

Excerpts from Torii Cant's
THE DH
 An anti-Designated Hitter novel
 loosely based on the 1965 MLB
 season

Available at Amazon.com

Paul Daniggelis, FFS El Paso, Texas

Torii called Felina the next Sunday. They agreed that he would pick her up at her place on Monday at 2:15 for a 3:15 movie. He was chomping on the bit and got there early. He heard some music as he knocked on the door. He recognized the singers as the "Four Freshmen" but the song was not familiar. The door opened and he was greeted with, "The early bird gets the worm, or what?"

"Hi. Yeah, I guess I'm a little early; got nervous hanging around the apartment.

"Well, you better come in then."

"Are you a Four Freshmen fan?" Torii asked.

"Yes, and you?"

"Yeah, I like them fine. They were all over the Arizona State campus when I was there."

"Same at New Mexico State."

"Penino mentioned you were from El Paso but he didn't say that you went to NMSU. That's a good school for golf."

"You'll get no argument from me. I loved it there."

"That's not a radio I hear, is it?"

"No, that's the new Freshmen album. I just got it."

"Are you a collector?"

"Yes, I have all their albums except the Tokyo. My dad took me to see them at the Café Charmont in Juarez, Mexico when I was eleven or twelve [1955]. Ross Barbour even came to our table to chat between sets. What a wonderful sound don't you think?"

"You even know the names of these guys?"

"Of course."

"Well, I don't know the song they were singing when I came in. What was it?"

"That was *Nancy with the Laughing Face*. It was written for Frank Sinatra about Frank's daughter Nancy. It's a real cute song, don't you think?"

"Sounded good to me," Torii said.

"You'll never guess who wrote it."

"Who would that be?"

"Phil Silvers."

"You mean the Sergeant Bilko, Silvers?"

"That's the guy."

"No kidding; how about that. Hey, check the time. Better call a cab."

That evening, the quartet got together for some home cooked spaghetti and beer at Felina's place. She was quite pleased, and showed it, when Torii requested the Four Freshmen for a musical interlude. After that, try as they might to avoid it, baseball intruded on the conversation.

PROFILE IN COURAGE: JACK HUBBARD

by Bob Ferreira

Many of you may not know that one of my great interests outside of music is history, particularly, the history of World War II. The many trials and tribulations set upon the world by despotic leaders brought out the worst and the best in people around the globe.

Along with the great horrors of war also came renewed hope; the spawning of great innovations; new ideals; as well as to introduce us to "The Greatest Generation." I am referring to the brave men and women in our armed forces as well as those who contributed immensely to the war effort in a civilian capacity all towards the common goals of victory and peace.

For some time now I have had the privilege to know one of these brave souls. He is Jack Hubbard, Major, USAF (Ret.). I became fascinated with Jack's story back in 2012 when I received an article on Major Hubbard regarding an honor being bestowed upon him by the French government for his contributions in World War II in the liberation of France. Major Hubbard (then 90) was designated a Knight in the Order in the Legion of Honor from the French Consul General and a Rear Admiral of the French Navy. In reading the article I was acquainted with Jack's background and became more intrigued on what led him on his path to patriotism and this long overdue accolade.

I contacted Jack and was greeted by a jubilant voice on the other end of the phone; sounding all but half of his ninety years. We discussed many topics including his love of music and, of course, The Four Freshmen. It was then that Jack told me about a book he wrote on his experiences in growing up during the Great Depression and his odyssey to find his own path in contributing to the war effort. The book is called *Patriots Will* (Pub. Authorhouse- 2002).

From his early years growing up in South Carolina and his multiple solo cross country treks to his years in the Canadian and US militaries, Jack ably transports the reader to his side during his many adventures. I was amazed and inspired by how one so much adversity and and convictions to serving his country in a patriotism. After serving Army and several months finally transferred to the on B-17 bombers for the where he ultimately flew

The brightness that of humility and pure joy more inspiring aspects of and his lovely wife Karen of the Four Freshmen. Tampa Convention.

An autographed copy of Jack's book *Patriots Will* can be purchased from directly from Jack. Write to him at jhubbard121@gmail.com.

