



The Gray Eagles



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

ESTABLISHED 1990

30 YEARS - "KEEP 'EM FLYING!"

September 2020

Volume 20 Issue 09

Next Meeting

Chairperson: JOHN KENT 1-916-205-3020

Vice-Chairperson: MEL BOYD 1-916-705-4002

Treasurer: LOU MAUCIERI 1-916-421-0844

Membership: BOB THARRATT 1-916-635-6154

Newsletter: BILL THARRATT 1-916-600-6651

Chaplains: JOHN KENT 1-916-205-3020

DIANNA KENT 1-916-539-2627

Programs: RAY KINNEY 1-916-962-1938

Treasurer's Message

The upcoming September meeting is CANCELED.

Stay Home. Stay Safe.

Our current balance is \$300.29 on August 29, 2020. River City Food Bank sent a thank you letter re our \$175 charity contribution. Last month our other \$175 donation was also acknowledged by a letter from the Sacramento Downtown Foundation. SDF supports downtown businesses damaged in recent riots and vandalism.

I recently learned Golden 1 Credit Union now charges us \$8 per month to let us keep our funds there. I emailed in a complaint. Representative Camile replied saying our account is a premium checking account which has a \$5 per month fee. But seeing we are a long time customer, she reversed three months of fees. I can't tell if she meant \$5 or \$8 without searching back years (I became treasurer in Apr. '06... did not save statements). She also added the credit union can waive all fees if we have ongoing direct deposit, or a daily balance of \$5000 or more. So waddya say we all send in our monthly Social Security and military retirement benefits so we can get this astounding deal? There is a reason they are known as the Golden 1 Credit Union. I will reply to her, pointing out most of us already have savings/checking accounts and records of paid off loans there for homes, cars, kids' tuition, business start ups, medical emergencies, etc. I will report on this later.

Your Exalted Treasurer, Lou Maucieri



In Remembrance of those who rushed in to help.

SEPTEMBER MEETING IS CANCELED

We will notify members when meetings will resume after the current health crisis has resolved. The monthly newsletter will continue to be published.

Corona Virus Information Sources



<https://www.cdc.gov/>



<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>



<https://www.sacounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>



<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Emergency-Management/COVID19>

National POW/MIA Recognition

Day – September 18, 2020



In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. It is one of six days that the POW/MIA Flag can be flown. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, recognizing the National League of Families POW/MIA Flag and designating it "as a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation." Beyond Southeast Asia, it has been a symbol for POW/MIAs from all American Wars.

The Chaplain's Corner

Good Evening, Gray Eagles.

Recently, we have been livestreaming services from our church in Elk Grove, but somehow, it just isn't the same. There is something about being able to gather with our brothers and sisters, pray together, worship together, and hear our pastor's message that brings us all into one mind and one spirit and helps us to see past the fear that is in the world today.

Fear prevents progress, no matter what the category!

By way of an example, in 1997 (I know it is old information, but it is still relevant), the Department of Transportation set aside \$200 million for research and testing of an Automated Highway System. This system would purportedly relieve traffic woes with "super cruise control" in heavily congested cities. Special magnets embedded in the asphalt every four feet would transfer signals between vehicle and main computer system. Steering, acceleration, and braking would be controlled by sensors, computers navigation systems, and cameras along the side of the road. Control would be returned to drivers at their specified exit. Researchers and government officials claimed they have the technological capability to address any potential problem. But one challenge they have yet to address. Says Mike Doble, Buick's technology manager, "The only thing we can't do yet is get people to comfortably trust the system. It's not a technology issue. Would you drive, closely spaced, at high speeds, through San Diego?"

Trust is always the question. Flying in close formation requires a lot of trust. Just ask any demonstration flight team.

God has a program of abundant life for His children ... it is not one however free from troubles! He gives us steps to take when facing life, these are contained in His Word, some of these steps are found in order in Psalm 37 written by David through the Spirit. These steps MUST be taken in the order God gives us in this passage. Some jump quickly to Psalm 37:4 before reading and obeying Psalm 37:1-3, you can't do this! Everything God made has order to it, so does His plan for our happiness and abundant living. To take the steps out of order will leave you with a confused happiness at best! The best sellers list has always had many books on how to find "happiness" and "abundant life," even about "success," BUT the key is found still in the best seller of all: THE BIBLE, God's Word.

The Word of God teaches us how to find God's happiness and abundant life ... step by step by step! It begins by trusting, not fretting, not fearing and living in faith! Hebrews, 11:1 tells us, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace, and may the Lord of life be always with you. The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you, now and always.

Please know that Dianna and I long to see each of you again and hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to do just that. Until then, all our hopes, all our prayers go with each of you.

Chaplains John and Dianna

If you need us, please call us or find us on Facebook.

JOHN KENT 1-916-205-3020 DIANNA KENT 1-916-539-2627
(jh_kent@sbcglobal.net) (dianna_kent@sbcglobal.net)



In Memoriam
Louie Joseph "Lou" Grab
1923-2020



It is with a very heavy heart we report longtime Sacramento resident, Lou Grab died at 97 on Sunday, August 16. His mother, Sophy, died shortly after

his birth. Martha and Jess Wiseman ("Mom" and "Pop") lived nearby and took care of him while his Dad, Alois, worked as the owner and operator of a service station and grocery store. Lou attended Crocker Elementary School and California Junior High School. At age 11, Lou moved in to live with his Dad. Lou graduated from C. K. McClatchy High School and attended Sacramento City Junior College, where he completed a pilot training program.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1942, retiring in 1946. He was married to Connie West in 1945 and enjoyed 75 years of marriage. He went on to attend Sacramento State College and complete the necessary courses for a teaching credential. His professional career was dedicated to education in the Sacramento City School system. He was a teacher at California Junior High School for 9 years. He then became Vice Principal at C. M Goethe Junior High School, followed by Principal of Freeport Elementary School. His career ended after 30 years when he retired from his position as Director of Pre-schools and Kindergarten. His hobbies included woodworking and golf. He is survived by his wife, Connie, daughters, Judy, Collie, and Kathy Grab, granddaughter, Courtney Collie. We will miss a loving husband, father, and grandfather. At his request, there will be no memorial service.

Air Force Recruiting in the Modern Age

The chief of staff of the US Air Force decided that he would personally intervene in the recruiting crisis affecting all of our armed services. He directed a nearby Air Force base that would be opened to the public and that all eligible young men and women be invited.

As he and his staff were standing near a brand new jet airplane, a pair of twin well built, neatly kept brothers who looked like they had just stepped off an Air Force recruiting poster walked up to them. The chief of staff stuck out his hand and introduced himself.

He looked at the first young man and asked, *"Son, what skills can you bring to the best Air Force in the world?"*

The young man looks at him and says, *"I'm a pilot!"*

The general gets all excited, turns to his aide and says, *"Get him in today, all the paper work done, everything, do it!"*

The aide hustles the young man off.

The general looks at the second young man and asked, *"What skills can you bring to this man's Air Force?"*

The young man says, *"I chop wood!"*

"Son," the general replies, *"we don't need wood choppers in the Air Force, what else do you know how to do?"*

"I chop wood!"

"Young man," huffs the general, *"you are not listening to me, we don't need wood choppers, this is the 21st century and our battles are fought with our minds as much as with our bodies!"*

"Well," the young man says, *"you hired my brother!"*

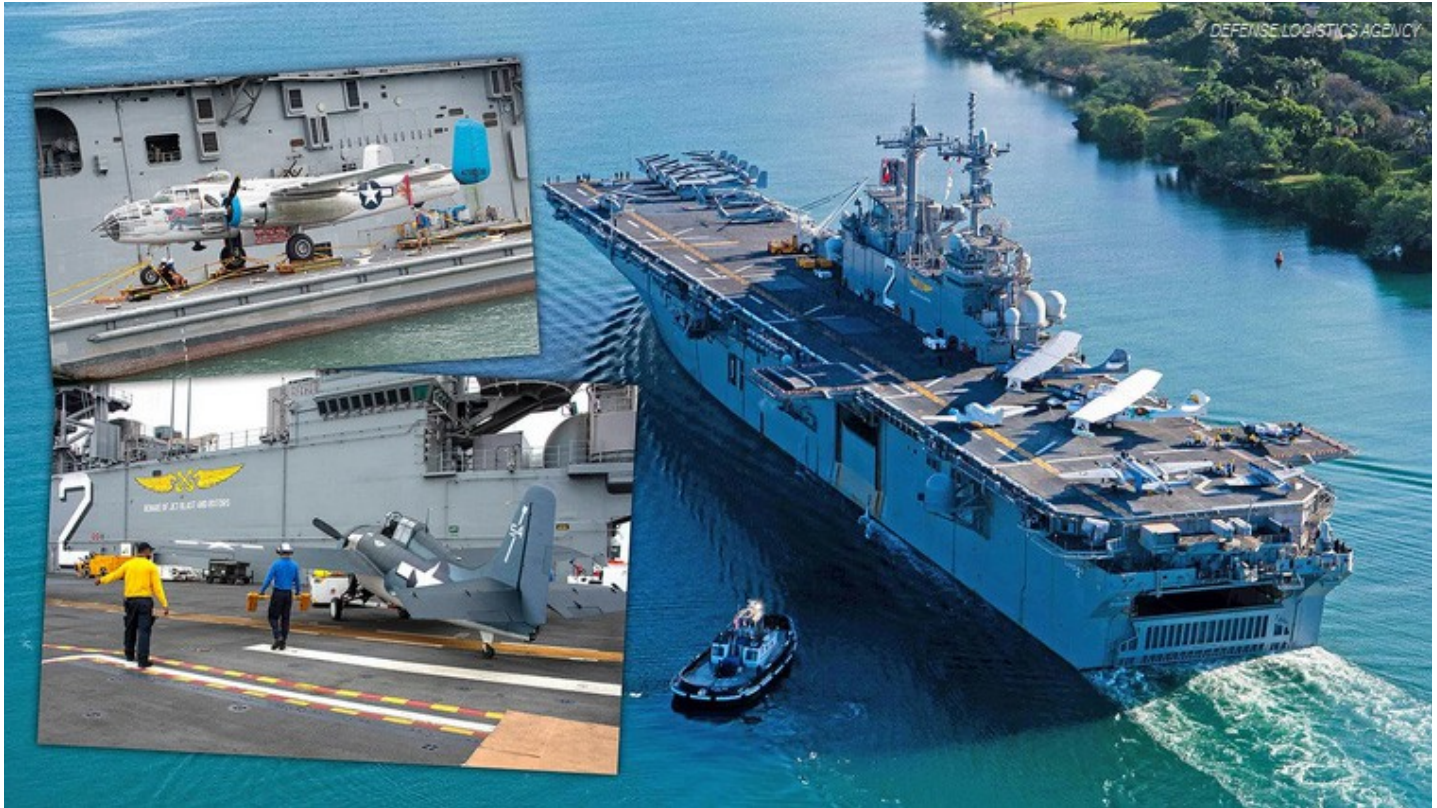
"Of course we did," says the general, *"he's a pilot!"*

The young man rolls his eyes and says, *"Duh! I have to CHOP it before he can PILE it!"*

;-) Thanks Dwight !

Amphibious Assault Ship USS Essex Carries Load Of Gorgeous World War II Warbirds To Hawaii

The antique aircraft hitched a ride on the USS Essex to Hawaii where they will help mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.



The USS *Essex* arrives in Hawaii

The U.S. Navy's Wasp class amphibious assault ship USS Essex recently served as an aviation transport of sorts, bringing a load of World War II-era warbirds to Hawaii. The aircraft, which include examples of the iconic P-51 Mustang fighter and B-25 Mitchell bomber, among others, are set to take part in events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The United States and the rest of the Allies declared final victory over Japan on Aug. 14, 1945, though Japanese officials would not formally surrender until Sept. 2, 1945. This followed Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945.

In addition to the P-51 and the B-25, the full contingent of private-owned warbirds also included two Catalina flying boats, an F8F Bearcat fighter, an FM-2 Wildcat fighter, two Texan trainers, and a Boeing-Stearman PT-17 biplane. Personnel at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California had loaded the aircraft onto Essex for the journey to Hawaii at the end of July.



Workers offload the B-25 Mitchell in Hawaii

Essex arrived at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, site of the infamous Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941, which finally brought American fully into the War, with her unusual cargo on Aug. 10, 2020.



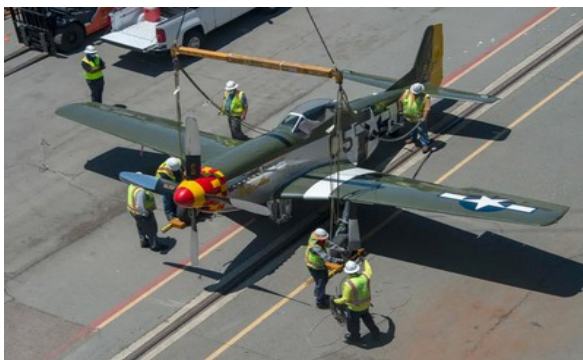
One of two Texan trainers is offloaded

In some ways, Essex was reprising the role that some smaller Navy aircraft carriers fulfilled during World War II, helping to deliver combat aircraft from the United States to faraway destinations, including in the Pacific theater. Much more recently, in the late 2000s, the Wasp class Amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard – which recently suffered a devastating fire – transported "red air" aggressor jets to Hawaii for exercises.



Personnel in San Diego load a FM-2 Wildcat on Essex

It's hardly the first time a Navy ship has hosted warbirds, either. In April 1992, two B-25s notably took off from the Forrestal class aircraft carrier USS Ranger to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous 1942 Doolittle Raid on Japan. That operation involved the Yorktown class aircraft carrier USS Hornet launching 16 of the bombers, which then went on to bomb Tokyo and other nearby areas in a direct reprisal for the Pearl Harbor attack.



Dockworkers rig the P-51 for loading to Essex

The Nimitz class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson brought another contingent of warbirds to Hawaii for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995, as well.

In this particular instance, Essex also carried a new C-12U Huron utility aircraft, which is a militarized Beechcraft King Air, bound for the Hawaii Army National Guard.



One of two Catalina flying boats are hoisted aboard

These aircraft were in addition to the Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotors and MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters embarked on the Essex as part of its normal aviation contingent. The ship, which also has other Marine elements on board, was already headed to Hawaii to take part in the upcoming multi-national Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, which is set to begin next week.



An F8F Bearcat is readied for loading in San Diego

All told, this has to be one of the most unusual and unique mixtures of aircraft to ever grace Essex's flight deck since the Navy commissioned the ship in 1992.

[Click here for YouTube video of aircraft being loaded aboard the USS Essex](#)



<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/35640/amphibious-assault-ship-uss-essex-carries-load-of-gorgeous-world-war-ii-warbirds-to-hawaii>

Airline Pilots Landing At LAX Report **"A Guy In Jetpack" Flying Alongside Them**

Even in an era in which congress wants to openly investigate UFOs, a dude flying alongside an airliner over Los Angeles in a jetpack is still bonkers

By Tyler Rogoway - September 1, 2020

As if 2020 couldn't get any weirder, airline pilots landing at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Sunday, August 30th, reported seeing "a guy in a jetpack" flying about 300 yards off their wing while on final approach to the bustling airport. What makes the reports even stranger is that, like a scene out of *The Rocketeer*, the airliners were descending through 3,000 feet when jetpack guy showed up next to them.

Fox 11 broke the story and has the air traffic control audio clips which you can [listen to here](#). The exchanges went like this according to their report:

American Flight 1997: *"Tower, American 1997, we just passed a guy in a jetpack."*

Tower: *"American 1997, OK, thank you. Were they off to your left or right side?"*

American Flight 1997: *"Off the left side, maybe 300 yards or so, about our altitude."*

Fox 11 reports a Skywest pilot confirmed the sighting:

Skywest Flight: *"We just saw the guy passing by us in the jetpack."*

Then the tower alerted an incoming Jet Blue flight to the reported hazard:

Tower: *"Jet Blue 23, use caution, a person in a jetpack reported 300 yards south of the LA final at about 3,000 feet, 10 mile final."*

Jet Blue 23: *"Jet Blue 23, we heard and we are definitely looking."*

Another pilot chimed in: *"Only in LA."*

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/36096/airline-pilots-landing-at-lax-report-a-guy-in-jetpack-flying-alongside-them-on>

The airspace around LAX is some of the busiest and most complex in the United States. Having some dude barreling through the skies in some sort of a jetpack around the approach path to the airport, especially at the same altitude as the aircraft that are making their way through the landing corridor, isn't just bonkers, it's absolutely dangerous.

There are a number of new jetpack-like designs that are remarkably capable, but all have very limited range and most have only very low-altitude flight envelopes. Yves "Jetman" Rossi's winged jetpack is definitely capable of such a feat, but his flights have always occurred under highly controlled and well-coordinated circumstances and in sanitized airspace. They are also very high-profile in nature and require a mothership to launch from, such as a helicopter, or at least a very high point to leap from.

So, apparently, someone has a system that is similarly capable, but they are stupid enough to actually use it in incredibly congested airspace as part of an undeclared stunt. It is possible that this was some sort of a drone that was made to look like a dude with a jetpack, although that seems like a longshot. The only other thing we can think of is that this may have been some sort of flying car/mobility solution that was just described as a jetpack. Flying at jet approach speeds and at 3,000 feet, among other issues, still seems like a reach with this scenario. Regardless, the dangerous realities of such a stunt are the same irrespective of the technology behind the craft that was involved.

Pilots certainly see and report some weird things while plying their trade, but this is unique even by our standards. We are going to look into it. In the meantime, this serves as yet another reminder of the strange times we are living in.

Cal Expo's September 11th Memorial Plaza

“ We Shall Never Forget ”

“On September 11, 2001 America’s history was permanently altered at 8:46 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 11 slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Seventeen minutes later at 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 rammed into the tower’s twin and blew up in another hellacious ball of fire.”

“Americans were quick to realize that this was no accident but instead a heinous act of terrorism. The unthinkable had happened. America had been attacked on her own soil. For the next 85 minutes, the world held its breath and watched in horror and disbelief. At 9:59 a.m., the mighty South Tower surrendered to the ground followed at 10:28 a.m. by a sympathetic, weeping partner. When it was over, the world wretched at the devastation, the loss of so many innocent souls and the pain and suffering of loved ones. The only comfort to be found amid the ash and rubble were stories of unselfish acts of bravery and courage from those who rushed to help.”

“According to the New York Times, as of April 22, 2002, 2825 people, from more than 115 countries were listed as having died in the attacks on the World Trade Center.”



The California Exposition and State Fair (Sacramento, CA) is proud to be the final resting place for more than 125,000 lbs. of steel wreckage from the World Trade Center “Ground Zero” in New York City.



The September 11th Memorial Plaza is comprised of several interesting elements that create an atmosphere of peace and remembrance including the Pentagon Remembrance Granite.



Central to the Plaza is a Granite Sphere weighing 5,180 lbs nested in a granite cradle and turning on a thin layer of water with the names of all the souls lost in the events of 9/11. A magnificent Carillon Bell Tower also graces the memorial with beautiful music.



The Flight 93 Memorial with the names of the 40 courageous souls that foiled a fourth attack. The aircraft crashed in Shanksville Pennsylvania at 10:06 a.m. *“LET’S ROLL!!”*

This September 11th Memorial is located at the California Exposition and State Fair grounds, 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815, outside of building 3, just inside the main gate on the right.



Please visit our web site at:
www.grayeagles.net

THE GRAY EAGLES NEWSLETTER

Published each month for the Gray Eagles membership. All rights reserved.
Readers are encouraged to submit material for consideration to: grayeagles@att.net

Material may be edited for content and/or available space. Subscriptions for the Gray Eagles newsletter are supplied to dues paying association members. Please furnish ADDRESS CHANGES to: MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN c/o ROBERT C. THARRATT, 2418 MASONI WAY, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
The Gray Eagles is a social and educational forum. Membership is available to anyone with a strong interest in military aviation and/or aviation history. Membership is not limited by age, race, religion, sex, or handicap. The mission of the Gray Eagles is to perpetuate the history, customs, procedures, and memories of military & general aviation.

September 2020
Volume 20 Issue 09

