



## Main Details

Website with trailer: [www.ElevenTheMovie.com](http://www.ElevenTheMovie.com)

Country of Production: USA

Film Completion: May 2016

Run Time: 77 minutes

Format: DCP, Blu-ray, 1080p (2:35:1)

Sound Format: Stereo

Director: George Retelas

Email: [georgeretelas@gmail.com](mailto:georgeretelas@gmail.com)

Address: PO Box 2190 Oakdale, CA 95361

## Social Media Campaign

#ElevenTheMovie

## Logline

Eleven airmen. Eleven stories.

## Synopsis

After discovering his late grandfather's WWII Navy journal, film director George Retelas set out to capture the stories of the remaining airmen that served with his namesake. "Eleven" is a documentary feature comprised of interviews by eleven WWII veterans from Carrier Air Group 11 recalling their Naval Aviation tours off Guadalcanal Island and aboard the USS Hornet. Featuring rare U.S. Navy footage and wartime photos, this national treasure is told entirely by the surviving airmen—in their own words. Discover the personal stories behind the war in the Pacific as eleven first-hand accounts tell the definitive story of Carrier Air Group "Eleven."

## **About Air Group 11**

Carrier Air Group 11 was commissioned on Oct 10, 1942 as (CVG-11). They recorded a large number of “firsts,” establishing its place as one of the US Navy’s top fighting air groups. In June 1943, pilots and aircrews from CVG-11 conducted the first daylight raids off Guadalcanal Island during the fighting in the Solomon Islands and New Georgia operations during World War II.

During its second combat tour (1944-45) they participated in operations over Leyte Gulf, French Indochina, Formosa Island (Taiwan), and China while flying off the deck of the USS Hornet. For these operations, CVG-11 was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The legacy of CVG-11 carries on today as Carrier Air Wing 11 (CVW-11) headquartered at Naval Air Station Lemoore and attached to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. The exhibit honoring Carrier Air Group Eleven is on board the USS Hornet, a floating museum in Alameda, CA. [www.USS-Hornet.org](http://www.USS-Hornet.org)

## **About the Director**

George Retelas is a freelance photographer and digital arts instructor based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He produced the award-winning short film “Franklin” about a forgotten veteran photographed by a mysterious traveler, followed by the short film drama “The Girl and the Graduate” that premiered at the le Festival des Films du Monde. He completed his masters in journalism school at San Jose State University, where upon graduation he found his grandfather’s WWII Navy journal. “Eleven” is his first feature film. [www.GeorgeRetelas.com](http://www.GeorgeRetelas.com)

## **Festivals & Screenings**

USS Hornet: Sea, Air & Space Museum – Alameda, CA (World Premiere)

California Independent Film Festival – Moraga, CA

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – Livermore, CA

The Museum of Flight – Seattle, WA

San Jose State University – San Jose, CA

Livermore Valley Film Festival – Livermore, CA (Best Documentary)

Hiller Aviation Museum – San Carlos, CA

Naval Air Station Alameda, former base theater – Alameda, CA

Planes of Fame Air Museum – Chino, CA

High Desert Center for the Arts – Victorville, CA

Palm Springs Air Museum – Palm Springs, CA

Evergreen Museum – McMinnville, OR

Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, AZ

Naval Air Station North Island – San Diego, CA

Naval Postgraduate School – Monterey, CA

The Legion of Honor – San Francisco, CA

United States Naval Academy – Annapolis, MD

Hellenic Center – Sacramento, CA

Illinois Aviation Museum – Bolingbrook, IL

Las Positas College – Livermore, CA

U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum – Huntsville, AL

2nd Annual TBM Avenger Gathering – Peru, IL

Battleship USS Iowa Museum – San Pedro, CA

## **About the Cast of “Eleven”**

\*\*\* denotes deceased

Virgil E. “Verg” Bloomquist  
92-years-old and living in Leavenworth, Washington  
Radioman & Gunner, TBM Avenger  
1944-45 USS Hornet

\*\*\*Dr. Robert W. “Jack” Cocks  
Dive Bomber Pilot, SBD Dauntless & SB2C Helldiver  
1943 Guadalcanal & 1944-45 USS Hornet

\*\*\*Gerald T. “Gerry” Coeur  
Fighter Pilot, F6F Hellcat  
1944-45 USS Hornet

\*\*\*William E. “Bill” Corley  
Turret Gunner, TBM Avenger  
1943 Guadalcanal & 1944-45 USS Hornet

Kermit H. “Tim” Enander  
95-years old and living in Roseburg, Oregon  
Plane Captain, F4F Wildcat  
1943 Guadalcanal

Robert C. “Bob” Fitz  
92-years-old and living in Manchester, Maryland  
Turret Gunner, TBM Avenger  
1944-45 USS Hornet

Robert N. “Bob” Flath  
96-years-old and living in McLean, Virginia  
Fighter Pilot, F4F Wildcat & F6F Hellcat  
1943 Guadalcanal & 1944-45 USS Hornet

\*\*\*W. Robert “Bob” Maxwell  
Fighter Pilot (Ace), F4F Wildcat & F6F Hellcat  
1943 Guadalcanal & 1944 San Jacinto

\*\*\*George C. Stebbings  
Torpedo Bomber Pilot, TBM Avenger  
1944-45 USS Hornet

William L. "Bill" Strahan  
99-years-old and living in Chugwater, Wyoming  
Dive Bomber Pilot, SBD Dauntless & SB2C Helldiver  
1943 Guadalcanal & 1944-45 USS Hornet

\*\*\*John T. Williss  
Fighter Pilot (Silver Eagle), F6F Hellcat  
1944-45 USS Hornet

#### **Additional Air Group 11 veterans discovered after the film's release**

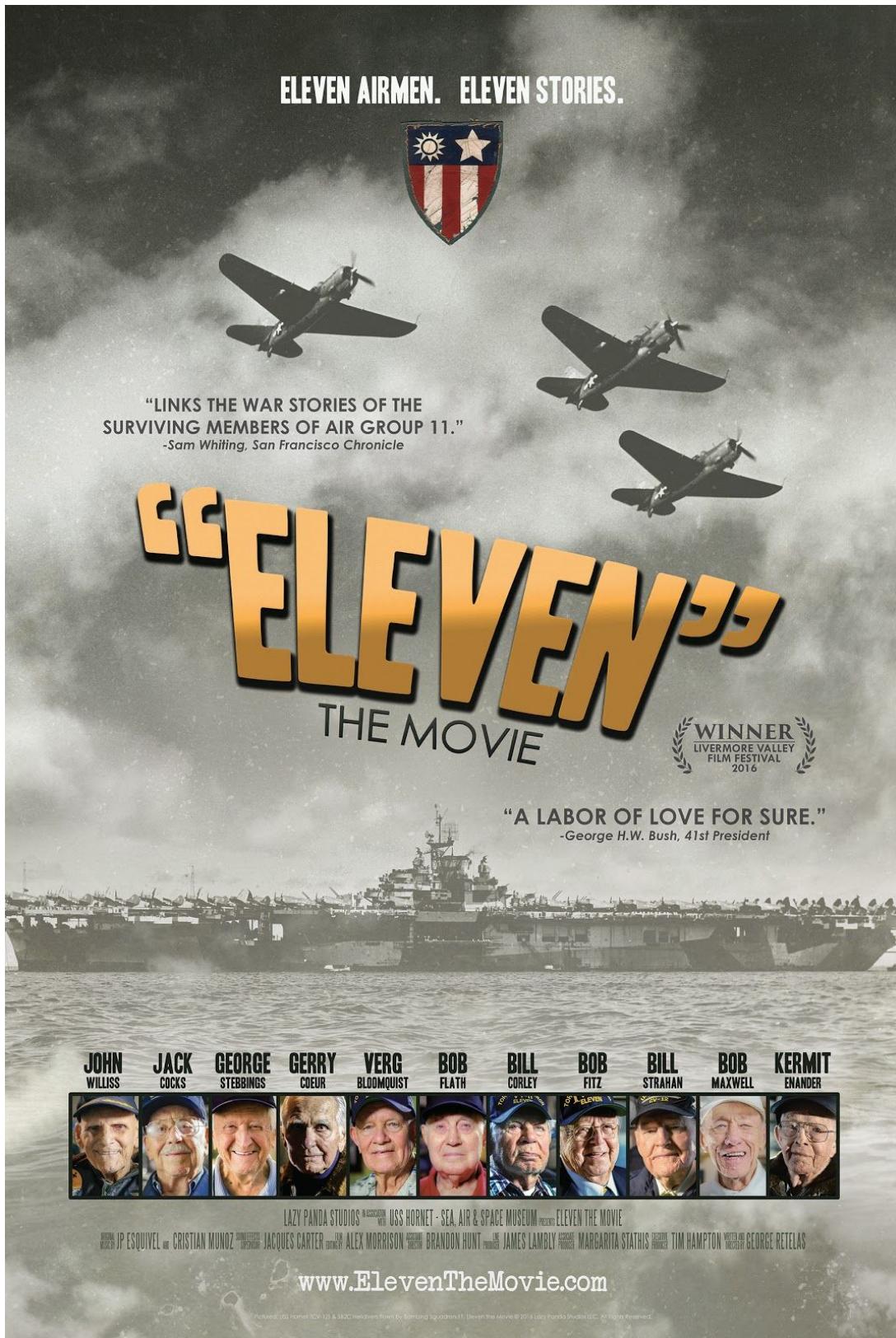
Richard "Dick" Miralles  
93-years-old and living in Woodland, California  
Radioman & Gunner, SBD Dauntless  
1943 Guadalcanal

Ose Veesey  
93-years-old and living in Huntsville, Alabama  
Radioman & Gunner, SBD Dauntless  
1943 Guadalcanal



Retelas finds two more WWII veterans that served with his late grandfather. Miralles (right) arrived with the Director in Huntsville, AL to surprise Veesey (left) after not seeing each other since 1943.

One-sheet:



"Eleven" Press Junket - Updated: June 2017