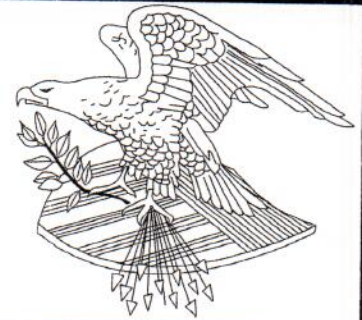


THE EAGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTRELLA
WARBIRD MUSEUM



Honoring the Past - Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number 1 ~ Paso Robles, California ~January 2010

VOL: XXI - 01

New Look for Your Newsletter?

No! This issue would normally be a large postcard done by Associate Editor Betty Miller. Your full, multi-page issue with all your favorite columns are done every other month by Newsletter Editor Russ Surber. Your next full issues will be February, April, June, August, October, and December

In an effort to attract more folks for our FREE Movie Night we have changed our Movie Night to the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month. As you know we started with Fridays, then folks said Friday was too busy for them to come out to the Museum. We have tried Thursday night, but folks say they get busy and "forget". SO we are trying **Wednesday**. Let's all try to support this FREE event.

MOVIE NIGHT WILL NOW BE THE
SECOND WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH!



January Movie- "Shindler's List"

See Insert



January 6, 2010 Dinner Program
WW II Veteran Ernie Porter



Ernie Porter, 91, of Atascadero is a World War II veteran who this last Veteran's Day wanted to remember his lost squad, the young men who died at the battle of Okinawa more than 64 years ago. "I think it's important," Ernie said, "I was there and watched guys in front of me killed. I don't want them to have died for nothing."

Porter's story begins with his birth in Atascadero in 1918. He graduated from high school and then helped his dad repair roofs in Avenal. While there he took flying lessons at \$5 per hour usually in 10-15 minute intervals. He has 9 hours in his logbook. His flying stopped when he saw his instructor crash a biplane killing two women who were up for a joy ride.

By the time of his induction into the Army in 1943, he was married with two children and a third on the way. He trained at Camp Roberts as an infantryman, and then shipped out for Hawaii joining the 7th Infantry Division. By early 1945, the 7th Division had been earmarked for the upcoming invasion of Japan, starting with the seizure of the island of Okinawa.

Porter was injured in Okinawa in what his wife, Vera Alyce, said was "a million-dollar wound" because it resulted in Porter getting to go home to his family. Porter had been shot through the right side of his nose, the 25-caliber bullet passing behind his left eye, and exiting his left ear. Although critically injured he made his way back behind the enemy line under heavy machine gun fire with bullets kicking up at his feet.

War photographer Eugene Smith recorded Ernie's wounds, with the photos making their way into the Time Life Book, "*The Road to Tokyo*." The book shows an unidentified soldier lying on a stretcher with a bandaged face and foot. Porter's grandson, David Cruser, found the image while studying the war in school many years ago.

After the war Porter returned to Atascadero and became a lifeguard at the city lake. There he saved a lady from drowning. He still lives with his wife of 68-years in the house he built next to the lake. He also has a patent on an aircraft he designed. "I've lived a life of discovery," Porter says, "That's what's kept me going."

At the latest Veteran's Day ceremony, VFW Commander Larry Strang honored Ernie Porter as the recipient of the first Distinguished Veteran Award. "Ernie is a survivor. Lucky to be alive," said Strang, "Ernie Porter is certainly a gift to God, to our community, and to our nation."

WHO'S WHO AND HOW TO REACH THEM

Museum Board

Executive Committee

President & CEO

Peter Visel

Vice President

Rob Kinnear

Secretary

Margi Bauer

Treasurer

Rosemary Netto

Director

Betty Miller

Board Members

Ron Brooks

Gary Corippo

John Cromwell

Dave Highland

Glen Thomson

Museum Info

Phone: 805-227-0440

(Voice Mail Only)

Fri/Sat/ Sun Phone

238-9317

WEBSITE

www.ewarbirds.org

Web Master

Peter Visel - 423-6409

Committee Chairs

Questions? Suggestions?

Please give us a call!

Aircraft Acquisitions

Gary Corippo - 238-2090

Aircraft Restoration

Al Schade - 927-8303

Bar

Rosemary Netto - 467-3521

City Liaison

Chuck Miller - 466-1212

Decorating

Judy Corippo - 238-2090

Docent Coordinator

Randy Majewski - 237-1054

Exhibit Hall Curator

Betty Miller - 471-0472

Facility Rental

Jill Keezer

Freedom Flight

Obbie Atkinson - 238-9212

Bob Kelly - 462-9128

Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks - 462-8141

Ground Equipment

John Everett - 237-9523

Dave Geiger - 239-1598

Grounds

Yardvark: The Weed Eater

Insurance

Bramar Associates

Ian Webster - 237-0666

Membership

Bob Kelly - 462-9128

Movie Night Directors

Margi & Harald Bauer

466-4440

Newsletter

Russ Surber - 238-3150

Betty Miller - 466-1212

Photographer

Wally Engle - 227-0245

Public Information Officer

Sue Dollemore dollymore@aol.com

Programs

George Marrett - 466-7640

Research Librarian

Charmaine Peckinpugh

239-9919

Site Maintenance

Ron Brooks - 462-8141

Group Tours

Betty Miller - 471-0472



DINNER MENU

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Larry's Pork Roast
Old Fashioned Scalloped Potatoes
Seasonal Veggie
Dinner Roll
Apple Crisp Dessert
Hot Tea & Coffee
No Host Bar

**Dinner Catering by
Larry Eastwood of Vic's Cafe**

\$15.00 Per Person

RESERVATIONS

PLEASE

Call 467-3521

By NOON Tuesday, January 5th

Thank You

Social Hour 6pm-7pm

Dinner & Program Follows

2010



MUSEUM NEEDS....

1. GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS....
Please Call Jackie Brooks at 462-8141
2. MORE DOCENTS FOR FREEDOM HALL
Please Call Betty Miller at 466-1212 or 471-0472
3. A USED GUN SAFE TO STORE ARMAMENT ARTIFACTS
Please Call Betty Miller at 466-1212 or 471-0472
4. WOODLAND BUILDING DOCENTS
Please email Howard Love at centralcoastcobras@yahoo.com
5. COMPUTER-SAVY FOLKS FOR DATA ENTRY PROJECTS
Please Call Betty Miller at 466-1212 or 471-0472

THANKS!



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