

Honoring Those Who Have Served

By TAYLOR ROSS / CASA

STARS AND STRIPES WAVED in the wind this season as memorial ceremonies took place

to honor veterans. The World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony took place on May 21st at the Santa Barbara Airport. The memorial commemorates local aviators who gave their lives in the second World War. During that time the airport became a Marine Corps Air Station.

The ceremony included a presentation of veterans. They walked to the monument and saluted, paying their respects to the men who went before them.



LT COL **Michael Kwan** U.S. Air Force, U.S. Congresswoman **Lois Capps**, Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum Executive Chairman **Hazel Blankenship**

Guests at the dedication experienced the distinctive roar of American aircraft during a fly by of a F4U Corsair. The plane has become as a symbol of WWII. After the ceremony, guests could climb aboard for a photo with the pilots.

At the Memorial Day Service May 25th, John Blankenship of the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum presented speaker Dr. Arthur Hicks. Hicks, a retired member of the U.S. Air Force, bears the title Chief Master Sergeant and was also an original Tuskegee Airman. The Tuskegee force was the first African-American squadron to fight in WWII and did not lose a single aircraft.

On June 6th at the Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum, a D-Day Invasion Commemoration



The 65th D-Day Invasion Commemoration took place on June 6th at The Pierre Claeysens Veteran's Museum and Library. From left: UK Deputy Consul-General **David Wild**, Canadian Deputy Consul-General **Jim Feir**, **Noelle Burkey**, Navy Lieutenant (Ret.) **John Blankenship**, Consul General de France a' Los Angeles **David Marlinon**, Brigadier General USMC Resv. (Ret.) **Frederick Lopez** and **General F.M. Rogers**.



Back: **Daryl Skare**, **Jerry Bursek**, **Bill Stewart**, **Donnie Yee**, **Bert Curtin**, **Pete Schenck**, **Ken Linder**, Brigider General **Frederick Lopez** and Colonel **Paul DuPre**; Front: **George Ogle**, **Keith Perkins** and SB Airport Director **Karen Ramsdell**

celebrated the 65th anniversary of the Allied Forces landing at Normandy. During the event, guests viewed a segment of *The Longest Day* depicting the landing. Tears were shed and hands shook as veterans relived their experiences through the horror and triumph conveyed in the screening. The emotional responses of the former soldiers instilled appreciation in those who had not served.

The Invasion Commemoration passed on to younger generations respect for the sacrifices of the courageous men and women who gave their lives for the freedom of today.

Like the movie *The Longest Day*, the Arlington West Memorial evokes emotion through visual representation. The memorial, which



US Army AirCorp Tuskegee Airmen 2nd Lt Dr. **Arthur Hicks** with wife **Edith Hicks**



The WWII Memorial at the SB Airport was dedicated on May 21st.

consists of 3,000 white crosses standing in the sand, commemorates those who have died in service in Iraq. Santa Barbara locals and visitors can pay their respects on the first Sunday of every month, when Veterans for Peace erects The Arlington West memorial on the beach just west of Stearns Wharf.

The Pierre Claeysens Military Museum and Library is located at 617 Garden St. For more information call 966-1660.

The Arlington West Memorial stands on the beach west of Stearns Wharf on the first Sunday of every month.

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