

From: Rfklng@aol.com
To: Rfklng@aol.com
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Subject: News from the Mission Valley POW Support Group Meeting Jan. 29, 2009

NEWS FROM THE MISSION VALLEY POW SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 1/29/09

1. **Commander Frank Burger** asked **Larry Strickland** to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Frank Welcomed "old time" member **Frank Sexton**; a "Gunner on a B-17". He is a part of an Army VFW Post # 7785 Honor Guard. They will perform at your services with a 24 hour notice; call either Roma Brown @ 858-278-6599 or Norm Garirns @ 858-278-7925.

Frank asked us to sign a card to **Sidney Koble** who went to the hospital last week to be fitted with a "pace maker".

2. **Dr. George Pappas** told us that the film we watched last week of **Otto Scwanz's** experience on the USS Houston and many other similar films was prepared by **Zack Roberts** who was one of the three guys who were with George when they were captured by the Germans at Anzio, Italy, 1944.

3. **Leo Finegold** told about his old unit the 30th Infantry Division's Association's plan for their legacy by preparing a film showing the many battles in which they participated. As a 'Fund Raiser' to pay for the making of the film; they are making 18" statues of a soldier with a rifle to sell for \$800.00 Compare that to our 7" replica of our 15' tall statue that will go in the new cemetery at the west end of Miramar.

Leo also talked about two items from the New York Times of PTSD and "Who gets to wear the Purple Heart medal". He had copies of these articles for everyone there and hopes to hear comments next week about either subject.

Leo reminded us that 20 years ago Jan. 28 was the "Challenger's Disaster".in 1988. And that we need to know the difference between Engineers and Managers: Engineers want the thing done according to plans; the Manager wants things done on time.

4. **Norman Achen** spoke to us about the "Better Listen-America First" (BLAF) effort to help our congressmen know how the general public feels about our country's direction. He also showed us a beautiful framed picture of one of the finest fighter planes in WW II; the P-51 Mustang, with the red nose of the Air Corps Fourth Fighter Group that he flew in combat.

5. **Ralph Kling** Reported the following from the United Veterans Council meeting last Saturday:

- **Ted Napolitano**, is the new Patient Advocate Manager at the VA La Jolla Hospital. Call his office @ 858-642-7426 if any of you are having a problem or to report 'great care' you receive.

- **Jason Austell** (whom we see on the afternoon news casts in helicopters) who is doing short video clips for TV advertising. His first; for the Mt. Soledad Plaques; increased the December sales tremendously.

- **Mary Salas**, Chula Vista state Representative who is the Chairman of the Veterans Committee in Sacramento and is doing good things for vets.

- **Ron Ritter** who heads up the "Eagles Wings" group. They run a four meeting course for the surviving spouse and provide beautiful cards to send those who are grieving. Ralph says this a group that we should definitely support with donations.

- **Bill Ryder & Mike Sloan from ACVOW** (American Combat Veterans of War) who along with 8 others went to Twenty Nine Palms Dec. 16th to speak to 700 marines who just returned from Iraq to let them know that there are a lot of organizations and people who are ready to help anyone who needs help of any kind.

-Ralph reminded everyone of the programs going on Feb. 12th **Lincoln's Birthday** at our Veterans Museum and Memorial in Balboa Park.

- **Cynthia Abar** is the acting Director at the VA Hospital since Rossio's departure and will be asked to be a speaker for our meetings soon.

- **Jenny Sisk, Lily Fetzer's** Asst. has been asked to be the Director at the Reno Regional Office while a new person is being sought for that office.

- The Theme for the Veterans Parade Nov. 11 will be; "**Honor our OIF & OEF Vets**".

- Mt Soledad's Veterans Day program will be; **Honor Gen Patton's Family**. the Speaker will be **General Salinas** from Camp Pendleton.

Ralph handed out **Congressman Bob Filner's** new bill H.R. 671 to recognize Vietnam soldiers with a medal for their families called the "**Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal**".

- The Hometown Heroes program announcement for Feb. 12 at the Vets Museum noon to 4 PM .

The Dedication Ceremony on Sat. Jan. 31 at 10:00 AM at the Helen Bougher Memorial Park in San Marcos at the corner of El Norte Pkwy and Woodland Pkwy.

- The name and address of a "Hi Tech" school student who wanted to interview two veterans on Sat. Jan. 31st.

6. **Dr. Fernando Tellez** said our group needs to be represented at meetings, because of the experience we have witnessed in the world's action. He likes to see us in small groups and have a chance for everyone to express their opinions.

7. **Linda Gatto-Woitek** put the group in small groups and we shall see next week the those results.

That's it for me! See you all next week; there are going to be surprises...

Ralph Kling Rfklng@aol.com don't forget to check the web site www.sdpow.org

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