

Did you know?
AUGUST IS
NATIONAL
SAFETY
MONTH.

☆☆☆
WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP
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August 2013

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

This month, Ted Aub, will talk to us about the National League of POW/MIA Families. (www.pow-miafamilies.org) Ted is their Connecticut State Coordinator. He is also Adjutant of the Marine Corps League Department of Connecticut, Associate life member of the Housatonic Marine League, Program Director for *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day* of CT, and is a member of the State Coalition on Veteran services and needs. Ted gets involved in special projects including veterans' counseling, helping homeless vets, and providing special educational services for veterans and their families, as well as Marine to Marine assistance.

Also at our August meeting, Captain Jim Morgia will sing songs in Italian and English such as *Return to Sorrento* and others. Back in April we watched a great video of Morgia's interview by the Military Channel about his combat experiences as an Army officer in the Battle of the Bulge.



Ted Aub



Jim Morgia
in WWII

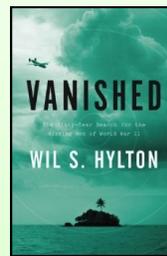


Above: POW-MIA Poster



NEW BOOK OUT THIS NOVEMBER

In September of 1944, a massive American bomber carrying eleven men vanished over the Pacific islands of Palau, leaving a trail of mysteries. According to mission reports from the Army Air Forces, the plane crashed in shallow water—but when investigators went to find it, the wreckage wasn't there. Witnesses saw the crew parachute to safety, yet the airmen were never seen again. Some of their relatives whispered that they had returned to the United States in secret and lived in hiding. But they never explained why. For sixty years, the U.S. government, the children of the missing airmen, and a maverick team of scientists and scuba divers searched the islands for clues. With every clue they found, the mystery only deepened. Now, in a spellbinding narrative, Wil S. Hylton weaves together the true story of the missing men, their final mission, the families they left behind, and the real reason their disappearance remained shrouded in secrecy for so long. This is a story of love, loss, sacrifice, and faith—of the undying hope among the families of the missing, and the relentless determination of scientists, explorers, archaeologists, and deep-sea divers to solve one of the enduring mysteries of World War II. DID YOU KNOW? More than 56,000 U.S. troops are still missing from the Pacific theater of World War II—two thirds of All American MIAs over the past century.



Above: front cover of the forthcoming book by Wil S. Hylton titled *Vanished*.

Source:
amazon.com

Mountain Sunrise By Faux Poe

As I stand to watch this
early morn

Colors of the day now
being born

The clouds above the
mountain peak

Lustrous pink to roses
red now do seek

Our golden orb has now
its spectrum shown

There on the snow
on lofty perches known

Reflect the rays of the
creeping light

Each morning to display
the magnificent sight.

GEM OF THE MONTH:

"LEARN from yesterday, ENJOY today, HOPE for tomorrow." - Albert Einstein

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: Following a great presentation on the US Coast Guard by Coast Guard veteran Dan Levy, we heard from Patricia Gaffney-Kindig, past president of the American WWII Orphans Network (awon.org) and daughter of 2LT George P. Gaffney, Jr., She talked about how her father, a P-47 pilot, went missing in Papua-New Guinea in March 1944, three months before Patricia was born. Patricia told us how nothing more was known for 55 years, until her father's P-47 fighter airplane and his remains were finally found in 1997 by Alfred Hagen. Hagen is the same man who also had made the discovery in Papua-New Guinea of the American bomber nicknamed "Swamp Ghost" about which Fawn gave a presentation to our group at a past meeting.

Last Month's Meeting:
Dan Levy giving his Coast Guard presentation



Last Month's Meeting:
Patricia Gaffney-Kindig talking to our group

From WWII Navy ROTC Poster



OOPS! Last month we missed a birthday mention!
A belated happy birthday to Sue Perko—July 25th.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

George Firth 8/3
Michael Leibengood 8/17
Nicholas DiMassa 8/21
Edward Misbach 8/30

Branford Review and East Haven News
Article, September 16, 1943

PECHAR REPORTED
MISSING IN ACTION

Arthur A. Pechar, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Pechar of 229 Dodge Avenue, East Haven, has been reported "missing in action" in the South Pacific war zone by the navy department. The 16-year-old hero left the local high school about a year ago and despite his youth enlisted in the navy in which he has served almost constantly in combat zones.