

Newsletter July 2005

Vol. 12, Issue 7

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July, 2005

July Meeting in War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, July 12

Board Meeting.....9:30 a.m.
General Meeting.....11:00 a.m.
Program..... 11:15 a.m.
Luncheon..... 12:00 a.m.

Program

We are honored to have as today's speaker Brigadier General Robert L. Cardenas, USAF (Ret). The following description of his service is set forth in the citation which accompanied the award of the Air Commando Hall of Fame: "Brigadier General Robert L. Cardenas, USAF (Ret.) served many distinguished successful tours during his 34 years of active United States Air Force service. Early in his career he was shot down over Europe while flying a B-24 Bomber during World War II. He successfully evaded and escaped to Switzerland and thence to France prior to D Day from whence he was flown to England and returned to the United States. Following these harrowing events, he reported to the Flight Test Division at Wright-Patterson AFB for training as an Army Air Corps Test Pilot. He led a Joint Task Force of Air Force Special Air Warfare and US Army Special Forces to Kashmir, India for the purpose of evaluating and improving high altitude resupply drops to the Indian Army in the Himalayan Mountains." (Continued on back page.)

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Today's Menu: Spring Fling!

Assorted Sandwiches, Potato Salad,
Green Salad, Fresh Fruit Assortment
Apple Pastry for Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and
Lemonade
Price: \$11

Reservations: call before noon on Friday

Alice Anglim (619) 239-4190 or
Dora Garcia (619) 464-8595 or
Sylvia Tatum (858) 272-0494

Message from President Nancy Acevedo

For June, our Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boardmember Jim Foley. We then welcomed a number of "first time" attendees and new members.

Our program was a health insurance panel, which included Val VanDeweghe, the City's Benefits Administrator; Nancy Fase Guernon, of Care Counsel; and Pete Thurman and Yazmin Stutzell representing Kaiser Permanente; and Gregory Tunnell and Michael Kin representing PacifiCare. Their attendance and response to questions was helpful and very much appreciated.

All retirees should by now have received a booklet in the mail, "Retiree Health Insurance Benefit Information," so that they can make decisions about their insurance and, if any changes are desired, to notify SDCERS during **the open enrollment period, June 6 to July 8, 2005.**

Care Counsel can assist you in reaching a decision about which health plan to select. Care Counsel's phone is (888) 227-3334, and their hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (California time). SDCERS also has a help number, (619) 525-3664. If you want information about a union-sponsored plan, call the union involved.

One thing the panel stressed is that **you are automatically enrolled in Medicare D already**, and the \$35 per month cost is being paid for you. **DO NOT enroll another time** in Medicare D, the new prescription benefit: because it will cost you needlessly.

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Our mid-month Mayoral Candidate Forum moderated by former KFMB news journalist, Cathy Clark, was provocative and interesting. Questions posed by the CSDREA board centered on the Retirement Trust Fund crisis and the City's financial crisis, in addition to the question of City funds being used for private benefit. Hours of forum preparation were given by board members Nancy Acevedo Charles Buchanan, John Casey, Dave Crow, Jim Gleason, Ruth Ann Hageman, Patricia Karnes, Adam Saling, Sylvia Tatum, John Tsiknas, Dave Wood, and off-board member Rosario Wiseman. Audience members helped by submitting additional written questions

--Nancy

(Cont'd from page 1) "Later in 1968, General Cardenas was selected to command the Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin AFB, Florida. During his tenure and through his masterful leadership, the Special Warfare Center had its greatest growth in history, expanding to two Special Operations Wings, which were comprised of 628 aircraft of 16 varieties.... As a tribute to the men and women serving in Special Operations, he created the "Air Commando Hall of Fame" which stands as a living monument to the achievements of those selected for enshrinement. A Warrior without peer, General Cardenas truly embodies the Air Commando spirit of "Any Time Any Place."

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**Commentary by Advocacy Vice President,
Virginia Silverman**

We all have different perspectives on events--not at all a surprise. I was the one pushing our CSDREA to approve my going to the Retirement Trust Fund Board and requesting a waiver, and I still hope they will do so. But the abuse that has been heaped on this BRAND NEW BOARD is just not fair. They were socked with this very sensitive waiver request their very first meeting (only last April!), and have been scolded by the City Council and the newspaper ever since. The Council has not indemnified this board, and nobody has answered other concerns regarding a waiver (such as, "Is there a limit to the document search if the privilege is waived?"). Remember that the waiver is a constitutionally protected relationship they are being asked to set aside, and for people whom they don't know. So at least they have a right to have their questions answered before they put themselves at risk from lawsuits or criminal charges. The Council indemnified the previous board (in the very same motion that they approved the underfunding). On Monday the City

City Council is approving almost \$1 million in legal fees for themselves, plus \$1.2 million additional for Kroll, \$1.35 million for Willkie Farr and whomever, plus another \$0.4 million for KPMG. All of these consultants and attorneys are to defend the City and specifically the City Council for some things they have done long before the current pension board was appointed. And please let us remember that the change in the pension board composition was designed to create a more independent board, without vested interests in the retirement system. It was approved by 2/3 of the electorate. Now it seems that everyone is angry because they are independent. Whew!

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Wouldn't You Like to Know...?

During this past month our Retirement Fund made up some previously lost ground: as of June 13 the balance was \$3.632 billion, an increase of \$62 million.

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Here are some of the recent items you can find under "Articles, Reports, Opinions & Commentaries" on the CSDREA website <http://www.csdrea.com>: *City Attorney Interim Report #6 re Illegal Acts*; *Rating the Return by James Gleason*; *Cooperative Persuasion/Negotiation Results by Bob West, 06/18/2004*

**Mark your calendar!
Next SDREA Meeting
Tuesday, August 9, 2005
War Memorial Bldg, Balboa Park**

SDREA Roster (Short version)	
President, Nancy Acevedo	(619) 579-5930
V-President, Advocacy, Virginia Silverman	(619) 224-1876
Treasurer, Sylvia Tatum	(858) 272-0494
Newsletter Editor, Ruth Ann Hageman	(858) 270-8530
Sharon Beach, Sunshine Lady	(858) 273-4067
(Call Sharon Beach to send cards to members who are ill.)	