



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

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

VOL. 32 No. 6

**316<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**Editor:** John E. Kovach

Tel: (770) 928-4579

**Contributor(s) To This**

**Newsletter**

\* Steve Snyder

\* Jonnie Clasen (Cancelled)

\* Jay Lenny/Renee Robb-Truitt

\* Brent Bracewel/Bill LeCount

\* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

**Commander** – Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

**Deputy Commander** – Jack Coyle

Tel: 770-788-2454

**Adjutant** – John Kovach

**Finance Officer** – Jay Lenny

**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:** **FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (THURSDAY)** >> **Next Meeting MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Time:** Social Half-Hour: **10:45 AM – 11:15 AM > BUFFET LINE OPENS**

**T 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) Complimentary For Members (Current with DUES) & One (1) Guest / RESERVATION REQUIRED**

**Speaker:** Steve Snyder

**Subject:** “The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and The Crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth”

**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 January 2018 Meeting: CANCELLED ))**

**Speaker for FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)– Steve Snyder (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

The **FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)** Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature author Steve Snyder as our featured speaker.

Born in Pasadena, California, author Steve Snyder was raised in the neighboring community of San Marino whose first mayor was George S. Patton, father of the famous World War II General George S. Patton Jr. Steve graduated from UCLA in 1970 and afterwards served six years in the California Army National Guard. In 1972, Steve moved to Seal Beach, California where he lives today. In 2009, he retired from Vision Service Plan (VSP) after a 36 year career working in sales and sales management.

Soon after retirement, Steve began his quest to learn more about the World War II experiences of his father, pilot Howard Snyder, and his crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth. It became his passion and after 4 ½ years of dedicated research resulted in his book, SHOT DOWN, which has received over 25 national book awards. One result of his new career as a World War II historian is that he is a member of numerous World War II organizations and is immediate past president of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association.

Please welcome Steve Snyder as our **FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)** speaker (316<sup>th</sup>) Meeting

**Speaker Review for JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018– Jonnie Melillo Clasen ( Meeting Cancelled due to inclement weather )**

Jonnie (Joan-ee) Melillo (Ma-l-el-O) Clasen was the first of two children from the 60-year-marriage of WW II Merrill’s Marauder and Korean War veteran Vincent Melillo from New Jersey and the former Frankie Thompson, a *Rosie the Riveter*, from Milan, Georgia. An “Army brat,” Jonnie attended three first grades in two different countries and three high schools in two different states.

She is a graduate of the University of Nevada - Reno with a double major in fine arts and journalism, and has courses toward an interdisciplinary master’s degree at New York University. She has won awards from the local to national level in writing, photography, design and drawing.

Her more than 30-year professional background includes being an Associated Press newswoman and doing public relations for a hospital, casino, public utility, economic development organization and the National Ranger Memorial Foundation.

Seventeen years ago, she moved to Columbus to help her Dad, Georgia’s last original Merrill’s Marauder, care for her mother who had dementia. Following her mother’s death six years later, she and her Dad began doing Merrill’s Marauders, Korean War, and *Rosie the Riveter Living History Programs* throughout Georgia, including Ft. Benning, FDR’s Little White House, the Atlanta History Center, the National Infantry Museum, WW II Heritage Days, schools, churches and libraries.

She is the Merrill’s Marauders Proud Descendants’ Liaison Officer and State Director and President, Columbus Chapter of *American Rosie the Riveter Association*. She has been a single parent since her son, who turns 50 next month, was in first grade. Jonnie is also a two-time cancer survivor. **PLEASE NOTE: JONNIE HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO SPEAK TO THE ROUND TABLE IN AT OUR MAY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 MEETING.**

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

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I am pleased to announce that we have three (3) New Members who have joined us since our December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017-January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meetings:

**Veteran Ellis Michael (Mike) Morris** – Mike served in the U.S. Army – 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Mech in Vietnam and USAR HQ Forces Command – Desert Storm as well as Georgia Tech ROTC.

**Veteran Charles C. Capps** – Charles served in the U.S. Army- School Support Battalion – Chemical Corp from 1957-59 stationed at Ft. McClellan in Anniston, AL.

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

*Please welcome Mike, Charles and Sherry at our February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Banquet Meeting.*

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>>> **(FINAL) FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 BANQUET NEWS**

As many Round Table Members are aware, there are very few times during our campaigns that the Round Table can 'give-something-back' to the membership. The February Banquet is one of those times and it has been decided that for the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Banquet, the Round Table will do the following: All Members, **who's Dues are current**, will have their meals paid for compliments of the Organization. In addition, each Member attending is at liberty to bring a wife, husband, significant other or guest whose meal will also be paid for compliments of the Organization **as long as that Member's Dues are current**. The Banquet will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) at the regular meeting time at the Dunwoody United Methodist Church. Our Speaker will be author Steve Snyder who will tell us about "*Pilot Howard Snyder and the Crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth*".

As usual, **reservations are required via our RoboCall System** or you can call and confirm your reservations for February 15<sup>th</sup> with Commander Mecca (Ph. 770-354-9697/email: [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com)); Adjutant John Kovach (Ph. 770-928-4579 / email: [jkovach2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jkovach2000@yahoo.com)) or Finance Officer Jay Lenny (Ph. 678-288-9175 / email: [jmlrct107@aol.com](mailto:jmlrct107@aol.com))

>>> **(NEW) CELEBRATING FEMALE VETERANS – SET FOR MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The American Legion Post 105, in Fayetteville, NC will host a celebration for Female Veterans. All are invited to attend, this is Women's History Month, and if you would like to be included in this special event on March 12, 2018, please contact Chaplain Truitt at [truitt.renee@yahoo.com](mailto:truitt.renee@yahoo.com) for more information. This event will be held in American Legion Post # 105, 180 South Glynn St., Fayetteville, NC 30214. Time for the event is 6PM, Dinner will be served at 6:30PM (Compliments of the American Legion), the Program will begin at 7PM.

>>> **(REMINDER) ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OR GUESTS AT ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS**

As a on-going proclamation, Commander Mecca is requesting the cooperation of all Round Table Members and guests relative to announcements being made at our Meetings. Commander Mecca'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 to 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 on-going 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 at Clairmont Place, 2100 Clairmont Lake, Decatur, GA, 30033 (Across the street from the VA hospital on Clairmont Road.) 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 – February 2018 –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: – **February 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) Speaker and Author Steve Snyder – “The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and The Crew of the B-17 Susan Ruth”** – March 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) – Seymour (Sy) Goodman – Civil War Atlanta – The Long Steep Descent”; April 19<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) Open – (Possibly 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Band); May 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) Jonnie Clasen – Merrill's Marauders and China-Burma-India, WW II's Forgotten Theater”; June 21<sup>st</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) – Open. 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 Quotation:

*A common mistake people make when trying to design something foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.*  
– **Douglas Adams**, author, *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* (1952-2001)

