

Tell America

24 – CHARLES PARLIER [IL]

On 14 February 2019, President Orval Mechling, Dave Mayberry, and Treasurer Wayne Semple did a presentation at Lutheran School Association High School, Decatur, IL for two classes.

Members visited the Mt Zion Illinois High School on 11 February, 2019. They presented a session for 1 class, 1 teacher, and 17 students. Orval Mechling, Frank Delgado, Dave Mayberry, Lee Parks, and Secretary Bill Hanes talked to the students. The teacher, Mr. Hansen, remarked that this is the 22nd consecutive year for this event.

We also presented on March 8, 2019, at a marathon session at Clinton High School, Clinton, IL. Members were Orval Mechling, Dave Mayberry, Wayne Semple, and Bill Hanes. There were 7 classes with 18 teachers, 190 students.

Three days later, on March 11, 2019, Orval Mechling, Frank Delgado, Wayne Semple, and Bill Hanes spoke at Stewardson-Strasburg High School, Strasburg, Ill. They presented to 3 classes, 4 teachers, and 91 students.

Not to be outdone, Orval Mechling, Wayne Semple and Bill Hanes conducted a presentation at Hartsburg-Emden High School on 15 March 2019 for 1 class, 1 teacher, and 15 students.

William Hanes, williamhanes@att.net



Dave Mayberry of Ch. 24 at Lutheran School Association High School



Presenter Orval Mechling of Ch. 24 at Lutheran School Association High School



Wayne Semple, Ch. 24 participant, at Lutheran School Association High School

270 – SAM JOHNSON [TX]

We enjoyed another successful year presenting the Tell America Program to students at area schools. Four members made a presentation at Plano East High School on January 9, 2019. Plano East Senior High School is a highly rated public school located in Plano, TX. It has 2,955 students in grades 9-12, with a student-teacher ratio of 16 to 1.

The team spoke to 60 JROTC Panther Battalion cadets in five classes. During the presentation, the cadets learned about the use and operation of an M4A3E8 “Easy Eight” tank from Richard Sanchez. They learned about a famous Marine Corps sergeant, a horse named Reckless. Dick Lethe covered the capabilities of the F-94 Starfire. They heard about flying at night and a “close encounter” with a flying object. Cadets also heard about *Stalag 65: A memoir of a Korean POW*, a book translated by Jay Zo. The book describes survival in POW camps where an inmate was often in much greater danger from his fellow prisoners than his captors.

Flying missions on a B-29 Superfortress bomber was something the cadets knew little about. Paul Pfrommer talked about the B-29’s capabilities. They learned about the switch to flying night missions and ways of flying and being detected less.

At the start of every class, each cadet stood and explained his/her plans upon graduation. The speakers were impressed with the respect and courtesy the cadets provided.

This JROTC Panther Battalion started in 1981. It’s rated in top 10% of the high school programs earning the Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD or Gold Star unit).

Seven members visited Allen High School in Allen, TX on January 31st and Feb 1st, 2019. They spoke to 1,028 students about their experiences in the armed forces. Some veterans were in the Korean War and some came after. The students were from combined history and social studies classes, plus Marine Corps JROTC.

Marine Corps JROTC, which is in its sixth year at Allen High School, has been very popular thanks to its leader, MAJ Tom Conner. This JROTC program is the largest in North Texas. The Tell America Team

has presented at Allen High School since 2012.

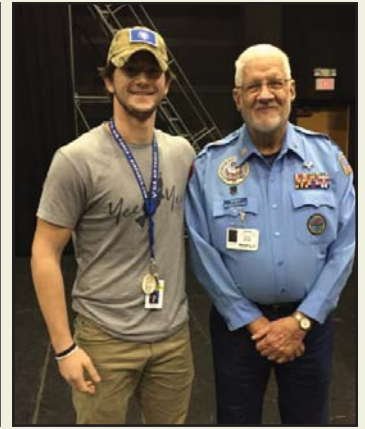
Dick Lethe, our Tell America Director, used a new approach of passing out 15-20 laminated cards with a question like the following on each of them: "Did you enlist or were you drafted?" Sometimes, asking questions in a room of 200 can be intimidating to students. The written question cards make it easier.

Each speaker answers. Then, presenters pass down the microphone after answering the question. Dick talked about flying night missions from his base in Japan searching for enemy aircraft. He flew over 100 missions.

Jerry Kasten talked about his service as a photographer and how he got the job as a "VIP Photographer." He shared some of the pictures he took of orphanages and some prisoner exchanges. Jay Zo explained the feeling of waking early on a Sunday morning in June 1950 to the sound of explosions. At age 12 he counted the double stream of bombs dropping from B-29s flying near Seoul. Dr. Zo handed out several copies of the book "Stalag 65" to both students and faculty.

Bill Jimenez described the effects of the freezing temperatures during the war as he worked to set trip wire and to disarm land mines. The students had lots of questions for Jimenez, as well as the other speakers. His experiences as a Command Sergeant Major were very interesting.

Joe Seiling, joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com



Top left: Richard Sanchez of Ch. 270 talks to students about the Sherman Easy Eight tank at Allen High School.

Top right: Joe Seiling (R) at Allen High School with Joshua Talley.

Left: Jerry Kasten of Ch. 270 (L) waits his turn to present at Allen High School

HAWAII

On December 18, 2018, James "Ace" Kaleohano, a member of KWVA Hawaii Chapter 1, visited Mililani High School on West Oahu for a "Tell America" presentation. He spoke to students of a history class that coincidentally had been tasked by their teacher to study the Korean War. The students were delighted to receive the presentation and enthusiastically asked very good questions during the nearly two-hour session that ended with hearty applause.

Stan Fuji, stan_fujii@hotmail.com



Richard Sanchez, Dick Lethe, Jay Zoe, and Paul Pfrommer of Ch. 270 with cadets. Battalion Commander, c/MAJ Allie Dyer is on far left



James "Ace" Kaleohano with students at Mililani High School



Richard Sanchez, Dick Lethe, Jay Zo, and B. J. Jimenez of Ch. 270 (L-R) with Allen High student Joshua Talley (rear)

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