

Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter --December 2005

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"Silver Belles" return

December 7, 2005 dinner meeting

The Estrella Warbird Museum is pleased to have the *Silver Belles* return on December 7th for our dinner pleasure. Under the direction of Liz Jenstad, they will perform a program of popular Christmas music.

The *Silver Belles*, an independant senior woman's singing group, began in 1987 with a group of Paso Robles Woman's Club members getting together to practice singing Christmas carols for that group's December meeting. Sue Haley, a local musician and pianist, asked the ladies if they would like to become a permanent chorus. It proved to be so much fun that they gave themselves a name, held regular rehearsals, bought outfits and sang often for local organizations and nursing homes.

In 1992 Sue Haley remarried and moved away. The group convinced Liz Jenstad, a retired public school music teacher, to take over. Liz asked her friend Nancy Kinsell to be pianist for the group. Nancy, the wife of our late museum member and World War II P-38 combat pilot Bob Kinsell, played the accordion and piano on many USO tours. Nancy played for the group several years until she passed away in 1997. Then Kathy Garrett agreed to accompany the group.

At that point the group established a *Silver Belles Memorial Music Scholarship* to be awarded to a Paso Robles high school graduate planning a career in music. All donations received for performing go toward this scholarship fund.

NOTE: The group will arrive at 7:30pm in about 6 or 7 vehicles. We need to reserve parking spaces for them.

They will rehearse in our museum building and be prepared for entrance at 8:00 pm sharp! A "hat" should be passed to collect donations. Liz said we were generous the last time, hope we can repeat! -- George

December 7 dinner menu:

PRIME RIB

BAKED POTATOES

[WITH BUTTER & SOUR CREAM]

GREEN PEAS, GREEN SALAD,

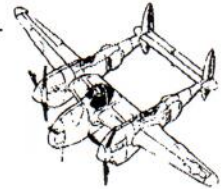
DINNER

ROLLS.

DESERT

\$15 - Please R.S.V.P. by noon Wednesday -
[466-1212]

The Prez Sez.....



Happy Holidays!

Thanksgiving is past and Christmas and Hanukah are on the way. I sincerely hope that all of you counted your blessings and thought about all of the things we should be thankful for.

As for myself, I have been wonderfully blessed for my health, my family, my many friends and for the chance to live and be part of this wonderful community that we all share.

The Museum is continually growing. Our newest addition, the F-5G, arrived and is being put back together by our talented Restoration Crew headed by **Al Schade**.

I must thank **Gary Corippo** for doing all the leg work and coordination to acquire it. Special thanks to board members, **Ron and Jackie Brooks, George Taylor, John Whitworth** and **Glen Thomson** who paid the shipping fees to bring it from Florida at no cost to the museum.

The plans for "Freedom Hall" have been submitted to the City of Paso Robles and the project is now in the pipeline. A grading permit was issued to be able to get the area smoothed off before the rains hit us.

I have two Museum Members as my "Unsung Heroes" for December.

These two folks have been working pretty much under the radar for those of you who only come out for the monthly dinner meeting. They put in many hours and keep our entire

These two folks have been working pretty much under the radar for those of you who only come out for the monthly dinner meeting. They put in many hours and keep our entire area looking attractive. The grounds don't look neat and well cared for without someone doing the work to make them that way.

I am speaking of **John Kendall** and **Ron Thompson!** These two gentlemen come out weekly to mow the lawns and keep the weeds at bay. These guys are pretty quiet and don't say much and we don't always give credit where credit is due. John and Ron are part of the network of volunteers that have made the Estrella Warbird Museum grow. Visitors are always impressed with our layout and how well everything is maintained. Thank you John and Ron!

Our Salvation Army Kettle that was in the Museum Hangar gathered \$91.47 for Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief. The Salvation Army is one of the few organizations that has a CEO making a salary of less than \$15,000.00 per year. No huge overhead there!

In the spirit of giving I hope you will bring a non-perishable food item for the food collection barrel we will have by the door for Loaves and Fishes. This organization helps the less fortunate members of our local community provide food for their families when times are tough.

The hurricanes that hit the south recently have pulled much of the support away from our local organizations and the shelves at Loaves and Fishes are getting bare.

If you wish to help out on a local level, please bring non-perishable items such as canned goods, unopened packages of cereal, pasta, etc. We will collect these and take them to Loaves and Fishes on December 12th.

My best wishes to you and your families for a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Chuck Miller

②

Docent Schedule: December 2005

Dec. 3, Sat. 10-1 Dickey, 1-4 Carlson.

Dec. 4, Sun. 12-3 Johnson

Dec. 10, Sat. 10-1 Miner/Coulson, 1-4 Peckinpaugh;

Dec. 11, Sun. 12-3 Corippo

Dec. 17, Sat. 10-1 Dickey, Hermansen;
1-4 Dec. 18, Sun.

Dec. 24, Sat. 10-1 Weiss, 1-5 Sacks;
1-4 Dec. 25, Sun. CLOSED

Dec. 31, Sat. 10-1 Blomquist,
1-4 Weiss

GOLFERS - Plan for May 8!

Planning is ongoing for this event and volunteers are still needed for May 8th, 2006 at Hunter's Ranch as well as the museum itself. Please call if you can be of assistance. Contact Wayne Rice @ (805) 467-9710 or email: ricefolk @tcsn.net.

Pete Johnston Chevrolet & Cadillac is putting up a vehicle as a hole-in-one prize; so if you're interested in a new ride start tuning up your iron shots!

Freedom Hall Funds Needed

By Betty Miller

Freedom Hall is getting closer to becoming a reality, but we need YOUR help!

As you know, winter is approaching and we will be battling the destructive elements of water, dampness and dirt in the Museum Hangar once again.

This wreaks havoc on our wonderful paintings, pictures, uniforms and memorabilia. We have already submitted the plans to the City of Paso Robles so that we can begin construction but we are still in need of funds to be able to get the new Museum Exhibit Hall built.

Our deepest gratitude to those folks whose names appear below. You have seen the need and taken action. *Thank you.*

We are now asking those of you who have not yet made a commitment to take time to do so today.

We are accepting donations in *any* amount. Anything that you can afford will be put to good use. Think about what you spend for a glass of wine, a latte or a dessert when you go out for lunch or dinner. Pass up at least a couple of those and donate to the *Freedom Hall* building fund. If you are a smoker, forgo a carton of cigarettes, and turn that money into something tangible.

You will help get Freedom Hall built and subtract inches from your waistline and improve your health as well!

The Fund Raising Committee is enclosing a Donation Form in this newsletter. Lets make a 100% commitment of our membership.
Thank You, *Betty*

Freedom Hall Pledges (11/20/05)

Allison, Armstrong, Atkinson, Baiamonte, Bell, Bliss, Blythe, Boyle, Britton, Brooks, Campo, Carpenter, Clark C., Clark P., Corippo, Cromwell, Deeter, Dickey, Dolan, Ernst, Everett, Frayer, Gearhart, Geiger, Haeuser, Hamon, Hansen, Hearst, Hermanson, Hess C, Hess T, Highland, Hines, Holzer, Hughes, Hurst Financial, Johnson, Jones, Kendall, Kinnear, Kinsey, Lane, Leisy, Martin, Menard, MidState Bank, Miller C, Miller E, Miller R, Miller Farms, Morgan, Mullison, Neitz, Netto, Nissen, Passon, Peckinpaugh, Rice, rodggers, Rowe, Schade, Singleton, Smith, Stainbrook, Taylor, Thomson, Thwing, Toomey, Weber, welles, Whitworth, Weiss, Wine Country Resort, Woodland.

[Partial listing -- pledges in process]

If you have anything you think might be appropriate for the Museum, please give Betty Miller (466-1212) or Carol Weiss (239-2637) a call prior to bringing the item out.

George Marrett on the road

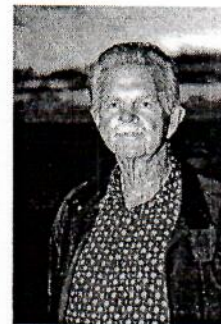
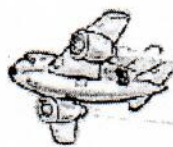
Program Chairman Marrett will be traveling on trips to both Florida and Idaho for book talks this month.

"My third book will be published by Praeger Security International, an imprint of Greenwood Publishing Group. The new book is titled: *Testing Death: Hughes Aircraft Test Pilots and Cold War Weaponry* and will be released in May 2006."

Marrett was elected to the *Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame*. Induction will be January 26, 2006 in Kearney, Nebraska. Richard "Dick" Rutan, of round-the-world Voyager fame, will be guest speaker for that event. Dick and George rescued an F-4 Phantom crew in North Vietnam the summer of 1968. Small world!

Al Schade gets attention!

"Just in case you are interested, there is an article being circulated around Cambria about Al Schade by the local Marines. [Al serves on the board of the



Estrella Warbird Museum." :-)

<http://www.cvn72.navy.mil/pao/news/veteran.html>

"Veteran Passes on Knowledge to NJROTC Cadets, Lincoln Sailors"

By JOI(SW) Joaquin Juatai - Penny Press Staff

Almost universally, Americans acknowledge the deeds of the "Greatest Generation," the young men

and women of the World War II era, as heroic and vital to the existence of our nation. Yet many of the youth of today don't know where battles in places with names like Kwajalein or Guadalcanal happened, or what they meant. Lincoln Sailors had a unique opportunity to talk with a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War when Alfred Schade, a veteran of the U.S. Marines, came aboard as an escort with the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Oct. 22.

The silver-haired Schade still carries himself confidently, and said being on a carrier was "old hat" to him. Once having the distinction of being the youngest sergeant in the Marine Corps, he spent his time during World War II as a part of both carrier and island-based flight operations. He served as an aviation machinist's mate and aerial gunner in the SBD "Dauntless," serving aboard USS Coral Sea. Back then, Coral Sea was known as an escort, or "Jeep" carrier.

"In the Marine Corps, you know, the air wing actually makes the beach heads with the line company, or the 'grunts'," said Schade. "We were the third wave, so on my birthday, Nov. 20, 1943, we took Makin [in the Gilbert Islands]. At that point, the SeaBees came in and built an airstrip for us."

Schade's first assignment was to repair SBD "Dauntless" aircraft that had been used in the battle to take the island of Midway. "The first thing we had to do was almost re-build them to get them into flying shape," he said. When his squadron reached Makin after helping to take the island, they got new planes.

"Fighting and fixing" in the Pacific campaign as an aerial gunner and a technician, Makin learned a skill most enlisted personnel don't even dream of today: he learned to fly the mighty warplane he was also the plane captain of.

"Being a gunner in an SBD, the pilot, for the most part, taught the gunners how to fly. We had a full set of controls in the back.

"The gunner was trained to pilot the airplane, and most of the time when we were on a mission, the pilot was the navigator, and when he would pull his plotting board out from under the instrument panel it would cover the stick, and so the gunner then would fly the airplane.

After his time in the Corps, Schade continued his

flight education, getting his pilot's license, his instructor's license, instrument rating, multi-engine rating and A&P (aircraft mechanic) rating. "I had all the FAA ratings that were available at the time," he said.

In 1948, Schade opened his own business purchasing surplus warplanes and re-building them as general aviation aircraft.

"Brand new Corsairs were available for \$1,500, P-51s were available for \$1,500," he added. "So you can see that there was quite an opportunity there, but there were some negative aspects to it as well.

"Because of all the surplus planes that were on the market, in one year, over eight general aviation aircraft manufacturers went out of business."

Schade's business suffered, too, so he went to work for North American Aircraft Corporation's space division, and spent 32 year working on projects such as the Apollo program and the Challenger Space Shuttle. But Uncle Sam wasn't finished with him, yet...

"After hiring on with North American as an engineer, probably less than 60 days after I was employed, I was getting ready for work one morning," he said. "There was a postman asleep on my doorstep, so I woke him up and said, 'are you looking for someone?'"

"He handed me a telegram and I opened up the telegram and it said, 'you will report to the nearest Marine base for active duty.'"

Schade had been recalled along with many active and inactive veterans (he was in the Marine Corps Reserves) in order to form a full division to fight in the Korean War.

"[General] MacArthur had a plan to put a Marine division north in Korea, at Inchon, and then penetrate down towards the south to Pusan and sort of 'rescue' the 8th Army."

"But he couldn't get a full division of Marines," Shade added. He explained that, at the time, President Truman was trying to eliminate the Marine Corps, so the force was down to less than two full divisions. In order to fulfill Marine Corps requirements, all active and inactive reserves were recalled.

"I can recall that when the ship was being loaded in

(4)

San Diego for its eventual trip to Inchon, some of the inactive reserves were brought in in handcuffs because they didn't feel they were qualified or in a condition where they should be called up for active duty.

"Nevertheless, that's how MacArthur got his full division of Marines and we did make the Inchon landing and secured Kempo Aerodrome just out of Seoul and then secured Seoul and then we went back to Japan for a 30-day rest-leave."

Schade returned to Korea and took part in the drive into the north, and the Chosin Reservoir.

"I was a fire team leader," said Schade, whose training as an aviation mechanic was not as valuable as his availability as a "grunt, or a land company Marine.

"I had five guys under me. The first guy under me carried a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), I carried a Thompson sub-machine gun, a carbine and a .45 caliber pistol. But the object of that fire team was to keep that BAR firing at all times, so there were four back-ups to the Browning Automatic rifleman."

Schade saw some of the worst fighting, and worst weather Marines had ever seen. Forced to withdraw by foot back to the North Korea coast to be evacuated, the 1st Marine Division fought in temperatures of up to 75-degrees below zero.

"The daytime temperature was about 35-degrees below zero. That's why so many Marines walking back lost their legs and feet to frostbite.

"I was in Korea for one year in combat," Schade said. "You might say that I was destined not to die in either war because of all the close calls we had in combat and flying and so forth -- I was never injured. I don't understand why not, but I guess I lucked out."

After his second stint in the service, Schade returned to his career at North American, retiring after 32 years with the company.

Now, Schade is an active member of the Estrella Warbird Museum in Paso Robles, Calif. The museum has 17 Navy aircraft and one Air Force jet, his most recent project. He brought an Air Force T-37 from a base in Texas to the museum, where he helped oversee the reassembly of the craft. He also is involved, through the museum, in encouraging

the youth of today to learn more about the history of the military who fought to ensure their freedom. His wife and several other members of the museum came to help escort as well.

"One thing we've noticed in our museum is that for some reason, young people aren't interested in military affairs," Schade added. "If this motivates some of the people (NJROTC cadets) to stay in the military and especially the Navy, then we're happy and proud to be able to do it."

The life-long dedication of an old Marine can serve as a lesson to all. The fact that Schade is sharing his stories with NJROTC students and Abe Sailors speaks volumes about his dedication and that of his generation. Learning from the experience of those who served before us is an important part of our service. As philosopher George Santayana once said, "those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Bob Foote passes [Nov 10, 2005]

He was always a strong supporter of Estrella Warbird Museum and a member of the "Eagle Flight", ready and willing to be included in our flying activities.

The family requested In lieu of flowers, donations be made in memory of Bob Foote-- to Estrella Warbird Museum, Freedom Hall Building fund.

George Watkins passes

Captain George C. Watkins, United States Navy, retired, died from heart failure at 7:25 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2005.

George was born in Alhambra, Calif., on March 10, 1921. He was one of seven children, the eldest son of Edward Francis Watkins and Louise Ward Watkins. The family moved to Pasadena in 1928. He attended the San Diego Army Navy Academy, The Citadel and the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in the class of 1944, which was graduated one year early in 1943, in order to go to war. He served the Navy for 30 years participating in three wars: World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. George was a fighter pilot and an experimental test pilot. He

was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Meritorious Service Medal.

death, his faith, his country and the U.S. Navy. Arrangements were in the care of Starbuck-Lind Mortuary.

In later years, his hobby of flying gliders became a business for him when he owned and operated Crystal Soaring in the high desert, later moving a smaller operation to Lompoc Airport, Calif. His greatest joy came from flying glider aerobatics in his Fox aerobatic glider and teaching others to do so. He competed in the Unlimited Class in Aerobatic contests until 2003.

[Capt. Watkins donated his USN flight suit, G-suit, Helmet, and survival vest to EWM. Also his khaki uniform which we have on display in our US Navy section. Betty]

Research Librarian volunteers

Exciting new changes: We now have a Research Librarian: Charmaine Peckinpaugh has accepted the position, Will be assisted by Linda Hermansen

As George C. Wilson, author of the book "Super Carrier," wrote, George Watkins "had the right stuff before they had a name for it."

Veterans Day: Eagle Flight

EWM Eagle Flight, in cooperation with the American Legion, V.F.W. and others performed over the local cemeteries on Veteran's Day.

George was a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He was a member of the International Aerobatic Club, the Soaring Society of America, and the Lompoc Valley Pilot Association. He was a longstanding member of Black Tie of Chevy Chase and of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne.

Veteran's honoring veterans past, the Eagle Flight consisted of veteran pilots Dr. Obbie Atkinson and father Obbie, George Marrett, Rod Dykhouse and Mac Gleim flying the "missing man" formation.

He is survived by his grieving widow, Mrs. Monica Watkins, and his two brothers, Mr. John Watkins, of Pasadena, Calif., and Admiral James D. Watkins, of Washington, DC.

This year's performance continues twelve years the Museum has participated in honoring veterans that served unselfishly to preserve our freedom. Again we thank them and shall never forget. *Obbie*

A rosary vigil service was held on October 7, at Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Lompoc, where a funeral Mass was celebrated. After the funeral Mass, George was cremated, and it was his greatest wish that his ashes would be scattered from the deck edge of a carrier. Burial at sea was later in October, from North Island in San Diego. It is fitting that his greatest loves are honored in his

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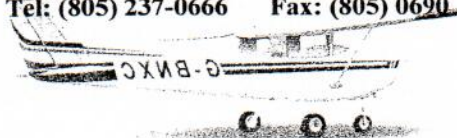
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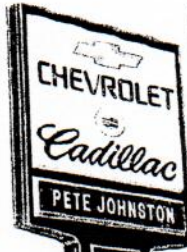


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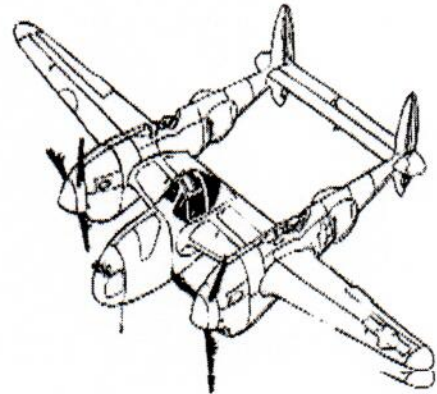
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History of Veterans Day

- 1921 - an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).
- These memorial services all took place on November 11, the anniversary of the end of World War I at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), which became known as Armistice Day.
- 1926 - Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States, and a national holiday 12 years later.
- On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.
- 1968 - new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.
- Official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day center around the Tomb of the Unknowns. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.
- At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath and the playing of "Taps."



Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.
4251-A Dry Creek Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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TO:

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