



The Bugle

Ocean Hills Village Vets

Editor, Jim McDonough, 760-593-9994

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Commander's Corner

Captain Bob Bechill, SC, USNR-R.

Badabing, badaboom—we're already a month into the New Year, and the Village Vets have hit the ground running. We kicked things off with a hugely successful **Do Dues Day**. While other clubs needed just a couple of volunteers, we required at least four all day to keep up with demand. Outstanding job, troops.

Our first general meeting of the year will be held on **Wednesday, January 28, at 3:00 PM in Abravanel**. Featured will be a presentation on the flying exploits of Darrell "Condor" Gary. Condor was one of the founding fathers of the Navy's Fighter Weapons School—**TOP GUN**. This is one presentation you won't want to miss.

Looking ahead, **2026 is shaping up to be another great year** for your Village Vets. We're already lining up additional speakers and planning another memorable off-site event, while continuing work

on our cornerstone activities: the **Hot Dog Extravaganza in May, Veterans Day in November**, and our always-popular **Year-End Party in December**.

We are especially fortunate to have a strong and dedicated **Board of Directors**, all of whom volunteer their time to ensure the club runs smoothly. A few deserve special recognition:

- **Jim McDonough**, editor of *The Bugle*, serves as our resident scribe and editorial reviewer. If you haven't been featured yet, reach out—your story matters.
- **"Smitty" (Doc) Smith**, Treasurer, keeps impeccable records and accounts for every penny—an absolutely critical role.
- **Michael Welch**, Club Secretary, somehow captures pristine notes during our rapid-fire board meetings.
- **Jack Shabel** maintains our website, where all meeting minutes are posted.
- **Bob St. Laurent**, our resident "Flag Dude," is the go-to resource for flag installation and proper disposal as we approach our nation's 250th anniversary.
- **Pat Battles**, Vice Commander, and **Susz Clark**, who does just about anything I ask, keep everything—and everyone—on track.
- **Greg and Patty Coffey** work tirelessly behind the scenes on nearly every event. Though Patty isn't a director, this dynamic duo is indispensable.

Finally, none of this happens without **our volunteers**. Many of you answered the call last year, and the feedback says it all—you enjoyed helping. And that's what it's all about.

See you on Wednesday, January 28!

A VET IN OUR VILLAGE

Milt Kahn



Photo courtesy Milt

Milt was born in New York, but his family moved to Denver, CO, when he was a boy. He attended the University of Colorado, obtaining a BA in Economics. He got interested in the Navy because he was a fan of the Horatio Hornblower series of novels. He applied for Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, in 1965, and was accepted. Following OCS, he signed up to work in

Naval Intelligence, but instead was sent to flight training in Pensacola, FL. You would think they would have tested his vision thoroughly before flight school, but during flight school they noted a deficiency in his depth perception that disqualified him from flying.

Instead, Milt went off to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he served as an intelligence officer on an Admiral's staff for two years. He decided he wanted to stay in the Navy, and got an assignment as a supply officer on the USS *Hancock* (CVA-19), an Essex-class carrier which became the first equipped with steam catapults to launch jets. Among his duties, Milt ran the ship's store, selling everything from books to motorcycles. He served aboard *Hancock* for two and a half years. He would have stayed in the Navy if he received his desired billet in Europe, but the Navy didn't even respond to his request. He separated as a Lieutenant in 1970.

Getting out in 1970, Milt returned to Denver to face a tough job market. He worked for Levitz Furniture as a salesman, commission only, which he hated. He got into the mortgage business and worked there for 20-plus years, enjoying good times when rates were low and bad times when

they were high. For a while in the early 80's rates were over 16%, if you remember those days. He volunteered for twenty years as a Docent for the Denver Public Library. He worked some in real estate and still has a hand in it today.

Milt plays tennis and bridge here in OHCC, and with wife Betsy he delivers for Meals on Wheels a couple of times a month in North County. He went on an Honor Flight to the nation's capital towards the end of September. They've been in the neighborhood for seven years, getting here just in time for the Covid lockdown. That's a story we've all heard before.

Part of our Do Dues Day contingent



It appears we added more than twenty new members to our rolls. We'll be delivering the Bugle to 224 homes (as of January 13).

Did you receive a Challenge Coin?

All OHCC veterans are eligible to receive a challenge coin like the ones we gave out on Veterans Day. Contact Bob Bechill or David Hefler if you missed out. This offer includes veterans who are not Village Vets members.



Here's a photo of an actual bugle. Not sure if it works.

