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that can skillfully fix it. Also, technommy guides you, teaches you, and shows you the ins and outs of your computer in no time at all." – Marian Nichols, Moraga

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**Conspicuous Bravery** 

Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers (USMC-ret.), center, was honored June 7 at the 72nd annual Battle of Midway Celebration in San Francisco. He is the last survivor of the USS Yorktown's intrepid torpedo bomber squadrons which helped turn the tide of battle June 4, 1942. Joining him was Nancy Robinson, Marketing Director at Aegis Living in Moraga, and Orinda resident, Rear Admiral Vince Anzilotti (US Navy-ret). Photo by William G. Schultz, courtesy of the San Francisco Battle of Midway Celebration Committee. Photo provided

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## the Enterprise - the plane's nose fighting him. Out of 12 Yorktown torpedo bombers scrambled, only two LeapFrog Loot \$50 off

returned - both ocean crash landings. Only Childers and two other first division airmen survived. Their daring dogfighting diverted Japanese attention from U.S. carrier-launched dive bombers. With decks laden with rearming planes and fuel, the Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, and Hiryū became blazing nightmares. The Japanese Navy would never recover.

flight deck. Childers' pilot aimed for

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Barely alive when fished from the water, Childers underwent surgery on a mess hall table. It was his 21st birthday.

Abandoned and adrift, the Yorktown was eventually reboarded but, as crews worked to get her underway June 6, a Japanese submarine mortally wounded her and sent her destroyer escort to the bottom. Still, the mighty Yorktown clung stubbornly to the surface, rolling over and sinking just before sunrise June 7.

"This huge ship slowly sank below ... we watched it until it was completely gone," Childers recalled for a 1999 National Geographic special about the battle. When finally found by Dr. Robert Ballard, the the Titanic, the Yorktown was more than three miles below the surface deeper than even the Bismarck. Just 3,000 miles from Japan, her pilot house, bridge and flight deck were still intact

Childers earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." Signed by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, the citation states that:

"CHILDERS, disregarding the extreme danger from intense anti-aircraft fire and overwhelming fighter opposition, vigorously and with heroic determination repelled enemy air attacks until seriously wounded. Although no longer able to man his free machine gun, he continued to fire on attacking enemy Japanese planes with his .45 caliber pistol. His great courage and devotion to duty in a situation of grave danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Sent to California to convalesce

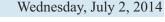
A bomb hole in the Yorktown's famed undersea explorer who located at Mare Island Hospital, he met his wife while undergoing pre-flight training at Saint Mary's College. Commissioned an officer in the Marines in 1944, he became a general's aide and gunnery instructor, flew Corsairs in Korea, and commanded the first nighttime helicopter assault in Vietnam before retiring in 1968. Honors included the Purple Heart, Legion of Merit and VN Gallantry Cross.

Childers then completed a Ph.D. and became an administrative dean at Chapman University. His sons are all accomplished professionals too. After losing his first wife to a medical complication, he found love again with his late wife, June.

A hero who has seen more than his fair share of heartache, Childers has one simple message, "If you have a wife, treasure her."

To hear Lt. Childers in his own words, watch "National Geographic: The Battle for Midway" (PG; 1999): www.imdb.com/title/tt0264397/.

## Samira The Best Way Hom says Experience makes a difference for patients Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for transitioning from hospital to home. ManorCare Health Services in Walnut





Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common auestions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

any patients discharged from the hospital this year will require skilled nursing and rehabilitation before returning home. They will face a monumental decision as to which team of doctors, therapists, nurses, and social workers they will trust to help them recover. Each day, ManorCare treats

patients with complex conditions transitioning from hospital to home. Our outcomes and professional experience reflect that a patient's best way home is through our doors. Last year our centers admitted over 161,000 patients for goal- oriented rehabilitation care after surgery, illness or injury. The majority of these patients returned home to lead independent, productive lives.

Whether a patient is recovering from surgery, illness or injury, ManorCare works with the patient, family members and physicians to create individualized care plans that recognize the unique needs of each patient. Discharge planning begins upon admission at ManorCare. Goals are set to help patients return home as quickly as possible. The combined efforts of the therapy, rehabilitative nursing, dietary and social services departments provide guidance, family support and the encouragement needed for patients to return to their independent lifestyles.

Our patients are coming to us younger and sicker and are expecting to recover quicker and return home. Our rehabilitation gyms are busier than ever, with patients working on regaining strength, stamina and the skills they need to reach their goal of returning home. Often patients may meet the criteria for discharge from the hospital, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they are ready to return home, they may need rehabilitation to restore their physical abilities and relearn skills, as well as to achieve the confidence they need to return to a productive lifestyle.

ManorCare Walnut Creek and ManorCare Tice Valley provide post-hospital care for patients transitioning from hospital from home. Please feel free to call for additional information or to schedule a tour.

> For more information please visit www.manorcare.com. For a short video visit us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/hcrmanorcare

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## ManorCare Tice Valley

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The USS Yorktown, on fire with boilers knocked out, just after absorbing three Japanese bomb hits during the Battle of Midway June 4, 1942. Source: Photographer 2nd Class William G. Roy, Official U.S. Navy Photograph, U.S. National Archives, photo # 80-G-312018.

# **Calling all Veterans**



Swinging Blue Stars

Five local Rotary clubs, as well as Lamorinda Presents, have joined hands with The Big Band of Rossmoor and are reaching out to veterans – all U.S. veterans, young and old – to attend a special night with the public at a free concert/ USO Show and Picnic under the stars from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 19 at Lafayette Reservoir. Designed as a way to honor those "who were there for us when we most needed it," the music will include Glen Miller, George Gershwin, and Fred Astaire songs. The special guest will be the Swinging Blue Stars, a talented group that appeared with the 32-member Big Band of Rossmoor at the final send-off of the USS Iowa. Think of the Andrew Sisters singing "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" and more. If you know of a veteran, email Mo Levich at gto@67goat.com with name, rank, year(s) of service, branch, and say whether they will attend. A golf cart shuttle is available for those who may need assistance. Uniforms are optional, but encouraged. Military vehicles will be on display.