

The Sierra Wave

The Newsletter of the Navy League of the United States
Carson City Council #347

Betty Rowe, Editor
September 2009

September 18, 2009
Dinner Meeting
Carson Nugget
5:30 Social Hour
6:30 Buffet Dinner

MARK I. FOX
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Naval Strike
and Air Warfare Center



Our next meeting will be at the Carson Nugget, Friday, September 18, 2009. The social hour is at 5:30 PM followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. The calling committee will be contacting you for your reservations unless you call Bob Prater, 888-2050 first or you may email Bob at Robert_Prater@sbcglobal.net. The price is \$25 per person.

For last minute reservations, you may call Bob through noon, Monday, the 14th. We must request that "no shows" be responsible for the price of their uneaten dinners.



Skipper's Corner

OK folks, summer vacation is over and the grandchildren are back to school so its time to get back in the saddle. Attendance has been a little slack over the summer and we've had a substantial loss in membership. This time last year we were at about 170 members, now we are down to 150. How about everyone putting on their good recruiting hat and let's get the membership back up to par.

At the last meeting my good friend Bob said that if it wasn't for

(Continued on page 2, column 3)



AWS2 (AW/NAC) William J Burns, NAS Fallon received the Donald L. Campbell Scholarship from the Council

Please welcome our newest members

John Christl
Bill Hutt

A native of Abilene, Texas, Rear Admiral Mark I. Fox was commissioned in June 1978 upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy and was designated a Naval Aviator in March 1980.

During his career, Rear Adm. Fox has deployed from both coasts in six fleet tours, flying the A-7E Corsair II and FA-18 Hornet in over 100 combat and contingency missions off the coasts of Lebanon and Libya, and over the Balkans and Iraq. Combat highlights include scoring the first Navy MiG kill of *Operation Desert Storm* prior to dropping his bombs on an airfield in western Iraq on January 17, 1991, and leading the opening "Shock and Awe" strike of *Operation Iraqi Freedom* on March 21, 2003.

Rear Adm. Fox's command and

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Featured Member
Everett Stedmann
(See page 3)



Bring a friend, neighbor and/or a vet to the dinner! Last minute reservations to Bob Prater, 888-2050

FOX (Continued from pg 1, column 2)

executive leadership assignments include service as Commander, Carrier Strike Group TEN; Communications Division Chief and spokesman for the Multi-National Force - Iraq (MNF-I) in Baghdad; Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, White House Military Office, responsible for overseeing all military support to the President; Commander of Carrier Air Wing 2 aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64); Commodore of the Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Lemoore, California; service as the first Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 122 (the Navy's first FA-18E/F Super Hornet squadron) and Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 81.

Shore tours include duty as the Deputy Director of the White House Military Office; service as the Joint Strike and Aviation Programs Liaison Officer in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C.; joint

duty as the Maritime Plans Officer at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Casteau, Belgium; assignment as Aide and Flag Lieutenant for Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet and the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare - OP-05); a tour as the Light Attack/Strike Fighter Junior Officer Detailer in the Naval Military Personnel Command and as an A-7E Corsair II Instructor Pilot in Attack Squadron 174.

Rear Adm. Fox has logged over 4,800 flight hours and 1,347 arrested landings on 15 different aircraft carriers. Military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Gold star, Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat 'V,' and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He has completed executive education programs at the Naval War College, National Defense University, Army War College, Harvard University, and UNC Chapel Hill.

SKIPPER (Continued from pg 1, column 3) me there probably wouldn't be a Carson City Navy League. That is very nice of him to say and it is very humbling but my thought is that, you the members make the Council great, not me. I am just fulfilling the opportunity afforded me to lead a great group of Patriotic Americans.

I attended the Regional meeting in Alameda on the 14th and 15th of August. All of the National Directors and Area Presidents positions were filled but no one accepted the Regional President slot. It is a very demanding position with extensive travel involved. Hopefully someone will step up before the National Meeting.

Nominations for the Board of Directors and Council Officers will be on the agenda at the upcoming Board meeting on October 6th. Anyone interested in assuming a more active roll in the Council whether serving on a committee, being a Board member or Officer please contact me at 882-7960. Elections will take place in November and installation in January.

We will host the Pearl Harbor Survivors again on November 20th. I would appreciate a few volunteers to chauffeur them to the meeting and see to their safe return home. I'm sure that you appreciate their attendance as much as I do so let's show them how much we care. Again, give me a call.....882-7960.

We found it necessary to switch speakers so RADM Fox will join us in Sept and CDR Olin (Top Gun) will be with us in Nov. I think you are in for a treat in either case.

Thanks for all of your support. Hope to see you on the 18th and bring a friend!!

*~Bud Southard,
Council President*



IT3 Ericka Gonzales NSAWC received the Captain Wendell R. Alcorn Scholarship



Cpl Leticia Tarango, MWTC received the Senator Lawrence Jacobsen Scholarship



NLUS President Bud presents a certificate to Sgt Christopher G. Tinsman, NCO of the Qtr, pictured with LCpl Eduardo Ayaladelrio, Marine of the Qtr

Featured Member, Everett Stedman



Thirty three months isn't a long period of time, less than three years. For B-24 turret gunner Everett Stedman, however, 33 months of service could have been two lifetimes.

Drafted at age 18 into the Army Air Corps, he cycled through five training bases, flew to Africa, traveled on to Italy and completed 50 air combat missions in that space of time.



It should be noted that Everett's twin brother Ernest, also a gunner, served at the same Italian base and also safely returned after completing his missions.

Both brothers attempted to join the Army after Pearl Harbor was hit on December 7, 1941; however, being 17 and juniors in high school, the Army wasn't interested. In March of 1943 the draft notices came and the Stedman boys reported to Fort Ord near Monterey, CA. It was then off to

Fresno, CA for basic training, Denver for gunnery school (Lowery and Buckley Fields), then more training in Laredo, TX, where they shot guns ranging in size from hand guns to 50-caliber.

As a side note, on one of the target practice runs Everett shot numerous javalinas (wild pigs) on the target range. He later learned the officers had a large luau, no enlisted men invited!

After a year of training, the 10-man flight crew picked up their new B-24 in Kansas City and headed for Miami, FL for modification. After a refueling stop in Puerto Rico, they were off to Dakar in West Africa. Due to strong head winds, the B-24 ran out of fuel before it could taxi to the end of the landing strip. Their stay in Africa was extended because the Italian base wasn't ready. During this stay, each man was issued one quart of water a day - for drinking and washing!

In April 1944 the B-24 crew flew to an Italian airfield in Cerignola, north of Bari and in May completed their first mission.

Everett, being small in stature, was assigned to the ball turret, which hung below the airplane. The turret is extremely cramped and difficult to enter and exit.

"If your plane got hit and you lost your engine(s) and couldn't keep up with the group, you had to turn back. Seventeen times we lost an engine, had been hit, got hit by flak, or got our oxygen shot out and you couldn't keep up. We didn't get credit for those missions," Stedman explained.

A little known fact: If a B-24 went down and was able to make a safe emergency landing, the Germans would repair the plane and, if the op-

portunity presented itself, they would fly the repaired plane near a B-24 on a mission and shoot at the American flight. Everett noted that if you had to abort a mission, you never let a B-24 near you as you returned to base.

When under attack, Everett would only have six or seven seconds to shoot at German fighters because they were so fast; however, on one mission he shot down an ME-210, a two engine German fighter.

On D-Day in southern France, B-24's hit the shore and water with 100 lb. bombs. The objective was to explode mines before the invasion began.

The pilot of Everett's plane made sure that every crew member flew the B-24 while in flight in the event the pilot and co-pilot were incapacitated. The pilot, "the old man", was 23 years old and the average age of the 10-man crew was 20. When a mission was completed, each crew member was issued two ounces of whisky. During his deployment, there was more than 100-percent turnover of B-24's; fortunately, not the same was true for the planes' crews.

In May 1944, Airman Stedman completed his 50 missions and returned to the United States and was sent to school to train on the B-29's; however, before Everett was ready for another deployment, the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and WW II ended.

Staff Sgt. Everett Stedman was awarded six air medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. He concluded his service in October 1945.

The Navy League of the United States, Carson City council thanks Staff Sgt. Everett Stedman and thousands of other airmen of the "greatest generation" for their selfless service.

Interview and article by Don Dallas
Everett is pictured here among some of his mementos of his Army Air Corps service.

Coming Events

September 11, 2009, Friday BLUE ANGELS AIR SHOW, NAS FALLON
September 18, 2009, Friday Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
October 6, 2009, Tuesday Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
November 10, 2009, Tuesday Marine Corps Ball
November 20, 2009, Friday Dinner Meeting & Election of Officers, Carson Nugget,
Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
January 15, 2010, Friday Dinner Meeting & Installation of Officers, Carson Nugget,
Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
February 2, 2010, Tuesday Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
March 19, 2010, Friday Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
April 6, 2010, Tuesday Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00

We'd like your help!

Navy League of the United States, Carson City Council #347

Name: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

The enclosed check in the amount of \$_____ is a gift to the NLUS, Carson City Council for the support of our adopted Sea Services units.

Mail to: Carson City Council #347, NLUS, Attention: Mike Russo, Post Office Box 4404, Carson City NV 89702-4404. The Board of Directors thanks you in advance for your generous support. The Navy League is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization

Council Dinner Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2009

Social hour, 5:30 PM

Buffet dinner, 6:30 PM

\$25 per person

Carson Nugget

Speaker

Rear Admiral Mark I.

Fox

Commander, Naval Strike
and Air Warfare Center

Call for reservations

888-2050 or 882-7960

**Carson City Council #347
Navy League of the United States
Post Office Box 4404
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