



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 32 No. 1 311th MEETING

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Newsletter

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Date: SEPTEMBER 21st, 2017 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting OCT. 19th*

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: Dr. Mary Jo Wood

Subject: Brigadier General Ben King

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 June 15th, 2017 Meeting: ±68))

Speaker for SEPTEMBER 21st, 2017 (3rd THURSDAY)– Dr. Mary Jo Wood (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The SEPTEMBER 21st, 2017 (3rd THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature Dr. Mary Jo Wood as our speaker.

Mary Jo graduated from the University of Georgia, School of Veterinary Medicine, in 1969, one of four women in a graduating class of fifty-eight. Following a post-doctoral fellowship and a research job with Medical College of Georgia, she practiced small animal medicine. Ten years ago Dr. Wood returned to school to study human anatomy and physiology at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, GA., then spent seven years as a lecturer at Brenau University. She retired two years ago. She often jokes that her greatest claim to fame (it seems to be the first thing to be said of her whenever she is introduced) is that she is the sister of Roswell Mayor Jere Wood.

Dr. Wood will have a 3-part presentation for us: (1) The story of her uncle, Brigadier General Ben King, a WW II fighter pilot. 2nd Lt. Ben 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 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 PB Y pilot and co-pilot who successfully staged a sea rescue, against orders. Lt Ben King went on to become Brig. General Ben King. Known as “a fighter pilot’s fighter pilot”, he flew in combat in every rank from 2nd Lt. though Brig. General: (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. NOTE: The program includes a recording from 1943 of Ben King telling the story to his father.

Please welcome Dr. Mary Jo Wood as our **SEPTEMBER 21st, 2017 (3rd Thursday)** speaker (311th Meeting.)

Speaker Review for JUNE 15th, 2017--Jerry McLaughlin (Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The June 29th, 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured Jerry McLaughlin as our 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.

Two of Hap Chandler’s daughters were present to honor their father. Many of you will recall that Hap was a revered figure at the Round Table meetings he was able to attend and was our featured speaker in Dec. 2001 when he talked to us about the *Mighty Eighth Museum*.

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