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Don Lawrence
215-572-5654

PROGRAM
Bob Swan
215-674-1935

VALET SERVICES
Russ Neiger
610-930-3077

ANN'S CHOICE RESIDENTS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS FREE PROGRAM - (Club membership is not required)

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017
at 7:30 pm, Ann's Choice PAC**

The program on Tuesday evening, June 20 will feature speakers from Life Celebration, a nationally recognized provider of information and resources for senior and long-term care communities. They will provide a complimentary review for senior planning geared toward veterans and their spouses.

Also, the annual election will be held at the June 20 meeting to elect clubhouse directors for the Veterans Group Board and to fill the vacant position of vice-president. The current clubhouse directors have agreed to serve another one-year term, and one individual who has agreed to serve as vice-president. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

Bucks County Tours of Honor

On Monday, October 2nd, there will be a Tour of Honor to Washington, DC, for World War II era and Korean War era Veterans. Bob Swan has applications for this Tour. More information can be found at www.BucksCountyTourofHonor.org.

Martha Raye



Martha Raye in 1940

It was well recognized that Martha Raye endured less comfort and more danger than any other Vietnam entertainer. The most unforgivable oversight of TV is that her shows were not taped.

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September 2017 Meeting

The Veterans Group will not meet in July nor August. See page 2 for information about a special event in July. The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30 pm in the Ann's Choice PAC. More information will be in the September newsletter.

New Members

A big welcome to Dr. Harry D. Snyder (May, 1957 to August, 1985) who has recently joined the Ann's Choice Veterans Group.

Notice for Marine Corps Veterans

Did you serve a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) at Camp Lejeune, NC between August 1953 and December 1987?

The VA Dept. has published regulations to establish presumptions for service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune.

The presumption applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served there for the time specified above, and who are diagnosed with any of the following conditions: adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; or Parkinson's disease.

You and / or eligible family members may be eligible for VA health benefits. For more information, contact the Bucks County Dept. of Military Affairs, Neshaminy Manor Center, 1260 Almshouse Road, 1st Floor, Doylestown; Dan Fraley, Director, (215) 345-3037.



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL®
Coming to Bucks County in 2017

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall", a large-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, will make a rare Delaware Valley visit when it visits Penndel in Bucks County, from July 12-17, 2017.

The wall, a 3/5 scale replica of the permanent memorial in Washington, DC, will arrive via convoy on July 12 and will be open for visitation and remembrances **July 14-16, 2017**. The wall will be on display at the Penndel Memorial Ball Field on PFC John Dalola Avenue in Penndel, PA. The tribute is being organized by the Penndel-Hulmeville Memorial Day Parade, Inc., a 501(c)(3) group, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall" stands six feet tall at the center, covers almost 300 feet from end to end, and has over 58,000 names inscribed on its surface. This Traveling Memorial

stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to honor loved ones in their hometown who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

For more information on the July visit of the wall to Bucks County see the website: www.p-hmemorialparade.org/vietnamtraveling-memorial-wall/ .

Special Event on July 18, 2017



This classic World War II movie, starring William Holden, will be sponsored by the Ann's Choice Veterans Group at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 18 in the Performing Arts Center. Doors will open at 6:30. Donation - \$3 helps support service projects of the AC Veterans Group

Veteran Word Connection Puzzle

Each clue has two words (or one compound word for clue number 6) for its answer. The first word of the answer should be written in the first blank and the second word of the answer written in the second blank. Then the second word of the answer for the first clue transfers down and becomes the first word in the answer to the next clue. See how this is done for clue number 1. 'First' is the second answer word for clue number 1 and 'First' is also the first answer word for clue number 2. Complete the puzzle by filling in the remaining clues until you complete the connections down to clue number 8. The answers are shown at the bottom of page 4.

	September	First (or Second)	First (or Second) (depending on time zone)
1 Surrender of Japan formally signed on this date in 1945. (two words)	September		
2 Junior officer in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. (two words)	First (or Second)	↙	
3 Three star officer in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. (two words)		↙	
4 Leader of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. (two words)		↙	
5 25 cent coin first minted in 1932. (two words)		↙	
6 Military officer responsible for providing quarters, rations, clothing, and other supplies. (one word)		↙	-
7 Non-commissioned officer; E-8 in the Army, and E-7 in the Air Force. (two words)		↙	
8 In the Marine Corps, a unit commander's senior enlisted advisor. (two words)		↙	
9 Head nurse of 4077 th M*A*S*H. (two words)		↙	

The Story of "Bad Angel": Pima Air and Space Museum

(Editor's note: This article was taken from www.southernarizonaguide.com; the author's name is not listed though family members are listed.)

On the Saturday following Thanksgiving 2013, my 94-year-old father, Bill Gressinger, Ms. Karen, and I were visiting Pima Air and Space Museum. We were in Hanger #4 to view the beautifully restored B-29, when I happened to take notice of a P-51 Mustang near the big bomber. The plane's name – "Bad Angel".



P-51 Mustang "Bad Angel" in Hanger #4 at the Pima Air and Space Museum.

I was admiring its aerodynamic lines and recalled enough history to know that until the Mustangs came into service, the skies over the

Pacific Ocean were dominated by Japanese Zeros.

Then something very strange caught my eye. Proudly displayed on the fuselage of ~Bad Angel" were the markings of the pilot's kills: seven Nazis; one Italian; one Japanese AND ONE AMERICAN. What? ~Bad Angel" had shot down an American airplane? Was it a terrible mistake? It just couldn't be. If it had been an unfortunate misjudgement, certainly the pilot would not have displayed the American flag.

I knew there had to be a good story here.

Fortunately for us, one of the Museum's many fine docents was on hand to tell it.

In 1942, the United States needed pilots for its war planes lots of war planes; lots of pilots. Lt. Louis Curdes was one. When he was 22 years old, he graduated flight training school and was shipped off to the Mediterranean to fight Nazis in the air over Southern Europe. He arrived at his 82 nd Fighter Group, 95 th Fighter Squadron in April 1943 and was assigned to a P-38 Lightning. Ten days later he shot down three German Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters. A few weeks later, he downed two more



Lt. Louis Curdes.

German Bf -109's. In less than a month of combat, Louis was an Ace. Then, during the next three months, Louis shot down an Italian Mc.202 fighter and two more Messerschmitts before his luck ran out.

A German fighter shot down Louis' plane on August 27, 1943 over Salerno, Italy. He was captured by the Italians, and was sent to a POW camp near Rome. No doubt this is where Louis thought he would spend the remaining years of the war. A few days later, the Italians surrendered. Louis and a few other pilots escaped before the Nazis could take control of the camp.

One might think that such harrowing experiences would have taken the fight out of Louis, yet he volunteered for another combat tour. This time, Uncle Sam sent him to the Philippines where he flew P-51 Mustangs. Soon after arriving in the Pacific Theater, Louis downed a Mitsubishi reconnaissance plane near Formosa. Now he was one of only three Americans to have kills against

all three Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Up until this point, young Lt. Curdes combat career had been stellar. His story was



Pilot Lt. Louis Curdes in his P-51 Mustang "Bad Angel".

about to take a twist so bizarre that it seems like the fictional creation of a Hollywood screenwriter.

While on a mission to attack the Japanese-held peninsula of Bataan, one of Louis' wingmen was shot down. The pilot ditched in the ocean. While circling overhead, Louis could see that his wingman had survived, so he stayed in the area to guide a rescue plane and protect the downed pilot. It wasn't long before he noticed another, larger airplane, wheels down, preparing to land at the Japanese-held airfield on Bataan. Louis moved in to investigate and much to his surprise the approaching plane was a Douglas C-47 transport with AMERICAN markings. He tried to make radio contact, but without success. So, he maneuvered his P51-Mustang in front of the big transport several times trying to wave it off. The C-47 kept to its landing target.

Lt. Curdes had read the daily newspaper accounts

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Story of “Bad Angel”, continued

of the war, including the viciousness of the Japanese soldiers toward their captives. He knew that whoever was in that American C-47, upon landing, would be either dead or wish they were. But what could he do?

Audaciously, he lined up his P-51 directly behind the transport, carefully sighted one of his .50-caliber machine guns and knocked out one of its two engines. Still the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Lt. Curdes shifted his aim slightly and knocked out the remaining engine, leaving the baffled pilot with no choice but to ditch the C-47 in the ocean. The big plane came down in one piece about 50 yards from his bobbing wingman. At this point, nightfall and low fuel forced Louis to return to his base.

The next morning, Louis flew cover for a rescuing



One of "Bad Angels". .50 caliber machine guns built into its wings.

PBY that picked up the downed Mustang pilot and the 12 passengers and crew, including two female nurses, from the C-47. All had survived.

For shooting down an unarmed American transport plane and keeping it from landing at the Japanese controlled airfield, Lt. Louis Curdes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Thereafter, on the fuselage of his P-51 "Bad Angel", he proudly displayed the symbols of his kills: seven German, one Italian, one Japanese, and one American flag.

From Southernarizonaguide.com

Valet Service Volunteers

The Valet Services group assists residents with their walkers, wheelchairs and motorizes chairs at events in the PAC and at the chapel.

To volunteer or for more information contact Russ Neiger at (610) 930-3077.

Remember to wear your Veterans Group blue shirt when serving as a valet so that other residents are aware that we provide this service to our neighbors.

Martha Raye, continued

It is doubtful that our well-known entertainers of today would do what this woman and other USO women, including Ann Margaret and Joey Heatherton, did for our troops in past wars.

Most of the old time entertainers were made of a lot sterner stuff than today’s entertainers. The following is from an army aviator who takes a trip down memory lane:

“It was just before Thanksgiving 1967 and we were ferrying dead and wounded from a large GRF west of Pleiku. We had run out of body bags by noon so the Hook (CH-47 Chinook) was pretty rough in the back. All of a sudden, we heard a ‘take-charge’ woman’s voice in the rear. There was the singer and actress, Martha Raye, with a Special Forces beret and jungle fatigues, with subdued markings, helping the wounded into the Chinook, and carrying the dead aboard.

‘Maggie’ had been visiting her Special Forces (SF) heroes out ‘west’. We took off, short of fuel, and headed to the USAF hospital pad at Pleiku. As we all started unloading our sad pax’s, a USAF captain said to Martha “Ms Raye, with all these dead and wounded to process, there would not be time for your show!”

To our surprise, she pulled on her right collar and said “Captain, see this eagle? I am a full ‘Bird’ in the US Army Reserve, and on this collar is a ‘caduceus’ which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty ... now, take me to your wounded!” He said, “Yes ma’am ... follow me.”

Several times at the Army Field Hospital in Pleiku, she would ‘cover’ a surgical shift, giving a well-deserved brek. Martha is the only woman buried in the Special Forces cemetery at Ft Bragg.

Article from May-June 2015 issue of *Watch on the Rhine*

Answers to puzzle on page 2 -

1	September	First (or Second) (depending on time zone)
2	First (or second)	Lieutenant
3	Lieutenant	General
4	General	Washington
5	Washington	Quarter
6	Quarter	Master
7	Master	Sergeant
8	Sergeant	Major
9	Major	Houlihan