

THE EAGLE



Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter
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January 5, 2011 Dinner Program

Commander Marvin Quaid USN (Ret)



Marvin was born May 12, 1929 in Galveston, Texas. He grew up in the small towns of southeastern Texas and graduated from Milby High School in Houston in 1946. He joined the Navy on May 14, 1946 as an Airman Apprentice USNR, in the Holloway Aviation Midshipman Program. Recruits were to gain their own entrance into an approved college and take certain required courses for two years, after which he was ordered to Pensacola, Florida, commissioned as Midshipmen USN to serve for two years at that rank while completing flight training.

Flight training was in SNJ's (same as USAF T-6), for basic and then in various fleet type aircraft in advanced training. He was fortunate to get to fly the Chance Vought F4U while in advanced training. On March 23, 1950 he was designated a Naval Aviator and sent to the Pacific Fleet. The first assignment was at Attack Squadron 195, based at NAS Alameda. With the advent of the Korean War, Attack Squadron 195 deployed on the USS Princeton, CV 37, flying Douglas AD Skyraiders. He made two cruises to Korea while in VA 195 and accumulated 99 combat missions flying from the deck of the Princeton.

On returning to California in the winter of 1952, he was ordered to NPS Monterey for General Line School. After completing that course, he was ordered to Pensacola, Florida for a tour as a flight instructor, where he taught basic, formation, night flying and tactics. In the summer of 1955 Marvin was ordered to the Catapult and Arresting Gear School at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. From there he went to the USS Yorktown for two years to serve as that ship's Catapult Officer.

From then on it was a succession of sea duty and shore assignments. Some of the highlights were: a tour flying FJ4B's from the USS Lexington in the Far East, attending the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey where he earned a Masters Degree, a tour as Associate Professor at the US Naval Academy, Assistant Air

Officer in the USS Hancock, Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron 212 while engaged in combat operation in Vietnam. During two deployments, he flew a total of 235 combat missions in the A4 Skyhawk. Some missions were notable as his squadron was the first to employ TV guided bombs.

After that tour Marvin was rewarded with the command of Attack Squadron 122, which was a fleet training squadron based at NAS Lemoore, California. At that time the Vought A7 Corsair II was being introduced to the fleet and the squadron's mission was to train pilots and maintenance crews in those planes for the fleet squadrons. After a tour as commanding officer of VA 122, he was assigned a final tour as Chief Staff Officer, ComFair Lemoore.

Cdr. Quaid moved his family to Monterey in 1974 and subsequently became employed as the Director of Maintenance and Facilities at Monterey Peninsula School District.

In 1976, he and Tom Woolcock, a fellow Naval Aviator and preflight classmate, became interested in restoring a Stearman PT-13, a WWII primary trainer. They recruited CDR Quaid's son Jeff, who is a Naval Aviator, to join in the project. The plane was restored to standard category and flown for 16 years, just recently selling it to another enthusiast. Cdr. Quaid and Jeff now own a North American SNJ, stored at the Paso Robles airport. It is a WWII advanced trainer and they fly it in local air shows.

This year Marvin Quaid and his wife will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary. They have four children, two sons, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Cdr. Quaid is proud that his family has grown in strength from the rigors of military life. He is especially proud of his wife's strength and devotion, waiting out two wars at home with the children, serving as the CO's wife during the combat deployments as well as the requirements of the training squadron. The experience of moving about the country has broadened the whole family and made them closer. He said, "As I look back over my 62 years since joining the Navy, I wouldn't trade the overall life experience for anything."

CDR Quaid's military decorations include: the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star Medal with combat V, twenty nine Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals with combat V, and various theater ribbons.

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Supplies for Soldiers

Supporting The Men & Women of San Luis Obispo County Who Go In Harm's Way

At the October dinner meeting we began collecting much needed personal items for shipment to the 80-150 residents of San Luis Obispo County who are currently serving their country in combat. Your response has been heartening and has reflected well on the Warbird Museum and its members. The need of these brave fellow citizens, however, has not diminished and so we will continue to have the barrel at our Monthly Dinner meetings to receive your contributions. We have listed below the things that are most asked for or most welcome. As small as it might seem, don't forget that the "Notes of Encouragement" mean so much to those who are far from home and sometime think they have been forgotten. A note needn't be eloquent or long, just a short word of thanks for the sacrifices being made and an assurance that these brave men and women remain in our thoughts and prayers will suffice. And, of course, a note accompanied by any of the items listed below is especially welcome.

Items that are most requested are

Snacks (no chocolate) Sunflower Seeds
Dried Fruit Sweetened Powdered drink Mixes
Flavored Coffee Creamer (small) Beef Jerky
Hard Candy ANY small individual snack packages
Red Vines Licorice Gum

Comfort Items

DVD's (old & new) Glad Ware Plastic Containers
CD's (old & new) Glade Stick-Up Room Deodorizers
Disposable Cameras Notes of Encouragement
Handheld Electronic Games Small Battery Operated Fan
Misty Mates, Bandana Coolers/Cool-Ties Small Squirt Bottles
Batteries (AA, AAA, C) Swifter Dusters

The items collected at the Monthly Dinner meetings will be sent by Supplies for Soldiers directly to the men and women from San Luis Obispo County who are on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on the committee's work or what you can do to help contact Gary Nemeth at garysam@charter.net.

Or Contact:

George Taylor Betty Miller Gary Corippo Chuck Miller

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Happy New Year!

DINNER MENU
Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Chicken Cacciatore
Pasta
Green Salad
French Bread
Veggie
Chef's Choice Dessert
Coffee or Tea

\$15.00 Per Person

**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

Call
Rosemary at 805-467-3521
Before
12 noon Tuesday, January 4th

Thank You

New Tables for Thomson Hall

Those of you who attended the wonderful Prime Rib Christmas Dinner on December 1, 2010 were the first to use our new commercial banquet dining tables.

These are new, sturdy, lightweight tables that are uniform in size and a big improvement over our former selection of varied heights and sizes, (and extremely heavy tables).

We also have 12 round tables that each seat 8 people in a very comfortable setting. It is much easier to visit with your table-mates with a round table. We will be using all 12 of these along with some of the 8' banquet tables for our January dinner.

Please remember to get there early to get your choice of tables.

MOVIE NIGHT ~ Wednesday January 12th

FLYING LEATHERNECKS

Starring: John Wayne & Robert Ryan

Presented by Howard Hughes

Marine fighter squadron VMF 247 is holding the airstrip on Guadalcanal as it is hammered by offshore batteries. Conditions are poor... malaria, low fuel, few replacement parts. This movie skillfully incorporates actual battlefield & dogfight footage.

(Technicolor 1951 - 102 min.)

6:00 PM PIZZA & POPCORN

(Nominal Charge)

6:30 PM FREE Movie

WHO'S WHO

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