



Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

August, 2019

August Meeting Change



For the month of August, we will not meet at Altura Credit Union on August 10th. Instead, we will attend the African American Family Reunion at Towngate Park in Moreno Valley on August 24th. Towngate Park is located at 13051 Elsworth Street in Moreno Valley. We will have a table under an easy up. Those who are able to help with the setup are asked to arrive by 8:00 AM. Coming early will ensure better parking choices. Please bring chairs. Food and drinks will be provided, but it is always wise to bring something to drink throughout the day as it will be hot. This event is family friendly. Feel free to bring family and friends. There are play areas for kids.

Yesenia Apreza Scholarship Winner



Scholarship winner Yesenia Apreza joined us for our July meeting. She is one of two students who won the \$2500 scholarship for students majoring in STEM subjects. Miss Apreza plans to attend UCLA in the fall. She is the first in her family to head to college.

Robert Friend Joins the Lonely Eagles



DOTA Lt. Col. Robert "Bob" Friend (USAF Ret.) joined the Lonely Eagles on June 21, 2019 at age 99. From an early age, Lt. Col. Friend exhibited an interest in aviation. He joined a program called Civilian Pilot training as a sophomore at Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania. He earned his private pilot's license in 1939/40. After a program was established at Tuskegee Alabama to determine whether

non-whites could learn to fly, Robert Friend was accepted as an air cadet in 1942. Upon receiving his wings in 1942, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group. Stationed in the European Theatre of Operations, he became primary wingman to Col. Benjamin O. Davis. He flew 142 combat missions during WWII. He also served in Korea and Vietnam. Robert Friend retired from the Air Force in 1972 he joined Fairchild Stratus Companies in Manhattan Beach where he was Assistant to the President of the company and oversaw the design and production of space products for the space shuttle. He then served as Executive Vice President for the Stanford Mu Corporation in Los Angeles where components for the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle are produced.

Lt. Col. Friend earned a degree in Astro Physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology and advanced management degrees from UCLA Graduate Business School and the US Air Force Program Management Course, Special Weapons School and Air War College.

Lt. Col. Friend lived in Irvine, California. He is survived by children Thelma Hoffman, Robert J. Friend, Jr. Michael D. Friend, Debra D. Carter, Dana A. Friend, Clara Ann Browning, and Karen E. Crumlich. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Anna, and his son Darry R. Friend.