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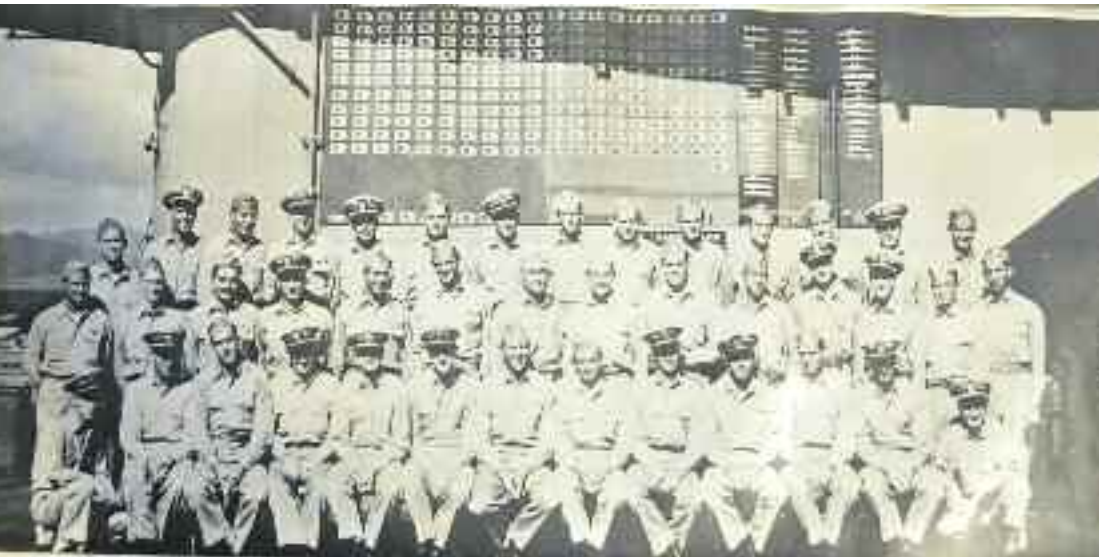
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Decorated Lafayette WWII Veteran Lives Life to the Fullest

... continued from page B1



The U.S.S. Intrepid crew in front of the victory board, which tracked the number of enemy aircraft and ships destroyed. Image provided

After the seven-and-a-half years in the Navy, Baker chose to study law at University of California's Hasting College of the Law, when an inexplicable instinct told him there'd be a need for attorneys following the war. Practicing all manner of law as a sole practitioner in Oakland, he then formed a partnership with another attorney in San Francisco. Hendler, Baker, Green and Taylor grew to be an eight-partner operation and after 30 years, merged with Hanson Bridgett, now a 150-member firm. "I worked and had a job to do," Baker says, about a profession that has awarded him honors not unlike his Navy career.

Distinguished Service, Lifetime Achievement and other awards from international lawyers associations remain tucked away – perhaps because when touring the grounds around his home, which he built in 1973 – duplicating a model house he visited, but rearranging some of the rooms – there were memories of dinner parties, too numerous to individualize. And he has a long list of hobbies: golf, ballroom dancing and reading voraciously.

And there are more achievements: like a California Public Utilities Commission rate program he proposed that he says "controlled the rates (citizens) paid for general commodities, like food and clothing," from 1996 to 2000. A national

grassroots campaign he instigated generated enough momentum to cause the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., to reverse a ruling he disliked: "I've always been competitive," he says, shrugging, but leaning forward in his chair as if prepared to engage in debate.

Baker's energy would be alarming, if its intensity wasn't disarmed by his still charismatic grin – and the soft, honey-sweet shift in his tone and physicality when he talks about his family and life in Lafayette. He says the city is filling up with buildings and cars, which makes him regretful as a resident, but he speculates, is good for businesses. He calls the area's schools "outstanding," and his two adult children, Danny and Kim, are "loved by everyone who knows them, just like their mother was."

Hopeful that politicians in Washington will find a way to run the country with more harmony and less gridlock, Baker says, "You can't solve everything. You do what you can within the purview of what's available." Has Baker been lucky, to have survived war, prospered through economic cycles of boom and bust, and lived within the fold of a loving family and wonderful friends? "You bet," he says. "Dan Baker has led an interesting life: I did what I wanted to do. I am indeed, lucky."



Dan Baker's Distinguished Flying Cross and other service crosses.

Distinguished Flying Cross Winner from Battle of Midway to be Honored June 7

Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers (USMC-Ret), a survivor of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, will join fellow members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in commemorating the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Midway at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco June 7. Childers, who is also the final surviving member of the torpedo bomber squadrons which spearheaded America's attack against the Japanese Imperial



Navy during the tide-turning confrontation at Midway, was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." L. Snyder
Lamorinda Weekly will feature a profile of Childers in its July 2 issue.

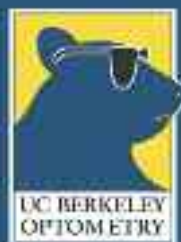
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