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DURING WWII BILL FLEW BOMBERS OVER EUROPE.



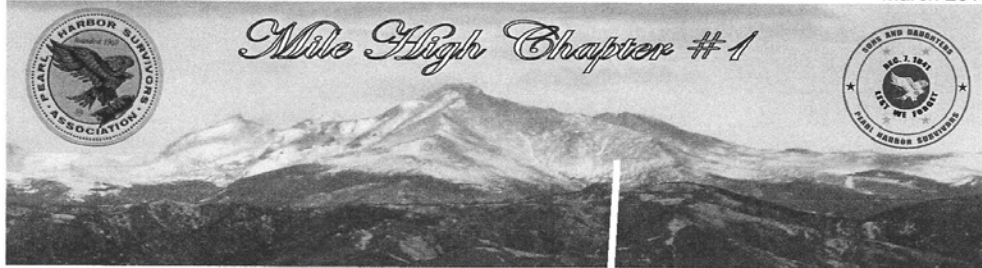
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*Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.*  
Colorado Mile High Chapter #1  
Jon Sinatra  
East Place  
Denver, Colorado 80241

# Colorado Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

March 2010



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## FROM THE DESK OF DAVE \_\_\_\_\_, PHSA PRESIDENT:

Greetings to all! It was decided at our February meeting that the Chapter Newsletter will be sent out on a bi-monthly basis. Please make a note that the Mile High Chapter will continue to meet on every third Sunday of each month at the \_\_\_\_\_ located at \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue, Englewood. This is always a potluck so bring a hot dish and either a salad or dessert to share. If you are unable to bring a dish, you can add \$3 to the coffee fund. There is a cash bar provided.

## FROM THE DESK OF JON SINATRA, SDPHS STATE CHAIRMAN / PHSA SECRETARY:

Pearl Harbor Survivor Harvey \_\_\_\_\_, from Parker Colorado, is interested in joining the Mile High Chapter #1. His paperwork has been mailed to National. Harvey was serving aboard the USS Phoenix during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## FROM THE DESK OF DIANA \_\_\_\_\_, SDPHS PRESIDENT:

Thank you to all the Sons & Daughters who took See's Candy Orders. The deadline for orders to be turned in was March 13th. However, there will be some candy available for purchase at our March meeting. Also at our March meeting, John Coelho will join us and share some information and ideas regarding the 2010 PHSA National Convention in Honolulu Hawaii. As mentioned at our last meeting, we will not be doing tray favors for the VA nursing home at this time, but will wait until Memorial Day or the 4th of July.

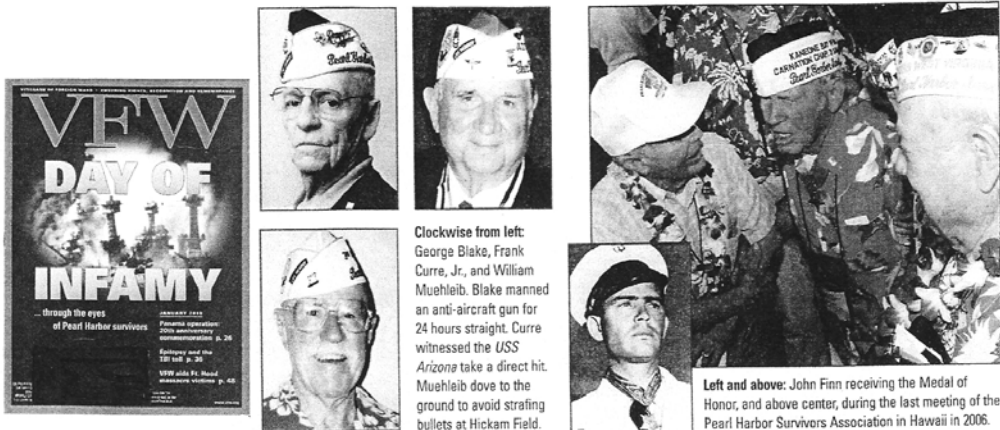
## FROM THE DESK OF AL \_\_\_\_\_, PHSA TREASURER:

Donations are appreciated for the newsletter postage fund. Please make your check payable to MILE HIGH CHAPTER 1 and mail to Al \_\_\_\_\_, Street, Denver Colorado 80209.  
SPECIAL THANKS TO: Dave \_\_\_\_\_ \*Frank \_\_\_\_\_ \*Carl \_\_\_\_\_ Family \*June \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Jodi & Roger Young \*George Baskall \*Dolores \_\_\_\_\_ & George \_\_\_\_\_ For their donations!

*Happy Anniversary ♥ George & Thelma \_\_\_\_\_, John & Rose Sweeney,  
Donald & Barbara \_\_\_\_\_, John & Mickey \_\_\_\_\_, Doris & William \_\_\_\_\_*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO Wilmer \_\_\_\_\_, George \_\_\_\_\_, William Johnson, Ruth Eck  
Elsie \_\_\_\_\_, Dee \_\_\_\_\_, Marie \_\_\_\_\_, Lyna \_\_\_\_\_, Emma \_\_\_\_\_, Eugene \_\_\_\_\_, Ralph  
\_\_\_\_\_, Edna \_\_\_\_\_, Elsie \_\_\_\_\_, Geneva \_\_\_\_\_, Bella \_\_\_\_\_, Rose \_\_\_\_\_

## Colorado Survivor George Blake, in VFW January 2010 issue



Clockwise from left: George Blake, Frank Curre, Jr., and William Muehleib. Blake manned an anti-aircraft gun for 24 hours straight. Curre witnessed the USS *Arizona* take a direct hit. Muehleib dove to the ground to avoid strafing bullets at Hickam Field.

Left and above: John Finn receiving the Medal of Honor, and above center, during the last meeting of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in Hawaii in 2006.

### 'We Fought Them With Everything We Had'

The military reacted swiftly to the Japanese attack. Now-100-year-old Medal of Honor recipient John Finn was stationed at Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station as a chief petty officer when the Japanese "kicked the hell out of us and left". He says that although mounts for machine guns were in planes Japanese strafing aircraft destroyed, "we fought them with everything we had." Finn, who'd been around firearms most of his life, grabbed a machine gun from the squadron's painter and started shooting under heavy fire, even though wounded and surrounded by gasoline. "I was out there shooting the Jap planes and just every so often I was a target for some. ... I can remember seeing, in some cases, their faces." Finn belongs to Post 1392 in San Diego.

George Blake, a member of A Btry., 41<sup>st</sup> Coast Arty, also says retaliation was "automatic and swift, without waiting for commands." He carried .50-caliber ammunition to anti-aircraft machine guns, which he manned for 24 hours without food that night. Because Japanese airman wore blue uniforms, everyone changed their blue fatigues to avoid being shot.

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, he changed positions to the West Shore to set up guns: "Sand bag parapets had to be built, miles of barbed wire strung, communications established, machine gun nests dug in on the seaward side. We labored all day, pulled guard duty many nights, fought mosquitoes constantly, manned our 8-inch guns every dawn and sunset.

"This continued seven days a week, 24 hours a day from Dec. 7 till New Year's [Day] including Christmas. No showers, as the camp had no water supply. If one nervous sentry fired his rifle, you had better hit the deck as everybody returned fire," recalls Blake, 88, a member of VFW Post 3820 in Salida, Colorado.

### 'The Flag Sure Did Look Pretty'

Following the attack, Hawaii was placed under martial law. Phones went dead and everyone was ordered to stay inside. Rumors shook Oahu. Would the Japanese launch an amphibious landings along with paratroopers? Would Japanese residents sabotage buildings? Rain and darkness heightened terror. Jack Rogo recalls: "The rumors persisted from early part of the day until evening when we shot our own planes down. ... We just didn't know where or when the next attack would happen."

Arles Cole of post 577 in Tulsa, Okla., and now 86, who survived the *USS West Virginia* attack, remarks: "The flag sure did look pretty that night. The ships were sunk, superstructures were on fire, silhouetting the burning hulks in the harbor. Thus, it was an uplifting sight to see the U.S. flag flying on what was left of the *West Virginia*."

Perhaps the most prophetic remark after Pearl Harbor wasn't made by an American but by Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto: We have awakened a sleeping giant and instilled in him a terrible resolve."



**MILE HIGH CHAPTER 1 IN 2009**

TOP - WASH. ST. CHAPTER 3 DON VISIT.  
DIANA, CHRIS & SHEELAGH CHEESING IT UP.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
POSTING COLORS.

MID - MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.  
DAVE HANDING OUT CANDY  
AT HIS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

BOT - COLORADO SOLDIERS STORY REENACTMENT.  
SONS & DAUGHTERS AT DEC 7 CEREMONY.  
SONS & DAUGHTERS HELPING OUT  
VETERANS HOSPITAL.



**December 7, 2009 Memorial Ceremony at VFV Post 2461**  
Top L-R - JoJo Tarnoff plays taps on flute. Buckley Air National Guard Posting of Colors. Middle Seated L-R Gen. and survivors Jim, Dave, Luz, Wayne and Milton. Bottom L-R - O'Connell Middle School speaks. Gen. Sal SPECIAL THANKS to General Sal and Jon Sinatra, for putting this years program together. And thank you, to Sons of the American Revolution, Longs Peak Chapter Member Jan Housley, for his participation at this service.



The policeman had the bar under surveillance a few minutes before closing time, so he could see who comes out drunk.

The first one out the door at 2:00 o'clock weaved down the sidewalk, then fell on the curb. Sluggishly got up, then tried his keys in five cars before finding his own car.

Once inside his car, he fumbled with his keys for 2 or 3 minutes.

Meanwhile, all the club patrons had gotten into their cars and driven away, leaving this one fellow quite alone in the parking lot.

Finally, he got his car started and began to very slowly drive away.

Immediately, the police car was behind him with lights flashing.

The policeman asked the man to take a breathalyzer test, to which he readily agreed.

When the reading was 0.0%, the policeman said, "How can this be?"

To which the man replied, "Because tonight, I'm the designated decoy."

President Lincoln received the following pertinent letter from an indignant private, which speaks for itself: "Dear President I have been in the service eighteen months, and I have never received a cent. I desire a furlough for fifteen days, in order to return home and remove my family to the poor house/ The President granted the furlough. It's a good story and true.

Ted Williams was an avid fisherman and was very knowledgeable on the subject. He once told a Boston sportswriter that there was none who knew more about fishing than he did. The writer replied, "Sure there is. God, who made the fish." "Yeah, all right," conceded Williams. "But you had to go pretty far back."



THE BEST FROM  
YANK  
THE ARMY WEEKLY



"You realize, Ludlow, this goes on your service record."  
—Sgt. Al Jaffee.