

John C. Butler AZDESA
Minutes of the meeting of 8 OCT 07

1100: Open meeting; Pledge; Prayer; Sixteen members in attendance;

Thanks to the generosity of our loyal members, 13 boxes of health and comfort items were packed and shipped to the PRT Sharana troops in southern Afghanistan. Added to the 18 boxes shipped after the JUN meeting that's a total of 31 boxes shipped in just those two months. This doesn't take into account our shipments made during previous months. First Lt. Matthew Maimone sends his thanks and appreciation for your remembering the troops over there. And we are on their email list for their newsletter in which they never fail to thank us for receiving care packages. Lt. Maimone tells me he puts the boxes in a central location for the troops to help themselves, therefore, everyone gets something. A salute and a Well Done to all our helpful members who have and continue to contribute.

A special thanks to Chaplain Al Guier DDE 719 who donated \$60.00 to defray mailing expenses. A motion and second was made for the treasury to carry the expense of shipping care packages to the troops. Motion carried. (FYI: The skipper will now purchase items to be packed in place of paying shipping costs.

Our guest speaker was Col. Tom Smith, USMC (Ret.) and chairman of the Legislative Government Memorial Commission who spoke to us re the controversial 911 Memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capital. Col. Smith stated the memorial was planned, financed and erected with private funds then placed in a public plaza. The Memorial Commission had no input whatsoever and objected very strongly to certain statements cut into the memorial, none of which pertained to the tragedy occurring on 09/11/01. In fact, nothing about the memorial indicates what happened on that infamous day and looking at it tells nothing of what it represents. The commission has recommended changes, but what, if any, changes are to be made is yet to be seen. (I visited the memorial a year ago last SEP. I think it should be removed; my opinion and not that of the association.);

Gene Stegman DE361, as a fund-raiser, donated the book he won at a previous meeting, *Sea of Thunder*, to the association to be raffled off at the NOV meeting;

Two nomination forms were mailed in and both recommended the current board stay in office. Nominations from the floor were called for with none responding. Therefore, the current board will remain in office. We thank you for the confidence you have in us and we'll do our best to continue to have interesting meetings.

Mel Kowal DER 386 will be back for the NOV meeting with a showing of a segment of *Victory at Sea*; Anyone been to Ulithi? Bill Butler would like to hear from you if you have.

John Weber DD 730 won the 50/50 draw and donated his share of \$38.00 back to the treasury. Thanks John we appreciate your help.

Calm seas and fair winds.....

Tom Alexander, "Skipper"

NEXT MEET: 12 NOV 07, 1100, HOMETOWN BUFFET, SCOTTSDALE

