



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 29 No. 7

287th MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach

Tel: (770) 928-4579

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Kathleen Eidson

* Tommy Clack

* Lee Weinstein /Pete Mecca

* Pat DiGeorge/Chris Madrid

* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

Elected Officers 2014-2015

Commander – Lee Weinstein

Tel: 404-843-0779

Deputy Cmdr. - Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

Adjutant – John Kovach

Finance Officer- Jay Lenny

Dep. Finance Ofc: Guy Condra

Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)

Sgt.-at-Arms - Bill Shepherd

Sgt.-at-Arms – Joe Jordan

Sgt.-at-Arms – Mike Koesters

Sr. Chaplain – Carl Espy

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: MARCH 19th, 2015 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting APRIL 16th

Time: Social Half-Hour: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM > MEETING START
TIME 11:30 AM - 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: \$ 15.00 Per Plate ** NO RESERVATION REQUIRED **

Speaker: Kathleen Eidson

Subject: “A Chronologically Superior Woman Marine”

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 then 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 February 21st Banquet Meeting: ± 136))

Speaker for MARCH 19th, 2015–Lady Marine Kathleen Eidson (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cdr. Pete Mecca)

The March 19th, 2015 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the *Atlanta WWII Round Table* will feature Lady Marine **Kathleen Eidson** as our speaker. Kathleen was welcomed into her family in the small town of Coffeetown, AL on September 15th, 1925 and celebrated her 95th Birthday last year. She recalled making her decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps when she found out her Brother, Captain Tom Eidson, lost his life on Anzio Beach in the Spring of 1944. She enlisted in the *United States Marine Corps Women Reserves (USMCWR)* in February 1945, enlisting for the duration of the war. She joined other family members who served including her oldest Brother, also a Marine who came home from the Great War (WW 1) the same day she was born and her sister who served in the Army Nurse Corps.

Kathleen began her service with the Corps at Camp Lejeune, NC as a Paymaster due to her financial background. She transitioned to Military life and eventually learned to live by a timetable, with the bugle sounding reveille and sleeping in bunk beds. She soon learned to like Military chow, and took on training assignments with enthusiasm like latrine duty and extra police duty. The Military disciplined her well and she was trained in hand-to-hand combat as well as in the use of some small arms and weapons.

Corporal Eidson was discharged in June 1946 and has a permanent affiliation with the *Women Marine Association*. She has addressed the Georgia Legislature, continues to sing with the *Lady Marines Glee Club* called the ‘*Sometime Singers*’, and continues to present programs at retirement centers, AARP groups, and Civic Organizations.

After her discharge, Kathleen continued with a career in finance, working in the banking industry and finally as Comptroller for the Latham Time Corporation where she retired after 37 years as the VP of Finance. She continues to live by the creed, ‘Once a Marine, always a Marine.’

Please welcome Corporal Kathleen Eidson as our **March 19th, 2015** speaker (287th Meeting.)

Review Of February 21st, 2015 Speaker- Tommy Clack (Introduced by Dep. Cdr. Pete Mecca)

Tommy Clack, our February 21st, 2015 speaker, made an outstanding presentation to us at the February Banquet. Tommy became a triple-amputee during the Vietnam War. His Military career began when he dropped out of the University of Houston during his first year there, after earning a Track and Field Scholarship, to volunteer for the U.S. Army. Clack’s family is steeped in the military traditions, his father being a decorated WW II and Korean War veteran and Tommy had heard enough about the War to want to volunteer. What followed can only be described as a miracle by many.

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 (CBUs)*.

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

CONTINUED ON BACK

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 laying 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 Tommy, The Lord's way of acknowledging his Holy presence at the *Evac Hospital* and communicating to the Doctor 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 served as a Field Office Manager at the Conyers location for the Georgia Department of Veterans Affairs, working 80-100 hours per week. Tommy is now retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Field Office Manager, and devotes much of his time as Chairman of the *Walk Of Heroes Foundation* which manages the *Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial* (www.walkofheroes.org) at Black Shoals Lake in North Rockdale County. He also hunts and fishes year-round and target-shoots at least once a week to stay proficient.

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. Erin has two children, a 3-year old son and a 9-month old Granddaughter.

Thank-You Tommy for your service in Vietnam, for being a shining example of perseverance to us all, for Preserving History and for a job well done.


I am pleased to announce that we have four (4) new members who have joined us since our January 15th & February 21st, 2015 Meetings. There were NO inductions of New Members at the February 21st, 2015 Banquet.

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 March 19th, 2015 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@witnesswar.org and Martin's: seb@witnesswar.org or by calling Emily at 770-481-3018.

>>> **(NEW) APRIL 14th, 2015 (TUESDAY) – 7th HONOR AIR FLIGHT** – For this Flight the *Roswell Rotary Club* is inviting WW II, and Korean Veterans to apply. This is again a day-trip to the Washington, D.C. 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.

>>> **(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 (CAF)* event is hosted by over 250 volunteers and attended by +2500 people. Tables are available at no cost to non-profits. The event is family-friendly with FREE admission. The event this year will commemorate and recognize the 70th Anniversary of the end of WW II. The CAF is attempting to bring in the *B-24 Diamond Lil* and hopes to raise enough funds to fly the B-24 in from Texas (fuel cost alone is over \$5000.00). One of the main events is the *Keep-em Flying Hangar Dinner Dance*, a 1940's-theme hangar dance and fundraising event which takes place at 6PM-11PM Saturday, April 18th. Tickets to this event are \$ 55.00 per person with VIP tables for 8 available for \$500.00. For additional information on the event, please visit the CAF Website at www.dixiewing.org or call their main phone at (678) 364-1110.

>>> **(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 – MARCH– 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) – **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:

"All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us...they can't get away this time .Now we can shoot at those bastards from every direction."

Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Korea November 27 and December 6, 1950

USMC Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller (June 26, 1898 – October 11, 1971)