



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

FEBRUARY 2022 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

Wow! FEB already. Looking forward to Marlene's talk in honor of Black History Month. We used to have at least one Tuskegee Airman and his wife as members. I'm still laughing at those PVT SNAFU films shown last month! Be sure and RSVP ASAP for every dinner program you plan to attend and spread the word. If we have enough RSVPs for the 28 MAR 2022 Gary Powers, Jr., talk we can swap out to the bigger dining room. I try to tell at least one person a day about the Roundtable...you can too!

Charles Holt, D.O.

Feb 28, 2022, 7:00 PM in-Person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social!

7:00 "Trivia Report" by Brad Damon & 7:15 Program

Speaker: Marlene Mendonsa

Honoring African Americans in WWII:

Valor - Sacrifice- Patriotism.

Please use Zoom link on website prior to start of meeting

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March speaker is a special event & we are taking reservations now!



6:00 Dinner served
\$11 + table tip++

7:00 Program
In person & Zoom

DATES FOR 2022

JAN 24	JUL 25
FEB 28	AUG 22
MAR 28	SEP 26
APR 25	OCT 24
MAY 23	NOV 28
JUN 27	DEC 5

2022 WWII Round Table Dues are Due Now

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinner in February. At dinner sign-in, you will also be able to confirm correctness of your membership information. This will help us update our membership list.

Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans FREE Membership

Join us in person if you are able! Remember, if you are in person and paying for a meal, you help support the Northside Service Club. They need our business. Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@myninestar.net or phone 317-607-6948. **no later than FEB 24!** A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. You do not want to miss the opportunity either for the book / artifact drawing: \$5.00 per ticket. Alan Andrews always has a great selection of "gems" as does Travis Petrie with WW2 era books and more. In February we also need to have the membership vote on the board slate for 2022-23. Did you know the \$11 meal fee goes totally to cover the cost of the meal (we get the room for free with buying meals), so donations to the WW2RT are always welcome (501c-3)

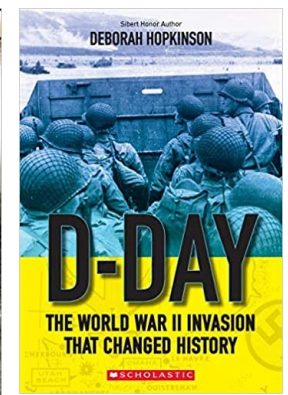
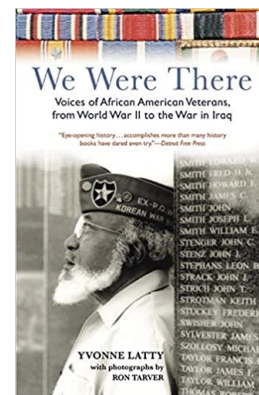
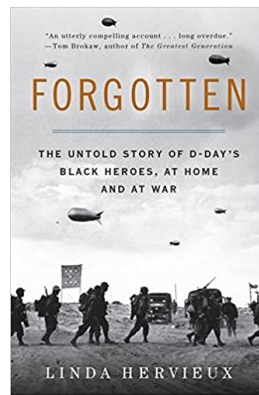
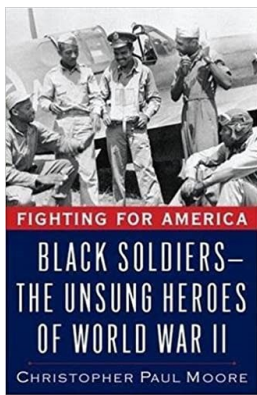
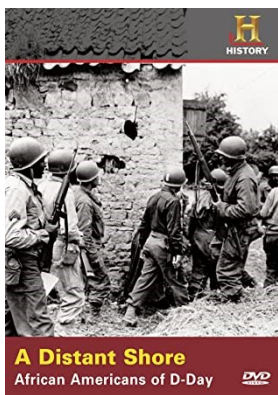
FEBRUARY 28, 2022 PROGRAM

February's program will showcase African Americans in WWII: Valor - Sacrifice- Patriotism



Black Americans Who Served in WWII Faced Segregation Abroad and at Home

Some 1.2 million Black men served in the U.S. military during the war, but they were often treated as second-class citizens.



Our featured speaker will be Board Member, Marlene Mendonsa. She has researched and prepared an excellent program which you will not want to miss!

Find out answers to some of these questions:

- ◆ What does double victory mean?
- ◆ What were their roles on D-Day?
- ◆ What is a barrage balloon?
- ◆ Is the Red Ball Express a train?
- ◆ What are the Black Panthers?
- ◆ What is the Wereth Eleven?
- ◆ Who were the Triple Nickels or the Six Triple Eights?
- ◆ Did Black Marines serve in WWII?
- ◆ Is Port Chicago by Lake Michigan?
- ◆ What are Doris Miller and Josephine Baker famous for in WWII?
- ◆ Where were the black nurses assigned?

◆ Were African Americans awarded the Medal of Honor?

Marlene recommends some resources to learn more about these unsung heroes in WWII.

Did you know . . . Seven African-American soldiers should have received the Medal of Honor during World War II? They are: 1st Lt. Vernon J. Baker, Staff Sgt. Edward A. Carter Jr., 1st Lt. John R. Fox, Pfc. Willy F. James Jr., Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers, Maj. Charles L. Thomas and Pvt. George Watson. During a ceremony on Jan. 12, 1997, at the White House, all men were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton. Baker was the only living recipient at the time of the ceremony.

Go to this website for a more complete history:

<https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2020/2/vfw-honors-african-american-medal-of-honor-recipient>

Can you remember where you were when this happened: U-2 Overflights and the Capture of Francis Gary Powers, 1960 ?

From US Department of State: Office of the Historian

On May 1, 1960, the pilot of an American U-2 spyplane was shot down while flying through Soviet airspace. The fallout over the incident resulted in the cancellation of the Paris Summit scheduled to discuss the ongoing situation in divided Germany, the possibility of an arms control or test ban treaty, and the relaxation of tensions between the USSR and the United States.

A little review may be in order! . . .

As early as 1955, officials in both Moscow and Washington had grown concerned about the relative nuclear capabilities of the Soviet Union and the United States. Given the threat that the nuclear arms race posed to national security, leadership in both countries placed a priority on information about the other side's progress. At a conference in Geneva in 1955, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower proposed an "open skies" plan, in which each country would be permitted to make overflights of the other to conduct mutual aerial inspections of nuclear facilities and launch pads. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev refused the proposal, continuing the established Soviet policy of rejecting international inspections in any form. Meanwhile, Khrushchev also claimed that the Soviet Union had developed numerous intercontinental ballistic missiles, which only motivated the United States Government to look for new ways to verify developments in the Soviet nuclear program.

The U-2 spy plane program grew out of these concerns. The U-2 was a special high-altitude plane that flew at a ceiling of 70,000 feet. Because it flew at such heights, it was thought it would be possible for the planes to pass over the Soviet Union undetected by radar on the ground. It was important that the overflights be undetected, because normally an unauthorized invasion of another country's airspace was considered an act of war. Operated through the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the first flight over Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg) took place on July 4, 1956. The flights continued intermittently over the next four years. It was later revealed that the Soviets did pick up the flights on radar, and the United States lost a plane over the Soviet Union in 1959, but as long as there was no definitive proof connecting the flights to the United States there was no advantage for the Soviets to raise the issue publicly lest it draw attention to the Soviet inability to shoot down the offending flights. . . .

After extensive questioning by the KGB, Powers was convicted of spying and sentenced to three years in prison and seven more of hard labor. In February, 1962, however, he and a detained American student were traded for a captured Soviet spy, Rudolf Abel.



Go to these sites for more information: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/u2-incident> or

Smithsonian Wall of Honor: <https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/capt-francis-gary-powers>

Be sure to mark your calendar now for a really special guest speaker: Francis Gary Powers, Jr. will talk about his father on March 28, 2022 As this will be a very popular event, reservations will be necessary! The Round Table board needs a minimum of 150 reservations to ensure we can request the main hall, since this will be a popular event!

Reserve NOW for the March 28th program with Gary Powers, Jr. The Round Table needs to confirm — of reservations to hold the large hall no later than **March 14th**.

Dinner cost, including tip will be \$ 15.00 each (please mail check with this reservation slip to:

Lucy Parker no later than March 11th: (put her address here) Reservations will also be accepted at the February meeting!

Name: _____ (phone or email: _____)

Number of guests: _____

---X---

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARCH MEETING

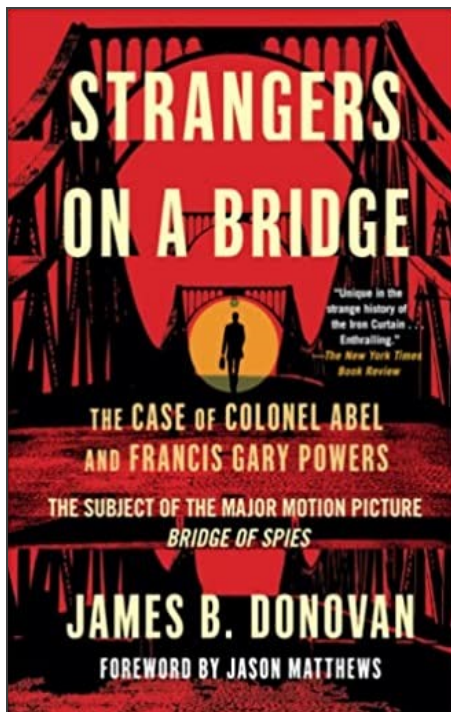
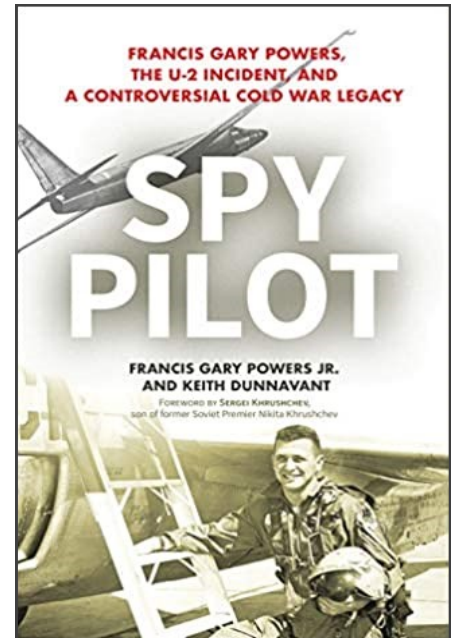
Our guest speaker will bring the following book for sale:

Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy
Published January 22, 2019

Also recommended:

Strangers on a Bridge: The Case of Colonel Abel and Francis Gary Powers
Published August 2015

Both books are also available through Amazon.com.



The #1 *New York Times* bestseller and subject of the acclaimed major motion picture *Bridge of Spies* directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Tom Hanks as James B. Donovan. Originally published in 1964, this is the “enthraling...truly remarkable” (*The New York Times Book Review*) insider account of the Cold War spy exchange—with a new foreword by Jason Matthews, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Sparrow* and *Palace of Treason*.

In the early morning of February 10, 1962, James B. Donovan began his walk toward the center of the Glienicke Bridge, the famous “Bridge of Spies” which then linked West Berlin to East. With him, walked Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, master spy and for years the chief of Soviet espionage in the United States. Approaching them from the other side, under equally heavy guard, was Francis Gary Powers, the American U-2 spy plane pilot famously shot down by the Soviets, whose exchange for Abel Donovan had negotiated. These were the strangers on a bridge, men of East and West, representatives of two opposed worlds meeting in a moment of high drama.