Air Force was the largest air force in the history of the United States. She went on to become a leader in her community and was honored at last year's Kings hockey game.*

Attending the event from Wings Over Wendys were: **Lee Auger, Roscoe and Laleh Frazier, Ethel Margolin, Ed Reynolds, Chip Stevens, and Joe Weber**



On Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Wings Over Wendy's attended Councilmember John Lee's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Educators Roundtable. The event included a breakfast from Porto's Northridge and provided an opportunity for Wings Over Wendy's to promote "Conversations With Heros."

Attending the event were **David Alvarez, Mark Ax, Lee Auger, Barry Chapman, Gordon Fell, Victor Korechoff, Chuck Mathews, Ed Reynolds, Maurice Vasquez, Tim, and Karen Velarde.**



(Photo by Ed Reynolds)

## Lawrence Middle School Veterans Day Celebration

Following the Educator's Roundtable, Wings Over Wendy's members attended the Lawrence Middle School Veterans Day Assembly. The event starts in the school library, where students interview veterans about the veterans' experience in the military.

The students and veterans march into the school auditorium to be greeted by the student body. The program includes a JR ROTC Color Guard from Chatsworth High School, a concert by the school band, and a lunch.

Attending the event were **Mark Ax, Lee Auger, Gerald Detamore, Bill Garland, Dolores Garland, Fred Kaplan, Erick and Jill Lace, Thomas Maiden, Ed Reynolds, and Earl Roth.**

## Elks Lodge Veterans Day Dinner

The last event on November 9<sup>th</sup> was the Annual Elks Lodge Veterans Day Dinner. Attending were **Erick Lace, Byron McKibben, David Plumb, and Ed Reynolds**



(Photo by David Alverz)

## San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's had an entry in the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade. Fred Kaplan drove the truck. The group was assisted by three Granda Hills Charter High School students. Participating in the parade were **Lee Auger, David Alvarez, Mark Ax, Ron Boggess, Richard Burns, Gerald Detamore, Bill Garland, Dolores Garland, Fred Kaplan, Erick Lace, Jill Lace, Marion Lovelace, Bruce Schultz, Maurice Vasquez, and Joe Weber.**



Photo courtesy of Malibu Association of Realtors.

## Malibu Veterans Day Public Ceremony

Also, on November 11, 2023, Wings Over Wendy's participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Malibu Veterans Day Public Ceremony.

The following was documented in The Malibu Times by Emmanuel Luissi.

*“Stuart Ranch Road was lined with waving American flags leading visitors to Malibu City Hall for the 24th annual Veterans Day Public Ceremony.*

*This year's program was titled “United We Stand,” and the theme of the ceremony was “Legacy of Generations of Service.”*

*The City Hall Civic Theater was filled with veterans and their families, honorees, presenters, event sponsors, and fellow patriots who gathered to honor the heroes who have served or are serving their country.*

*The event was hosted by the Malibu Navy League,*

*Pepperdine University, the City of Malibu, and the Malibu Association of Realtors with the mission of bringing together local businesses, schools, and organizations to commemorate Veterans Day. The program was led by Master of Ceremonies Chris Garcia, an American businessman and former U.S. government official.*

*The program highlighted the service and history of military dedication of six servicemen and their families, representing the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force.*

*Those honored were Dann Rippinger (Navy), Commander Dan Stark (Navy), Colonel Jack F. Jones (Army), Don McClay (Navy), Dr. Bill Peters (Marine Corps), and Dr. Bob Eisenhart (Air Force).”*

*Each of these men spoke on their time in the military and the history and significance of military service within their families and communities. Each highlighted the danger of sacrifice asked for by their service, but also the immense importance and call of duty of their dedication to their country and military.*

*Among the honorees, the first to speak was Rippinger, a former A-6 bombardier and navigator. In the spirit of Legacy of Generations of Service, Rippinger began by expressing his pride in his family's history of service and the ultimate sacrifice that military service could call upon families of servicemen and women. He explained that both his uncle and his brother, Francis, and Tom Rippinger, were lost during their duty to the country.*

*“You could say service was in my DNA. I was a son of the greatest generation. My mother and father both served in World War II,” Rippinger said. “During my flying tours, I had over 2,000 hours of tours and over 400 carrier landings. I am proud to have served and grateful for what this country provides.”*

*As a Carrier Wing Eleven's Weapons Officer, Stark expressed the dedication and hardship of serving his country as a young man but said he was proud to have been among the individuals who protect the country.*

*“By the time I was 24 years of age, I was on my second nine-month combat cruise in the South Pacific. My job was as a weapons officer on the flight deck,” Stark said. “Flight deck is a dangerous place, and you grow up quickly when you're a young man dodging whirling propellers and screaming jet engines. It makes a man of you.”*

*He next introduced his grandson Lucas, who is now a student at St. Catherine's Academy, which has a military tradition that teaches leadership and discipline. He expressed pride in his grandson's aspiration to be part of the next generation of military heroes.*

*Battalion and Joint Task Force 6 Commander Jones expressed appreciation and gratitude for not just the veterans honored on Veterans Day but the families that stay behind and help support their servicemen and women around the world.*

(Continued page 5)

“Let’s acknowledge the families of service members and veterans who help win the war of the burdens of their sacrifice,” Jones said. “To the mothers, fathers, spouses, and children, our military men and women, thank you. Your love, support, and resilience are the backbone of this country, and we can’t tell the families how much we appreciate them.”

The two-hour program featured an opening dance by LA Swing and Dance Posse, a rendition of the national anthem from singer Gannon Hays of Pepperdine, Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 224 and the Cub Scout Pack, and an invocation from Pepperdine University Vice President of Community Belonging Jaye Goosby Smith.

Later in the program, singer Yolanda Tolentino led the audience in an acapella rendition of “God Bless the USA.”

Poet Laureate Nathan Hassall shared an original veterans-inspired poem titled “Coming Home.” Adding to the event’s poetry was Skylar Graham, a sixth-grader from Our Lady of Malibu School, with her poem “Thank You, Veterans.”

Additionally, the program also featured musical performances by the OLM School Choir, mother and son duo Gina and Leo Longo, singer/songwriter Kathy Bee, performer Matthew Lee, and country recording artist and songwriter Kris Londyn.

The last honoree who spoke was Eisenhart, a member of the U.S. Army Security Agency, who chose to forgo his moment of military acknowledgment, instead opting to honor his late father, Col. Donald Eisenhart. The younger Eisenhart highlighted his father’s entire military career and expressed how much his father meant to him to this day and since his passing in 2003 at the age of 92. In a heartfelt moment, he expressed his love for his father and pride in his service.

“He has been awarded many honors in his 33 years of service, and he was my hero,” Eisenhart said.

Attending the event from Wings Over Wendy’s was **Bob and Nancy Eisenhart, Don Maclay, Ethel Margolin, Ed Reynolds, Andy Romanisky, and Dan Stark.**

## **Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73 Veteran Hall USMC Birthday BBQ**

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, Wings Over Wendy’s members participated in a BBQ that was held at the Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73 Veteran Hall to honor those who have served in the military and celebrate the 248<sup>th</sup> birthday of the US Marine Corps.

Participating in the cake-cutting ceremony was Joe Mueller, Col USMC (Retired).

Attending the event from Wings Over Wendy’s was **Tony Cubarrubia, Gerald Detamore, Bob Donovan, Bob and Nancy Eisenhart, Gordon Fell, Ron Fleishman,**

**Victor and Penny Korechoff, Barney Leone, Frank Lopez, Joe Mueller, Ed Reynolds, Ray and Maria Rodriguez, and Earl Roth.**



(Photo by Duke Dao)

## **Pomelo Community Charter School Heroes Feast**

On November 14, 2023, Wings Over Wendy’s members attended one of their favorite events of the year at the Pomelo Community Charter School Heroes Feast.

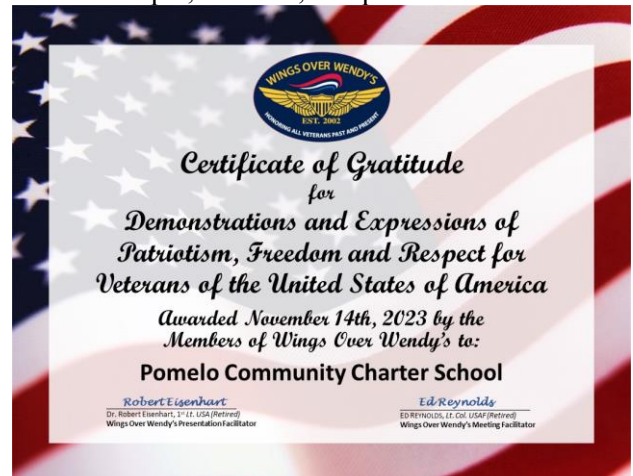
The event included an Honor Guard from the El Camino Real High School ROTC Unit and performances by the Pomelo 3<sup>rd</sup> Gade students.

Each veteran and First Responder in attendance spoke about his service in the military and first responder’s unit.

Congressman Brad Sherman’s office presented a *Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community* to each Wing Over Wendy’s member who had RSVP’d for the event.

Attending the event were **Lee Ambers, Lee Auger, Mark Ax, Tony Cubarrubia, Gerald Detamore, Bob Donovan, Bob and Nancy Eisenhart, Fred Kaplan, Victor and Penny Korechoff, Erick and Jill Lace, Barney Leone, Marion Lovelace, Ethel Margolin, Ken Mayer, Christine McIntosh, Joe Mueller, Richard Raskoff, Ed Reynolds, Andy Romanisky, Bob Stiles, Maurice Vasquez, and Joe Weber.**

On behalf of Wings Over Wendy’s, Ed Reynolds presented the following *Certificate of Gratitude* to the school’s Principal, teachers, and parents.





(Photo by Barry Chapman)

## Northridge Academy

As a result of contacts made at the Educators Roundtable, a teacher from Northridge Academy invited Barry Chapman to speak to her students about serving in the military and the US Goat Guard Auxiliary on November 16, 2023.

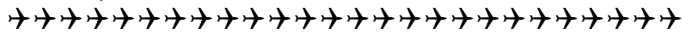
## Veterans Sabbath at HAMAKOM Synagogue

The last event in November honoring veterans attended by Wings Over Wendy's members took place at the HAMAKOM Synagogue at the former Temple Aliyah on Valley Circle.

A kiddush lunch was served, and veterans were asked to tell the attendees about their military service.

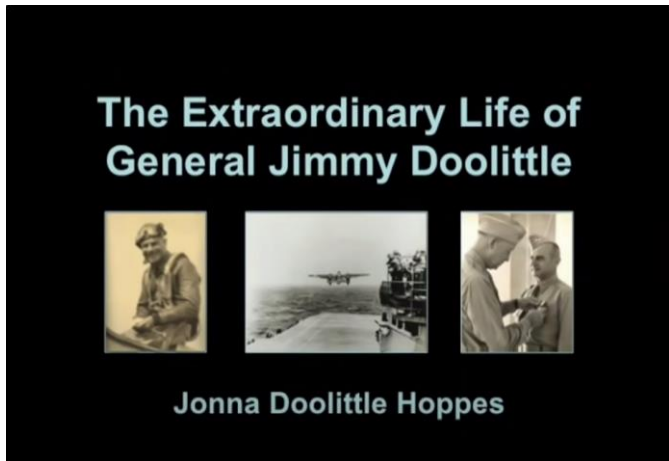
Attending from Wings Over Wendys were:

**Richard Burns, Bob Donovan, Bob and Nancy Eisenhart, Bill and Dolores Garland, David Greenberg, Marion Lovelace, Ethel Margolin, Ed Reynolds, Bruce Schultz, and Joe Weber.**



# Meetings

## November 06, 2023



# The Extraordinary Life of Jimmy Doolittle by Jonna Doolittle Hoppes

On November 6, 2023, the featured presentation was a video of Jonna Doolittle Hoppes talking at the Torrance Museum of Flight about her book *Calculated Risk: The Extraordinary Life of Jimmy Doolittle*, documenting the life of her Grandfather Jimmy Doolittle.

She wrote the book to educate the public on his life after seeing him inaccurately portrayed in movies.

She documented his growing up in Alaska and LA as a small kid who was often bullied and became a semi-professional boxer. Jonna provides personal insights into the public and private facets of Jimmy Doolittle's life.

Through her memoir, we gained a deeper understanding of the motivations driving one of America's most influential aviators.

Jonna told us background details about his many accomplishments besides leading the daring Tokyo Raid, which marked America's first strike against Japan during World War II. Doolittle's legacy extends far beyond this historic event.

She talked about his Scientific Mind: Doolittle held a doctorate in aeronautical engineering from MIT, showcasing his brilliance as a scientist.

His trailblazer accomplishments:

He was the first pilot to fly across the United States in less than 24 hours, a feat that demonstrated his audacity and determination.

Flying "Blind": Doolittle achieved another milestone by flying "blind," relying solely on his plane's instruments—a testament to his courage and skill.

Aerobatics and Racing: As a barnstormer, he wowed audiences with aerobatic displays. Additionally, he won every major air race at least once as a popular racing pilot.

Jonna also talked about his Honors and Leadership: Doolittle received both the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

He rose to the rank of four-star general and commanded the 8th, 12th, and 15th Air Forces.

She provided background stories of each of his accomplishments.

Her book is a must-read for an aviation enthusiast, history buff, or simply curious about extraordinary lives, "Calculated Risk" paints a vivid portrait of Jimmy Doolittle's indelible impact on the world of flight.

# November 13, 2023



## Who Was the First American Woman In Space? | Dr. Sally Ride

On November 13, 2023, the featured presentation was titled *"Who Was the First American Woman In Space? | Dr. Sally Ride"*

Dr. Sally K. Ride was an American astronaut and physicist who etched her name in history as the first American woman to venture into space. Born in Los Angeles, she joined NASA in 1978, a pivotal year when the astronaut corps expanded to include women. Ride's journey to the stars unfolded as follows:

In 1978, NASA selected six women for Astronaut Group 8, marking the first time American women were included in the astronaut program. Among these trailblazers, Sally Ride stood out.

She became an expert in the robotic arm, known as the Canadarm or Remote Manipulator System arm, which was used to move payloads and position astronauts working outside the Space Shuttle.

Space Shuttle Challenger: On June 18, 1983, aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger during mission STS-7, Sally Ride soared beyond Earth's confines. Her crewmates included Commander Robert L. Crippen, Pilot Frederick H. "Rick" Hauck, and Mission Specialist John M. Fabian. Later, physician astronaut Norman E. Thagard joined the crew to study space motion sickness.

Complex Mission: STS-7 was a six-day mission, the most intricate in the shuttle program at that time. The crew deployed two commercial communications satellites—Anik C3 for Canada's Telesat and Palapa B2 for Indonesia. Ride skillfully operated the shuttle's robotic arm, deploying the first Shuttle Pallet Satellite (SPAS-01) and retrieving it two days later. The SPAS-01 captured stunning photographs of Challenger as the two spacecraft flew in formation.

Originally planned for a Kennedy Space Center

landing, inclement weather diverted the shuttle to Edwards Air Force Base in California. On June 24, Sally Ride and her crew touched down, completing a successful mission.

Interestingly, Ride's launch occurred almost exactly 20 years after Soviet cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova became the first woman in space. Tereshkova's historic flight in April 1961 paved the way for women like Sally Ride to follow suit.

After the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986, Ride was appointed to the Rogers Commission, the presidential commission investigating the disaster, and headed its subcommittee on operations.

Following the Challenger investigation, Ride was assigned to NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she led NASA's first strategic planning effort. She authored a report titled "NASA Leadership and America's Future in Space."

In May 1987, Ride announced that she was leaving NASA to take up a two-year fellowship at the Stanford University Center for International Security and Arms Control (CISAC), commencing on August 15, 1987.

On July 1, 1989, Ride became a professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and director of the California Space Institute (Cal Space), part of the university's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

She retired from UCSD in 2007 and became a professor emeritus. Ride died on July 23, 2012, at the age of 61, from pancreatic cancer at her home in La Jolla.

Sally Ride's legacy extends beyond her groundbreaking space voyage. She inspired generations, proving that the cosmos had no gender barriers.

# November 20, 2023



## P-51 Mustang, the American Fighter and Fighter-Bomber that was key in winning the war.

(Continued page 8)

On November 20, 2023, the featured presentation was a video titled: “P-51 Mustang, the American Fighter and Fighter-Bomber that was key in winning the war.”

The North American Aviation P-51 Mustang is an American long-range, single-seat fighter and fighter bomber used during World War II and the Korean War, among other conflicts. The Mustang was designed in April 1940 by a team headed by James H. Kindelberger of North American Aviation (NAA) in response to a requirement of the British Purchasing Commission. The Purchasing Commission approached North American Aviation to build Curtiss P-40 fighters under license for the Royal Air Force (RAF). Rather than build an old design from another company, North American Aviation proposed the design and production of a more modern fighter. The prototype NA-73X airframe was rolled out on 9 September 1940, 102 days after the contract was signed, and first flew on 26 October.

The Mustang was designed to use the Allison V-1710 engine, which had limited high-altitude performance in its earlier variants. The aircraft was first flown operationally by the RAF as a tactical-reconnaissance aircraft and fighter bomber (Mustang Mk I). Replacing the Allison with a Rolls-Royce Merlin resulted in the P-51B/C (Mustang Mk III) model and transformed the aircraft's performance at altitudes above 15,000 ft (4,600 m) (without sacrificing range), allowing it to compete with the Luftwaffe's fighters. The definitive version, the P-51D, was powered by the Packard V-1650-7, a license-built version of the two-speed, two-stage-supercharged Merlin 66, and was armed with six .50 caliber (12.7 mm) AN/M2 Browning machine guns.

From late 1943, P-51Bs and P-51Cs (supplemented by P-51Ds from mid-1944) were used by the USAAF's Eighth Air Force to escort bombers in raids over Germany, while the RAF's Second Tactical Air Force and the USAAF's Ninth Air Force used the Merlin-powered Mustangs as fighter-bombers, roles in which the Mustang helped ensure Allied air superiority in 1944. The P-51 was also used by Allied air forces in the North African, Mediterranean, Italian, and Pacific theaters. During World War II, Mustang pilots claimed to have destroyed 4,950 enemy aircraft.

At the start of the Korean War, the Mustang, by then redesignated F-51, was the main fighter of the United States until jet fighters, including North American's F-86, took over this role; the Mustang then became a specialized fighter-bomber. Despite the advent of jet fighters, the Mustang remained in service with some air forces until the early 1980s. After the Korean War, Mustangs became popular civilian warbirds and air racing aircraft.

The video included interviews with Mustang pilots and crew chiefs, revealing their deep bond with the aircraft. The veterans shared their combat experiences, challenges, and achievements. The aircraft stands as a testament to engineering excellence and the courage of those who flew it. Its sleek design, powerful engine, and versatility made it

a game-changer in aerial warfare. From dogfights to escort missions, the Mustang left an indelible mark on history.

## November 27, 2023,



## Indianapolis, Ship of Doom

On November 27, 2023, the meeting was held at the Elks Lodge. The featured presentation was a film titled: “Indianapolis, Ship of Doom.”

The film, directed by Bill Vandaalen, sheds light on the ill-fated USS Indianapolis, a heavy cruiser that played a critical role in the Pacific theater.

Through personal accounts, archival footage, and interviews, the documentary paints a vivid picture of the ship's final voyage and the harrowing events that followed.

The USS Indianapolis was a vital naval vessel during World War II. In the 1930s, it was a favorite of President Roosevelt. During the war, it was used as the Flagship of the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet when it was struck by a Japanese kamikaze aircraft in the Pacific. It was able to limp back to the US for repairs.

Following repairs, it delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian Island that would later be dropped on Hiroshima.

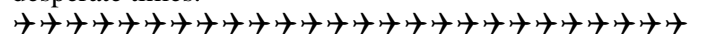
After completing its top-secret mission, the ship set sail for Leyte Gulf but never reached its destination.

On July 30, 1945, the Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, sinking rapidly with over 800 crew members going into the shark-infested waters of the Pacific Ocean, facing dehydration, exposure, and shark attacks.

The lack of distress signals and miscommunication led to delayed rescue efforts.

The documentary features interviews with survivors, including Sgt. Edgar Harrell, the last living crew member of the Indianapolis.

Their stories of resilience, camaraderie, and loss provide a poignant glimpse into the human spirit during desperate times.





**We're running out of time  
to say thank you to our  
World War II veterans.  
Wings Over Wendy's all-veterans  
group disappointed with 2023  
Veterans Day invitations to school  
assemblies.**



Local veterans group Wings Over Wendy's celebrates their 20th anniversary with a luncheon at Balboa Golf Course's banquet hall in Encino on Thursday, June 9, 2022. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)



By [DENNIS MCCARTHY](#)

PUBLISHED: November 11, 2023 at 6:30 a.m. |  
UPDATED: November 11, 2023 at 6:30 a.m.

They are in the December of their years now, and time is running out for us to say goodbye and godspeed to the veterans of World War II. We owe them so much.

Of the 16.1 million Americans who served in World War II, less than 120,000 are still with us, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. They're all in their 90s and older.

Each day, another 131 die. By this time next year, 48,000 more will have moved on to Memorial Day in our thoughts.

While they're still with us, we need to make every effort to thank them for their bravery and resolve — for answering the call and standing up to a bully bent on killing and destroying anything and anyone in his quest for total world domination.

Without our World War II veterans, there would be only one country in the world today, and it wouldn't be called America.

But Hitler didn't win; we did — thanks to them and all the Rosie the Riveters, Women's Air Force Service pilots, and volunteers who had their backs at home.

Is there any doubt they are our Greatest Generation? None.

Today, we honor all our veterans, but the World War II vets hold a special place in our hearts.

America was still so young and so vulnerable when they were asked to protect her. They didn't blink or ask why. They knew the stakes were high.

They were fighting for freedom, for their children's and grandchildren's futures.

There's no rewriting or editing that history. No hiding it. At least, I thought so.

"How many children know why they're getting Friday off from school this week?" Ed Reynolds asked when I called him last week to see what his veterans group, Wings Over Wendy's, was doing this Veterans Day.

They started more than 20 years ago with a handful of local World War II pilots, engineers, and bombardiers meeting for lunch every Monday at a Wendy's in West Hills.

Today, all veterans and their families are invited to join them on Monday mornings for coffee and some camaraderie. If you want to meet a World War II veteran or Rosie the Riveter, they'll be there. For more information, go to the group's website, [wingsoverwendys.com](http://wingsoverwendys.com).

They have a float in the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day parade today and were invited by service clubs to stop by afterward for some potluck, but the invitations they really wanted never came.

"We used to have 11 schools in the Valley inviting us to talk at Veterans Day assemblies. This year, we had four," said Reynolds, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Four schools. Embarrassing.

What are the others afraid of? The subject matter? That sometimes you have to fight for freedom? That's going to upset these middle and high school kids? Give me a break.

Kids today live in a world of violence. They can handle an hour of veterans talking about D-Day and Pearl Harbor.

They can handle stories of courage, honor, and respect.

I've seen dozens of kids cry in those assemblies and stand in line afterward just for the chance to shake a veteran's hand and say thank you.

Their grandpa served. Their grandma worked at Lockheed.

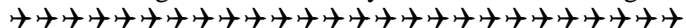
They can handle it. Just give them a chance.

The Los Angeles Unified School District should be sending limos for these men on Veterans Day, not letting school principals cancel their assemblies.

These men may be in the December of their years, but many are still willing and able to serve. Give them a chance.

Let them teach our kids why they got Friday, Nov. 10, off from school.

Have a great Veterans Day. Give a veteran a hug.





But in 1928, the field was selected as the site for the National Air Races, and on July 25 of that year, the City Council Accepted Mines' offer with an option to purchase.

Bowron had long detested the persistence with which the name Mines Field had stuck in the public mind. "Each time I hear that name, I am reminded of what I consider to be one of the most unsavory deals that have been put over on the City of Los Angeles in recent years," he complained, recalling how the city had bought the property at a more than generous price. He had backed the change from Mines Field to Los Angeles Municipal Airport in 1941, and he was still distressed that the Post Office had for years put the airport in Inglewood until pressure from congressmen and Chamber of Commerce officials successfully put the address back in Los Angeles where it belonged.

An ardent aviation supporter, Bowron keenly felt that commercial aviation in the postwar period would become increasingly important. By 1945, the City of Los Angeles had completed an extensive program for the improvement of airport facilities, including a state-of-the-art instrument landing system, lighting, and drainage. The lease was converted to a purchase, the city paying \$2,240,000 in 1937 for the airport property. In 1943, the airport's first master plan had been published, calling for 4,600-foot runways, plus future expansion.

When word of the City Council's proposal to name the airport after Doolittle reached Bowron, he quickly responded with a statement that indicated his awareness of the importance of long-term planning for the city. "Pride in the achievements and the honor we feel for our nation's heroes should not in all cases guide us in the naming of so important an air transportation center as the Los Angeles Airport," he said. Bowron believed that a metropolis such as Los Angeles merited an airport named for itself so that there would be no doubt in the minds of travelers as to their destination. "With all due respect, and it is a profound respect and great personal admiration and friendship for General Jimmy Doolittle, I feel that the name Los Angeles should be the name and the only name affixed to our municipal airport," Bowron asked the City Council to delay its vote on the ordinance until he could contact General Doolittle personally on the question, and the council acceded to his request.

Bowron wrote a gracious letter to Doolittle acknowledging his contributions and heroism, but he also asked him for a statement declining the city's proposal. "The entire nation honors you," he said. "Los Angeles honors you. Your name will have a secure place in American history, and I am sure that the lasting luster of that name will not be increased or diminished in any manner or at all by whatever action we may take in changing the name or retaining the name of the Los Angeles Airport." Bowron reviewed the recent history of aviation in Los Angeles, noting that the city's voters had approved the expenditure of more than \$17,000,000 to improve the airport and that

the city showed every promise of becoming a world leader in commercial aviation after the war ended.

General Doolittle responded heroically to Bowron's request, stating that "while I appreciate deeply the honor which my friends there sought to bestow on me, I agree that your Municipal Airport should carry the name of a permanent locality, not that of an individual who is, at best, temporary."

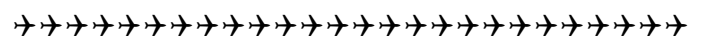
On August 28, the City Council received Bowron's argument against the change, along with Doolittle's letter and other communications opposing the ordinance. One letter supplied by Bowron came from a Texas aviation supervisor who advised that Houston's airport had briefly been titled the Howard Hughes Airport after his around-the-world flight. Still, the name was soon dropped as it violated a local tradition of not naming public places after living people.

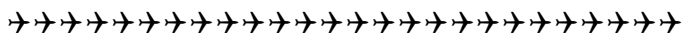
Mayor Bowron offered a broader argument. "Our airport, when developed and completed, should be and undoubtedly will be one of the outstanding features of the city to carry the name 'Los Angeles' to all countries in various sections of the world. The name of the city should appear on schedules of all commercial airlines, foreign as well as domestic; in travel information, time tables and aviation maps of the world," he wrote to the City Council.

Having run into such heavy flak, the City Council, by a 10-3 vote, aborted the mission.

As commercial aviation developed, many other cities succumbed to the temptation of naming airports after notable people, and few travelers today would register confusion about the location of Dulles, John Wayne, or O'Hare, which was named after Lieutenant Commander Edward Henry O'Hare, who was killed in action in World War II aerial combat. Most recently, an attempt to change the name of the admittedly awkward Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport to Bob Hope Airport was defeated. One way of avoiding controversy is to name a part of the airport complex after the person so being honored rather than the entire airport, so it is that Bradley International Terminal was named after Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley in 1984.

Fletcher Bowron's optimism for his city's future in aviation was confirmed in 1950. Bowron had correctly assessed the Doolittle proposal as a spur-of-the-moment idea, which, in the long run, would have diminished the city's commercial identity. Just five short years after beating back the Doolittle suggestion, he had the satisfaction of seeing his predictions validated as the City Council did authorize a name change to Los Angeles International Airport, or, as almost 50 million passengers annually notice on their luggage tags, LAX.





# Military Growing More Distant from Most Americans, Hicks Says

Nov. 7, 2023 | By John A. Tirpak

After 50 years, the All-Volunteer Force still works and is the right model, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks said Nov. 7. However, to fill the ranks in a hot labor market, the Pentagon needs to expand its eligibilities and make the benefits it offers more relevant and well known.

Congress also needs to stop using the military as a political pawn and predictably fund the defense budget, she asserted, calling out Sen. Tommy Tuberville’s (R-Ala.) ongoing hold on military promotions and noting that since 2010, the Defense Department has operated for a cumulative four years under continuing resolutions.

Speaking at the Center for a New American Security to talk about the All-Volunteer Force, which took effect in 1973, Hicks said the fact that “it has lasted for 50 years and that we have built the finest force in the world is a testament to its strength, and I believe that it remains the best model for the U.S. military,”

Its success can’t be taken for granted. She said the two goals facing the creators of the AVF—“healthy civil-military relations and recruiting and retaining the force we need”—require constant attention.

Recruiting for all the services has gotten tougher in the last few years, Hicks acknowledged, attributing a good portion of that challenge to the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed schools and halted face-to-face recruiting with teens and those in their early 20s.

Add to that “the lowest unemployment rate in more than 50 years,” and it should come as no surprise that recruitment is not hitting targets, Hicks said, and “we’ve been hard at work recovering.”

Among the approaches are “programs and policy changes that will increase the pool of eligible candidates, from raising the maximum ages of enlistment and launching new programs that help potential recruits meet eligibility requirements; to offering a variety of incentives, such as bonuses, to recruits and recruiters, and releasing targeted ad campaigns that amplify the benefits of military service. And we continue to look for creative solutions.”

The biggest draws to military service remain educational opportunities, training, the opportunity to lead, travel, to fulfill a willingness to serve, and be part of “something bigger than yourself,” Hicks said.

But along with those broad benefits, the DOD is focusing on practical benefits, Hicks said. It’s making more commissaries available, lowering their prices, and especially working toward making childcare more available. The Defense Department provides care for more than 360,000 children already, but Hicks acknowledged

that there are “long waiting lists” and that this issue is getting top-level attention.

Hicks also said the Pentagon is setting new standards for pay and allowances to keep soldiers with families out of poverty so that minimum compensation is “150 percent of the poverty level.”

On the bright side, Hicks said, “We have been surpassing our retention goals, and we take that as a strong indicator that we’re meeting our value proposition and that matters.”

A chronic recruiting problem is the dwindling number of Americans who have served in the military, Hicks said. Whereas in 1980, some 18 percent of Americans had served, today it is only seven percent. There is a growing deficit of veterans who can explain the benefits of military service to friends and family members, she said.

The U.S. military relies on “society’s familiarity with the military as a recruitment tool and to bridge the divide between civilians and service members and their families,” Hicks noted. Fewer and fewer eligible recruits have “direct ties” to someone who served.

That also makes it harder to maintain “healthy civil-military relations,” she said.

“We must ensure that as a society, we are familiar with the military, with military families, and what they do, and the sacrifices that they make for the nation,” Hicks asserted. While Americans’ trust in entities such as “Congress, the courts, our justice system, public schools, the press, businesses small and large, and so on has been on a decline,” the military remains “one of our more trusted institutions,” she said, and both trust and recruiting are helped by ensuring “fairness, equality, and personal liberties” in the ranks.

“For our part, remaining an apolitical institution is critical to maintaining that trust and confidence, and especially in this moment in history,” Hicks insisted. The armed forces must avoid “politicization and remain nonpartisan.” Servicemembers are “routinely trained and educated on this very issue,” she said.

Leaders should reinforce this norm and protect servicemembers “from being dragged into the political fray or being colored or affected by policy disagreements that they, by design, have no control over,” Hicks observed.

Passing the fiscal 2024 Defense Appropriations Act would go a long way toward reinforcing the idea of apolitical support of the military, she said, noting that “the clock is ticking” on the current continuing resolution, which expires Nov. 17.

“The now-routine failure to secure needed resources for defense and for the whole government erodes military trust in civilian leaders,” she said.

“We cannot afford any further delays. I can assure you that Russia and the [People’s Republic of China] are not going to slow down while we get our house in order.”

(Continued page 13)

She criticized Tuberville's months-long hold on general and flag officer promotions as "unnecessary, unprecedented, and unsafe. It's bad for the military, it's bad for military families, and it's bad for America, and it needs to stop now."

She offered appreciation for the confirmation of senior officers who have been cleared to their new jobs in recent weeks—including the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. David W. Allvin—"but it is not enough. We need all these nominations to move forward now, and I hope that the Senate will recognize that and move swiftly to confirm the nearly 360 remaining men and women into their positions."

Hicks said the Pentagon will continue to "amplify" the benefits of military service, promoting military-wide pay raises of more than 10 percent over two years, if the fiscal 2024 budget is approved. These raises are the highest military raises in 20 years, she said.

Hicks said the DOD is also looking at Space Force's success in "career permeability," which allows movement back and forth between full-time and part-time work, as a way to fill the ranks.

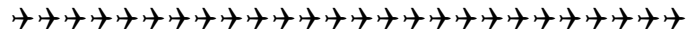
The Pentagon is working with the various states to ensure licensing reciprocity and similar spousal career protection so partners don't have to abandon a career when a military family moves from one state to another. She's also pushing for more "career intermissions," where service members can take a leave to work with industry and return to service later, a program that only some 500 people have taken advantage of in the years it's been available.

The Marine Corps "has not had a recruiting challenge," Hicks noted, and the other services are looking at how that branch "selects its recruiters and rewards them" in an effort to "take what works for them out of that model."

From the various panels commissioned to examine the recruiting issue, one recommendation was to establish a "chief talent management officer" for the DOD, "which is a best practice in other organizations and institutions. We've done that, and he's getting going, starting with some pilots in some key areas and trying to, again, build a community of practice both around function — what we call functional community managers." Those communities include cyber experts and financial managers. "This is "really getting leadership focus," she said.

The controversial policy compensating members for out-of-state travel "if they can't get" needed healthcare reproductive nearby is one of the ways the administration is addressing that issue, Hicks said.

The good news: surveys show "strong evidence that [Generation] Z has a deep desire, like many generations before" for service and "to make sure they're contributing to something bigger than themselves." Gen Z is generally considered to be those born from the late 1990s to around 2010. "We just have to make sure the military is a place both that really delivers on that and that they see us delivering on that, and that's the job that's left to us,"



## What's an Attack? In Iraq and Syria, That's Not Always Clear

Nov. 7, 2023 | By [Chris Gordon](#)

U.S. forces continue to come under attack from Iran-backed militias in Iraq and Syria, with "conservative" estimates of at least 40 attacks, mostly with drones and rockets, since Oct. 17. But U.S. leaders are fuzzy on what constitutes an attack on U.S. forces.

"I think part of the challenge here—and I know that you all wrestle with this as well—is defining an attack," acknowledged Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder at a Nov. 2 press briefing. "It's going to be an art, not a science, depending on the situation."

The Pentagon calls its measure "conservative," meaning it measures only those attacks in which U.S. personnel were "threatened." The proximity of U.S. forces to an attack is one basic indicator, but it is not clear how close attacks must be to constitute a threat. Air defense systems defeat most attacks.

The Pentagon, U.S. Central Command, and Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, which is charged with helping partner forces in Iraq and Syria fight against ISIS, are all involved in the calculus, according to U.S. officials.

Outside experts and claims by militias suggest the number of attacks may be greater than the Pentagon is acknowledging. The Islamic Resistance of Iraq, an umbrella title for multiple militias, claims it has carried out almost 60 attacks.

"Official claims of responsibility from the Islamic Resistance in Iraq are—in my experience—reliable indicators that an attack was launched," said Charles Lister of the Middle East Institute.

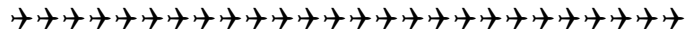
Lister added that a likely explanation for the lower U.S. government number is due to attacks that land further afield from the U.S. forces.

What is not in dispute is that the threats against U.S. forces grew dramatically in the past month, with some causing injuries and one resulting in the death of a contractor who suffered a heart attack while sheltering in place. In all, the Pentagon assesses there have now been 46 injuries to U.S. personnel, almost all of which occurred on Oct. 17 and Oct. 18 at Al Asad airbase in Iraq and Al Tanf Garrison in Syria. They suffered a mix of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and "minor injuries."

Among the wounded, virtually all quickly returned to duty. Two of those diagnosed with TBI were later transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, for "further examination and care," according to Ryder.

(Continued page 14)





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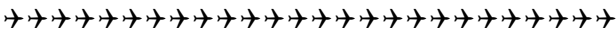
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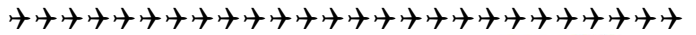
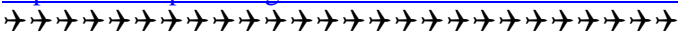
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## MOAA/MOWW DINNER MEETING FRIDAY 15 December 2023



We are trying something different for our Christmas Party this year. It will be on 15 December at the Los Robles Golf Course. We are limiting attendance to MOAA/MOWW/ANA chapter members only, plus a few invited guests. This will be a plated dinner with ham and turkey as entrées with hors d'oeuvres served by waiters. Since we are a group of officers, we are also asking everyone to dress up with your mess dress [if it still fits], tuxedo, or coat and tie at a minimum. In lieu of a speaker, we have hired a professional singer to entertain us with some patriotic songs and to lead us to sing Christmas carols to end the evening. We will also administer the oath to new MOWW members and present a few awards.

The plated dinner costs more than the buffet line and we do not normally have hors d'oeuvres so we had to increase the price to **\$50 per person**. Also with a plated dinner, we need an exact count.

Therefore, we are asking you to pay in advance.

**Date:** Friday, 15 December 2023

**Check-in starts at 5:30**

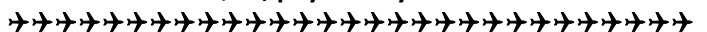
**Program starts at 7:30**

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# Memoriam

During November 2023, we had no members "Fly West."

## December Birthdays

Shirley Andrews	December 04, 1936
David Greenberg	December 04, 1965
Bob Eisenhart	December 05, 1938
Dave Worley	December 05, 1953
Roscoe Frazier	December 08, 1939
Ronald Roscoe	December 11, 1944
Dan Pemberton	December 13, 1939
Frank Garrett	December 14, 1962
Frank Lopez	December 14, 1961
Alex Daunis	December 15, 1940
Steve Dunner	December 15, 1969
Larry Kushner	December 15, 1946
Dave Anderson	December 16, 1942
Julio Jimenez	December 17, 1944
Jim Sivazlian	December 17, 1945
Peggy Jean Bassett	December 20, 1938
Peter Helm	December 22, 1944
Alan Hill	December 22, 1966
Lee Auger	December 23, 1929
Claude Maugein	December 28, 1952

## Wings News Patrons

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

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Lillian Anderson	Shirley Andrews
Lee Auger	Mark Ax
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## Reminder

**Wings Over Wendy's monthly food drive is Monday, December 6th**





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The WOW Zoom Equipment GoFundMe account link is [gf.me/u/x9pst6](https://www.gofundme.com/u/x9pst6).

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



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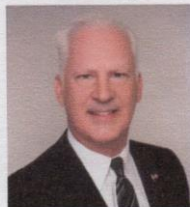
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