



LINCOLN HILLS VETERANS GROUP

BULLETIN

August 2009

Lest We Forget

VOLUME 9, No. 8

President's Corner

Stepping Up

If you read the news or watch much TV, it seems like we've gotten ourselves into a situation where traditional values of community and family have fallen by the wayside and we seem to be caught up in a process to increase our wealth and power, often at the expense of others. Fortunately, our service members provide us examples of how we should be. Our servicemen and women continue to step up every day in places far from home and often in harm's way. They continue the traditions set by their moms, dads and grandparents, many of whom served during the many conflicts we have faced.

Ed McMahon (photo at right) passed away the other day at the age of 86. Almost all of the information included in his numerous tributes referred to his experiences as a sidekick to Johnny Carson, which he did for some thirty years, and to other programs he had been involved with in his fifty-plus years in the business. There were also some references to his personal life, his several marriages and the financial setbacks he suffered in his later life.



Barely mentioned were his experiences as a U.S. Marine fighter pilot. McMahon served both in World War II and the Korean Conflict and, if my recollections are correct, he also served in the reserves and retired as a colonel. Not everyone can be a fighter pilot and even fewer can be a Marine fighter pilot.

McMahon was one of those kids who survived both the depression and two wars without missing a beat and then went on to a distinguished career in the entertainment field. He never boasted about his

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Next Social Event

Ice Cream Social August 15

You and your family are invited to the Veterans Group's Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 15, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Lodge.



Join your fellow veterans for fun, ice cream and music by the Sacramento Banjo Band. The price is just \$2 per person.

Send your check (*payable to LH Veterans Group*) and the names of attendees to Mary Hodson, 100 Turtledove Ct., Lincoln, CA 95648. For questions, call Mary at 543-4687.

Next Meeting

KC-10 Pilot to Speak August 20

First Lt. Pete Surette, an Air Force KC-10 *Extender* pilot, will be the featured speaker at the August 20 joint meeting of the Veterans and Aviation Groups at 1 p.m. in the Kilaga Springs Presentation Hall.

He will review the highlights of his Air Force career and discuss the mission of Travis AFB and the 6th Air Refueling Squadron (6 ARS).



Lt. Surette, a prior-enlisted F-16 crew chief, earned a bachelor's degree from Embry Riddle University and was commissioned through Officers Training School. Following OTS, he completed pilot training and was assigned to Travis AFB as a KC-10 pilot.

The 6 ARS is tasked with ensuring global reach for America by generating 24-hour-a-day strategic airlift and aerial-refueling sorties supporting U.S. and allied forces during contingency operations.

Visit the Veterans Group Website at www.lhvets.org

**Lincoln Hills Veterans Group
2009 Officers and Directors**

<i>President:</i>	Doug Cooper	408-7173
<i>Vice Pres.:</i>	Steve Witmer	408-2455
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jon Hodson	543-4687
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rich Williams	543-4887
<i>Director:</i>	Bob Dale	543-2133
<i>Director:</i>	Vern Luke	253-3711
<i>Director:</i>	Vic Ioppolo	434-6113

Advisors and Committee Chairs

<i>Past Presidents:</i>	Steve Witmer	2008
	Vern Luke	2007
	Wayne Ford	2006
	Dick Schultz	2005
	Mark Dentinger	2004
	Dick Meyer	2003
	Ed Foley	2002
	Mickey Haggard	2001
<i>Membership:</i>	Jon Hodson	543-4687
<i>Programs:</i>	Rich Williams	543-4887
<i>Vets Resource:</i>	Tom Rainbolt	434-5555
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Bob Stackhouse	645-5581
<i>Social Events:</i>	Mary Hodson	543-4687
	Lorraine Bivalec	408-7004
<i>Chaplain:</i>	Alan Hearl	543-4860
<i>Public Relations:</i>	Steve Witmer	408-2455
<i>Nominations:</i>	Bob Dale	543-2133

Meetings

The board of directors meets the Wednesday before the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. General membership meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m., normally in the Kilaga Springs Lodge Presentation Hall.

Membership

The purpose of the Veterans Group is to bring together resident veterans who have served honorably in any uniformed service of the United States or its allies during war or peace. Dues are \$10 a year. Life membership is \$100. For further information, please contact Jon Hodson at 543-4687 or any of the board members or committee chairs listed above.

Bulletin Contributions

Contributions to the monthly *Bulletin* are appreciated. Photos and memorabilia will be scanned and returned. Please send material for consideration to:

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military service; rather, he downplayed his fighter pilot ability whenever Carson brought it up. He was a true officer and gentleman. He stepped up. Semper Fi, Ed.

Speaking of stepping up, I was impressed by a piece in a recent *Sacramento Bee*. A young high school senior, a female, was headed for Harvard on a full scholarship. There were two notable parts to the article. First, this young lady had survived years of homelessness, life on the streets. She had been to many different schools, often with long absences not under her control. Despite this, she had kept nearly a 4.0 grade-point average. Second, a doctor and his wife took her into their home when they were informed of her plight. Through these "angels," our previously homeless scholar has learned some of the niceties she will need in her future life. Kudos to this heroic young lady and to the family who took her in. They stepped up.

Last, our sincere appreciation goes to a number of members and their wives for their help at the recent barbecue. Jon and Mary Hodson and I got to the Pavilion about an hour early. We were soon joined by Lorraine Bivilec, Larry and Marcia, the Witmers, the Williams, and the Garrys. (If I missed anyone, I beg forgiveness) The work went fast and we were all set up when the food and the diners arrived. Thanks to all for "stepping up" and making the barbecue a great success.

- Doug Cooper

Treasurer's Report

As of June 16, the group had \$5,991.54 in its checking/savings account and \$3,438.48 in a CD.

Membership Report

As of May 31, the group's paid membership stood at 279, including 47 life members.

Welcome, New Member

New Life Member
Anthony (Tony) Lombard, U.S. Air Force

Military Retiree Luncheon Scheduled

The 9th Force Support Squadron at Beale AFB will host its third quarterly retiree luncheon of 2009 at the Recce Point Club on Wednesday, August 12, at 11:30 a.m. Retirees interested in attending should RSVP to Susie Cardon at 530-634-2777 not later than August 5.

Calendar of Events

August

- 19 Directors Meeting
- 20 General Membership Meeting
- 15 Ice Cream Social, 1:30-3 p.m., Kilaga Springs

September

- 7 Labor Day*
- 11 Patriot Day*
- 16 Directors Meeting
- 17 General Membership Meeting



* National Holiday. Proudly fly the American flag.

Items of Interest to Veterans

Great Turnout for Flag Day Barbeque



More than 150 vets and guests enjoyed the group's June 18 barbeque at the Sports Pavilion. Participants commented that the food by Texas West Bar-B-Que was tasty and the music by the

Jay Paulus Society Band was outstanding. Sincere thanks are owed to Mary Hodson, who chaired the event, and Bob Garry, who arranged for the music.



Military Autopsies Save Lives

Since 2001, all soldiers killed in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom have undergone autopsies performed by pathologists of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. And, since 2004, every soldier killed in Iraq or Afghanistan has had a CT scan, as well. These procedures, rarely if ever performed during previous wars, have yielded critical information about how bullets, shrapnel and burns cause injury. This information has corrected previous medical thought and procedures and also revealed deficiencies in both body and vehicle armor, leading to improvements in protective gear and battlefield medical equipment.

In one discovery, a review of multiple CT scans revealed that the tube used to reinflate collapsed lungs was too short to reach the chest cavity of many

of today's bigger soldiers. In 2006, these findings were presented to the Army surgeon general, who ordered that combat medical kits include the longer tubing. In another discovery, medical examiners found that troops were dying from wounds to the upper body that could have been prevented by body armor that better covered the upper torso and shoulders, leading the military to quickly ship more armor plates to Iraq. These new medical procedures ensure that our fallen troops can, even in death, continue to serve their comrades -- and the cause of liberty.



- The Patriot Post

Semper Paratus

August 4: Coast Guard Turns 219

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is a military branch of the United States involved in maritime law, mariner assistance, and search and rescue, among other duties. One of the seven uniformed services of the United States—and the smallest—its stated mission is to protect the public, the environment, and the United States economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.



◀ *The new Response Boat-Medium is an all-aluminum, 45-foot craft with twin diesel engines and water-jet propulsion that is*

expected to become the Coast Guard's next primary multi-mission boat.

USCG has a broad and important role in homeland security, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine environmental pollution response, and the maintenance of river, intracoastal and offshore aids to navigation. It also lays claim to being the United

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States' oldest continuous seagoing service. The United States Coast Guard has about 40,150 men and women on active duty. Its roots lie in the Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on August 4, 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. An act of the U.S. Congress created the Coast Guard in 1915, with the merger of the Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Lifesaving Service. The United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard in 1939.



The legal basis for the Coast Guard is Title 14 of the United States Code, which states: "The Coast Guard...shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." Upon the declaration of war or when the president directs, the Coast Guard operates under the authority of the Department of the Navy. The Coast Guard moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on February 25, 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security.

As members of a military service, Coast Guardsmen on active and reserve service are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and receive the same pay and allowances as members of the same pay grades in the other armed services.

- U.S. Coast Guard

Lest We Forget

August 7, 1942 – Marines Land on Guadalcanal

In June 1942, American forces learned that the Japanese were building an airfield on Guadalcanal from which they planned to strike U.S. convoys to Australia. The island had to be taken.



The 1st Marine Division's landing on Red Beach August 7, following heavy naval preparatory fire, was America's first amphibious assault of the war.

The attack went almost unopposed. The Japanese, who thought the Americans were not ready to launch a Pacific campaign, were taken by surprise. By sundown August 8, the Marines had taken control of the airfield and a great amount of Japanese supplies. It appeared the Japanese had fled in panic, but the enemy's counterattack already was forming.

The battle for Guadalcanal was all about the airfield. Five days after a successful assault, the Marines named the airfield Henderson Field after the first Marine aviator killed in the Battle of Midway. They would have to defend the field for six long months.

After its initial landing, the 1st Marine Division was on its own until 31 aircraft from Marine Aircraft Group 23 arrived on August 20. Two days later, the Army's 67th Fighter Squadron arrived with P-40s. On August 24, the Navy's aviation arm was represented when



dive bombers from the USS Enterprise (CV-6) arrived.

On September 12 and 13, the Marines fought on Edson's Ridge, or "Bloody Ridge" to some.

Outnumbered by about 5-to-1, 400

Marines held off a massive attack by the Japanese during which they were forced to fall back toward the airfield twice. Japanese reinforcements were ready to supply additional aid if the airfield was taken, but the Marines held.

Each day for six months, victory hung by a thread in the air, on land and at sea. American courage, eagerness to avenge Pearl Harbor and steadfast determination to win eventually brought the Japanese empire to its knees.

The American victory on Guadalcanal halted the Japanese push toward Australia and put Japan on the defensive for the remainder of the war.

The total cost of the Guadalcanal campaign to the American ground combat forces was 1,598 officers and men killed, 1,152 of them Marines.

The wounded totaled 4,709, and 2,799 of these were Marines. Marine aviation casualties were 147 killed and 127 wounded. The Japanese in their turn lost close to 25,000 men on Guadalcanal, about half of whom were killed in action. The rest succumbed to illness, wounds, and starvation.

- Multiple sources

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