



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 32 No. 2

312th MEETING

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Newsletter

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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

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Date: **OCTOBER 19th, 2017 (THURSDAY)** >> *Next Meeting NOV. 16th*

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: Pete Mecca

Subject: “*WWII to Vietnam, The Correlation*”

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 September 21st, 2017 Meeting: ± 85))

Speaker for OCTOBER 19th, 2017 (3rd THURSDAY)– Pete Mecca (To Be Introduced By Dep. Commander Coyle)

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

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.

Pete 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.

Other memberships include: Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Assoc., Golden Age Warriors, American Legion, The Georgia Vietnam Veterans Alliance; VFW, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Honor Flight based in Conyers. He has made six trips to Washington, DC with WWII veterans as a guardian or mission assistant.

Pete coordinates three monthly veteran brunches, conducts lectures, panel discussions and symposiums. His book, “*Veteran’s: Their Service, Their Lives, Volume 1*”, is being reviewed for publication. Thus far, Pete has interviewed over 300 veterans from all branches, all ranks, and all wars. His new website, www.aveteransstory.us, contains dozens of his stories and has experienced over 2200 hits since its launch in June.

Please welcome Pete Mecca as our **OCTOBER 19th, 2017 (3rd Thursday)** speaker (312th Meeting.)

Speaker Review for September 21st, 2017--Dr. Mary Jo Wood (Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The September 21st, 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured Dr. Mary Jo Wood (a.k.a the sister of Roswell Mayor Jere Wood) as our speaker.

Dr. Wood began her presentation to us by outlining the 3-part presentation she would be giving us: (1) The story of her uncle, Brigadier General Ben King, a WW II fighter pilot with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant at that time. King was shot down in the South Pacific during WW II, spent 6 days paddling a small raft against wind and current, and landed on a tiny island (Mono Island) where natives hid him from the Japanese. Two months later he and three other downed American Airmen left the island by raft to seek help. Following a harrowing three days the four Americans were picked by a PBV pilot and co-pilot who successfully staged a sea rescue, against orders: (2) The story of Mono Island and its population of 180 native men women and children who risked their lives to hide Ben King and six other marooned American Airmen; (3) The story of locating that still-remote island 73 years later, visiting it, and listening to the stories of the old folks who remember hiding and caring for a young Ben King.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Mary Jo did a wonderful job in relating these three (3) segments of her presentation to us. Of special note, her program included a recording from 1943 of Ben King telling, in great detail, the story to his father.

Ben King, upon his retirement, was the only man to have flown combat missions from the rank of 2nd Lieutenant to Brigadier General. He became a legend in the Air Force and may be best known as the 'Father of the Air Commandos', the Air-Force Special Forces. Fellow Officers called him 'A Fighter Pilot's Fighter Pilot'.

Thank-You Dr. Wood for an enlightening presentation, for Preserving History with us on September 21st, and for a job well done.



SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> (NEW) The Vietnam War State Certificate of Honor Program

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, the State of Georgia wants to honor every one of its 234,000 Vietnam War veterans. To accomplish this goal, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal, has created the *Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program*.

Each certificate will be personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal of the State of Georgia and will include the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo. Certificates will be under the signatures of Governor Deal and GDVS Commissioner Mike Roby.

Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War is eligible to receive this certificate (This includes veterans with service in country and those who served in other capacities). With the help of veteran service organizations, word of mouth, and local media support, these Certificates of Honor will be ceremonially presented to every Vietnam War veteran in Georgia.

Eligibility dates for the State Certificate of Honor are the dates recognized by the Defense Department's Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program Office - June 1, 1954 to May 15, 1975.

Group (VSO) Application Procedure

Members of veteran service organizations are encouraged to apply to receive their certificates together. For information on making a group application, email certificates@vs.state.ga.us or call 404-463-3080.

Individual Application Procedure

To apply, please send your name, rank, branch of service, dates of service, and a copy of your DD Form 214 to certificates@vs.state.ga.us or Georgia Department of Veterans Service, Attn: Certificates, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334, or via fax to (404) 656-7006.

Official Presentation

The State of Georgia would like veterans honored by this program to receive their certificates during a formal presentation. The Georgia Department of Veterans Service will work with VSOs and individual veterans to coordinate these presentations wherever possible. Please call 404-463-3080 for more information.

>>> (NEW) ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE- REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A copy of the Revised Constitution was emailed to all RT Members on August 31st and a copy placed at each table at the **SEPTEMBER 21st, 2017** Meeting. There will be a brief discussion and vote at the **OCTOBER 19th, 2017** Meeting to adopt the revised Constitution and By-Laws for the Round Table. Please note that one of the primary changes made is relative to Elected Officers, i.e. the Commander may now be elected for up to two (2) successive terms and that he/she can succeed themselves in-office in a emergency situation by approval of the Executive Committee. It is advisable that Members bring a hard-copy of the By-Laws with them to the **OCTOBER 19th Meeting**. If anyone would like a copy mailed or emailed to them prior to the **OCTOBER 19th MEETING**, please advise Adjutant Kovach at 770-928-4579 or via email at jkovach2000@yahoo.com

>>> (UPDATED)- NOVEMBER 4th (SATURDAY) ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE - FIELD TRIP TO CURRAHEE

MILITARY MUSSEUM - On Saturday, November 4, the Atlanta World War II Round Table will travel by car to Toccoa GA for a guided tour of the Currahee Military Museum. In 1942, the U.S. Government acquired a site in Toccoa, GA, where a new type of soldier – The Paratrooper – was trained. 18,000 volunteer soldiers trained at Camp Toccoa during WWII. Only 6,000 young men made the cut. This is the story of this Band of Brothers.

AGENDA:

10:00 AM Leave Dunwoody United Methodist Church by car

12:00 NOON Arrive in Toccoa. Lunch on your own at M&J Home Cooking Country Buffet, \$9, Visa & MC accepted.

1:00 PM Tour the Currahee Military Museum. Downtown Toccoa. \$8 group rate admission fee.

3:00 PM Drive to the top of Currahee Mountain. "3 Miles Up. 3 Miles Down."

5:30 PM Arrive back at Dunwoody UMC.

To reserve a spot on the tour, or for more information as it becomes available, please email to Jerry Colley, braghq@aol.com

>>> (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 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 or 770-481-3018. Additional information on the Foundation can be found at www.WitnessToWar.org.

>>> (REMINDER) AIR FORCE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - Georgia Chapter - MEETING REMINDER - The

Georgia Chapter of the 8th 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 2nd Saturday of each month. Please contact Brent Bracewell at 678-416-5749 or Marc Feit at email marcfeit@bellsouth.net for additional meeting info.

>>> (UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS FOR – SEPTEMBER 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: **October 19th (3rd Thursday) Pete Mecca – WWII to Vietnam, The Correlation – NOTE: PBA-30 is expected to be in attendance at the OCTOBER 19th Meeting;** November 16th (3rd Thursday) – Robert Jones – Major Technical Advances In WW II; December 21st (3rd Thursday) - Richard "Rick" Hanaghan- 'WW II From A History Teacher's Perspective'. Speakers for our January 18th, 2018 through June 21st, 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



Monthly Quotation:

"Oh no, I haven't failed 5000 times. I've succeeded in finding 5000 different ways that you cannot possibly build a light bulb."

Thomas A. Edison,

On his progress during his quest for the incandescent electric lamp