



## THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE PRESERVING HISTORY

INTERNET: <http://www.atlantawwiiroundtable.org>

VOL. 25 No. 4

244<sup>th</sup> MEETING

**Editor:** John E. Kovach  
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**Contributor(s)** To This  
Newsletter

- \* Richard Manning McMurry
- \* Harold (Dave) Andrews, Jr.
- \* Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
- \* Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Bill Owens
- \* Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers/Kaye Coker

**Elected Officers 2009-2010**

Commander – Fletcher Thompson  
Tel: 770-952-4812

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Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)  
Tel: 770-592-5611

Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd  
Sgt.-at-Arms – Lee Weinstein  
Chaplain – Bill Sperry (Lead)  
Tel: 770-452-1309

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplains – Guyton McCall / H.T. Maclin

**Date:** DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting JAN. 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** Social Half-Hour: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM > MEETING START TIME 11:30 AM - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

\*\* **PETITE AU BERGE RESTAURANT**

2935 N. Druid Hills Road, Web Site: [www.petiteauberge.com](http://www.petiteauberge.com)  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

**Price: \$ 15.00 Per Plate \*\* NO RESERVATION REQUIRED \*\***

**Speaker: Richard Manning McMurry**

**Subject: “The Great American Battleship: It’s History And It’s Role in World War II”**

**Mission Statement**

**We, who by our own actions, and by our heritage, know that liberty has not, is not, nor ever will be free, do in association with our friends and comrades, who believe as we do, pledge that we will meet at the call of our Commander no less than ten times a year:**

- \* **To hear of the war experiences of our members and invited guests**
- \* **To encourage and demonstrate pride in our country and its armed forces**
- \* **To pass on to posterity our knowledge of World War II, and of the price - human and material - that was paid by our nation for the preservation of liberty in the United States and the world**

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**Speaker for DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010–Richard McMurry (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding )**

Richard M. McMurry is a native of Atlanta. A graduate of the public school systems in Atlanta and Decatur, he went on to receive a B.A. degree in history from Virginia Military Institute (VMI). After serving two years active duty in the U.S. Army ( primarily at Ft. Campbell, KY. 1961-63 ) he was honorably discharged from the reserves and entered graduate school at Emory University, earning a M.A. degree in 1964 and a Ph.D. in June 1967.

Richard’s presentation to the Round Table will be on *The Great American Battleship*. Navy battleship construction began with the keel laying of the *Maine* in 1888 and ended with the suspension of the incomplete *Kentucky (BB-66)* in 1947. During this almost six-decade-long era, 59 battleships of 23 different basic designs (or "classes") were completed for the Navy. Another twenty battleships and battle cruisers (three more "classes") were begun or planned, but not completed.

Except for the fast *Lexington Class battle cruisers* and *Iowa Class battleships*, these were all relatively slow vessels, as heavily armored as they were armed, intended primarily to steam in formation with their "sisters" and slug it out with similar opponents, using their powerful guns to settle the matter. In their day, they were the "Queens of the Sea", the foundation of national strategic offense and defense. That "day" ended only with the arrival, effectively just before the start of World War II, of aircraft that could not only out-range the big guns, but also deliver blows of equal or greater power.

WW II brought another mission, shore-bombardment, in which the fire of heavy guns was precisely directed against enemy facilities ashore, to pave the way for invasion or to simply destroy war-making potential. Many of you may recall Round Table member Bill Owens detailing for us his service aboard the *U.S.S. Nevada (BB-36)*, whose 14” guns could deliver accurate salvos 20 miles inland and did extensive damage supporting the D-Day landings and in the Pacific at Okinawa.

Richard has been the recipient of several awards for preserving the heritage of the Civil War history, including the Nevins-Freeman Award presented to him by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Charles L. Dufour Award from the New Orleans Civil War Round Table. He presently lives and writes in Dalton, Georgia. Please welcome Richard Manning McMurray as our December 16<sup>th</sup> speaker. (244<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

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**Review of NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Speaker –Harold (Dave) Andrews (Introduced by John Davis)**

Our November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 speaker, Harold (Dave) Andrews, is a native of Maine. He graduated from High School in 1940, working for Sikorski Aircraft prior to WW II. He attempted to get into the Navy, but a medical condition made him ineligible. He was successful in enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and graduated from flying school in March 1943.

Training began in Montgomery, AL. then moved to Albany, GA for primary flight training. He completed his advance

training in Columbus, MS. He was assigned to the 416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, flying A20 Havoc and A26 Invader Twin-Engine Light Bombers out of England and France in 1944-1945.

Many of you may recall that our 2009 February Banquet speaker, Dr. Larry Smith, wrote a book titled “*Darwin’s War: Science, Politics, Warfare, Faith and Sacrifice; The 416<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group’s Sacrifices To Defeat Eugenics*”, in which he interweaves the complex interactions of pre-war economic, scientific and political history with the daily lives of the men who courageously served in the 416<sup>th</sup>, among them Larry’s own father. Dave was a guest of Larry at that February Banquet. Andrews would wind up flying and incredible 65 missions with the 416<sup>th</sup>. **CONTINUED ON BACK**

Thank you Arnold for your service during WW II, and for a job well done.

**I am pleased to announce that we have three (3) new members who have joined us since the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting:**

**Veteran – Robert O. Reed** –Robert served in the U.S. Navy as Airman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (Ordnance) during the Korean War. He was active duty from 1952-1954 and served in the Reserves from 1954-1958.

**Veteran – Kenneth DeWitt Parrott** –Kenneth served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966-1970. He served in Vietnam from 1968-1969, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn – 4<sup>th</sup> Marines – 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division as a Ground Radio Operator – Northern I Corps.

**Debra J. Wells** – Debra is the Director of Volunteer Services at the Longleaf Hospice in Decatur.

**Please welcome Robert, Kenneth and Debra as our newest members of the Round Table at our December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting.**

>>> **Upcoming Speakers for - 2010-2011** Program chairman John Davis and program co-chairman Bill Owens have done a splendid job in lining up a wonderful list of speakers for the Atlanta WW II Round Table for our January through June 2010 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: **2010 –; December – Richard McMurry (Navy Historian)**; January 2011 – Douglas Huggins (Navy - Pearl Harbor Survivor); February Banquet – Jim Starnes (U.S.S. Missouri - Navy); March – Walter Victor (Army); May – Dr. Susan Young (Redstone Arsenal). More info to come on future speakers as they are booked. Please note that the speaker’s engagements are subject to change. Thank you John M. Davis and William (Bill) Owens for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>> **CALANDAR OF EVENTS**

>>> **(NEW) DECEMBER 12th, 2010 (Sunday) 1:30 PM – CIVILIAN WARRIORS – THE STORY OF A FAMILY OF WW2 FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS** –The *Veteran’s Heart Georgia* invites all Atlanta WW II Round Table members to join with them in a special presentation on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. *Veteran’s Heart Georgia* will host Ken and Claire d’Orgeix Kirk who are in the process of writing the memoirs of three generations of the Auduc family who were part of the Resistance, and will share the powerful story of the effects of war on this family, their community and their country. Ken and Claire have spent many hours with Jean Jacques Auduc who was 9 years old when he and his family became part of the Resistance. Monsieur Auduc has been honored and decorated by both the French and the U.S. governments. For additional information on this event, please contact Kaye Coker at *The Veteran’s Heart Georgia* at 770-338-7463. Their Web Site is www.veteransheartgeorgia.org

>>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **(NEW) FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEEKING TO HONOR LIVING WW II VETERANS WHO SERVED IN NORMANDY DURING THE WORLD WAR II** – Member Arnold Whittaker would like to alert members of the Atlanta WW II Round Table that the French Government is conducting their annual search for WW II veterans who served in Normandy during WW II. These veterans are entitled to receive the *National Order Of the Legion Of Honor* from the French Government. Contact Arnold Whittaker for additional information about this award. His contact phone number is 770-993-2439.

>>> **(NEW) REQUESTS BY INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ROUND TABLE MEETINGS** – In a effort to not interfere with our scheduled speaker’s allotted time and also to allow more time during our lunch for table-conversation, the Atlanta WW II Round Table Executive Board has approved the following policy: **Requests by individuals to make announcements during the Atlanta WW II Round Table meetings must first be cleared through the Commander prior to the date of the meeting.** The number of announcements will be limited at each meeting and will also be based on priority of interest to the Round Table. Commander Thompson may be contacted at 770-952-4812 or via email at fandkt@yahoo.com

>>> **COMMANDER’S REQUEST** – *Commander Thompson is requesting that all members should make our Chaplain and Asst. Chaplains aware of any member who is sick, stricken, or seriously ill. This can be done at the monthly meetings or by calling Chaplain Bill Sperry at 770-452-1309. Asst. Chaplain B.G. Harold A. Dye can be reached at 404-315-9253; Asst. Chaplain Guyton McCall at 404-237-1011 and Asst. Chaplain H.T. Maclin at 404-377-3178*

>>> **(NEW) AWWIIRT Directory:** It’s picture time! We have so many new members and we’d like to get to know you. Please be sure to have picture taken at upcoming meetings. All members receive copies of the Membership Directory so if you haven’t received yours, see me at the meeting. Marilyn can be contacted at 404-888-0767 or via email: mpahr@emory.edu

>>> **(UPDATED) AWWIIRT Lending Library** – We continue to add titles and now have a library numbering over 200 titles. A selection will be available at the monthly meetings for members to “check out” and read or view at their leisure. Contact Marilyn Pahr if you wish to donate books, videos or DVDs related to WWII. (see above for contact info)