

# Ding Friends Hao



March Speaker Meeting

March 2012

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## March Monthly Meeting

### Retired Marine Speaker Gunther Graybar Tells Us The Facts Concerning The Riverside National Cemetery



Our speaker for the March meeting was retired Sgt Major Gunther Graybar who is extremely active in affairs at the Riverside National Cemetery. This magnificent facility that honors our military members who have gone west as well as members of their immediate families. Although many of us have flown over the facility to honor fallen friends with the Missing Man Formation, there is much more to know of this elegant place.

The RNC was opened on November 11, 1978. It is one of three cemeteries that is controlled by the Veterans Administration. There are currently 922 acres of current burials. There are committees that run the facility and have fund raising operations to keep it in good condition as well as to improve the facility. For instance, there has just been \$15,000 spent to provide new benches for visitors to the graveyard. The crown jewels of the site are the Medal Of Honor and MIA memorial features, a pairing that does not exist anywhere else. There are three Medal Of Honor winners buried at RNC currently and five more that are committed to rest there when their time comes. These facilities were built in the 1990's at great expense.

The Medal Of Honor Memorial was built at a cost of \$2.1 million while the MIA/POW facility was constructed at a cost of \$775,000. There is also a current effort to construct a Viet Nam Wall. Gunther has raised \$480,000 for this effort.

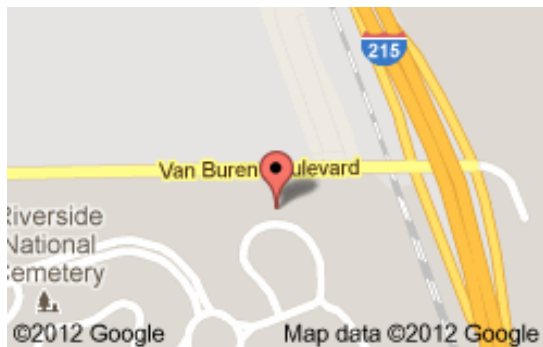
Gunther's history includes being born in Germany and coming to the United States in 1949 with his father after the close of WW II. After 26 years in the Marine corps, he retired and has been working to benefit the RNC since that time.

The availability of the cemetery to those of us who have served in the military was presented. All veterans are eligible as well as their wives. Their children are also eligible if under 21 at the time of death or under 23 if in college. Any child who has had a serious condition re-

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quiring medical care since birth is also eligible at any age. Arrangements may be made through any mortuary, although commitments in advance can be made. There are facilities for cremation urns as well as burial, although the urn must be a special size to comply with the requirements at Riverside National. There is an average of 37 people buried per day at the facility, thus scheduling can be a problem.

The facility is governed by an 18 member board with the current leader being quite helpful and cooperative. The Cemetery raises funds in part from the sale of plaques created by or very own Bud "Pipes" Ukes. Gunther also mentioned that there is a free concert by the Riverside Orchestra that is most enjoyable and quite popular every Fourth Of July.



## Events of Interest

Always check with the event coordinator to learn of any changes

- April 14-15---Davis Monthan AFB
- April 21 --- Unit Meeting
- April 21 --- Riverside Salute to Veterans parade
- April 28--- Work party at Cable
- April 28--- Wheels to Warbirds display at Riverside
- May 3---3rd Staff Meeting
- May 5-6---Chino Airshow
- May 19-20---March ARB Airshow
- May 19---3rd Meeting
- May 21-24 ---B-17 SJ at Riverside
- May 26-27---Hill AFB Air Show
- June 2-3--- Air Group 1 Gillespie Air



Pipes newsletter: If any of you are not getting Pipes email newsletter and would like to, please send him your email address at:

[budukes@yahoo.com](mailto:budukes@yahoo.com)

### Ding Hao - Friends of 3rd Pursuit

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Address correspondence to **Friends of 3rd Pursuit**,  
c/o Dick Fields, 1749 W. 13th St., Upland, CA 91786 or  
Email: T6Pilot@War-Bird.com

### Membership Data Update

3rd Pursuit Colonels: If you wish to make contact with the CAF 3rd Pursuit for membership information or address changes, please contact Tony Settember, Adjutant, at 909/985-1977 or [A54swift@aol.com](mailto:A54swift@aol.com)

## March Meeting Speaker

The speaker for the March meeting will be Lt. Kevin Harrison who will speak on his duty as a USAF pilot flying to and from Antarctica in a C-141 in support of operation "Deep Freeze", the United States continuing operations to maintain a presence and explore the Antarctic that began in the mid 1950s.

## New Edition of Erik Schilling's Book

I have been told that there is a new edition of Erik's book that includes many more pictures than the first edition. The name of the book is: *"Destiny - A Flying Tiger's Rendezvous With Fate"*. More can be learned about Erik and his companions in the American Volunteer Group flying out of China under Claire Chennault. More can be learned from our website <http://3rdpursuit.com> on the front page and from the AVG website <http://www.flyingtigersavg.com>.



## Stay tuned for the next edition:

Your editor missed the P-38 presentation meeting but the article will be coming thanks to John Varley's video capture of the whole presentation. For now, there is a picture of five of the remaining six flying P-38s in the U.S.A. taken by Frank Mormillo on the next page from Miss InFormation.. There is only one European flying P-38.







©Frank Mormillo 2010

## 5 P-38s Over Lake Mathews



Ground photos © Dick Fields

## P-38 Nose Art



**Friends of The 3rd Pursuit Squadron**

1749 W. 13th St.  
Upland, CA 91786

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**April 21, 2012**

**Regular 3rd Pursuit Meeting!!!**

**Midland Raiders**

*Next General Meeting April 21, 2012 @ 5:30 PM. Location: the 3rd Pursuit building on the airport entrance street next to the Quonset hut.*

*Meeting Saturday  
4-21-2012  
Please Note:  
Details to follow*

***DINNER MENU***

***MEXICAN FOOD!***