



# STELLAR EAGLE

ESTRELLA WARBIIRD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2002

## MEET JOHN HIMES



Most of you know John as our Chef, and avid supporter of the Estrella Warbird Museum. John plans all our monthly Dinner Meetings, and was the Culinary Mastermind in getting out dinners to 200 + people in 20 minutes during the USO Show and Dinner Dance! John is a wine-maker, chef, and businessman. What you may not know is "The Rest of the Story"!

John Himes was born in East Grand Rapids MI and grew up in Holland MI until he was 20. He began his college career at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he thought he wanted to be an engineer until he met up with calculus and chemistry then he decided that maybe a career in business was more suited to his learning ability.

After becoming disenchanted with the snow and cold of Michigan, John headed for the warmer climes of Scottsdale, AZ in 1960. He finished up his college at Arizona State University with a BS in Accounting in 1965. John earned his CPA certificate in 1970 while working for Arizona State as an Internal Auditor. He then worked for Del Webb Corp in Phoenix as the Assistant Manager of their Internal Audit department. This gave John a chance to travel to many of their properties. While living in Arizona, John married his first wife Beth and raised two daughters, Gretchen, now 34 and Sarah, now 32.

However something was missing, John found he was not happy doing this kind of work. So in January of 1976 he quit his job and moved his family to San Luis Obispo where he built and opened the Taylor Rental Centers in San Luis, Atascadero and Paso Robles. In 1983, John got rid of the rental businesses following his divorce from Beth. Putting his Accounting skills back to work he used it to go to work in the County Auditor Controller's

office in San Luis Obispo, until 1987 when he purchased Paper Works Printing in Atascadero, which he owned until 2001. John says owning his own business was more challenging and rewarding than the accounting profession.

Becoming interested in Spirituality in 1998, John began to read every book he could find and looked for people who had read and understood the same books. After receiving an email one day he found someone as interested as he. John says, " I knew that there was something special about her from that very first letter. She is now my wife Mira." Mira was born in Russia but lived her whole life in Latvia except for her University years. She has one son, Dima who is 28 and lives in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Her mother is a retired school teacher who lives in Riga, the capital of Latvia. Mira holds a masters degree in Hydrology and has traveled extensively in the old Soviet Union and in the Scandinavian countries in pursuit of her career. She loves to read and is a teacher of Tai Chi.

Courtship proved to be very difficult, when the American Government refused Mira a Tourist visa to meet John in person. John then went to Latvia and met her and her family there. After their engagement, the INS took 7 months to issue her a visa to be with John so they could get married. They are currently working on getting Mira a "Green Card" so that she will have permanent status. This process has taken over 4 months for the INS to agree to process that paperwork, and will take a year to complete. John says someday he will "write a book about all this. It will be a cross between humor and a tragedy!"

Now you know, "The Rest of the Story"! ✈

(Ed note: We will be featuring a member every month so that you can get to know each other better.)

*oops!*

"The news of my demise is highly overated", says long time member Col. Bob Gay, UASF Retired. Recently the Tribune and the Paso Robles Press carried an obituary for a Bob Gay, 82 of Paso Robles. No services were to be held. President Betty Miller made arrangements to have the "In Memorium" plaque taken to have Bob's name added. She called the Gay residence, leaving a message that she needed the date of birth. Imagine her surprise when the "deceased" called up and said to hold everything, he was healthy and very much alive, and told her, "The news of my demise is highly overated!"

Bob said he was away from home the day the articles appeared and his first inkling that something was wrong was when the neighbors all came over with flowers and food and sympathy cards. Bob said he has been getting calls from all over California, and he is delighted to be able to tell his friends that all is well and that he plans on staying with us for a long time to come. We are all relieved and delighted that the shocking news had such a happy ending! See you at the Dinner Meeting Bob! ✈

### *Museum Wins "Marshalls Award" at Pioneer Day Parade*

The Estrella Warbird Museum was awarded the *Marshalls Award* for their 2002 Pioneer Day entry. The award is an engraved silver cake knife and server in a velvet presentation box. We will be cutting our desert with it on November 15th. The entry consisted of the following:

**US Navy jeep** driven by Kevin Craig and passenger Linda Hermansen in a sailor uniform. They had patriotic music, including all the service songs, playing to the crowd.

**US Army jeep** driven by John Cromwell.

**USMC 1 ton truck and trailer** driven by Arnold Hermansen in a US Army uniform.

**1912 Medical Corp truck** mounted on a

## **NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING**

*Wednesday, November 6*

*Social Hour 6pm*

*Dinner 7pm*

### **Thanksgiving Dinner with all the Trimmings**

*\$10.00 per person*

*Reservations Please*

*227-0440 leave message*

### **November Speaker**

Our speaker for November will be Bob Dickson from Morro Bay, California. Bob was a B-17 pilot in World War II and shot down over Germany on his third combat mission. He was immediately captured and spent 18 months as a POW. Bob returned to the US after the war and worked 32 years in the aerospace business. ✈

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trailer with Mira and John Himes as passengers, towed by John Dolan and Dave Geiger.

**USMC jeep** driven by Gary Corippo with passenger Al Schade dressed in his USMC uniform.

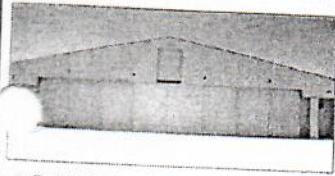
**US Army MP jeep** driven by Chuck Miller in his army uniform and Betty Miller dressed as a WW II wac.

An aerial flyover was performed by Glen Thomson, George Marrett, Dr. Obbie Atkinson and Bob Foote. Glen Thomson was the organizer of the 2002 museum entry.

Congrats to all who worked hard to make it all happen! ✈

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JACKIE BROOKS, MANAGER

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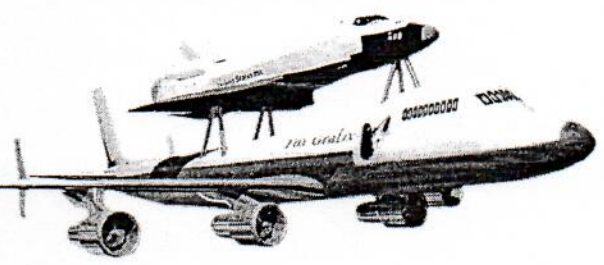


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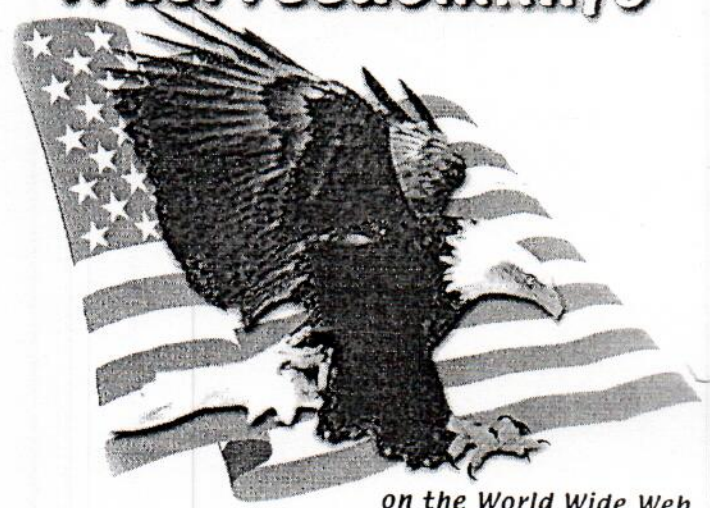
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