



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

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

VOL. 32 No. 9

**319<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

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**Contributor(s) To This**

**Newsletter**

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\* Hilbert (Hibby) Margol

\* Jay Lenny/ Pete Mecca

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**Adjutant** – John Kovach

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**Sr. Chaplain** – Patti Pruitt

**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 – Joyce Mecca

Public Relations Director – Jill Berry

Media Librarian – Ginny Koesters

Website Monitor – Greg McClelland

**Date:** MAY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>

**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](http://www.dunwoodyumc.org) - Church Phone: 770-394-0675

**Meal Price:** \$ 20.00 (Individual) / \$ 35.00 (Couples) *Courtesy Reservation REQUIRED*

**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 APRIL 2018 Meeting: ± 84))

**Speaker for MAY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)– Jonnie Clasen – ( Be Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

The **MAY 17<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 turned 50 in February, was in first grade. Jonnie is also a two-time cancer survivor.

Please welcome Jonnie Clasen as our **MAY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)** speaker (319<sup>th</sup>) Meeting.

**Speaker Review for APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018– -Hilbert (Hibby) Margol**

The **APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY)** Meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* featured Hilbert Margol as our speaker. Hilbert, along with his twin brother Howard both served in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division and were among the forces that entered the Dachau Prison Camp early on the morning of April 29, 1945 to assist in the liberating the prisoners being held there by the Nazis.

Opened in 1933 by Heinrich Himmler, its purpose was enlarged to include forced labor, and eventually, the imprisonment of Jews, German and Austrian criminals, and eventually foreign nationals from countries that Germany occupied or invaded. The Dachau camp system grew to include nearly 100 sub-camps, which were mostly work camps or *Arbeitskommandos*, and were located throughout southern Germany and Austria. The Nazis, in their fervor to commit murder and mayhem, turned Dachau into an instrument of murder and torture, where prisoners lived in constant fear of brutal treatment and terror detention including standing cells, floggings, the so-called tree or pole hanging, and standing at attention for extremely long periods. There were 32,000 documented deaths at the camp, plus thousands more that are undocumented.

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

Prior to April 29<sup>th</sup>, the brothers had been engaged in combat in Wingen Sur Moder, France, after which they proceeded north and experienced combat action in *The Alsace & Ardennes Campaigns*, followed by *The Rhineland Campaign* in Germany.

After assisting in liberating Dachau, the brothers entered Austria and served in *The Army of Occupation* in the Salzburg area, shipping home in March, 1946. They were discharged, with the rank of PFC, on April 9, 1946. Howard Margol, "went over the Rainbow" on February 9, 2017.

Thank-You Hilbert for keeping history alive with us on APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and for a job well-done.



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

I am pleased to announce that we have one (1) New Member who has joined us since our APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting:

**Douglas (Doug) Haynie** – Doug is an Attorney for the City of Marietta. His interest in WW II comes from his Father who served in the Air Force and flew critical supplies to the troops in the ETO.

*Please welcome Doug at our May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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:

**(1<sup>st</sup>)** 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

**(2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](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.

**>>> (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: – **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) –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](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com)



**Monthly Quotation:**

*When we get to Berlin, I am personally going to shoot that paper hanging son-of-a-bitch Hitler. Just like I'd shoot a snake!*  
General Patton's Famous "Blood and Guts" Speech to His Troops June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944

A follow-up response to Patton's comments was made by Saul K. Padover, part of a article in Harper's Magazine, 1946  
"The Paper-Slaves"

*"These Germans were so police-harried and document-conscious that they continued to be uneasy unless we looked at their personal papers. They forced their papers upon us to prove that everything was in order.*

*I have never seen a people so paper crazy. They hugged to their bosoms birth certificates, military records, military passes, travel passes, discharge papers, baptism records, Aryan records, marriage records, pension records, pay records, work records, health records; in short, records to prove that they were alive and that perhaps they had a right to be alive.*

*They also carried letters, snapshots, and family mementos. It was amusing to observe this addiction to paper, especially paper signed and stamped officially, until one realized that this was the behavior of slaves 'who worshiped bureaucrats. In the German Polizeistaat paper was sacred, paper spelled security.*

*It was not until later, when I was in Buchenwald and saw heaps of human bones-and-ashes in one corner of the camp and carefully preserved records of the victims in another corner, that I understood a strange truth about the Germans that they had no compunction about burning human beings but that they would not burn paper records."*