

# CENTER FOR WORLD WAR II STUDIES

AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER

**PEARL HARBOR COMMEMORATION A MEMORABLE EVENT:** On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution conducted a ceremony commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Over 300 persons attended the event which featured as guest speakers COL Joseph Whitlock, Deputy Base Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; CAPT David Harrison, Commander, US Naval Weapons Station Earle; and Fred Fraterrigo, Professor of History, Brookdale Community College. Following very dynamic presentations, the audience heard distinguished veterans Ralph Jeffers, former chairman, NJ Pearl Harbor Survivors Association (NJPHSA) and veteran crewman, USS Curtiss; and Thomas Mahoney, former president, Chapter 2, NJPHSA and also a veteran crewman of the USS Curtiss speak about their experiences on December 7, 1941. **ONE COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP** when these remarkable veterans were telling their stories. Closing remarks were then made by Adam Black, a Brookdale student majoring in History who adeptly compared what America experienced on December 7<sup>th</sup> to what Americans experienced on September 11, 2001, something through which his family suffered personal loss. The event was sponsored by the NJ Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the Monmouth Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

**DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> DECLARED CENTER FOR WORLD WAR II STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY IN MONMOUTH COUNTY:**

Following the entrance of the official party during the Pearl Harbor Commemoration, Deputy Director of the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders John P. Curley and member of the Board Amy Mallet presented Brookdale Interim President Dr. William Toms with a surprise proclamation. The proclamation declared December 10, 2011 as Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution Day throughout Monmouth County. Dr. Toms sincerely thanked the Freeholders and expressed deep appreciation for the Board of Freeholder's recognition of the Center, its programs and services.

**PAUL J. FRISCO CORNER DEDICATED:** Prior to the Pearl Harbor Commemoration on December 10<sup>th</sup>, a sector of the Al Meserlin WW II Photo Gallery was formally dedicated as the Paul J. Frisco Corner in honor of distinguished WW II navy veteran and valued Center Executive Council member Paul Frisco. Paul served aboard the destroyer USS Cushing throughout the later part of the war in the Pacific and participated in the battles for the Philippines Islands, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. His ship was present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945. Guest speaker for the program was Al Martinucci, President of the USS Cushing Association who came from Erie, PA to be at the event.

**SPRING 2012 WW II STUDIES SERIES ANNOUNCED:**

Noted author and Temple University History professor Dr. Gregory Urwin kicks off the Spring 2012 WW II Studies Series on March 6 with a program on "Victory in Defeat: The Wake Island Defenders." His talk will detail what happened to the brave men who defended Wake Island in the face of overwhelming odds until being captured by the Japanese. Their stance inspired America. Following Dr. Urwin on March 27<sup>th</sup> is producer/director of the Brookdale TV series "Triumphant Spirit" and manager of Media Technologies at Bergen Community College, Brian Hemstreet, who will speak on "WW II vs. The Iraqi Conflict: Similarities and Differences in Documenting War." On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, author and historian Richard Lucas will speak on the interesting topic "Axis Sally: The American Voice of Nazi Germany." Then, in conjunction with the NJ Alliance to Preserve World War II History in Asia a special program "The Doolittle Air Raid - America Strikes Back!" will be conducted on April 17th. Feature writer and coordinator of the Center's Veteran's History Project Paul Frisco will make a presentation commemorating the event. He will be followed by professors of History Fred Fraterrigo, Brookdale and John Fraterrigo, Ocean County College on April 24<sup>th</sup> who will speak on the all encompassing topic "WW II from Beginning to End." Closing the series on May 8<sup>th</sup> is naval historian and author J. Wandres who will speak on "The Ablest Navigator- Israel's Volunteer US Admiral." For reservations call 732 224 2315. Programs start at 7:30pm

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