



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

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

VOL. 32 No. 5

**315<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**Editor:** John E. Kovach

Tel: (770) 928-4579

**Contributor(s) To This**

**Newsletter**

\* Jonnie Clasen

\* Richard 'Rick' Heneghan

\* Jay Lenny

\* 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:** JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting FEB. 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) *Courtesy Reservation Requested*

**Speaker:** Jonnie Clasen

**Subject:** “Merrill’s Marauders and China-Burma-India, WWII’s Forgotten Theater”

**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 December 2017 Meeting: ± 86 ))

**Speaker for JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)– Jonnie Clasen (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)**

The **JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)** Meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* will feature Jonnie Clasen as our featured speaker.

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 welcome Jonnie Clasen as our **JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)** speaker (315<sup>th</sup>) Meeting

**Speaker Review for December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017– - Richard ‘Rick’ Heneghan ( Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

Our December 21<sup>st</sup> speaker, Rick Heneghan, served with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in Vietnam in 1968-69 and 1970-71 and is a Lifetime Member of the VFW. Using the GI Bill, he graduated from Rutgers University and has degrees in Industrial Technology and Management Science. He had a 40 + year career in Safety Engineering Management for the Property/Casualty Insurance Industry and worked on the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Rick has been an Instructor at *Senior Enriched Living (SEL)* in Roswell, Georgia for the past four (4) years, delivering a series of lectures on WW II history, Rick said he felt fortunate to be able to engage with *SEL*; he has found an opportunity for his original career ambition: to teach history. Rick is also a member of the Atlanta WW II Round Table and the Georgia Branch of the Winston Churchill Society.

Thank-You Rick for a wonderful and enlightening presentation, for Preserving History with us on December 21st, and for a job well done.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

