

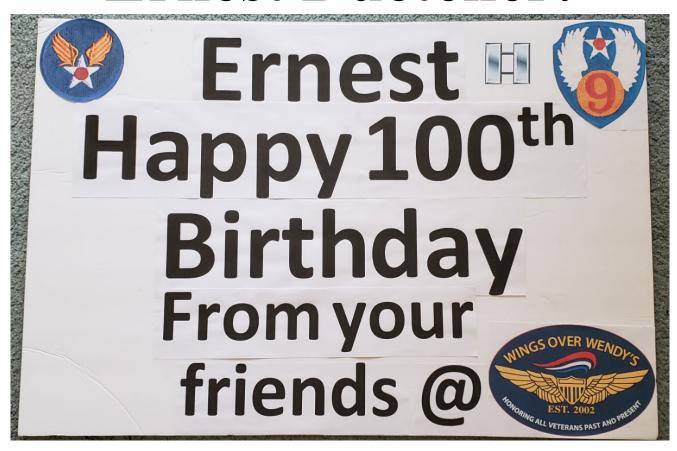


NEWS

Volume 7 Number 06 Ed Reynolds Publisher Established May 2014
Email Wings News at Ed_ReynoldsJr@msn.com

June 1, 2020 Ed Reynolds Editor

100 Years Old! Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Ernest Ductcher!



Valley Vantage

Volume 37, Issue 12

A Compendious Source of Information

May 21, 2020

Celebrating a Centennial Vet

World War II veteran Ernst "Ernie" Dutcher was feted on the occasion of his 100th birthday with a festive and patriotic parade. Dutcher, who was a staff officer in the 9th Air Force in England, planning the glider and air transport operations for the Normany invasion, got his own birthday "invasion" last Saturday morning. Twenty two cars,





30 Wing's Over Wendy's veterans organization members and an equal number of neighbors honored the veteran. Five West Valley LAPD officers in three black and whites led by Senior Lead Officer Tim Walia also dropped by to check out the ceremony. Former City Councilman and LAPD Reserve Officer Dennis Zine helped lead the parade on his motorcycle.

Wing's Over Wendy's Chair Ed Reynolds presented Dutcher with a birthday card, and Councilman John Lee presented him with a City of Los Angeles certificate.

(Continued page 3)



Councilmember John Lee Presents Ernest a City Council Certificate



Photos by Larry Kushner

Group Picture

For the first time since March 9th, many Wings Over Wendy's members were able to see each other face-to-face at the Birthday Celebration. They gathered in the Gelson's Market parking lot. Marion Lovelace had members sign birthday cards as we lined up our cars for the Parade behind Dennis Zine on his motorcycle to start the Parade. The Gelson's Manager handed out cold bottles of water.



Photo by Larry Kushner

We Also Celebrated Karen Vegtel Birthday

In a surprise, we also celebrated Keren Vegtel's birthday. Unknown to Karen, Marion had the Parade participants sign a birthday card, which Ed Reynolds presented to Karen as Ernest pointed to her, and the crowd sang Happy Birthday.

Valley Beth Shalom Veteran's Honor Program on Shabbat, May 23, 2020

On May 23, 2020, many Wings Over Wendy's members participated in the annual Valley Beth Shalom Veteran's Honor Program. This year the program was conducted via Zoom. The program included a recap of the Military Careers of Ed Reynolds, Marc Thurston, and Jimmy Weldon. Harvey Keenan introduced the veterans,



Harvey Keenan

Ed Reynolds



Marc Thurston Jimmy Weldon



Rabbi Ed Feinstein

Rabbi Noah Farkas

Rabbi Ed Feinstein and USN veteran Rabbi Noah Farkas spoke following the veterans. Cantor Phil Baron finished the service.

May 2020 Meetings May 4, 2020



Photo from Zoom

Dennis Daily History of Aviation

On May 4th, 2020, the featured speaker was Dennis Daily, a colleague of Jimmy Weldon, who performs the research and writes many of Jimmy's inspirational stories. He has an extensive background in newscasting and published historical events.

Dennis spoke to us about the history of aviation as we know it today. He began with the Wright Brothers' first successful controlled flight on December 17, 1903. They achieved this with a wing system where each wing would modify to stay in the air and make turns.

Eventually, their flights were made public, and Orville Wright traveled to Washington D.C. to demonstrate the plane to the U.S. military. He brought a passenger, Thomas Selfridge, along with him as they flew on September 17, 1908. During the flight, a strut on the plane broke, sending the plane down into a nosedive. Wright was nearly killed, but Selfridge was killed, making him the first person to ever die in a plane crash.

After this, the plane was taken by the military and stored in a warehouse. One day Alexander Graham Bell snuck in to examine the plane, taking down measurements.

This data went on to help significantly further aircraft development. Up until the 1920s, airplanes were only used by the military, but in the 1920s, airplanes gradually became utilized for non-military purposes.

It required lots of money to fly, and most pilots mostly only used the planes for personal use, such as barnstormers flying over county fairs. But, pilots began to realize that flight could be used to make lots of profit, and airlines began to develop.

During these times, other great things occurred in aviation, such as Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic Ocean and Amelia Earhart, proving that women could also fly. Planes developed and continue to improve.

In April of 1931, the tragic death of Knute Rockne alerted the world that a step to improve aircraft safety was required. It was revealed that Knute Rockne's plane crash was caused by a loose piece of wood. Therefore, aircraft designers began to develop full-metal planes.

The Douglas's DC-1, was the first full-metal plane developed. Only one was created, and modifications were made to the original design to create the DC-2. The next iteration, the DC-3, became the most popular plane ever built. Some of these planes are still in daily use today. (This Editor had his last USAF Navigator check ride in a military version of the DC-3 in 1972. Last June our member Franky Ortega parachuted out of one over Normandy, France as part of the 75th Anniversary of the Invasion of France in WWII.)

Safety was still a concern in aircraft. Flight attendants were put on airline flights to make passengers feel more comfortable. Eventually, in 1940, there were no deaths on airline flights. WWII accelerated aviation innovation. After WWII, the de Havilland Comet was the world's first commercial jet airliner marking another significant step in improving aircraft. It was twice as fast and could fly twice as high as any other commercial airplane. This plane, as well as the Boeing 707, was the start of a new era of aircraft development, where the aviation industry formed into what we know today.

Dennis then answered questions for over an hour,

May 11, 2020



Zoom picture

CAPT Steve Shepard

US Navy Captain Steve Shapard, a friend of Leon Waldman and Barney Leone, spoke to the group about the current status of the active-duty Navy at his base.



Jonathan Parshall The Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

On May 11th, 2020 our featured presentation was a video recording of a Lecture Jonathan Parshall gave at the National World War II Museum on 7 October 2016.

Last month he joined us on Zoom to give his talk on the "Options for Peace, 1945", War Termination Scenarios & The Numbers Behind Them. This time he suggested that we just play a video that he had previously recorded

Jonathan Parshall's covered:

- Creating the Japanese carrier strike force
- Overview of the Pearl Harbor attack
- The Fuel Tank Attack Myth
- Reinterpretation of the operation

By 1940, big aircraft carriers were not used by the Navy's of the world in the same way they are today. They were primarily viewed as just scouting assets. Around this

time, Japanese air power visionaries came up with the idea to use several of these carriers to help them in battle.

Commander Minoru Genda and Vice Admiral Jisaburō Osawa began planning this and eventually brought it to Admiral Isoruku Yamamoto, where they convinced him to bring the idea into use.

Specifically, they wanted to use aircraft carriers to attack Pearl Harbor. The plan was to form the First Air Fleet (or Kidō Butai) in April of 1941. Also, all of the aircraft carrier divisions would form into one bigger tactical unit.

During the summer and fall of 1941, they started training the strategy and ultimately train for the attack. They used some new strategies, such as deck load strikes, where planes would be brought onto the flight deck and deployed in separate groups instead of deploying planes and bringing more up from the hangar bay. Also, it was decided that carrier divisions would each carry a different air group, and deploy them at a specific time.

During all of this planning, no other Navy was aware of the considerable power the Japanese Navy was starting to gain and the capability they would have against any other Navy. They had become the most powerful Navy in the world, with every advantage they could get.

With this newfound power, the attack on Pearl Harbor was planned to be very complex and bold. The scale of the attack was massive, and there was a lot of detail put into the plans. But, in the end, they did not pull it off perfectly.

Although they sank four battleships, they made some significant mistakes. The accuracy of the bomb strikes were not very good, with only 20% of the bombs successfully hitting their target. Also, only 48% of fired torpedoes hit their target. The weapons were not properly allocated, as the GP bombs were wasted against the Nevada instead of smaller cruisers and destroyers, and the Navy would have benefitted from using more torpedoes instead of AP bombs.

Because of this, some ships went undamaged throughout the entire attack. After the attack, some myths existed. One of them was the idea that there was another wave planned to take out the logistics facilities, fuel tanks, and maintenance facilities. This myth was because Fuchida has told the story that this was planned. But, it is said by many that it was never planned, and the Japanese Commanders felt that they had accomplished their goal of sinking battleships.

Overall, the attack was very complicated on paper, but it was not done at quite the magnitude that the Japanese had hoped. But, the Hawaiian airpower was still destroyed, and the Japanese army had pulled off more damage than any other Navy could in the period.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, the video included fifteen minutes of Q&A by participants at the original presentation.

The success of showing an informative video expands our plans for future meetings.

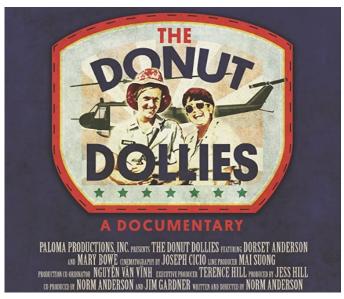
May 18, 2020



Zoom Photo

Paul Koretz LA City Councilmember 5th District

On May 18th, 2020, Councilmember Paul Koretz, visited our meeting and gave us an update on the City's plan to reopen the businesses. He answered questions after his talk about school openings, the homeless problem.



The Donut Dollies

Over two years ago, Bill Wishard brought his friend, Norm Anderson, and Norm's mother Dorset to a Wings Over Wendy's meeting. Dorset told us a little bit about her tour in Vietnam as a "Donut Dollie." Norm then told us about his project to take Dorset and some of her Donut Dollie colleagues back to the bases where they were stationed in Vietnam and to film the experience and their memories.

Six months later, at our 2018 Luncheon, Norm was able to show us clips of the documentary. He finished the documentary and has won awards as several Film Festivals. Several of Wings Over Wendy's members have supported Norm's project and were listed in the film's credits.

Norm permitted us to show the documentary at the May 18^{th} , 2020 meeting.

The documentary starts with Dorset discovering pictures and letters from her tour in Vietnam. It documents her flying back to the country, visiting the places she lived and worked entertaining the G.I.s. Old footage showed some of the activities Donut Dollies had with the soldiers, and the bases. Norm also filmed interviews with people that live in the area.

It is an emotional film for Vietnam veterans, showing many of the bases, villages, helicopter flights, the Tan Son Nhut Airport Terminal, and Saigon Hotels.

Producer Jess Hill participated in our meeting and answered many questions after the show.

May 25, 2020

Special Memorial Day Virtual Meeting



Zoom Photo

Jasmine Mirfakhraei "Star Spangled Banner"

(Continued page 7)

For the first time in the history of Wings Over Wendy's members were not participating in the Canoga Park Parade. The first time in many years, Shirley Andrews was not leading the meeting.

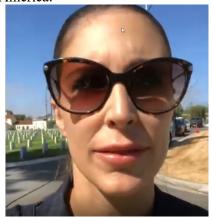
Instead, we conducted a special virtual Memorial Day meeting starting with Corinne Ho's daughter, Jasmine Mirfakhraei, singing the "Star Spangled Banner."



Zoom photo

Jimmy Weldon "Old Glory"

Following Jasmine, we heard Jimmy Weldon's "Old Glory" and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. We sang God Bless America.



Zoom photo

Margot Marty

Margot Marty gave us a report from the Los Angeles National Cemetery, showing in the background that due to COVID-19, flags were not placed by the gravestones as had been traditionally done every Memorial Day. (A sad sight!)



Zoom photo

Bob Donovan "What Can We Do"

Bob Donovan spoke on the history of Memorial Day what it means to those that served, that lost friends and colleagues, and to the "Gold Star" families. He then when on to address what we can do on Memorial Day.

Bob's talk was followed by Lee Greenwood singing God Bless the USA and Taps in memory of those that have passed, and Monte Merken sang "Last Monday in May," by Walt Davis.



Zoom photo

Bob Blumenfield

Follow Monte's touching song we heard a Memorial Day message from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield.



Zoom photo

John Lee

Councilmember John Lee also provided a Memorial Day message. We are blessed to have the strong support from the two Councilmembers.

(Continued page 8)



Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Parade Slideshow

The featured presentation for May 25th, 2020, was a slide show of a collection of pictures from past Memorial Day and Veteran's Day parades, including our Wings Over Wendy's display truck driving through the Parade! We also looked at pictures of Wings Over Wendy's members at the parades, as well the other participants and spectators that we would've seen if there had been a Parade today.



USN CAPT Bill Ratner tips his hat to our truck



Spectators Thank Veterans

We ended the meeting with comments from the members.

Wings Over Wendy's in the News





From YouTube, I AM THE FLAG

Jimmy Weldon on ABC7

Included in the ABC7 Memorial Day Special on May 25th, 2020, at the Los Angeles National Cemetery was a video of Jimmy Weldon reciting *I AM THE FLAG*.

Jimmy provided ABC7 the video so he could stay at home and participate in our Wings Over Wendy's meeting. (He knows where to set his priorities!)

Ernest Dutcher's 100th Birthday Celebration

ABC7 filmed the Wings Over Wendy's celebration of Ernest Dutcher's 100th birthday.

The coverage was aired on Channel 7 Eyewitness News at 6 pm on May 16th.



Rantz & Ravez from Dennis Zine

In Dennis Zine's Rantz & Ravez column on May 21, 2020, in the Valley News Group, he reported.

Where oh where was District 5 L.A. City Councilmember Paul Koretz, when the police, community members, family, and friends all gathered on Saturday, May 16, for a birthday celebration parade to honor the birthday of 100 year-old retired military veteran, Encino resident, and proud member of the Wings Over Wendy's Veterans group?

I was invited to join the parade celebrating the 100th Birthday of Encino resident and military veteran Ernest "Ernie" R. Dutcher, Jr.

Many senior citizen members and friends from the Wings over Wendy's military group gathered in cars, many decorated with festive happy birthday signs and colorful balloons. I was on my Harley Davidson motorcycle and lead the parade of veterans and friends gathered to honor and celebrate Ernie's centennial birthday.

We drove "Code 3" (lights and sirens) with an LAPD escort to Ernie's home just off Ventura Blvd in Encino.

Upon arrival, we were joined by Ernie's family and a huge gathering of his neighbors many carrying happy birthday signs. Channel 7 Eyewitness News was at the celebration and covered the story for local TV.

While the celebration was held in the 5th City Council District, which is in Councilmember Paul Koretz' territory, there was never any sighting of Councilmember Koretz or presentation from his office.

L.A. City Councilmember John Lee from the 12th Council District was at the celebration with his staff and presented a happy birthday certificate to Ernie.

Councilmember Lee has been a supporter of Wings Over Wendy's members and programs and attends their community events. When an invited L.A. City Councilmember (I verified Koretz was invited by the sponsors of the event) and the elected representative of the honoree can't find time to honor a 100-year old resident who happens to be a "D-Day" Military Veteran. It speaks for itself.

Zoom Meetings

Our participation in the Zoom meeting has been increasing:

- May 04th 77 participants
- May 11th 92 participants
- May 18^{th} 94 participants
- May 25th 100 participants

Participants have joined from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Nevada, and Wisconsin. It is a pleasure to see friends and relatives.

Need an upgrade?

All indications are that we will have to hold virtual meets for months, so I recommend to those that are attending that don't have computers, laptops, or tablets to obtain a tablet or iPad via a cellphone carrier.

iPhone or other smartphone users can improve their experience by using an iPad or tablet. A second-hand tablet can be obtained for less than \$100, and you can use your smartphone as a hotspot for the tablet to use your wireless number.

New tablets or iPads are often discounted by cell phone carriers, and some have deals for veterans.

For those that have computers but no camera, I encourage you to purchase a web camera. They cost less than \$100 and are easy to install via a USB port. Enables your grandkids to see your handsome face

For Help Contact Charles Scott (818) 448-1737

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

In Memoriam

During May 2020, no member of Wings Over Wendy's was reported to have died. No members were reported to have been taken ill with the COVID-19.

Prayers

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

Ed Moreno,
Ginger Lyons
Howard Leeds
and Alice Stone

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June Birthdays

Glen Schecter	June 01, 1959	
Morton Sherman	June 04, 1937	
Bill Wentz	June 04, 1947	
Robert Modell	June 09, 1938	
Ira Mandel	June 10, 1937	
Mark Schneider	June 10, 1943	
Hugh McDonald	June 12, 1936	
Raun Nelson	June 13, 1952	
Marcus Richter	June 16, 1930	
Jan Edwards	June 19, 1931	
Steve Klausner	June 20, 1938	
Bill Ratner	June 22, 1948	
Karen Velarde	June 23, 1958	
Warren Weinstein	June 23, 1929	
Alan Archer	June 24, 1934	
Terry Kollstedt	June 25, 1942	
Maurice Portnoy	June 25, 1928	
Bill Wishard	June 26, 1941	
Francis Tully	June 27, 1936	
Jeffrey Cohen	June 28, 1948	
Shannon Muchow	June 28, 1972	
Ralph Morin	June 29, 1936	
Anarg Frangos	June 30, 1927	

New Members&Guests

We welcomed the following new members and guests to our meetings during May 2020:

Sheryl Carey, Ralph Casale, Josh Clayton, Sandy Cohen, Colin Colbourn, Dennis Daily, Leslie Fraze, Cara Goldman Debbie Harris, Jess Hill, Phil Katle, Paul Koretz, Irving Lautman, Doug Maresh, Julie Maresh, Paul McRae, Susanne Reyto, Dave Stark, Bob Swihart, and Loren Tyler

Wings News Staff

Publisher: Ed Reynolds Editor: Ed & Judy Reynolds Reporter: Rex Roche

Photographers: Larry Kushner, Ken Mayer, Paul Boghossian, Ed Reynolds, Howard Swerdlick,

Alan Hill, and Michael Sugar.

Video: Mike LaVere

Secretaries: Marion Lovelace & Shirley Andrews

Speakers: Barney Leone & Bob Eisenhart

Tours: Warren Weinstein **Treasurer:** Barry Chapman

Hats, Shirts & Name Tags: Howard Swerdlick

Reminders: Connie Hein

Raffle Tickets & Decorations: Fred Kaplan

Computer Help: Charles Scott

Wings News Patrons

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

David Alvarez	Dave Anderson
Lillian Anderson	Shirley Andrews
Lee Auger	Tom Bates
Darlene Birgel	Karl Boeckmann
Paul Boghossian	Richard Burns
Marge Callahan	Barry Chapman
Patrick Daly	Howard Davis
Gerald Detamore	Skip DeYoung
Jan Edwards	Bob Eisenhart
Midge Gisel	Anita Green
David Greenberg	Connie Hein
John Helm	Peter Helm
Richard Hernandez	Manny Iglesias
Carol Jensen	Fred Kaplan
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Larry Kushner	Hal Landy
Nonie Lann	Howard Leeds
Camille Levee	Al Lewis
Morris Litwack	Toni Mattock
Ken Mayer	Rosadel McClure

(Continued page 11)

Dan Pemberton Maurice Portnoy Marcene Rankin Dave Reynolds Judy Reynolds Ray Rodriguez Ray Rosenbaum Earl Roth

Ray Rodriguez
Ray Rosenbaum
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Nancy Shattuck
Bob Stiles
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Jimmy Weldon

Avery Willis

Ed Phillips

Anne Marie Radel Richard Raskoff Ed Reynolds

Maria Rodriguez

Bob Rose Abe Rosenzweig George Rothman

Bob Shattuck
Chip Stevens
Sharon Fine
Bill Tapp

Karen Vegtel Warren Weinstein

Bill Wentz Bill Wishard



MOAA/MOWW Meetings

Non WOW Events

Operation Gratitude Events

WOW Events/Tours
WOW Meetings

WOW Events Calendar Additions

Because of the high participation by Wings Over Wendy's members in their events, the **teamup.com WOW Events**Calendar has been extended to include: ANA Meetings, MOAA/MOWW Meetings, and Operation Gratitude Events.

The key is: kswpwdaeovnb1jans4

Monday Meeting Agenda

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/661372701?pwd=NEZCWjlMUTArRW1tREtWUWRLNmpDQT09

- Meet & Greet starts at 8:30 am.
- The formal meeting starts at 9:30 am.
- Jasmine sings the National Anthem
- Jimmy recites "Old Glory" and the Pledge
- Visitors and guests interviewed about 9:40 am.
- The presentation starts around 10 am.

Meeting ID: 661 372 701 Password: 200220

Dial in: +16699009128,,661372701#,,#,200220#

LALEH FRAZIER

Wife of ROSCOE FRAZIER Retired US ARMY

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

They donate the flowers in the name of Wings Over Wendy's

when they are notified of a member's funeral.

Stay safe and healthy See you Monday!



