

# Estrella Warbird Museum "Eagle" --- January 2008

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## January 9: "A prisoner of Stalag Luft IV"

VOL: XVIX - 01

Title: "Son Writes About his Father who was Shot Down and Captured in WWII and held Prisoner in Stalag Luft IV"

David Dorfmeier was born in Fresno in 1948 and is currently employed with the Department of the Army providing a variety of clinical counseling services to active duty soldiers and their family members.

He has a Master's degree in Psychology & Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado and completed a two-year postgraduate Marriage & Family Training Program with the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas in 1977.

David, a Sergeant Major in the Army Reserve, is also a Vietnam veteran who has a personal and professional interest in working with soldiers suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

David is currently finishing a book project started by his father, SGT Donald Dorfmeier, 398th Bomb Group, who was shot down on his third mission over Germany on August 4, 1944. For the past eight years he has been working to finish his father's initial effort to chronicle his experiences as a POW at Stalag Luft IV, participation in the 86 day "hunger march" across northern Germany and lastly, escaping with four other men in early April 1945. His father started his writing endeavor in June 1964 and hoped to publish his memoirs that summer. Now 43 years later, David has completed 18 of 25 chapters of a more expansive and overarching project to honor his father's memory, characterize the life-altering

impact of war and how these influences have shaped his values and the course of his own life. [Because my February speaker is in the Army Reserve and will be departing our area in late January, I have moved him to the January 9th slot and moved Harold Bauer to February 6th.]

George Marrett, Program Chairman  
[GMarrett@charter.net](mailto:GMarrett@charter.net)

### January 9th Dinner

Please RSVP a.s.a.p. @ 467-3521

Roast Pork Loin

Apple Sauce

Seasonal Green Vegetables

Homemade Rolls

Seasonal Salad

Chef's Choice Dessert

Coffee/Tea

Social at 6 pm, Dinner at 7, Only \$12

Please RSVP: 467-3521

No later than Tuesday Noon!

### Chef Hat Passes to New Chef

As many of you are now aware, our long-time member and volunteer Chef John Himes has asked for some well-deserved time off after 12 years of volunteering his skills in the Museum kitchen.

John and wife Mira are planning to take some time to travel and relax and help out in other areas at the Museum.

Our loyal kitchen crew Ed Chidlaw, Jim Iversen, Dick Kinsey, Bob Chambers and Linda

Hermansen have also been assisting in the monthly dinners. Ed is retiring, but Jim, Dick, Bob and Linda will be helping out as needed.

We thank John and Mira and Ed, Jim, Dick, Bob and Linda who have done such a great job. They are the true meaning of the word "Volunteers".

To be able to continue our Dinners your Board of Directors has decided to hire a Caterer to do the monthly meal. We will be "auditioning" three area Caterers, starting with Paso Robles Caterer and restaurant owner, **Larry Eastwood** for our January meal.

Larry is no stranger to the local catering scene and has been here for our November and December dinners. He has some new ideas to cut down on the time spent in line and will be carving the Roast Pork Loin at a carving table as we go through the new double buffet line.

The Oak Park Kids will be on deck to serve our salads and keep everything picked up and bussed as well as doing the clean-up in the kitchen.

One of our biggest changes is that with a paid Caterer, we will have to really make sure we all call Rosemary to make reservations in *advance*—and that we get our calls made to her no later than noon on TUESDAY!!!

Her number is **805-467-3521**. Please make a note to yourself to get your reservation in a timely manner. This will ensure that food able to enjoy a complete meal!

### *"Thanks" - Silver Belles:*

Last night I talked with Eileen Panter of the Silver Belles. She was pleased with the attendance we had last week and reported that donations came to \$369 -- about 10% more than last year.

My thanks to members who attended and donated to this worthy cause.

George Marrett

Program Chair  
[GMarrett@charter.net](mailto:GMarrett@charter.net)



### *Kitty Hawk is 104!*

One hundred and four years ago today, December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful flight in history of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft. Orville piloted the 12 horsepower, gasoline-powered, propeller-driven biplane, which stayed aloft for 12 seconds and covered 120 feet on its inaugural flight.

### *Membership Committee --*

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ED MORRISON  
ROSEMARY NETTO  
CHARMAINE PECKINPAUGH  
DON PECKINPAUGH

WISHES EVERYONE A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW  
YEAR

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A  
VERY PRODUCTIVE NEW YEAR



DON PECKINPAUGH - MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRMAN

The Prez Sez.....

Dinner Meeting

15 January 9<sup>th</sup> ...

Due to the holiday, our dinner meeting will be **January 9<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to make reservations and start the New Year in style with your Warbird friends.

With the retirement of EWM Chef John Himes and crew, we have contracted with Larry Eastwood of Vic's Café to cater our January dinner. This means we must have an accurate count of those that will attend. Call 467-3521 or visit the members section of the EWM website [www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org) to make reservations.

Chef Himes and crew will be taking a break from the monthly dinner meetings but will still be involved with museum special functions. Thank you to Himes and crew for their dedication, great meals, and tireless work supporting the Warbird Museum.



photo by Al Lindenau

Dick Kinsey, Bob Chambers, Ed Chidlaw, Linda Hermansen, Jim Iverson, Mira Himes and Chef John Himes share a toast with EWM members.

### Ford Explorer Gets A New Home...

Jack Harrington is the lucky winning ticket holder of the Ford Explorer. Thank you Lloyd Plymate and Sisse Kurowski for donating the Explorer and our membership for supporting this fundraiser.



photo by Al Lindenau

Jack Harrington had the winning raffle ticket for the Ford Explorer.

### December Meeting Displays Warbird Pride...

EWM December meeting brings a full house and lots of pride.



photo by Al Lindenau

EWM members Pledge of Allegiance. Great to have long time member and supporter Larry Campo (far right) join us for dinner.

### Warbird Website is First Class

Visit our website [www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org) Webmaster Peter Visel is always adding new pictures and items to this great site. The scrapbook section has hundreds of new photos including our most recent parade activities. Also under the members section you can make reservations for our monthly dinner meeting. Be sure to check out the biographies of our board members and staff.

**The Prez Sez...  
"Welcome Aboard 2008"...**

I wish to invite all Estrella Warbird members to join us as we journey into 2008. It seems like yesterday that we started 2007 and now it is time to take pride in our accomplishments and plan for the future.

Our success is only made possible by the dedication and hard work of our Board of Directors and Members. In 2007 we have seen the completion and dedication of Freedom Hall, the launch of Freedom Flight Veterans' Memorial and many milestone accomplishments. There were so many great events in 2007 it is impossible to list them all but let's not forget the awesome performance in Hangar One by the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest.

The Estrella Warbird Museum has some very significant artifacts and aircraft but the most valuable asset we have is our members. It is my pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of talented and dedicated people.

We have many exciting projects lined up for 2008 that will make our museum even better.

I hope that all of our members have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Very Respectfully,  
George Taylor  
President**

**Estrella Warbird Museum  
"Honoring the Past  
Inspiring the Future"**

**"Silver Belles" Bring the  
Spirit of Christmas**



photo by Al Lindenau

The performance by the Silver Belles is always appreciated by EWM members.

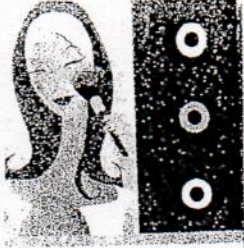
The Silver Belles perform to share their love of music and generate funding for musical scholarships. They also help local school bands purchase new uniforms. Their gift of music is driven by the love of giving to others. This is truly the spirit of Christmas!!!

**Soledad High School  
ASB/Class Officers Visit..**



Dean of Students Pete Flores III (we know him as Retired Master Chief Flores USN) with the ASB/Class officers of Soledad High School.

Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> the Class Officers of Soledad High School ASB paid a visit to the EWM. This field trip was just one of the dozens we see from local schools and youth groups throughout the year.



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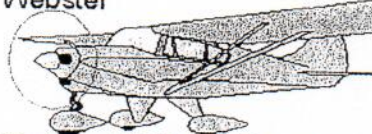
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