



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 32 No. 10

320th MEETING

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Newsletter

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Appointments 2017-2018

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Finance Assistant – Guy Condra

Dep. Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill LeCount

Asst. Sgt.-at-Arm – Mike Koesters

Asst. Chaplain – Mike Morris

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Date: JUNE 21st, 2018 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting SEPT. 20th*

Time: Social Half-Hour: **10:30 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 REQUIRED*

Speaker: Richard (Dick) Bailey

Subject: “*Knowing the B-26 After 65 Missions in 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 MAY 2018 Meeting: ± 60))

Speaker for JUNE 21st, 2018 (3rd THURSDAY)– Dick Bailey – (Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The **JUNE 21st, 2018 (3rd THURSDAY)** Meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* will feature 1st Lt. Richard (Dick) Bailey as our featured speaker.

Dick’s love of flying and airplanes began when he was a teenager; at 17 he was the youngest pilot in the ‘triple cities’ area of Johnson City, Endicott and Binghamton, NY. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a aviation cadet in February 1942 just after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. He received his wings and commission at Twin-Engine Advanced School in Stuttgart, Arkansas and was immediately assigned to Barksdale Field in Louisiana for *B-26 Martin Marauder* transition training.

Dick was then assigned to the 450th Squadron, 322nd Bomb Group, which was the first of eight B-26 Groups in the 9th Air Force. The 322nd started out with the mission of isolating the battlefield, disrupting German transportation in preparation for the D-Day invasion. Eisenhower in cooperation with Winston Churchill enhanced the mission of the 322nd to include the bombing of the *V-1 Buzz Bomb* and *V-2 Rocket* launching sites along the French coast. On June 6th, 1944 Lt. Bailey flew 3 missions over the beaches of Normandy in support of the D-Day landing forces.

Dick also flew support missions during the *Battle of the Bulge* in December 1944 and during one of these missions became the only Bomber Pilot in the European Theater to be credited with shooting down a German *ME-109 Fighter* plane. Dick will give us the details of this and more at the September 19th meeting.

In January 1945 Dick completed his combat tour with 65 missions and returned home where he continued to fly both military and civilian aircraft including the *B-26 Marauder*, *B-25 Mitchell*, *C-47 Skytrain*, *C-35 Electra*, *At-7 Navigator*, *AT-6 Texan*, *Piper L-4* and *Stinson L-5*. He also continued to fly as a Reservist at Stewart Field, West Point until 1947. He is a graduate of the *Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)*, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering and worked as a Engineer for several companies including IBM, Honeywell and Univac until his retirement in 1996. Please welcome Dick Bailey as our speaker for the **JUNE 21st, 2018 (3rd Thursday)** Meeting (320th).

Speaker Review for May 17th, 2018– -Jonnie Clasen (Introduced By Aide-To-Commander(s) Joe Jordan)

Our May 17th speaker, Jonnie (Joan-ee) Melillo (Ma-l-el-O) Clasen, made a spectacular presentation to the Round Table about the Merrill’s Marauders. Merrill’s Marauders (named after Frank Merrill) or Unit Galahad , officially named the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) , was a United States Army long range penetration special operations jungle warfare unit, which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II , or China-Burma-India Theater (CBI). The unit became famous for its deep-penetration missions behind Japanese lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. **CONTINUED ON BACK**

Ms. Melillo informed us that this year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Marauders and that as of 2018, only 15 of the original Marauders are still alive.

Jonnie 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.

At age 16, she earned her brown belt in Judo at Bryant Wells Field House by defeating a female Marine from Camp Lejeune. 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.

Ms. Melillo informed us that this year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Marauders and that as of 2018, only 15 of the original Marauders are still alive.

Thank-You Ms. Clasen for keeping history alive with us on May 17th, 2018 and for a job well-done.



SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

Veteran Charles Bishop – Charles served in Vietnam in as a Platoon Leader I-501 PIR and with the 101st ABN (Air Mobile), he also served in the Dept. of Army (Civ) from 1989-2010 with Forscom Ops, coordinating Join & Combined Exercises.

Please welcome Charles as our newest member at our June 21st, 2018 (Thursday) Meeting



>>> (REMINDERS) ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OR GUESTS AT ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS / KITCHEN ITEMS TO BE RETURNED TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN OR THE GARBAGE BIN!!

As on-going proclamations, Commander Mecca is requesting the cooperation of all Round Table Members and guests relative to announcements being made at our Meetings and cleaning-up the tables after lunch. Commander Mecca's requests are as follows:

(1st) 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 / 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 / Tel: 770-928-4579

(2nd) PLEASE NOTE: The Church Facilities and Kitchen Manager, Debbie Collins, had to again notify Commander Mecca, Deputy Commander Coyle and the other Officers that the Round Table members and guests at the April 19th meeting were guilty of conduct unbecoming. Ms. Collins told Pete that the Church has limited resources and recently reduced it's kitchen staff and is having a difficult time picking-up after us at our meetings. There is no excuse for leaving the lunch tables littered with cups, dishes, plates, spoons, forks, et al. Everyone is being asked to do Kitchen-Duty on any remaining paraphernalia left on the tables; that includes Plastic, Paper and Styrofoam Items, anything Kitchen-Related, including Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MRE), 'Beans, Bullets and Band-Aids', et al. Ceramic and Metal Items get returned to the containers in the Kitchen for washing; dispose of all Styrofoam and Plastics. If unsure about an item, leave it in a container in the kitchen. This is also a reminder to members and guests that the Round Table is a guest of the Church, a guest in the house of the Lord, and if necessary Commander Mecca is prepared to appoint a 'Table Captain' at each table to supervise and make sure everyone leaves their table as they found it when they entered the room. Everyone is being asked to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Please send any personal comments or suggestions on Clean-Up-Duty to Commander Mecca at petemecca@gmail.com.

>>> (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 - Tel. 770-354-9697;

Deputy Commander Coyle at: jackwcoyle@bellsouth.net - Tel. 770-788-2454; or **ROBO-CALL** Coordinator Bill LeCount at:

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.

>>> (UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS FOR – APRIL - JUNE 2018– Commander & Program Chairman Pete Mecca,

with the assistance of the Program Committee, have lined-up some impressive speakers for us for the remainder of our 2018

campaign: – **June 21st (3rd Thursday) –Richard (Dick) Bailey – USAAF –Knowing the B-26 After 65 Missions in WW II.**

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:

We are opposed around the World, by a monolithic, and ruthless conspiracy, that relies primarily on covert means, for expanding it's sphere of influence.

It relies on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, It's

preparations are concealed not published, It's failures are buried not headlined, It's descendants are silenced not praised.

That is why I'm am asking for your help, In freeing the World from the clutches of evil men, and allowing man, to be what he was meant to be, free and independent."

John F. Kennedy (portion of the speech that President John F. Kennedy gave at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on April 27, 1961.

"The President and the Press" before the American Newspaper Publishers Association)

Atlanta WW II Round Table Members – Please remember that there will be NO scheduled meetings of the Round Table in July or August. Our next scheduled meeting will be on September 21st (3rd Thursday), 2017 – At the Dunwoody United Methodist Church – Meeting start time 11:45 AM – 12:00 NOON