



# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

December 2013

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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## Chairman's Corner

By Don Hilt



Congratulations to Steve Sandberg who received our Volunteer of the Year Award at our Bluebills Dinner on November 6. Steve was recognized for his work at the Federal Way Senior Center.

He is known for doing whatever needs to be done at the center, always putting others first and not calling attention to the work that he does. He's been called the "little engine that could" and "amazing." Other nominees were the Bakers (Bill and Karen) and I. I thank everyone that made the evening a success. Included in that "call out" are Richard Vaughn, Norma Vaughn, Mary Ulibarri, Fran Parker, Doug Hoople, Helen Lowe, Jim Beasley, and Elvis!

In November and December, we will celebrate Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Thanksgiving is next week, and it takes little reflection to realize we are all so blessed; with sunny days, star-filled nights, leaves turning color, a bounty of food for our tables, family, friends, hope, and opportunities to serve in our communities. I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with the season's harvest, and double helpings of pumpkin and pecan pies!

We had a wonderful warm weather, two week vacation with family members in Cabo San Lucas in October. I was still in a leg brace so my wife, who was the youngest in our group, was our designated

driver. There's her version of that adventure and mine. The gentleman that I am, I'll just say we returned home safely and in once piece. The lady that she is, told me privately, she would never again chauffer two male-chauvinist back-seat drivers!

I had my knee replacement surgery on November 11<sup>th</sup> and my recovery has been excellent. I'm able to move about the house without a cane or walker and walk up the stairs to our second floor. I'm having physical therapy twice a week, and exercise on my own every day. I expect the surgeon will "clear me" for driving within the next week or two. Even in the best of circumstances, and to allow complete healing, golf will not be in my future for another 5-6 months. Just a matter of motivation and time!

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays. May there be peace on earth, good will toward men.



**BUSY B'S**

*By Janice Hawes*

Veterans Day 2013 was a special day for the Busy B's. We were invited to attend the special ceremony inducting the latest Hero onto the Wall Of Hero's presentation at the Veteran's Hospital in Seattle. Joseph R. LaVoie II is a Vietnam Navy Hero. He has a very impressive service record and now volunteer's at the Tahoma National Cemetery as chairman of the VSO Honor Guard committee.

Bob Lambert picked us up at the office and drove us to the Veteran's Hospital. Included in the group, Lana Mitsules, Bambi and Jim Lee and myself. Lisa Nyreen and Jean Derheim met us there.

After the ceremony we were escorted to various patient's rooms to present them with a quilt of their choice. We had 16 quilts and fleece lap robes to give out. A special quilt, made by Lisa, who makes quilts for the Quilts of Valor program, is going to be displayed in the women's wing. ( Lisa has made 5 quilts for this program and they are all beautiful works of art.)

We had an exceptional amount of donations this month. Many knitted baby hats from Maybelle Brinkley and Kathy Lyons. A Boeing retiree and my good friend, Margaret Huntington, presented us with 42 assorted sized hats made by herself and friends in the retirement community where she lives. She also collects old and new greeting cards that are used by Bambi in her unique and beautiful creations. The new cards Bambi collects go to the Ronald McDonalds House to be used by the families that stay there.

Another terrific donation was a collection of Beanie Babies given to us and I'm embarrassed to admit I can't remember who that great person was. Sorry about that.

I also met Merri England at the Tukwilla Blood Bank where she volunteers to pick up 5 lovely Cabbage Patch dolls she was donating along with 2 bags of fiberfill stuffing, doll quilts and Beanie Babies.

Thanks you very much Merri for thinking of us.

Thanks also to Dorothy Lochtie who gave us 3 beautiful afghans that she made.

The quilt raffle drawing was held at the November meeting and the winner was Gail and Jeff Kehm, friends of Ramona. Bob Lambert drew the winning ticket for us. Total raffle tickets bought was \$348 and we would like to thank everyone for their generous participation.



At the end of this month we will meet for the last time until January to sort out and bag up all the stuffed animals we have collected this year. I have all the Barbie dolls and baby dolls boxed up and ready to take to the 5 area Food Banks along with the stuffies and knitted hat/mitten/ scarf sets made by our expert knitter Estelle.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from all the Busy B's.

**Recap of November 22nd - Heritage Chapter Meeting**

*By Mary Ulibarri*

Vice Chairman Ben Sakamoto conducted the meeting on behalf of Chairman Don Hilt, who is recuperating from knee surgery. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Ben called for a moment of silence in memory of John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated 50 years ago today. He then got the meeting under way with the usual recognition of birthdays (2), anniversaries (none) and a guest -- Millard Battles' son.

**Announcements:**

Ben, and later Norma Vaughn, reminded folks that the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will include a potluck and suggested everyone wear red, as well as bring a favorite dish.

Norma also commented on the success of this

*(Continued on page 3)*

year's Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner and asked for a show of hands of those who would prefer to make this occasion a lunch instead of dinner. The count seemed to be about even, so a determination will be made before next year's awards event.

Members will be receiving ballots in the mail shortly for the election of Chapter officers and are encouraged to vote.

Jim Beasley then introduced the speaker, Michael B. Lombardi, who is a 35-year veteran of The Boeing Company. He is the Boeing Corporate Historian and Manager of the Boeing Historical Services.

He has written for a number of organizations, including the American Aviation Historical Society, The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and has a regular column in the Boeing Frontiers magazine. He has appeared in a number of Boeing documentaries, e.g. PBS as well as international organizations.

Lombardi greeted the attendees by stating his appreciation for the many Bluebills volunteers who have helped in the past with historical archives projects. And stated it is an honor to address our members and noted he recognizes a number of faces.

With the help of an excellent slide show, the presentation centered on the history of Boeing Renton plant. City of Renton didn't fully understand how Boeing would not only change the world of aviation, but contribute to the town's presence in history. The Renton plant was responsible for building nearly the most airplanes in the world. They built the first commercial airplane and were instrumental in a number of past processes that are still being used today in order to ramp up for the new 737MAX.

Michael's presentation and slides showed a thorough history of where the plant would be located – from the days when the area was only swamp lands with the Black and Cedar Rivers running through it to the present productive use of the land. At the turn of the century, the shape of the lake and those rivers would be changed forever with the construction of



the Montlake Cut. It lowered the lake by nine feet, stabilizing its height, which would benefit the farmers by eliminating floods and drought periods. Also, this caused the Black River to dry up and the Cedar River was redirected.

In the beginning, the Navy owned the plant and built the first flying boat plane, thus a runway was not required. However, after Pearl Harbor, the Navy needed land planes as opposed to the flying boats. They exchanged the property with Boeing for planes built in Kansas City. Thus the runway was built.

During this time the most advanced plane of the day - the B-29, a very complex, advanced plane, was built and was the first to fly out of Renton field. Michael pointed out that the production line was very efficient and some of the techniques resulted in a prototype of how the 787 production lines move today. In 1945, 160 B-29s (five per day) were rolling off the lines. Some B-29 parts were even outsourced, for instance portions of the fuselage came from Vancouver BC. Another process that was ahead of its time and led to the use of section numbers is a standard procedure still in use today.

After the war in 1946, Boeing moved out of the Renton plant and it was used for storage and even the Sparks circus housed some of its animals there while in town. Boeing returned to the Renton plant in 1949 and manufactured the C-97 cargo plane. It consisted of a refurbished B-29 to be used for aerial refueling. Also the B-50 moved from Plant 2 to Renton to make room for the B-52. Boeing's decision to develop the C-97 amounted to the birth of the jet age and resulted in the Dash 80. The development of the jet tanker (KC-35, aka 717) for refueling eventually led to the commercial jet. It was slow to develop due to lack of interest and some considered dangerous. Boeing thought otherwise. Bill Allen was truly a champion of the jet age and was instrumental in the first successful offspring -- the 707. Douglas responded by building the DC-8 and that was the beginning of an ongoing competition between the two companies, sometimes the improvement was measured in inches.

In 1962, Boeing bought the Renton plant from the Navy for \$20 million and proceeded to start up the 727 line. It was one of the most popular models; pilots liken it to flying a fighter jet. Around this time, during the mid-60s, Boeing did a lot of expansion, building new plants in King County.

Lombardi then showed a slide of a 747, one of

three sent to Renton airfield that had lost its landing gear. Joe Sutter was on that plane and warned the pilot he was cutting the landing too short, and sure enough, it hit the seawall. Do you suppose that pilot became a Lockheed employee the next day? You didn't mess with Joe Sutter.

The recession at the end of the sixties led Boeing to consolidate its facilities and lay off many employees. This resulted in an unemployment rate of 17% in 1970. You may recall the billboard saying, "Will the last person to leave Seattle, turn out the lights." It was a rough time for the Puget Sound region – there was no Microsoft or Amazon to pick up the slack.

New programs were developed such as the hydro-foils. They served the Navy for some time, mainly to prevent drug runs in the Florida Keys, but after that they didn't quite know what to use them for, so they were mothballed. There were 200-250 passenger Jet-foils also built around this time, but these were eventually replaced by bridges! However, they can still be seen plying the waters between Hong Kong and Macao.

During the 70s, Boeing looked to the 727 for a needed upgrade, maybe just using different engines. This plan didn't work, so after developing numerous changes the 727 morphed into the 757, which was also a very popular airplane - 1050 were built. The last roll-out was in 2004 and there are still 1,000 of them in use. The year 2001 saw the "Move to the Lake," a brilliant idea to move the engineers to the manufacturing buildings to be close to the action.

Now the company is building the P-8 at the Renton

plant, alongside the 737. This is not a novel idea; Navy patrol planes were built side by side with commercial jets 70 years ago. And with the increased production of the 737 MAX, the Renton Plant is reaching toward the future.

Lombardi thanked the Bluebills for all their work over the years as Boeing employees and for what they contribute to the community now. He pointed out the new, young employees of today can look up to us and build on our contributions.

He stated if anyone has any old items for the archives, a story to tell, or wishes to volunteer time (always needed) at the archives on the old Bellevue airfield site, to please contact him at 425-865-1781 or his email

[www.michael.j.lombardi@boeing.com](mailto:www.michael.j.lombardi@boeing.com).

Following this fascinating presentation, Ben conducted the door prize drawing, followed by the special drawing for the handmade quilt. The winning number belonged to a friend and neighbor of Ramona Carnaje, the woman whose passing resulted in the completion of the quilt by the one and only Busy B's. Thank you all for participating in the raffle. The funds collected will go far to buy more supplies.

Ben adjourned the meeting with a request for assistance putting away the tables and chairs.



## *Heritage Chapter Holiday Potluck*

**December 20, 2013 (Friday), 10:00 AM**

**Harley Davidson Dealership—Renton, WA  
(Our regular monthly meeting location)**

**Bring your favorite potluck dish to share with others**

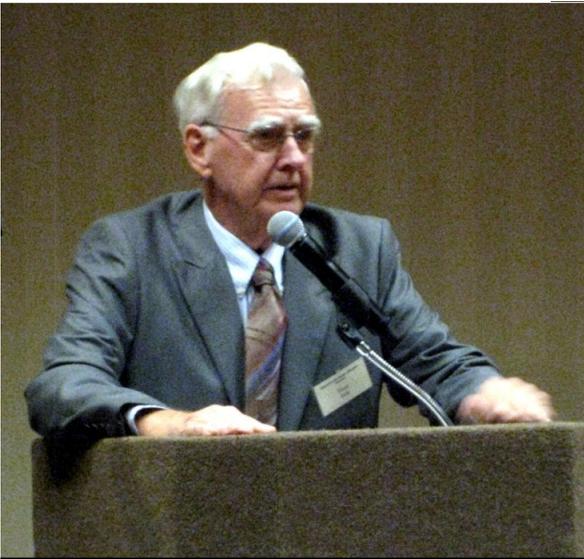
**Suggested categories are: Hot Dishes, Hors d'oeuvres, Salads, and Desserts  
(Table service, coffee, soft drinks and water will be furnished.)**

This will be the last meeting of this year and we would love to have many Bluebills attend. Wear your holiday finery or whatever you like and come spend some time with fellow Bluebills. It should be a great time for all.



**We look forward to seeing you there!**





MC for the evening  
Heritage Chapter Chairman Don Hilt



Elvis Wowed the Ladies!



Steve Sandberg received the Volunteer of the Year Award  
from Chapter Chairman Don Hilt.

*Heritage Chapter's  
18th Annual Volunteer  
of the year  
Award Dinner  
November 6th, 2013*

## TELL ME THIS WON'T HAPPEN TO US!

As a senior citizen was driving down the free-way, his car phone rang.

Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him,

“Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 90. Please be careful!”

“Heck,” said Herman, “It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!”



### Food Bank Schedule For 2013

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.

December    Des Moines    Dave & Mary Frantz

### Calendar of Events 2013

Dec 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Dec 20	Chapter Monthly Meeting Holiday Pot Luck

**Bluebills - Heritage Chapter**  
**PO Box 3707 M/C 2T-04**  
**Seattle, WA 98124**  
**(206) 544-6286**

e-mail: [bluebills@boeing.com](mailto:bluebills@boeing.com)

Web Site: [www.bluebills.org](http://www.bluebills.org)

<b>Don Hilt</b>	<b>Chairman</b> dphilt1980@aol.com
<b>Helen Lowe</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b> kittyczech@yahoo.com
<b>Bob Stubbs</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b> bstubbs_2000@yahoo.com
<b>Ben Sakamoto</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b> <a href="mailto:msakamoto@msn.com">msakamoto@msn.com</a>
<b>Roland Machado</b>	<b>Agency Relations</b> <a href="mailto:ramachado2@comcast.net">ramachado2@comcast.net</a>
<b>Norma Vaughn</b>	<b>Office Manager</b> <a href="mailto:abbyrose00@MSN.com">abbyrose00@MSN.com</a>
<b>Eileen Bear</b>	<b>Retiree Assistance</b> <a href="mailto:pussycat12@comcast.net">pussycat12@comcast.net</a>
<b>Maybelle Brickley</b>	<b>Volunteers</b> <a href="mailto:maybelleib@msn.com">maybelleib@msn.com</a>
<b>Millard Battles/Dick Cihak</b>	<b>Education</b> <a href="mailto:mtbattles@aol.com">mtbattles@aol.com</a> / <a href="mailto:dickcihak@aol.com">dickcihak@aol.com</a>
<b>Karen Baker</b>	<b>Historian</b> <a href="mailto:bakerkm2@comcast.net">bakerkm2@comcast.net</a>
<b>Ron Hanson</b>	<b>Computers</b> <a href="mailto:hansonis@aol.com">hansonis@aol.com</a>
<b>Dick Beham</b>	<b>Newsletter—Webmaster</b> <a href="mailto:rsqdncr@foxinternet.net">rsqdncr@foxinternet.net</a>
<b>Janice Hawes</b>	<b>Busy B's</b> <a href="mailto:j.s.hawes@comcast.net">j.s.hawes@comcast.net</a>
<b>Jim Beasley</b>	<b>Speaker Coordinator</b> <a href="mailto:jimcarlab@hotmail.com">jimcarlab@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Jim Lee</b>	<b>Special Projects</b> <a href="mailto:jimtleee@comcast.net">jimtleee@comcast.net</a>
<b>Fran Parker</b>	<b>School Supplies for Children</b> <a href="mailto:parker33@q.com">parker33@q.com</a>
<b>Mary Ulibarri</b>	<b>Newsletter co-editor</b> <a href="mailto:bbbeditor@live.com">bbbeditor@live.com</a>

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

Downtown Harley-Davidson  
3715 East Valley Road  
Renton, WA



**December 20, 2013**

**10:00 AM**

Speaker: None

## *Heritage Chapter Holiday Potluck*

*Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month*

### Please Note:

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the Downtown Harley-Davidson building at 3715 East Valley Road, Renton, WA.

The door on the North side of the building is opened at **10:00 AM** sharp. Please enter the building only on the north side. We meet on the 2nd floor — there is an elevator on the right as you enter.

The Social hour begins at that time. **PLEASE DO NOT ENTER BUILDING PRIOR TO 10:00 AM.**

## Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

**Volunteer Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_

(month/year)

For

\_\_\_\_\_ (agency name)

**Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_

(month/year)

For

\_\_\_\_\_ (agency name)

**Hours worked** \_\_\_\_\_

(month/year)

For

\_\_\_\_\_ (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 2T-04, Seattle, WA 98124

Email to [bluebills@boeing.com](mailto:bluebills@boeing.com) or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting

