

City Council names WWII vets Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal

A proclamation of the City Council of the city of Avalon honoring World War II veterans as the 2014 Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal:

• WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, the largest war of all time and the most defining event of the 20th Century began; and

• WHEREAS, Americans, devoted to liberty and to this country courageously answered the nation's call to arms summarized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by the words: "You bear with you the hope, the confidence, the gratitude and the prayers of your family, your fellow-citizens and your President"; and

• WHEREAS, we still believe today that the blessings of liberty require constant vigilance and sacrifice; and

• WHEREAS, every man, woman and child in this great Nation owes a debt of gratitude to those who served their country so selflessly in an event that reshaped the world; and

• WHEREAS, these brave



Bill Jones

soldiers, sailor, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and airmen, were the beloved sons and daughters of our land;

Now, therefore, we, the Avalon City Council do hereby recognize and name:

World War II Veterans the 2014 Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal and extend to them our deepest appreciation for all of their dedication to their country and their fellow citizens.

– Signed this 4th day of July,

2014.

Bill Hill was brought to Catalina Island in 1919 at the age of 2 years old and has spent most of his 96 years of life in Avalon. Bill served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946, where he served in Texas for two years before being stationed in India.

Bill Jones enlisted at the age of seventeen in the United States Navy and served from 1943 to 1947. Bill served as a sonar operator on a destroyer escort ship deployed to detect submarines in New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines and the invasion of Formosa.

Bill Meister enlisted at the age of seventeen in the United States Marine Corps and served from 1943 to 1946. Bill served under heavy combat manning the 75mm pack howitzer and 155mm howitzer at Tarawa Atoll, Saipan, Guam, and Iwo Jima.

Doug Bombard enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and served from 1943 to 1945. Doug served as Flight Engineer on B17 transition bomber aircraft

in Amarillo, Texas.

Marie Whittington enlisted in the United States Army Signal Corps and served from 1941 to 1945. Marie was stationed in England and France, where she served as a radio operator transmitting four-letter code groups.

George Dold served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1946. George held the post of Flight Engineer aboard PB2Y3 four-engine seaplanes on patrol for enemy submarines across Midway, Eniwetok, and Saipan.

Robert "Jerry" Huisken served in the United States Coast Guard and served from 1945 to 1946. Jerry served in Alaska on Middleton and Kodiak Islands in a construction detachment, where he built electronic tracking stations for ships at sea.

Jack Linden enlisted in the United States Merchant Marines at the age of 16 years and served from 1942 to 1946, including his time in basic training on Catalina Island.

Jack served aboard Liberty and Victory ships distributing supplies and delivering troops in war

zones around the world, including Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Aleutian Islands.

Dick Kellogg enlisted in the United States Merchant Marines July 1, 1943 and boarded the SS Avalon for training on Catalina Island. Dick sailed on six tanker ships from 1943 to 1946 as an oiler, where he traveled through the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans and the Persian Gulf.

Sam Rikalo was born and raised on Catalina Island. Sam served in the United States Air Force Air Transport Command and served from 1942 to 1945 in the 75th Infantry.

Jim Burke served in the United States Army and served from 1943 to 1946. Jim served in the 102 Division Corp of Engineers, where he traveled across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Holland building bridges and laying mines.

Roger Upton served in the United States Air Force and served from 1944 to 1948. Roger served at Kadena Air Strip in Okinawa, Japan in the 333 Bombardment Group.