



**SIR -- IT'S WHO WE ARE:
SOCIAL ACTIVITES FOR MEN**

BAKERSFIELD BRANCH 163

OCTOBER 2024



A CHEERY CROWD AT OUR SEPTEMBER SIR LUNCHEON

**Probably laughing at the video of the Frank Sinatra
Celebrity Roast that Big Sir Jim Shapazian had selected.
These always get a big laugh taking us back to our
younger simpler lives that we enjoyed.**

**I believe we had three visitors join us so give a shout
out to them and whoever invited them, ask them to come
to our October 17th luncheon as well. Thanks guys.**

For those of you who missed last meeting, we had a great speaker; Ed Gaede who presented an interesting discussion of our Kern County WW II War Memorial project. This has been a labor of love for Ed and a group of other Patriots who engaged many to support the effort. The memorial will be completed and dedicated on December 7th at 10 A.M. Why don't you add that to your calendar right now as I am sure you wouldn't want to miss it!

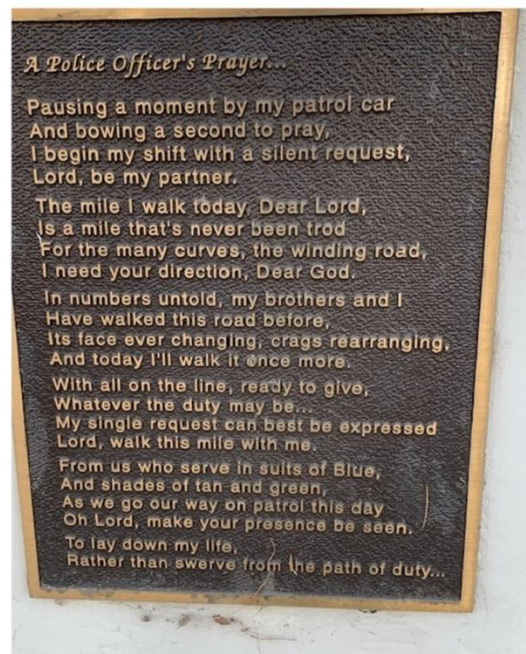


Ed is also a Vietnam Veteran of 1969-70 era when he served in the US Army Signal Corp which was essential to maintaining our communications systems and keeping them operating at their peak efficiency. Since his retirement Ed has spent considerable effort in promoting the many Memorials here in Bakersfield. Following are some of those more prominently displayed. Take time to see them all, I think you will find the experience most gratifying.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL: Truxtun and Myrtle St.



BAKERSFIELD POLICEMAN MEMORIAL: Truxtun/Police HdQtrs.





VIETNAM MEMORIAL: S/E corner Truxtun/ Chester

The inscription? “ To the more than 14,000 men and women from Kern County who served in Vietnam...and to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice...you are not forgotten.”

ALL WARS MEMORIAL: Amtrak Station, 'S' / Truxtun



Includes WW I, WW II, KOREA, VIETNAM, AFGANISTAN

Designed with a water feature and changing light colors, although it has been home to the homeless lately and may not be functional. It still is a somber retreat from reality to the former conflicts/wars that demanded the lives of American military men and women. While you're there stop at the Visit Bakersfield office and pickup a brochure listing the Eleven Memorials in Bakersfield.

KERN COUNTY WW II VETERANS MEMORIAL: TRUXTON/MYRTLE ST.

Located in Jastro Park near the Korean Memorial, this new addition is most humbling in presenting the truth about War: Lives are taken and families are broken with scars that last forever. Although this memorial will not be completed until its dedication on December 7th I plead with you not to avoid viewing it nor absorbing its message: **We will not forget.**



This is the most inclusive and complete memorial we have ever shown and is a proud testimony unto those who invested hundreds of hours in its planning and development; Ed Gaede is just one of them. And yes, you need to drag your kids to see this and the others. There is a story to relate so that **NO – ONE FORGETS: FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!**

This tour does not end properly without stopping at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens east of morning drive. In their east garden stands a Memorial to all war veterans, and in the quietness of the day God will quickly bring the somber understanding of the great sacrifices given by our many men and women in military uniform.



This is the last of the tour and I'm not writing more; it's the picture that tells, the understanding that humbles, and the large numbers that stagger, even the strongest of men.

I do thank Ed Gaede for his presentation and invite him to return to us in the future as he takes on another essential task: Headstones for every veteran in Kern County who lie in a cemetery with only a marker.

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HALLOWEEN FAQ's

- In the U.S., the state of Illinois produces the most pumpkins.
- In Alabama it's illegal to dress up like a Priest or Nun for Halloween!
- Approximately 35 million pounds of candy corn are produced each year.
- Halloween originated from the Celtic holiday 'Samhain'.
- Before using pumpkins the Irish would carve jack O'lanterns from Turnips.
- In Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the original Dracula name was Count Wampyr.

OCTOBER PRESIDENTS

- Six U.S. Presidents were born in October, more than any other month.
 1. John Adams
 2. Rutherford Hayes
 3. Chester Arthur
 4. Theodore Roosevelt
 5. Dwight Eisenhower
 6. Jimmy Carter

Three MOST IMPORTANT DATES in October

- **Oct 10th**, LUNCH-OUT: Wiki's Wine Dive. Ming / Buena Vista 11 A.M.
- **Oct 17th**, LUNCHEON at **HODEL'S**. Kern Room. 11:00 AM
- **Oct 28th**, Pool Buddies at **Bankshots**. Olive Dr./Roberts Lane. 11 A.M.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW LEST YOU FORGET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



Big Sir Jim Shapazian addressing Branch 163 Members

Gentlemen, it has been a pleasure serving you this past year with all the ups and downs of preparing for our luncheons and speakers. SIR Don Noriel has had some health issues but hopefully is now past them and ready to resume service. Both Don and I have agreed to sign up for another year as your Big and Little SIRs which we will announce at our next luncheon.

We are facing some possible changes and challenges this coming year. The State SIR Board has proposed changes to our organization to try and improve our face to the culture around us. Many have opposed some or most of these changes as it would not be the same organization we signed up for. We know we have the challenge of increasing membership as we have lost several members to their passing and health issues. I would encourage all of you to do your best to invite those retired men that need an outlet such as ours. If you truly want to maintain this group and grow, please understand that there are pressures that we must overcome to do that.

Some of us such as Jim Smith have done an outstanding job of recruiting others to join us. Talk to him and you will find out what it takes to do that. We are approaching the holidays and most of us get very busy with other duties, but it is also a good time to invite others to join us in having lunch together and socialize with friends and make new friends.

I am looking forward to seeing what our Branch can do to be the fun, successful group it has been for many years. May you all stay healthy and prosperous throughout these sometimes stressful times.

Jim Shapazian, Big SIR

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PORTRAIT OF A WARRIOR GALLERY

“ALWAYS REMEMBERED – NEVER FORGOTTEN”

The Gallery features portraits and photographs of service members from Kern County who were killed in service to our nation. There is no more honorable way to recognize those who paid the ultimate price on *our* behalf. [20th and Eye Street]

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A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH HERB HOCHSTATTER



LONG TIME MEMBER Herb Hochstatter has been a Branch 163 supporter for 22 years and will continue as long as he can.

Herb now 91 was born February 1933 in a small town of Ritzville, Washington which is dryland farming country west of Spokane. I have driven through it and called it No-Man's land! The family lived in Moses Lake, Washington where Herb grew up. His Dad purchased the local hardware store just prior to the Depression. That became their lifestyle for many years, an enviable example of true Americana: small town, farming both dryland and irrigated, hard-working families. Herb remembers his Dad as 'very generous' giving Credit to customers who could not pay all of their bills during the year. He also kept the store available any time even Sundays.

Herb attended all 1 - 12 grades at the local schools and worked at the store in off-times. He did all the work no one else really wanted to do like sweep the floor, stock the shelves, put away inventory, even did some sales work.

After High School Herb worked for the local John Deere Dealer assembling equipment, which by the way is very demanding work. Soon he found himself working for the Bureau of Rural Reclamation on the Columbia Basin project, a massive construction project to bring water to farming and manufacturing all the way from NW Washington to the Columbia river. This is quite a story of pro and con politics if you care to read it. Herb worked with the Survey team which was responsible for marking out the flow systems of canals and ditches for irrigation of thousands of acres in NW Washington.

Then came the U.S. draft in 1953 and Herb was on his way to basic training at Camp SLO where he received six months of training on the maintenance of communications equipment. He was assigned to the 8th Army 205th Signal Corp group where he would spend the rest of his service maintaining power sources, transmitters, field radios, etc. that were necessary in field operations. Herb became Crew Chief on Team B Central Com zone - Chosin Reservoir Korea. They lived in a Van and served all units in this field area. Herb said they would go out for 30 days at a time then come back to headquarters, get their pay checks, take care of financial and personal matters, resupply the van and head out again. I asked if they used a tent and Herb said they slept in the van and he got the cot!

Herb left the army in 1955 and went to work for The Boeing Co. B-52 flight test program. He worked in the Metrology lab [testing and certifying electronic test equipment to meet standards set by the manufacturer and US Government) at Larsen AFB, Moses Lake. This began a 35 year career with Boeing for Herb and family.

Dating in the 50's: Not the same as today. Herb recounts that while working at Moses Lake he and a friend went to Wenatchee to search

for girls. They locked in on several and wanted to date them but first they had to meet the girls parents which became a slow process! But it worked and soon Herb was married and working in Seattle.

Herb was offered a management job in Florida in 1959 so they loaded up the Chevy 2 door sedan with a 3 month and a 15 month and off they drove (can you imagine!). This began the upward growth at Boeing with a great amount of travel and moves to Vandenburg AFB working on the Minuteman Flight test program; Edwards AFB Lancaster with Air Launch Cruise Missile testing for Quality Assurance on Boeing designs.

Edwards AFB was a competitive program with another company to determine who had the best most reliable product. Boeing design proved the most successful in winning the production contract with the Pentagon.

In 1981 they moved back to Seattle to work on the Minuteman and Peacekeeper programs. Then followed AWAC electronic systems and the E-6A Communications plane with two trailing low frequency antenna wires, totaling about 1 mile, for communication with submarines.

Herb retired in 1990. He and his wife have 5 children which he relates as 2 kings and 3 queens. Since Herb's retirement they have traveled to 34 countries whether by air, land, or cruise ships: Alaska to the Panama Canal, New York city to Quebec, Baltimore to the Amazon (all in different stages and times).

His hobby is genealogy. So far he has traced his Paternal and Maternal Ancestors as far back as the 1500s. Herb hopes to be able to pass this on to future generations.

Herb enjoyed his life and said he was always 'At the right place at the right time'. He has been in SIR's for 22 years, Gleaners for 27 years, Co-Chair at his Church for 14 years with Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution efforts, etc. Seems as though Herb has

always engaged in contributing to the better good. And, I don't think he is done yet.

Thanks Herb.

Larry Sitzman



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Left: Robert Manuel

Right: Andy Disney

Thanks men for joining Branch 163. We are glad to have you as part of our team!



KERN
COUNTY
ELECTIONS DIVISION

**SHAPE
TOMORROW**



VOTE TODAY
