



**THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE**  
**PRESERVING HISTORY**

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

VOL. 32 No. 3

313<sup>th</sup> MEETING

**Editor:** John E. Kovach

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**Contributor(s) To This**

**Newsletter**

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\* Pete Mecca

\* Jay Lenny

\* Brent Bracewel/Bill LeCount

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**Sr. Sgt.-at-Arms** – Ralph Lehr

**Sr. Chaplain** – Joyce Mecca

**Appointments 2017-2018**

Aide-to-Commander(s) – Joe Jordan

Finance Assistant – Guy Condra

Dep. Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill LeCount

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arm – Mike Koesters

Asst. Chaplain – Patti Pruitt

Public Relations Director – Jill Berry

Media Librarian – Ginny Koesters

Website Monitor – Greg McClelland

**Date:** NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting DEC. 21<sup>st</sup>*

**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](http://www.dunwoodyumc.org) - Church Phone: 770-394-0675

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

**Speaker:** Robert Jones

**Subject:** “*The Top Technological Innovations of WW 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**

(( Meeting Attendance For The October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting: ±102 ))

**Speaker for NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)– Robert C. Jones (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

The NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature Professional Lecturer Robert Jones our speaker.

Robert C. Jones served as President of the Kennesaw Historical Society for 21 years (1994-2015), and also served as a member of the Executive Board of the Kennesaw Museum Foundation for 17 years (1998-2015). The Museum Foundation helped fund the 45,000 square foot Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, GA. Robert has written 45+ books on historical topics, including "Top Innovations of World War II", "A Guide to the Civil War in Georgia", and "Heroes and Heroines of the American Revolution".

Today he'll be speaking on the topic "The Top Technological Innovations of World War II", including the Atom Bomb, Rockets and Jet Planes, the first computers and the development of Penicillin.

Please welcome Robert Jones as our NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) speaker (313<sup>th</sup> Meeting.)

**Speaker Review for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017– -Pete Mecca ( Introduced By Deputy Commander Jack Coyle )**

The OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured our very own Commander Pete Mecca as our speaker.

Pete's presentation was brief due to the time factor. He tied-in the Viet Minh and Ho Chi Minh during WWII when he assisted in rescuing downed American flyers, told how the French were defeated in North Vietnam while we were engaged in the Korean War, then explained our gradual escalation in Vietnam. After his presentation, the audience watched a 27-minute mini-documentary produced by PBA-30 then had an open floor discussion.

Commander Mecca suggested that Round Table Members check out the new PBA-30 website for veterans: [pba.org/veterans](http://pba.org/veterans). One of Commander Mecca's initiatives in 2017-2018 is to help in the development of PBA-30 into Georgia's 'veteran-friendly' local TV station. This is working-out to be very positive for all Veterans Organizations so far, and especially for the Atlanta WW II Round Table.

Phone calls to PBA would also be appreciated @ 678-686-0321. Please also visit their Website at [www.pba.org](http://www.pba.org) and congratulate them for their efforts on behalf of all Veterans.

Pete is a graduate of Memphis State University with a BA Degree in Political Science and Public Administration. His minors include Native American History and American Military History. He served with Air Force Intelligence for 4 years, plotted missions and flew on B-52 bombers out of McCoy AFB in Orlando, then volunteered for a 2½ year stint in Vietnam. His award-winning narrative "A Veteran's Story" is featured in several Georgia newspapers.

He has been featured in *Georgia Magazine*, appeared on *Channel 69* and *AM-1160*, was Keynote speaker for *Wreathes Across America* and several other organizations. He is presently a consultant to PBA-30 to help plan and promote their documentary featuring Georgia Vietnam veterans to air in November in conjunction with the Ken Burn's new documentary on Vietnam. Pete was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Aide-de-Camp, Governor's staff by Governor Nathan Deal in August of 2016 plus presented with a letter of appreciation from the *Georgia Department of Veterans Service*. He is Commander of the distinguished *Atlanta World War II Round Table* plus serves as our Program Director.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

Pete coordinates three monthly veteran brunches, conducts lectures, panel discussions and symposiums. His book, "Veteran's: Their Service, Their Lives, Volume I", is being reviewed for publication.

Thank-You Pete Mecca for a wonderful and enlightening presentation, for Preserving History with us on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and for a job well done. And Thank-You PBA for all you are doing for all veterans.

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**SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS**

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I am pleased to announce that we have ten (10) New Members who joined us at since our September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> meetings:

**Veteran Kermit (De) Wood** – De served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army in Germany 1975-78 as a Tank Commander, 3/12 Cav. 3<sup>rd</sup> Armor Div.

**Veteran Charles (Smoky) F. Hicks** – Smoky was in the U.S. Navy – serving in the Judge Advocates General Corps. And was assigned to the War College in Newport, RI. He taught Non-Lawyer Legal Officers on ships.

**Allen Dear** – Allen serves on the Board of Directors for the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Div. Assoc of WW II Veterans.

**Margaret (Peg) Crotty** – Peg is a Caregiver and interested in all aspects of WW II.

**Carl DiMare** – Carl is retired and interested in all aspects of WW II.

**Veteran Donley C. Klein** – Donley served in the U.S. Navy on board the Destroyer USS Ault in the Atlantic.

**William (Bill) T. Schwendler, Jr.** – Bill retired from Grumman Aircraft after 25 years and interested in Naval Warfare.

**Sherry Stempel** – Both Sherry's Mother and Father served in WW II; Her Mother in the USMC Women's Reserve and her Father in the U.S. Navy.

**Rona Simmons** - Rona is a free-lance writer and has just finished a book on Jack Smith's paintings and is working on a book about "The Unsung Heroes of WW II - The Men and Women Who Work Behind-The-Lines". Rona's father was a WW II Army Air Force Fighter Pilot who served in the ETO.

**Veteran James Walters** - James served in the USNR 1967-1977 and was active duty 1968-1969, VAH123, NAS Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA.

*Please welcome De, Smoky, Allen, Peg, Carl, Donley, Bill and Sherry, Rona and James at our November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

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**<<< (NEW) ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OR GUESTS AT ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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Beginning with our November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting, Commander Mecca is requesting the cooperation of all Round Table Members and guests relative to announcements being made at our Meetings. Pete's request is as follows:

If any Member or Guest has an announcement they would like to make at an upcoming meeting, they will need to present it Commander Mecca at least 3 days prior to the Meeting date. This procedure will allow more time for our guest Speaker(s). Members and Guests are encouraged to request permission to make their announcement(s) by emailing or calling Commander Mecca at: ( email is [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com) / Tel: 770-354-9697 ). There will be no exceptions to this new initiative You may also submit your announcement to Adjutant Kovach to be placed in an upcoming Newsletter or on the Atlanta WW II Round Table Website. Kovach's email is [jkovach2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jkovach2000@yahoo.com) / Tel: 770-928-4579

**>>> (UPDATED) ROBO-CALLS / MANDATORY RESERVATIONS BEING ASKED - FOR ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Commander Pete Mecca, Deputy Commander Jack Coyle and newly appointed **ROBO-CALL** Coordinator Bill LeCount will now be asking for the cooperation of all Round Table Members and Guests to provide advance notification whether they will be attending a monthly meeting. Members and Guests who have provided their contact phone numbers will be reminded each month about the time and date of the monthly meetings. Those called can respond while the message is being announced. Alternatively, those called / notified can also email or call Commander Mecca at: [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com) - Tel. 770-354-9697; Deputy Commander Coyle at: [jackwcoyle@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackwcoyle@bellsouth.net) - Tel. 770-788-2454; or **ROBO-CALL** Coordinator Bill LeCount at: [blecount@aol.com](mailto:blecount@aol.com) - Tel. 404-886-7383. It is imperative that the Round Table provide the Church with an accurate head-count at each meeting so there are enough meals and desserts ( meals and desserts are made from-scratch on the day of the meeting ). **Please Note: The Reservation / Head-Count is now mandatory.** If you do not reserve a meal, and the Church is deficient in providing you a meal, you will be refunded your \$ 20.00 payment ( or \$ 35.00 per Couple ) by Finance Officer Jay Lenny.

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

The Witness to War Foundation, which works on a volunteer basis to videotape all Roundtable meetings, is a local non-profit that conducts video interviews with combat veterans of all wars. Veterans from all services and all conflicts are asked to sign-up for an interview with Martin Madert and provide them with their oral histories. Sign-up sheets are available at all meetings or you can contact Martin via email at [martin@witnessstowar.org](mailto:martin@witnessstowar.org) or by phone at 770-628-0024. If you have general questions around Witness to War, you may contact Director, Emily Carley, at [emily@witnessstowar.org](mailto:emily@witnessstowar.org) or 770-481-3018. Additional information on the Foundation can be found at [www.WitnessToWar.org](http://www.WitnessToWar.org).

**>>>(REMINDER) AIR FORCE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - Georgia Chapter - MEETING REMINDER** - The Georgia Chapter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Association meets monthly at Clairmont Place, 2100 Clairmont Lake Decatur, GA, 30033 (Across the street from the VA hospital on Clairmont Road). This Association meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Please contact Brent Bracewell at 678-416-5749 or Marc Feit at email [marcfeit@bellsouth.net](mailto:marcfeit@bellsouth.net) for additional meeting info.

**>>> (UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS FOR – NOVEMBER 2017 –JUNE 2018**– Commander & Program Chairman Pete Mecca, with the assistance of the Program Committee, have lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2017-2018 campaign: **November 16<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) – Robert Jones – The Top Technological Innovations of WW II**; December 21<sup>st</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) - Richard "Rick" Hanaghan- 'WW II From A History Teacher's Perspective'; January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) – Jonnie Clasen – Merrill Marauders. Speakers for our February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Meetings will be announced in our Newsletter. Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Should any member have a suggestion or lead for Pete relative to a qualified Speaker, please contact Commander Mecca at 770-354-9697 or via email at [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com)

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Monthly Quotations:

When some state or other offered Alexander a part of its territory and half of all its property he told them that *'he hadn't come to Asia with the intention of accepting whatever they cared to give him, but of letting them keep whatever he chose to leave them.'* Philosophy, likewise, tells all other occupations: *'It's not my intention to accept whatever time is leftover from you; you shall have, instead, what I reject.'*

*Give your whole mind to her. Cling tooth and nail to the following rule: Not to give in to adversity, never to trust prosperity, and always to take full note of fortune's habit of behaving just as she pleases, treating her as if she were actually going to do everything it is in her power to do.*

Seneca, Roman Philosopher and Statesman (4 BC-AD65)