

THE PATRIOT

BG Holland Chapter

**BREAKFAST MEETING 0830 AM, 14
JANUARY 2022 AT BERNARDO HEIGHTS
COUNTY CLUB - \$12.00**

**GUEST SPEAKER - JACK LYONS -
FOUNDER OF VETERANS VILLAGE OF
SAN DIEGO TO DISCUSS HIS
EXPERIENCES IN TAKING CARE OF
VETERANS. PLEASE RSVP BY 11
JANUARY TO PLebidine@yahoo.com, or
Call or text..619-850-8713.**



Fellow Companions,

I hope you are having a great holiday season. I look forward to the next year in focusing the Chapter's efforts to support events in Webb Park, continuing an educational program both through in-person meetings and ZOOM, reestablish support of local JROTC programs, recognizing our local law enforcement leaders, and other high school leadership programs. In the short term, we need to recruit new members. Please consider making it a personal goal for each of us to bring one new member into the Chapter.

There have been numerous ideas that have been discussed on some new events to both add additional purpose to our Chapter and benefit the local community. The pandemic continues to add challenges to move forward but they are not insurmountable. I look forward to your input to build our team. The mission of the organization is to continuing serving, and consequently influencing the future of younger generations. Our past will shape our hope in tomorrow, we need to be engaged in telling our story and its relevancy to today.

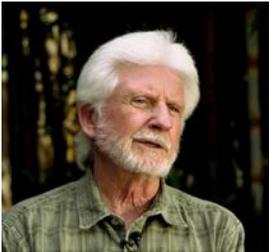
V/R Paul Lebidine
Chapter Commander

NEW CHAPTER MEMBER - COL JOHN VALENCIA, USMC was the guest speaker at the Webb Park Veterans Day Celebration. He was awarded a Bronze Star with "Valor" for his combat actions serving as an advisor in Iraq.



In his career, he has led a Tank Battalion and a Civil Affairs Group. He deployed numerous times to Iraq and Afghanistan. As a civilian, he is an expert in Emergency Operations and Force Protection holding critical governmental positions. Welcome Aboard.

BIOGRAPHY OF JACK LYONS:



Jack graduated from the University of Arizona, Summa Cum Laude, as the outstanding senior scholar, Phi Beta Kappa and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1963. During his time with the Marine Corps, he served two tours in Vietnam as an infantry officer with 3rd Battalion 3d Marines and 2nd Battalion 1st Marines which he holds as the highest honor of his life. He was wounded and beside the Purple Heart medal, his personal decorations include the silver star, the navy commendation with combat "V" device and an individual Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Upon being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1967, Jack began a successful business career in which he founded and sold three small businesses before becoming the CEO of a business division of a fortune 500 company with offices nationwide.

In 1981, Jack co-founded the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego which is known as Veterans Village of San Diego and has participated in or led Combat Stress groups for the last 36 years. Currently he works with the USMC Wounded Warrior Detachment at Balboa Hospital where he works with the Wounded Marines one by one and runs a Combat Stress Group at the Hospital which has met every Friday for the last 14 years. His wife Barbara teaches yoga to the Warriors and works with the wives of the wounded.

For his continuous service, Jack was named "Humanitarian of the Year in San Diego 2013" and "Veteran of the Year" by the United Veterans Council. He also received the "Lifetime Achievement Award -Support of Veterans" from the San Diego Veterans Museum and was the Keynote Speaker at the Veterans Administration "50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War" in 2016.

HISTORY CORNER:



General McAuliffe's Christmas Message (1944) Headquarters 101st Airborne Division

Office of the Division Commander

24 December 1944

What's Merry about all this, you ask? We're fighting - it's cold - we aren't home. All true but what has the proud Eagle Division accomplished with its worthy comrades of the 10th Armored Division, the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion and all the rest? just this: We have stopped cold everything that has been thrown at us from the North, East, South, and West. We have identifications from four German Panzer Divisions, two German Infantry Divisions and one German Parachute Division. These units, spearheading the last desperate German lunge, were

headed straight west for key points when the Eagle Division was hurriedly ordered to stem the advance. How effectively this was done will be written in history, not alone in our division's glorious history but in World history. The Germans actually did surround us. their radios blared our doom. Their Commander demanded our surrender in the following impudent arrogance.

December 22nd, 1944

To the U. S. A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S. A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Ourthe near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through HombresSibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. Troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. Troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term.

All the serious civilian losses caused by this Artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

The German Commander

The German Commander received the following reply:

22 December 1944

To the German Commander:

NUTS!

The American Commander

Allied Troops are counterattacking in force. We continue to hold Bastogne. By holding Bastogne, we assure the success of the Allied Armies. We know that our Division Commander, General Taylor, will say: Well Done!

We are giving our country and our loved ones at home a worthy Christmas present and being privileged to take part in this gallant feat of arms are truly making for ourselves a Merry Christmas.

A.C. McAuffiffe

McAULIFFE,

Commanding.

BG HOLLAND CHAPTER PLAN

Strategic Goal 5 (SG-5). Ideas to Expand & Improve Chapter Outreach Programs.

- Local Youth Leadership Seminar in Rancho Bernardo Area
- Recognize two youths or organizations with the Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion by June 2022.
- Increase our visibility by recognizing community leaders with two Silver Patrick Henry Medallion award.
- Plan and execute a large-scale Spring Lunch or Dinner Event.
- Create an outreach team to check on local veterans.

FUTURE DATES

8 February - 0830 Breakfast Meeting at Bernardo Heights Country Club

8 March - 0830 Breakfast Meeting at Bernardo Heights Country Club

TBD April - Lunch or Dinner Event

23 April - Region XIV Conference

30 May - Memorial Day Ceremony - Webb Park

2-7 August - MOWW Annual Convention - Jacksonville, Florida

LEGISLATIVE DESK

Assemblymember James Ramos is working to advance a bill to exempt military retired pay for military retirees (60 and over) from CA state tax.

Ramos said “military retirees bring benefits such as stability, job skills used in second careers, and federal funding. “These men and women have served our nation in a variety of capacities and they and their families have frequently performed their service at great personal sacrifice. California needs to more fully acknowledge the contributions they make.”

As currently conceived, the exemption would apply to a taxpayer over 60 years of age who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States, the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps. The exemption would begin on or after January 2023 and before January 2033.

REMEMBER



Bob Hope and his dedicated troupe of performers entertained U.S. military personnel in Vietnam during Christmastime from 1964 to 1972.

Colin L. Powell 1937-2021. A Remarkable Man.

Secretary Powell's 13 Rules:

1. It ain't as bad as you think! It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done.
5. Be careful what you choose. You may get it.
6. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.
8. Check small things.
9. Share credit.
10. Remain calm. Be kind.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.



Have a Safe and Happy New Year. Wow 2022.

Just FYI... "Auld lang syne" is the title and key phrase of a 1788 Scottish poem by Robert "Rabbie" Burns, typically sung on New Year's Eve around the world. The phrase "auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long since" and basically means "days gone by."

As the CINC recently quoted Benjamin Franklin "Out of adversity comes opportunity," I am confident we are going to have a banner year to really make a positive impact in our community.

Chapter Adjutant - Capt Don Herschberger, USN Ret
Chapter Treasurer - LtCol Dave Yorck, USMC Ret