



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 31 No. 10 310th MEETING

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Newsletter

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Date: JUNE 29th, 2017 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting SEPT. 21st (THUR.)*

Time: Social Half-Hour: **10:45 AM – 11:15 AM** > **BUFFET LINE OPENS AT 11:15 AM – MEETING START TIME 11:45 AM – 12:00 NOON**

** DUNWOODY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (DUMC)

1548 Mount Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338

Website: www.dunwoodyumc.org - Church Phone: 770-394-0675

Meal Price: \$ 20.00 (Individual) / \$ 35.00 (Couples) *Courtesy Reservation Requested*

Speaker(s): Jerry McLaughlin

Subject: “*B-17 Flying Fortress Restoration- - The Story of a WWII Bomber's Return To Glory in Honor of the Veterans of the Mighty Eighth Air Force*”

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 May 16th, 2017 Meeting: ±61))

Speaker for JUNE 29th, 2017 (5th THURSDAY)– Jerry McLaughlin (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The June 29th, 2017 (5th THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature Jerry McLaughlin as our featured speaker.

Jerry McLaughlin is a native of Queens, New York. Raised on Long Island, he graduated from Lynbrook High School and Long Island University. He served in the US Army from 1969 to 1971, and retired from the *Central Intelligence Agency* in 2003 as an executive level manager. Jerry and his wife, Denise, moved to Savannah’s Skidaway Island in 2004. He is the author of three books: *D-Day+60 Years*, the story of his 20 years of research to discover the circumstances surrounding his uncle’s death in Normandy on June 6, 1944; *B-17 Flying Fortress Restoration*, which tells the story of the restoration of the WWII B-17 bomber named *City of Savannah* at the National Museum of the *Mighty Eighth Air Force*, and most recently, *Hap’s Wars*, the biography of Atlanta’s own “Hap” Chandler.

Jerry began his volunteer service with the *Mighty Eighth* 2005 as an archivist, and was a recipient of the General F.G. Shuler Award for Museum Service in 2007. He was appointed as the Project Manager for the restoration of the *City of Savannah* at the project’s inception in January, 2009, and served in that role until the airplane’s dedication in January of 2015.

Please welcome Jerry McLaughlin as our **JUNE 29th, 2017 (5th Thursday)** speaker (310th Meeting.)

Speaker Review for May 16th, 2017– - WW II Veteran George Wilkerson (Introduced By Commander Mecca)

George grew-up on a farm in Missouri and in 1941 was a freshman at the University of Missouri. When WW II broke out, the ROTC recruited college students at the UOM and offered to put them through Officer’s Training School if they enlisted in the Army. He enlisted and was trained in mechanized warfare under a program administered by the US Army called the *Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP)*. He shipped out of Boston to France right after the *Battle of the Bulge* with 6000 fellow enlistees on board a troop carrier, and then with the *20th Armored Division, 412th Armored Field Artillery Unit*, fought his way through Europe until the end of the war.

He was in six (6) countries, rarely spending the night in the same place two nights in-a-row. For much of this time, he served on an M-7, which is a artillery piece mounted on a tank chassis. The gun mounted was a *105 mm Howitzer* which could fire a shell 7 miles-out. *The 412th Armored Field Artillery Unit* helped liberate the Dachau Concentration Camp in April 1945 near Munich when the war ended.

George came back to the U.S. on leave, preparing for the invasion of Japan when he learned that the war in the Pacific had ended. He left the service about 6-months after the war ended and, after finishing his College education at the University of Missouri, worked for the Ford Motor Company Tractor and Machinery Division, serving for many years as a instructor of mechanics. Wilkerson worked for Ford for a total of 37 years, at some point being transferred to Atlanta from St. Louis, and has lived in Atlanta ever since.

Thank-You George Wilkerson for preserving history with us, and for a wonderful presentation that kept WW II history alive for us on May 16th, and for a job well done.

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