



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 29 No. 6 286th MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach
Tel: (770) 928-4579

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

- * Tommy Clack
- * Herb Smith
- * Lee Weinstein /Pete Mecca
- * Camille Yow/Pat DiGeorge/Chris Madrid
- * Emily Carley / Martin Madert

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Tel: 404-843-0779

Deputy Cmdr. - Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

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Chaplain Emeritus – Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplain – Elaine Rivers

APPOINTMENTS

Deborah Lindsay-Asst. Commander

Pete Mecca – Program Chairman

Joe Jordan – Aide-to-Commander(s)

Date: **FEBRUARY 21st, 2015 (SATURDAY)** >> **Next Meeting MAR.19th ..**
Time: Social Hour: 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON > **MEETING START**
TIME 12:00 NOON - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

** **PETITE AUBERGE RESTAURANT**
2935 N. Druid Hills Road. Web Site: www.petiteauberge.com
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

Price: \$ 28.00 Per Plate ** **RESERVATION REQUIRED** **

Speaker: Tommy Clack

Subject: “ *haec protegimus*”, *This We’ll Defend*”

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

(Meeting Attendance For The January 15th Meeting: ± 94)

Speaker for FEBRUARY 21st, 2015– Tommy Clack (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cdr. Pete Mecca)

The February 21st, 2015 (SATURDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature **Johnny T. (Tommy) Clack** as our speaker. Tommy was born and raised in Decatur, GA. His family is steeped in the military traditions, his father being a decorated WW II and Korean War veteran. Although Tommy was an Honor Graduate of Decatur High School and earned a Track and Field Scholarship to the University of Houston, he dropped out during his first year to volunteer for the U.S. Army.

After Officer Candidate School and promotion to 2nd Lieutenant, Clack excelled at Artillery Training and was soon assigned as an Artillery Instructor. His proficiency led to his first tour in Vietnam, training American, South Korean, Australian and South Vietnamese Artillerymen in the use of the newest Artillery rounds, *Cluster Bomb Units (CBU's)*.

Promoted to Captain on his second tour of duty in Vietnam with the *C/2/27 Wolfhounds of the 25th Division*, the unit became engaged in a hellacious fire-fight with the enemy and he was hit by a *Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG)*, losing both legs above the knee, his right shoulder and arm, loss of hearing and one eye plus massive internal injuries.

Thought dead, the medics put him on a *Evac Chopper* and, while lying in a line of other dead soldiers at the *Evac Hospital (MASH Unit)*, a doctor, without provocation, miraculously lifted the poncho off of Clack and discovered he was still alive. This was, as the Doctor would later tell Clack, The Lord’s way of messaging him that he had other plans for Tommy.

In 1975 Captain Clack graduated with honors from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Administration and City Management. Since 1993 he has served as a Field Office Manager at the Conyers location for the Georgia Department of Veterans Affairs, working 80-100 hours per week.

He is the recipient of numerous military awards including the Bronze, Star, Purple Heart, two Air Medals and numerous Vietnamese Medals. He has covered all 50 States in the last 40 years as a public speaker with over 6500 speaking engagements. Some think of Tommy as a hero, but he will tell you that The Lord gave him a second chance and the heroes are the 58,000 names on a long black wall in Washington, D.C. For all his decorations and accolades, Tommy considers his greatest honor and accomplishment in being a single parent and raising two children, a son Adam, now 27 and 9th Generation Army and a daughter, Erin, now 25 and an independent business owner.

Please welcome Tommy Clack as our **FEBRUARY 21st, 2015** speaker (286th Meeting.)

Review Of January 15th, 2015 Speaker- Herb Smith (Introduced by Dep. Cdr. Pete Mecca)

Herb Smith, our January 15th speaker, representing the Society of The Honor Guard/Tomb of The Unknown Soldier, gave us a superb presentation on the history of The Tomb, The Tomb’s inhabitants, the construction of Arlington National Cemetery, and some of the well known war heroes buried on the hallowed grounds of Arlington.

Herb did his basic training at Fort Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Lewis, WA. He entered the 3rd Infantry Regiment with the Honor Guard Company, U.S. Army Drill Team. His first duty assignment was for 3 months at the JFK Grave Site while training for duty at the Tomb. The *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* is **CONTINUED ON BACK**
guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in any weather by Tom Guard Sentinels. Sentinels are all volunteers and are considered

the best of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) headquartered at Fort Myer, VA.

The first Unknown Soldier was interned at Arlington in November 1921 with President Warren G. Harding officiating. President Eisenhower signed the bill to select a unknown from WW II and Korea in 1956, each of these soldiers was symbolically honored with the *Medal of Honor* by Eisenhower and interned; President Ronald Reagan officiated at the internment of the unknown soldier from the Vietnam War in 1984, symbolically presenting the *Medal of Honor* to this soldier.

Many well-known military officers, dignitaries, war heroes and soldiers are buried at Arlington and their graves are visited year-round including Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft; Generals Abner Doubleday, John 'Blackjack' Pershing, George C. Marshall, Omar Bradley, Hap Arnold and Jimmy Doolittle; Admirals Hyman Rickover, William Leahy and Robert Peary; Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Rehnquist and war hero Audie Murphy as well as actor Lee Marvin and boxer Joe Louis. On May 2014, Arlington National Cemetery celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding.

Thank-You Mr. Smith for your service at the Tomb(s), for Preserving History and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have three (3) new members who have joined us since the January 15th Meeting:

Veteran Tom Sternberg– Served with the Israeli Defense Force (IDF)-Air Force Branch- from 1957-71. He was a 1st Lieutenant and Instructor with the Israeli Air Force Academy.

U.S. Army Reserve Veteran James (Jim) Wright Jr. –Jim served 6 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

U.S. Army Chaplain's Corps Veteran Rabbi Jeff Feinstein - Rabbi Feinstein served at the HQ 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veteran James (Cliff) Barger – Cliff served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam for 14 months, 1969-70.

Please welcome Tom, Jim Rabbi Feinstein, and Cliff as our newest members at the Feb. 21st and March 19th, 2015 Meetings. Please note that there will be NO INTRODUCTION of new members at the February 21st Banquet. These new members will be inducted at the March 19th meeting.

SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **(UPDATED) IMMEDIATE - WITNESS-TO-WAR ORGANIZATION AND ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE**

– I am pleased to announce that the *Witness-To-War Organization* and The Atlanta WW II Round Table have agreed to work closely together as our organizations continue to evolve in 2014-2015. *Witness-To-War Foundation* Director Emily Carley was authorized by her CEO, Tom Beaty, to offer their video and audio recording services at each of our meetings. Emily Carley or Video Specialist Martin Madert will be at each of our meetings, and in the event one of them is unable to attend, our own Videographer Ted Murphy has offered to step-in for them. Veterans from all services and all conflicts are asked to sign-up with Emily or Martin and provide them with their oral histories. These interviews can be done at their extensive studios in Norcross. WTW can also arrange to come to a veteran's home to conduct an interview. You can contact Emily or Martin at our regular meetings or via email: Emily Carley's email: emily@witnessstowar.org and Martin's: seb@witnessstowar.org or by calling Emily at 770-481-3018.

>>> **(FINAL) FEBRUARY 21st, 2015 (SATURDAY) BANQUET RESERVATION FORM** – The time and date are almost upon us for The Annual February Banquet (2015). Meals for all members whose dues are current are compliments of the Round Table; otherwise your meal pricing is \$ 28.00. You are also asked to pay \$ 28.00 for any guest(s) you bring. Get your ***Reservation Form*** to Finance Officer Jay Lenny as soon as possible. If you did not receive a ***Reservation Form***, please contact Round Table Finance Officer Jay Lenny at 678-288-9175 or Adjutant John Kovach at 770-928-4579. The Petite would like a head and meal-count ***no later than Wednesday, February 18th***.

>>> **(NEW) APRIL 14th, 2015 (TUESDAY) – 7th HONOR AIR FLIGHT** – For this Flight the *Roswell Rotary Club* is inviting WW II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans to apply. This is again a day-trip to the Washington DC, the Veterans Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery; as many wheelchairs will be provided as needed. Please contact Pat DiGeorge for additional information and an application at 770-605-5725 or email her at pdigeorge@gmail.com. Any updates will be announced in March.

>>> **(NEW) APRIL 18th-19th, 2015 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY) – COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF) 12th ANNUAL WW II HERITAGE DAYS- 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW II.** Location is Atlanta Regional Airport (*Falcon Field*), 1200 Echo Court, Peachtree City, GA. This annual Commemorative Air Force event is hosted by over 250 volunteers and attended by +2500 people. Tables are available at no cost to non-profits. More to come on this in the March and April Newsletters.

>>> **(REMINDER) ALL FUTURE MEETINGS** – Senior Chaplain Carl Espy requested at the Executive Board Meeting in August to inform the membership that his door is always open to all members, at any time, to be updated on any member who is ill, infirmed at home, hospitalized or unable to attend regular meetings due to health issues. Chaplin Espy would like to be informed of the member's name and address and telephone number and he will attempt to keep in-touch with the families of seriously ill members. Carl can be reached at 770-698-0027 or via email at cespyjr@comcast.net.

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – JANUARY – JUNE 2015** – Deputy Commander and Program Chairman Pete Mecca has lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2015 campaign: February 21st – Annual February Banquet (Saturday) – Georgia Veteran Hall of Fame and triple-amputee Tommy Clack; March 19th – Lady Marine Kathleen Eidson – Served with the U.S. Marines - Camp Lejeune, NC during WW II; April 16th – BG Rich McPhee – West Point Grad-In Charge of WMD Search in Iraq; May 21st - Jesse Beck – Service in WW II/Korea/Vietnam; June 18th – Thomas Kimmel – Grandson of Admiral Kimmel – Commander-in-chief US Pacific Fleet /Pearl Harbor Commander. Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank-You Pete for taking on this very difficult endeavor and for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings. Should any member have a suggestion or lead for Pete relative to a qualified Speaker, please contact him 770-354-9697 or via email at aveteransstory@gmail.com.

MONTHLY QUOTE:

"Down the streets of Portsmouth more than a hundred years ago," said Lt. General Ira C. Eaker in a speech given some time ago, "walked a sailor with one arm, one eye, and a persistent state of nerves and unable to tread a ship's deck without being seasick. Indeed he would probably have been in a home for incurables were his name not Admiral Lord Nelson. The man's spirit drove the flesh." Two years later, at the Battle of Trafalgar, Nelson defeated the combined French and Spanish fleets. This was the greatest naval victory in British history and left the British in control of the seas for the rest of the 1800's. Unfortunately, Nelson was mortally wounded during Trafalgar but lived long enough to know that his fleet had won the battle. His last words were, "Thank God I have done my duty." Nelson was a man of fearless courage and devotion. He believed in his country, in his cause, and in himself. He proved this with his words and more so with his life. He once said, "I am of the opinion that the boldest measures are the safest." Nelson was a man greatly admired by others who said about him, "His frail body housed a great spirit."