



THE EAGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTRELLA

WARBIRD MUSEUM

Honoring the Past - Inspiring the Future



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March Program, Jack McLaughlin, WW II B-24 Aerial Gunner

Jack was born in Los Angeles August 20, 1922. By the time he finished sixth grade he had attended 13 grammar schools all over southern California. When he went into seventh grade in 1935 his family moved to San Bernardino, CA. Jack graduated from San Bernardino High School in June of 1941 and attended one semester at San Bernardino Valley Junior College. He enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942 and passed the tests for Aviation Cadet.

He reported to Santa Ana to start training but in his efforts to slant his certification tests towards pilot training he ended up being sent to Fort Sumner, New Mexico to help set up a glider training facility. He submitted his paperwork for Aerial Gunner and was sent to Kingman, Arizona for training. He became a Gunnery Instructor after graduation. Jack volunteered for overseas service and was sent to Naples, Italy where he was assigned to the 450th Bomb Group, 720th Bomb Squadron.

In the latter part of 1944 his B-24 was assigned to hit the Ferrara Railroad Bridge in Northern Italy. Jack was in the nose turret and his aircraft was the lead aircraft taking intense flak throughout their bomb run. They were inland from Pescara when they had to bail out. At 9000 feet Jack realized his chute had not deployed so he opened the canvas container containing his chute and threw out the pilot chute and landed in a ploughed field. He was picked up by some South African personnel from a B-26 airfield. Jack saved some of the parachute silk, his red rip cord "D ring" and the pilot chute and made a framed collage of his souvenirs from that adventure. The collage is part of our B-24 exhibit in Freedom Hall.

Between August of 1944 and March of 1945 Jack flew 35 missions to include missions into Hungary, Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Greece. He was able to return stateside and received his early discharge on points several months before Hiroshima.

Jack was working in the planning department for the construction of a large department store, Bullocks Wilshire, when he met his future wife, Dolores. "Dee" was an accomplished artist and was creating some murals for the new store. They were married in 1948 and Jack later went to work for Lockheed in Burbank, Van Nuys, and Vandenberg. He and Dee lived in Santa Ynez while he worked at Vandenberg, before he retired in 1978. They raised two children and were married for almost 60 years before Dee passed away in December 2007.

Jack is a member of the Estrella Warbird Museum and was a Docent in Freedom Hall.

CPR

The Estrella Warbird Museum is Presenting a Class in CPR and the use of A.E.D 's on Tuesday, March 23 from 9 am to 1 pm here at the Museum. If you need to get current or have never taken a class before, we strongly recommend that you take advantage of this opportunity. We only have 12 openings, so call to sign up TODAY! Presented by members of the Paso Robles Emergency Services Dept.

Cost is \$25.00 and includes hands-on training, Manual, Red Cross Certificate, and Continental Breakfast

Call Betty Miller at 471-0472

to reserve your seat.

Cash, Check or

Credit Card accepted



DINNER MENU

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Larry's BBQ Chicken

Baked Potato

Vegetable

Dinner Roll

Salad

Apple Pie

Ice Tea & Coffee

No Host Bar

Dinner Catering by

Larry Eastwood of Vic's Cafe

\$15.00 Per Person

RESERVATIONS

PLEASE

Call 467-3521

or visit our website to RSVP at: <http://www.ewarbirds.org/dinnerrsvp.html>

By NOON Tuesday, January 5th

Thank You

Social Hour 6pm-7pm

Dinner & Program Follows





2/17

Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit 71
Paso Robles, Ca.

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

21*****3-DIGIT 934
JACKIE & RON BROOKS
11955 SAN MARCOS RD
ATASCADERO CA 93422-1762

Wednesday, MARCH 10, MOVIE
6:00 PM
BATTLE OF BRITAIN

In 1940, the British Royal Air Force fights a desparate battle against the Nazi German Air Force for control of British air space to prevent the Nazi invasion of Britain.
Color, 132 min., 1969

All Star Cast!
Don't Miss This One!