



Southern California Friends of the American Fighter Aces

Presents

"Tailhook Aces"

the U.S. Navy
Carrier Aces of WWII



Sunday March 7, 2010

Veterans Museum & Memorial Center

(across from the San Diego Aerospace Museum)

2115 Park Blvd.

San Diego, Ca. 92101

Join S.C.F. for their first meeting of 2010 with a gathering of Naval Aviators who are an elite group of fighter pilots known as the "Tailhook Aces". Our panel flew in some of the early carrier battles of 1942 at the Battle of Coral Sea & Santa Cruz Islands. The fleet carrier operations of 1943 in the Central Pacific & Norway. The Marianas Turkey Shoot and the first carrier air strikes against Tokyo & the Japanese mainland including the last Pacific Island Campaign, Okinawa.



U.S. Navy Aces Attending:



Lt. Cdr. Fred "Buck" Dungan - VF(N)-76: 7 victories

Featured in the History Channel's series "Dogfights".

Claimed 4 victories on July 4, 1944 & Navy Cross Medal Recipient.

Cdr. Dean "Diz" Laird - VF-4: 5.75 victories

Flew F4F Wildcat from the U.S.S. Ranger & shared victories over 2 German aircraft.

Also flew F6F Hellcat aboard the U.S.S. Essex & claimed 5 Japanese aircraft.

Capt. Stanley "Swede" Vejtasa Jr. - VS-5 & VF-10: 10.25 victories

Claimed 3 victories with SBD Dauntles & F4F Wildcat Ace, U.S.S. Enterprise.

Featured in the History Channels' series "Dogfights" and "Battle 360".

Ace in a Day & three time recipient of the Navy Cross Medal.

Cdr. Edward "Wendy" Wendorf - VF-16: 6 victories

F6F Hellcat Ace & served aboard the second U.S.S. Lexington.

Badly wounded & with one arm landed a damaged F6F with no tailhook.

Special Guest:

Cdr. W.E. "Bill" Hardy - VF-17: 6.5 victories

Past President AFAA, Ace in a Day and Navy Cross Recipient.



12:00 Noon - Doors Open

1:15 P.M. - Presentation by the Aces

3:00 P.M. - Autograph session*

4:30 P.M. - Vacate facility

***Autograph policy:**



Any items you wish to have signed by the Aces panel will require an autograph ticket. Autograph tickets will be sold at \$5.00 each. Please note **NO** refunds on autograph tickets. Books & flat items only are allowed in the autograph area. Propellers or other items that may be considered commercial will not be allowed into the meeting or autograph area. Items purchased from SCF (Photos or Books) for the symposium will include an autograph ticket.



Admission

\$30.00 - SCF members

\$35.00 - non members

Send check or money order payable to:



**Southern California Friends
P.O. Box 7570
Moreno Valley, CA. 92552**



SCF Membership Special!

All Current SCF members who attend this event will receive a **FREE** autograph ticket. All members whose payment is received prior to March 2, 2010 will receive an additional **FREE** autograph ticket.

For more information:

Call: 909-282-2428

email: scfaces@verizon.net

new website: www.socalfriendsaces.com

FaceBook: Southern California Friends of the American Fighter Aces. Link to website on facebook

The Southern California Friends of the American Fighter Aces is a chapter of the parent organization the American Fighter Aces Association. The purpose of SCF is to foster and perpetuate the accomplishments and memories of the American Fighter Aces. SCF also serves as a medium of informing and educating the public on the important role that the American Fighter Pilot, and particularly the Aces, have played in the history of military aviation in America.