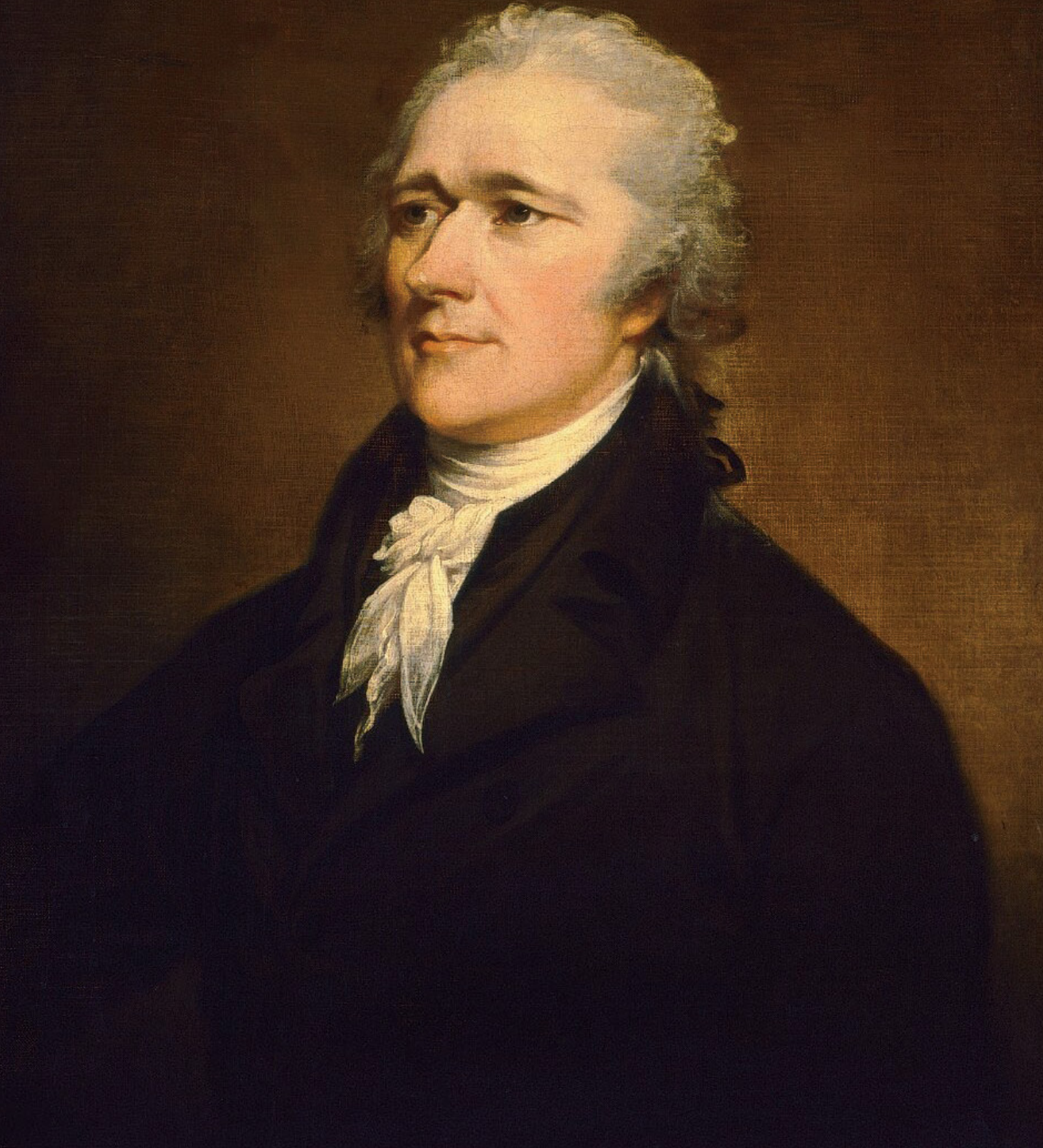


THE
OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 61 • NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2022





“Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours.”

—Wallace Bruce

Dear Companions,

Wallace Bruce was a 19th century American author and poet who died in 1914. He died four years before the end of WWI, before realizing the enormous sacrifices of the Great War. However, Bruce was very much aware of the agonies of the Civil War.

November 11, 2022 marks the 103rd anniversary of honoring our US military veterans on Veterans Day. As a society, how are we performing our “duty” to inculcate American history, values and uniqueness in future generations? Here are some disturbing results from multiple surveys of 12th graders and college graduates:

- 24% of 12th graders are proficient or above in civic knowledge, and 36% are below basic achievement;
- 50% of college graduates do not know the term lengths of US representatives and senators;
- 40% do not know that Congress has the power to declare war, and 43% do not know that freedom of speech is a First Amendment right;
- CollegeStats.org found that 72% of students failed to identify that the US fought Hitler and Germany in WWII, and almost 25% of students cannot even identify Adolf Hitler;
- In the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation’s “Annual Report on US Attitudes Toward Socialism” in 2017, 58% of millennials preferred socialism, communism, or fascism as a form of government compared to 42% who said they were in favor of capitalism.

The MOWW does not have the legislative authority to determine what our children learn in school. However, the Order is committed to Patriotic/Civic Education, and through our YLCs and YLSs we can educate our youth to help them understand the qualities that make the United States unique among the family of nations. Furthermore, the Patriotic Education Committee, in conjunction with the Legislative and Resolutions Committee, should draft a resolution outlining our concerns and recommendations to be sent to Congress and the White House. In these ways, the MOWW will be performing its civic responsibility and fulfilling its mission (“duty”) as outlined in the MOWW Preamble - “To promote and further patriotic education in our nation.”

Sincerely,

LTC (DR) MICHAEL A. OKIN, USA (Retired)
Commander in Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

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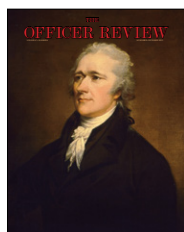
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ON THE COVER

Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) by John Trumbull (1756-1843). Oil on canvas, after 1806. Source: Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art



Alexander Hamilton, the Army Officer

BG RAYMOND E. BELL JR. PHD, USA (RET)

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)



"Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804) in the Uniform of the New York Artillery" by Alonzo Chappel (1828–1887). Source: Wikimedia

Alexander Hamilton is perhaps best known today as being the star performer in the musical stage hit "Hamilton." Based on the prize-winning book "Alexander Hamilton" by Ron Chernow, the play brings to life a multi-faceted man who is mainly remembered for being killed in a duel with then Vice President Aaron Burr.

But largely obscured from public view is the role that Hamilton played as an officer in America's nascent military establishment. Indeed, neither William A. Ganoe's authoritative 1924 "The History of the United States Army" nor Russell Weigley's equally authoritative 1967 "History of the United States Army" give Hamilton more than a passing glance at his successful army career.

FIRST SERVICE

Hamilton made his first appearance as an army officer on 14 March 1776 when, upon passing the examination for the position, he was appointed captain of a company (battery) of artillery upon the recommendation of Colonel Alexander McDougal, commander of a regiment of colonial infantrymen he was organizing. Hamilton's commission was evidently also won on the basis of a meritocracy. Although only twenty-one years old and a college student, he was selected despite reservations about his age, experience, and civilian occupation. Nevertheless, he soon showed an aptitude for military service in a leadership role.

Charged with having to enlist at least thirty men as cannoneers, Hamilton set out to form his battery from willing volunteers. He quickly gathered the requisite number of men and proceeded to mold them into a competent combat formation. He became a stickler for discipline which at the time, among volunteers, was not necessarily a given. But his use of personal funds to make sure the untrained men presented themselves well on parade, his emphasis on proper weapons employment, his toughness but fairness, and his willingness to share hardships with the volunteers swiftly won him respect and popularity.



At the same time, he won recognition for his efforts from high-ranking officers, one of whom was later to be George Washington.

The first real test of his leadership, however, was not favorably rewarded. On 21 June 1776, he led a night attack on the Sandy Hook, New Jersey lighthouse at New York's harbor entrance which failed to achieve desired results. At the head of one hundred men and utilizing artillery and musketry, he spent two hours dueling with hostile fire coming from the lighthouse and British ships offshore. In addition to running out of ammunition, the British were allegedly tipped off about the attack, which resulted in the loss of surprise and combat success as well.

After the battle for Brooklyn Heights on Long Island, the British landed on lower Manhattan Island and pursued the Americans north up the island. As part of a fleeing rearguard, Hamilton had to give up his heavier artillery pieces but managed to hold on to his light cannon, which he emplaced on Harlem Heights. Soon to withdraw from these positions, Hamilton nevertheless impressed his superiors with his drive and organizational skills. It was here where Washington first became acquainted with Hamilton in what was to become an important relationship.

Hamilton's battery then went into action that October at the battle for White Plains, located above the Bronx River and north of Manhattan Island. With two field pieces posted on Chatterton's Hill, the cannon battered British and Hessian columns seeking to wade across the river. The effort proved unsuccessful in helping to stop the assaulting enemy; however, the Americans gave better than they received.

Forced off Manhattan and out of emplacements at Fort Lee across the Hudson River in November, Washington began his long trek south across New Jersey. Hamilton's role in the retrograde action was to act as part of Washington's column's rear guard. Luckily the British did not press Washington's depleted army as it withdrew south, relieving pressure on the withdrawing troops. At the same time, the battery's critical location in the retreat often brought Hamilton into contact with Washington, who had already become favorably



Miniature of Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804), attributed to Charles Shirreff, c.1790. Source: Magnet, Myron (2013) "The Founders at Home: The Building of America, 1735–1817."

impressed by the young captain of artillery on Manhattan.

The battery's next significant action was when a sick Hamilton had to rouse himself to participate in the famous battle on 1776 Christmas night and the routing of the Hessian garrison at Trenton, New Jersey. After an arduous crossing of the Delaware River at night, he and his depleted crews brought two cannons into position to rake the emerging ill-disposed Hessians from their quarters and helped to achieve a decisive victory.

The American win at Trenton was followed up by Washington's advance on Princeton, resulting in a battle with a mixed outcome but considered a patriot victory. Hamilton and battery advanced to the Princeton college courtyard, where his gunners fired a cannonball into the brick chapel, compelling the occupying British soldiers therein to surrender. This action was Hamilton's last as commander of a company-size tactical unit. His consistent performance in the technical field of employing artillery then led him to an entirely new and different role as an American army officer.

WASHINGTON'S SHADOW

On 20 January 1777, General Washington invited Hamilton to join his personal staff as an *aide-de-camp*. His acceptance of a position on the staff meant he would be entering a realm of subordination fraught with army politics and new kinds of pressure to include competition with competent peers.





"First Meeting George Washington and Alexander Hamilton American Revolution." Source: National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA.

At the age of only twenty-two, on 1 March, he was promoted from captain to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He joined three other officers in the capacity of adjutant general, a title which was misleading in that their function on the staff was more like that of military secretary, copying orders as per Washington's directions.

Perhaps more pertinent, however, was the position to which Hamilton was to accede. It soon became more akin to the present day of that of ghost/speechwriter or executive assistant to a high-ranking general officer. The assignment put him in a place where he could exert influence and power, albeit while not necessarily involving any personal responsibility.

Hamilton's youth, having been partially spent as a clerk in an international commercial firm, his knowledge of the French language and his penchant for effective writing was to position him well on Washington's staff. As a translator of thoughts into written words, Hamilton brought a unique and powerful ability to his new calling. He therefore was quickly recognized, especially by Washington, as being more equal among equals in working on the commander-in-chief's staff.

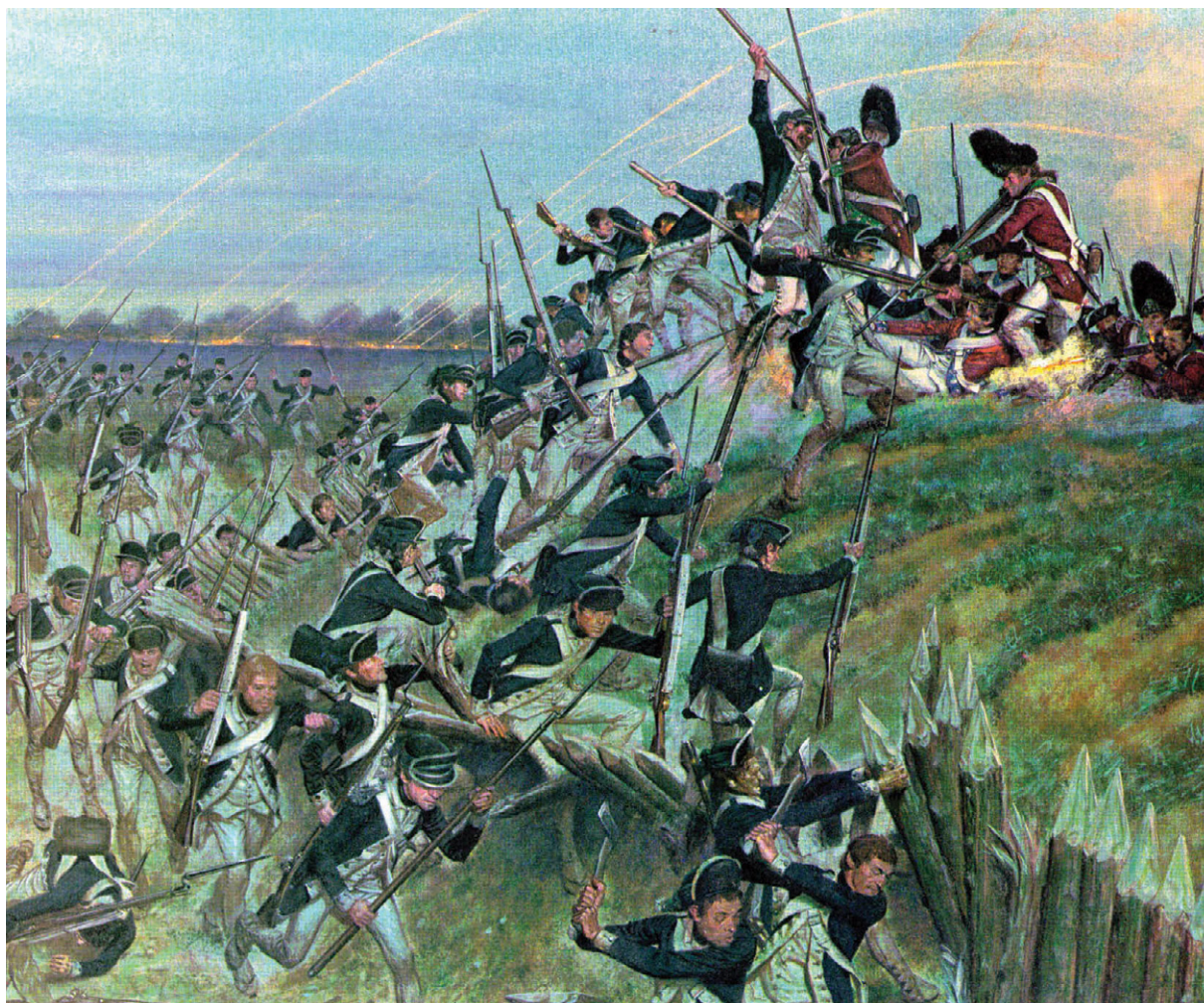
For the next three years, Hamilton served Washington as a senior member of his small staff. In the shadow of Washington, he and Washington became closely related in their ways of thinking. There were even times when Hamilton felt comfortable in seizing the initiative on Washington's absence and decisions had to be made. At other times Hamilton conducted

liaison work with the arriving French officers and had to carry unwelcome orders to subordinates and superiors alike. He had no trouble addressing staff-related challenges, yet he yearned for another command position or at least to experience troop-level combat action again.

During the 1777 British thrust north after landing in the Delaware colony to capture Philadelphia, Hamilton's quest for some battle action outside the confines of the staff environment presented itself. With a small mounted detachment, Hamilton sought out local flour mills and burned them to keep them from British hands. In the course of performing the mission, he and his men were ambushed, which almost resulted in his demise. Barely escaping roving British cavalry, he was not to put his life on the line for the rest of the time he served on Washington's staff.

The French, having decided to support the American cause after the British loss at Saratoga, sent a fleet and ground force to the colonies. Hamilton, with his bi-lingual ability, became a liaison with the French expeditionary force leadership as well as establishing an association with the Marquis de Lafayette, with whom he became close friends and professional military associates.

Hamilton remained as one of Washington's principal staff officers until February 1781, when a building tension between Hamilton and Washington led to the severing of Hamilton's role as Washington's shadow. In an unfortunate contretemps over a perceived slight about the timing of a verbal encounter, Washington dismissed Hamilton from the staff. Washington regretted letting Hamilton go, but their long-term relationship did not suffer. Indeed Hamilton now had the opportunity to achieve what he had been seeking, that of a sizable combat command.



"Assault on Redoubt 10 at Yorktown" Attributed to Hugh Charles McBarron, Jr. Source: NARA

YORKTOWN COMBAT

Hamilton's departure from Washington's staff led to a several-month effort by Hamilton to secure a command appropriate for a lieutenant colonel. Hamilton, however, was in limbo, being out of favor with Washington at the moment and had trouble getting such an assignment. But he was tenacious in importuning Washington then residing in New Windsor, New York. Persistence paid off, and on 31 July, he received command of a Continental Army New York light infantry battalion. Action was soon to follow.

By 1 September, he had taken his troops in hand and prepared them for future action. On 7 September, Washington's column left its northern continental location and began the march south to meet Lafayette's American-led troops campaigning

in Virginia. On 14 September, there was a link-up of Washington's three divisions with the French under Comte de Rochambeau and Lafayette. By 1 October, the allies were in front of the British force at Yorktown. Things moved fast thereafter as immediately the Americans and French began their siege of the enemy positions by building a parallel trench line for assaulting the foe's battlements. This they completed by 9 October, and on 12 October they completed a second trench line but this latter line was exposed to enfilade fire from two left flank British redoubts.

The two redoubts numbered 9 and 10 had to be assaulted before French/American combat operations could be continued. The tasks fell to the 400-man French regiment *Deux Ponts* which was to attack British Redoubt 9, and Hamilton's 400-man





The painting depicts George Washington and his troops near Fort Cumberland, Maryland, before their march to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. Painter unknown, attributed to Frederick Kemmelmeyer. Source: Metropolitan Museum of Art.

infantry battalion, which was to assault British Redoubt 10. The two task forces were to attack the night of 14 October. Although they were to win similar objectives, a certain inferred competition evolved between the French and Americans as to who would accomplish the task most effectively, and the soonest.

The French battle group was commanded by the Baron de Viomenil, whose professional troops were battle-hardened and had conducted similar siege operations in the past. He was dismissive of the competence of Hamilton's Americans who were serving under Lafayette's command. De Viomenil remarked to Lafayette before the assault that the Americans were not as reliable as the French, to which Lafayette is reputed to answer, "We shall see."

The signal to begin the attack was for two star shells to be fired into the night. To the fighting words of "On! On!" Hamilton personally led his battalion against the British on Redoubt 10 alongside the French against Redoubt 9. American victory at the point of the bayonet quickly followed while the deliberate French continued to methodically best their foe but with considerable casualties. Lafayette's cautionary reply to Viomenil's taunt had proved prescient.

Hamilton won no accolades from Congress for his battlefield performance, but his name soon became well known in both military and civilian circles. The American victory at Yorktown ended Hamilton's military service in the Revolutionary War as a Continental Army officer. However, he was to be recalled to active duty two more times while going on to other important government endeavors in the years to come, many of them related to the military.

THE WHISKEY REBELLION

After demobilization, Hamilton began to put his earlier legal training to work. Late in 1782 he was a member of the American Confederation Congress, and in the spring of 1783 he chaired a military committee that laid out plans for a peacetime army. A gifted writer and now a war veteran and hero, he continued to be heard in the halls of government, especially in matters of national finance.

Hamilton again put on his uniform when, as President Washington's secretary of the treasury, he participated in quelling the Whiskey Rebellion, which had originated in Western Pennsylvania in the 1790s. "Moonshiners" objected to taxes

levied on their whiskey and threatened federal tax collectors with bodily harm. Hamilton as secretary of the treasury wanted to put down the rebellion by assembling a multi-state militia force and sending it west. Washington, for various cogent reasons, was hesitant about Hamilton's aim and involvement but teamed up with him nevertheless. In September, Hamilton accompanied Washington to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where on 4 October, a militia army that ultimately reached almost 12,000 men awaited the order to proceed against the western insurgents.

Washington returned to the capital in Philadelphia, leaving Hamilton in charge of one wing of the assembled force. This was a unique military opportunity for Hamilton. He had commanded at the lowest officer level, that of an artillery battery in battle. He had served on Washington's wartime staff at the highest level and then led a light infantry battalion in close combat. Now he was to actually command a force comparable in size to that Washington had often led in the Revolutionary War. Hamilton undertook the task with gusto.

The mission of dispersing and quelling the rebellion took little time. Bloodshed was limited to two innocent civilians killed by militiamen. To calm the matter, Washington had the perpetrators of the killings tried in civilian court instead of by military court martial to impress on the populace the civil nature of the crime. But the whole rebellion still left a bittersweet taste in many people's mouths.

WAR WITH FRANCE?

Not four years later, with Washington in retirement, Hamilton was brought back on active duty, this time as a major general. The French nation in 1799 was still in turmoil as Napoleon Bonaparte had come to power. He was actively campaigning and the ensuing unrest was spilling over into the fledgling United States. It appeared that the new country was about to come to blows with their Revolutionary War compatriots and a possible invasion of the country seemed at hand. The nation's leadership felt a new "provisional" army was required as the regular military establishment was not large enough to

present even a glimpse of resistance. Washington, now living at Mount Vernon, was called out of retirement to lead this new army.

Washington, however, agreed to exercise only nominal command and then with an important condition. He wanted Hamilton named as inspector general and for Hamilton to actually recruit, organize, train, and equip the force. Hamilton, now out of office as treasury secretary, took on the task with his usual energy and newly acquired major general rank.

Congress authorized an "additional" army of ten thousand men organized into twelve regiments of infantry and six companies of cavalry. Hamilton, however, was hampered as he went about organizing the force by the lack of adequate money to fund the new formations. Recruiting was slow as Hamilton bore down on trying to professionalize the force as much as possible. But with increasingly lukewarm support from the administration and Congress, Hamilton found his hands tied in achieving a battle-ready army. It also did not help Hamilton that President John Adams began to favor and then achieve a diplomatic solution to the *demarche* with France.

Finally, Hamilton's military efforts came to naught. The "new" army under Hamilton's struggling command was disbanded in the spring of 1800. Washington had died and President Adams, with Congress' assent, approved abandonment of the formation of an army that would have rivaled the nation's small regular army. Napoleon Bonaparte had replaced the French Directory ending the French Revolution and the implied threat of a war with France became moot. Hamilton's military career as an army officer thus ended with the demise of the "new" army.

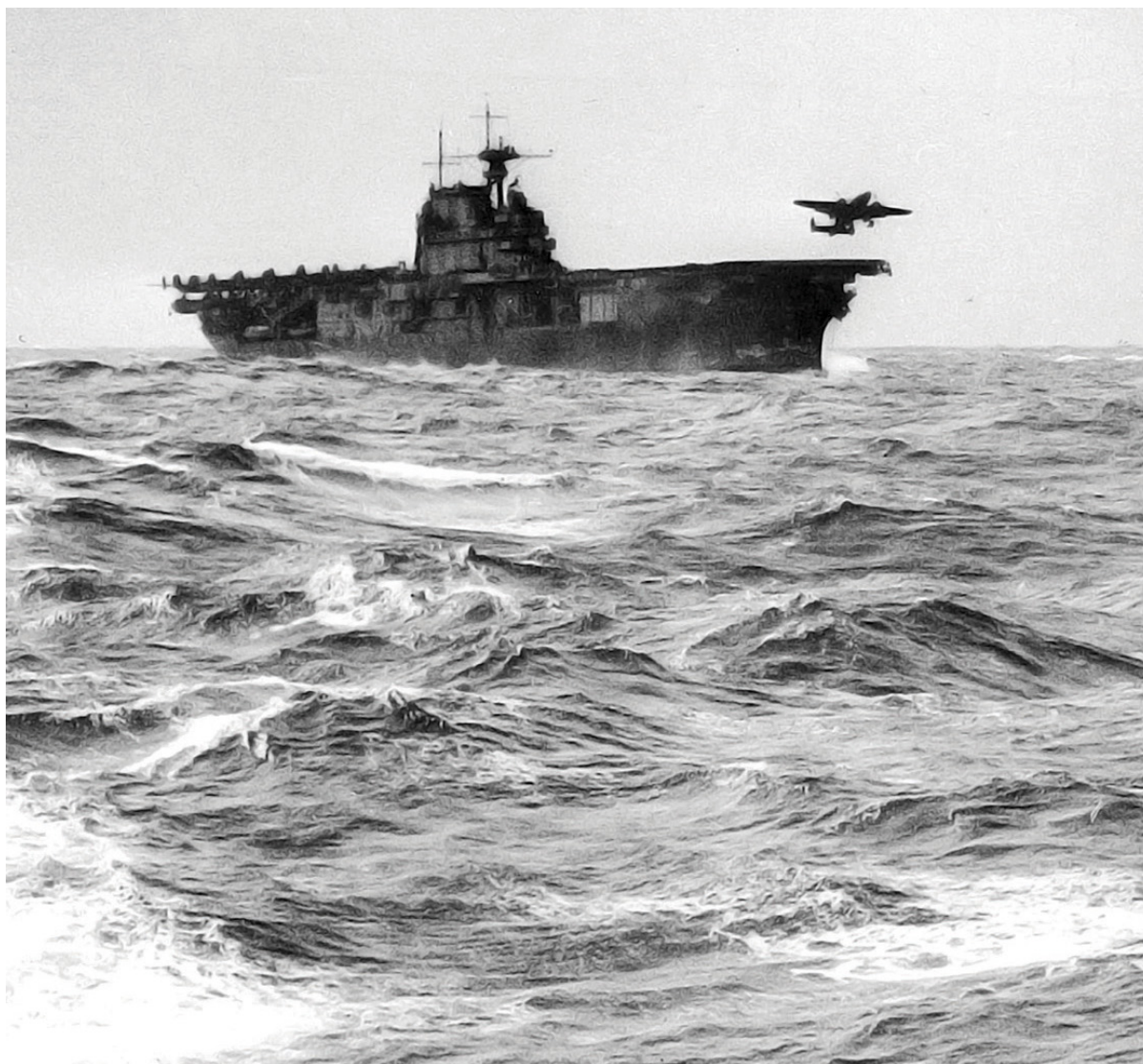
Curiously, Hamilton's distinguished army career remains largely in the background, concealed from his otherworldly accomplishments and endeavors. He is practically unknown for the roles he played in peace and wartime as an army officer. But a Hamilton, often in a uniform, is still extant and well known—on the theater stage. May it also be said the actor's brilliant performance in that venue is in accordance with that of Hamilton's military performance? ★



The Doolittle Raid: The Seed of Victory in the Pacific

CAPT THOMAS J. MARSHALL, JR., USN (RET)
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CA

On 18 April 1942, the city of Tokyo and five other Japanese cities, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya, were bombed by US Army B-25 Medium Bombers. This raid was led by Lt Col James H. Doolittle and has since been known as the “Doolittle Raid.” While this raid was widely publicized at the time and is still fairly well known, even today, its true significance to the course of World War II is rarely appreciated.



A U.S. Army Air Force B-25B Mitchell medium bomber, one of 16 involved in the Doolittle Raid, takes off from the flight deck of the USS Hornet for an air raid on Japan, April 18, 1942. Source: US Army Air Force; VIRIN: 420418-O-ZZ999-001



In order to understand the crucial significance of this raid to the course of World War II in the Pacific, it is necessary to review the strategic situation for both the Americans and the Japanese in the early spring of 1942. By early April, 1942, the Americans were reeling from a series of unmitigated military disasters at the hands of the Japanese. The US Pacific Fleet had largely been destroyed at Pearl Harbor. The US Asiatic Fleet had been driven from the Philippines and sunk in the Battle of the Java Sea in Indonesia. The US possessions of Guam, Wake Island and the Philippines as well as the British Colonies of Hong Kong, Malaya and Burma had been conquered by the Japanese. In addition, the Japanese occupied Indonesia, then a Dutch colony, and many of the islands of the South Pacific administered by Australia. They, also, threatened the major British colonies of Australia and India. By any standard, the situation of the US and its allies was grim. With this, came a serious deterioration of US morale, especially among the civilian population at home.

The Japanese strategic situation in early 1942 was exactly the opposite of the Americans. They were flush with victory. Their early victories had exceeded their wildest expectations. The ease of these early victories had convinced them that they were invincible. The only problem that they had was in deciding where they should go to achieve their next victory. This decision caused a significant amount of wrangling between the members of the Japanese High Command. The Japanese Army wished to direct all of its efforts to completing the conquest of China. The Naval

Ministry wished to continue its thrust into the South Pacific to further isolate Australia and cut its supply line to the United States. The commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, had his own ideas. He wanted to attack and occupy Midway in order to draw the remaining remnants of the US fleet into battle. In this battle, he hoped to annihilate the Americans and thereby gain complete control of the Pacific west of Hawaii. This, he hoped, would

bring the Americans to the negotiating table with Japan holding all of the cards. This battle among the Japanese leaders was reaching its height in early April 1942.

President Franklin Roosevelt recognized the strategic importance of American civilian morale and as early as 21 December 1941, he asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff to explore the possibility of launching a bombing raid on Japan for the express purpose

of raising US civilian morale after the disaster at Pearl Harbor. CAPT Francis Low, Assistant Chief of Staff for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Ernest J. King, was aware of this request when he was making an inspection visit to the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, VA in January 1942. There, he observed US Army Air Corps twin engine medium bombers taking off from the runway at the Naval Air Station on ASW training missions. He noted that the runway had the silhouette of an aircraft carrier flight deck painted on it and that the bombers routinely were able to become airborne before they reached the end of the painted flight deck. When he returned to Washington, he was able to convince Admiral King that Army medium bombers could be launched from an aircraft carrier



The crew of one of the Doolittle Raid B-25B Mitchell medium bombers poses for a photo before launching the April 18, 1942, raid. (L-R): Lt Col James H. Doolittle, pilot; Lt Richard E. Cole, copilot; Lt Henry A. Potter, navigator; Army Staff SGT Fred A. Braemer, bombardier, and Army Staff SGT Paul J. Leonard, flight engineer/gunner.

Photo Credit: US Army Air Force VIRIN: 420417-O-ZZ999-001



and therefore a bombing raid on Japan, as requested by the President, was feasible. Admiral King then convinced General Henry (Hap) Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Corps, that launching Army medium bombers from an aircraft carrier for a raid on Japan was a possibility worth exploring. General Arnold agreed and assigned Lt Col Doolittle, who was a famous aeronautical engineer and test pilot, to test the feasibility of launching twin engine bombers from an aircraft carrier and if this were feasible, to plan a raid on the Japanese homeland, pick the aircraft to fly the mission and their crews, train them and lead the attack. Doolittle chose the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber for the mission since it had space in its fuselage

for auxiliary fuel tanks and still had enough room for an adequate bomb load (2,000 lbs.). Most critically, however, it had just the right size and wingspan to allow it to fit aboard a carrier. On 3 February 1942, two B-25 bombers were loaded aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8) in Norfolk, VA and taken out to sea in the Atlantic off the coast of Virginia. From there they were easily able to take off from the carrier and fly safely to the Norfolk Naval Air Station. Having proved that launching medium bombers from an aircraft carrier was feasible, Doolittle then set about planning the raid and choosing and training his crews.

Doolittle chose 24 crews from the 17th Bomb Group since they were the first group to receive the B-25 and most familiar with the aircraft. He then began training them in short, 500 ft, take-offs, low level flying, night flying and over water navigation. By the end of March 1942, they were ready and flew their aircraft to the Alameda Naval Air Station where 16 of them were loaded on the Hornet. On 2 April 1942, the Hornet set sail from



Smoke from Nittō Maru as it is sinking.

San Francisco Bay headed for Japan. A few days later, in the mid-Pacific north of Hawaii, the Hornet rendezvoused with Task Force 16 consisting of the USS Enterprise (CV-6), its four escorting cruisers and eight destroyers. They were to escort the Hornet to its planned launch point approximately 475 miles due east of Tokyo.

At 0738 on 18 April 1942, approximately 650 miles from Japan, 17 hours and 170 miles from the planned launch point, the task force was sighted by Japanese Picket Boat 23, Nittō Maru. The picket boat was promptly sunk by gunfire from the light cruiser USS Nashville (CL-43). Unfortunately, the Nittō Maru was able to get off a sighting report before it was sunk. This forced the Hornet

to launch its 16 B-25 bombers early and at extreme range.

Nevertheless, Doolittle and his men were able to reach Japan undetected and achieve complete tactical surprise. They were able to bomb their targets in Tokyo and the other Japanese cities with little opposition. They, then, were able to continue on to China unmolested. 15 of the bombers made it to China, where they were unable to find the airfields at which they were supposed to refuel before continuing on to the Chinese capital of Chungking. This forced the crews to either ditch their planes along the Chinese coast or bail out and allow them to crash in eastern China. One aircraft, which did not have enough fuel to reach China, landed in eastern Siberia near Vladivostok. Since the Soviet Union was technically not at war with Japan, the aircraft was confiscated and the crew of five interned. They were allowed to “escape” a year later into Iran where they were rescued by the British. Of the 80 crewmen involved in the raid, 64 were

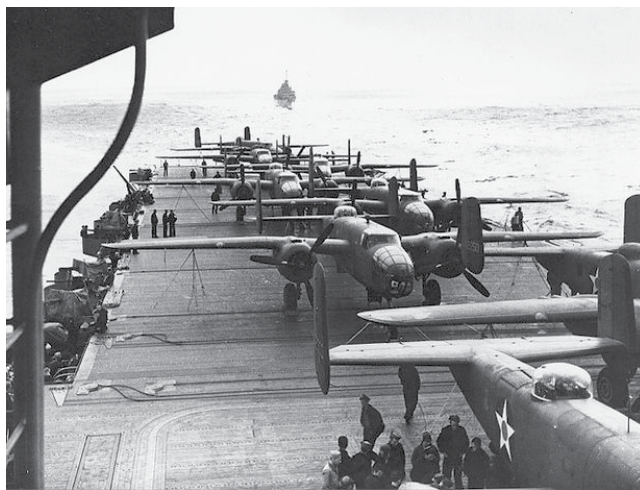
rescued by the Chinese and five interned by the Russians giving a total of 69 survivors of the raid. Three men were killed during the various crash landings and plane ditchings. Eight people were captured in China by the Japanese. Of these, three were executed for supposedly machine-gunning Japanese civilians during the raid. One other crewman died in captivity in December

1943 of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. The remaining four crewmen survived to be liberated from Japanese prison camps at the end of the war.

The amount of material damage done by the raid was negligible. Only 50 people were killed and 400 injured. Light damage was done to an oil tank farm, a steel mill and several power plants as well as the light aircraft carrier Ryuno. All of this damage was repaired relatively quickly without any significant impact on the Japanese war effort. All 16 B-25 bombers involved in the raid were lost.

The importance of the raid lies not in the damage it caused or the losses incurred by both sides but in its psychological impact. It was a tremendous boost to American morale. It changed the American outlook almost overnight from one of "gloom and doom" to one of cautious optimism. The Americans now had their first victory and it gave them something to cheer about and heroes such as Lt Col Doolittle to be proud of. They now felt that they were fighting back effectively and that it was only a matter of time before the tide of battle turned in their favor.

More important was the psychological effect that this raid had on the Japanese military High Command. They were embarrassed and humiliated before the Japanese people and, more importantly, in the eyes of the Emperor. The Emperor was treated by the Japanese with god-like reverence. To have disappointed him by allowing enemy bombs to fall in close proximity to the Imperial Palace



North American B-25 Mitchell medium bomber on the flight deck of USS Hornet (CV-8), while en route to Japan on April 1942.

was a grave failure by the Japanese military. They felt that this was a great stain upon their honor and they all felt deeply ashamed. This feeling of shame influenced the debate over the strategic direction of their next military moves.

The Japanese realized that the Americans had launched this attack from aircraft carriers in the waters close to Japan. They were not

sure how the Americans were able to accomplish this but they were fairly certain that the bombers had come from aircraft carriers. In light of this judgment, the Army relaxed its fixation on completing the war in China and was willing to make 5,000 troops available to the Navy to conquer and occupy Midway to control the central Pacific. It was felt by the Army that by controlling the central Pacific they would be able to prevent the Americans from ever threatening the Emperor with their bombs again. This change in the Army's attitude was just the impetus necessary to get the Navy Ministry to support Admiral Yamamoto's plan to attack Midway. The Army's new attitude was brought about solely by the Doolittle raid. The result of this new strategic approach by the Army was the Battle of Midway. This battle, in which the Japanese Navy suffered a crushing defeat, was the strategic turning point of the war in the Pacific. From that point on, the Japanese never again held the strategic initiative and from then on the US controlled the course of the remainder of the war. This eventually resulted in a complete and total Japanese defeat.

Thus, we can see that the effect of the Doolittle raid went far beyond the minimal damage it caused and the boost it gave to American morale. It set the stage for the Battle of Midway, which changed the course of the war in the Pacific. The men who flew those 16 B-25's to Tokyo can be considered to have been the ones who planted the seeds of victory over the Japanese in the Pacific. ★



A Glimpse at the Tradition and Legacy

VCINCLT COL MARLON RUIZ, USAF (RET)
SANTA CRUZ VALLEY CHAPTER, AZ

MOWW Outreach

The annual Massing of the Colors (MOC) and Service of Remembrance ceremony, along with Youth Leadership Conferences and corresponding Youth Leadership Seminars (single-day youth seminars), serve as MOWW's two most visible Patriotic Education programs. These outreach programs best demonstrate what the Order stands for and show how MOWW Companions go about achieving our organizational goals. Both signature patriotic programs promote the highest ideals of MOWW's Constitutional Preamble; the annual MOC event (one hundred years in the making) fully encapsulates all nine stated tenants.

MOWW's Youth Leadership Conferences focus on introducing future young leaders to leadership development life skills, and concepts of our free enterprise system, promoting good national citizenship and civic responsibility. The time-honored MOC establishes a more profound nexus between our organizational historical heritage and legacy. Both are rooted in servant leadership and selfless service.

MOC program elements include a uniquely orchestrated program displaying the love of country. Pageantry and celebration demonstrate true, sincere gratitude for those who have put others before self. The MOC takes the time to honor all who have served, and who continue to



JROTC flag bearers in Dallas, 2007. File photo, Officer Review



serve this great nation in a public display of their sacrifice.

In some cases, portions of the MOC are dedicated to recognizing individuals' meaningful contributions to the ideals that have helped forge our national character as the premier bastion of liberty and personal freedoms.

MOC Today

As currently conducted, the MOC is a staple of patriotic celebration and pageantry. Exhibitions of colorful national, state, service, organizational flags, and banners parade in proud patriotic

fervor to honor our nation's historical journey in promoting liberty and personal freedoms. There are as many variants of this event as local hosting MOWW chapters. MOWW chapters throughout the country tailor their program to suit the geographical community demographics. They plan each event to coincide with national federal holiday observance themes and special event programming and scheduling needs. As the participants would attest, no two events are the same. While one may highlight a more traditional contemporary colonial rendition of the event, another may opt for a more creatively immersive and public engagement experience. Numerous chapters have successfully customized

MOC History

According to historical records, the MOWW annual Massing of the Colors (MOC) originally began as a solemn ceremony to honor and give reverence to our nation's war dead starting in the early 1900s. Known initially as Decoration Day, the event focused upon remembering all those who had perished in battle and honoring their personal sacrifice by promoting the preservation of national patriotism in their stead. These organizations were previously involved in the presentation of the event:

<i>The Army and Navy Union</i>	<i>Veterans of Foreign Wars</i>	<i>Society of Veteran Officers</i>
<i>American War Mothers</i>	<i>Military Order of Foreign Wars</i>	<i>3rd D.C. Infantry; United States</i>
<i>Sons of the American Revolution</i>	<i>Ladies of the GAR</i>	<i>Daughters of 1812</i>
<i>American Red Cross</i>	<i>GAR Department of the Potomac</i>	<i>Women's Relief Corps</i>
<i>American Women's Legion</i>	<i>Girl Scouts House</i>	<i>Auxiliary Spanish War Veterans</i>
<i>Daughters of the American Revolution</i>	<i>Girl Scouts</i>	<i>Washington Unit</i>
<i>Children of the American Revolution</i>	<i>Order of Indian Wars</i>	<i>Women's Overseas Service League</i>
<i>American Legion</i>	<i>Job's Daughters</i>	<i>Military Order of the World War of</i>
<i>Aztec Society</i>	<i>Legion of Loyal Women</i>	<i>1812 Society</i>
<i>Daughters of the Union-Civil War</i>	<i>Dames of the Loyal Legion</i>	<i>Women's Naval Service</i>
<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Military Order of the Loyal Legion</i>	<i>Order of Washington</i>
<i>Order of Cincinnati</i>	<i>Order of Lafayette</i>	<i>N.S. Daughters of Founders and</i>
<i>Daughters of Cincinnati</i>	<i>Mayflower Descendants</i>	<i>Patriots of America</i>
<i>United Daughters of the Confederacy</i>	<i>National Patriotic Council</i>	<i>Victory Post Drum Corps</i>
<i>Colonial Dames of America</i>	<i>National Sojourners United Spanish</i>	<i>Bethlehem Chapter Drill Corps, No. 7</i>
<i>Columbia Historical Society</i>	<i>War Veterans</i>	<i>OES; Daughters of America</i>
<i>Military Order of the Carabao</i>	<i>National Lineal Society of the Spanish</i>	<i>Sons and Daughters of Liberty</i>
<i>Scions of Colonial Cavaliers</i>	<i>War</i>	<i>Disabled Emergency Officers'</i>
<i>Disabled Veterans of the World War</i>	<i>Naval and Military Order of the</i>	<i>Association</i>
<i>Descendants Signers of the</i>	<i>Spanish-American War</i>	<i>Third D.C. Veterans Association</i>
<i>Declaration of Independence</i>	<i>Sons of the Revolution</i>	<i>Society of Children of the American</i>
<i>Order of De Molay</i>	<i>Spanish American Nurses</i>	<i>Revolution</i>
		<i>Boy Scouts of America.</i>



their events to suit the attending audience by substituting traditional military bands with a gospel choir or single performer format. Events may include children's recitals or musical performances to create a more jovial and uplifting atmosphere.

Frequently, chapters incorporate Junior ROTC programs and local parish scouting organizations. These co-hosted events offer opportunities for young emerging youth leaders to actively participate. They gain valuable "hands-on" patriotic event planning, coordination, event execution and leadership development experience.

In the southwest, chapters incorporate an "Accolades and Recognition" program component to the MOC's pageantry and solemn Service of Remembrance. We use the occasion to showcase MOWW's special traditional moments, like sharing a newly recruited fellow companion induction ceremony with the attending public or recognizing a fellow companion who also happens to be a historical national hero. Some examples include fellow companions who figure prominently, such as a Tuskegee Airman or a Pearl Harbor survivor. The public can meet and converse with these heroes and legendary figures as part of the program. Other innovative recognition practices include presenting partnered organizational plaques and personal achievement awards, awarding recognition medallions, distributing personal milestone achievement medals, award citations, certificates of merit and event organizational participation streamers.



The latest creative emerging MOC trend adds an audio-visual technology component to help ease COVID-19 concerns with our scholastic partners. Audio, slide-show presentations, and video files are used in place of actual in-person performers. Offering this "contactless" event execution option can be used with the assistance of school technical staff to help mitigate further pandemic risk concerns and alleviate reluctance to support such events by limiting exposure to health risks and organizational liability concerns. The audio-visual components have added new planning dimensions to this century-old, prized event. These techniques can effectively serve to calm partnering school officials' concerns and an otherwise reluctant or skeptical public, creating the catalyst for event support on school grounds. Future MOC events will include more robust audio-visual solutions, incorporating real-time live online streaming, digitized recorded content, and adaptable online electronic distribution of recorded content for post-event outreach and public relations considerations.

MOC Historical Firsts

There have also been some memorable "historical firsts" throughout this event's long and prestigious history. A local chapter hosted two such events in a single operating year, whereas the Military Order only requires one event per chapter annually. Another milestone involved a local chapter hosting its first international Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance in partnership with the border City of Nogales in southern Arizona



and neighboring Sonora in the Federation of Mexican States. In attendance at this historic event were government dignitaries, officials, and military representatives from both countries including the US Consulate in Mexico City and Mexican Consulate in the City of Nogales, AZ. The international MOC included an international military Honor Guard, complete with both ceremonial national colors and national anthem renditions, in the spirit of international mutual respect, friendship, and collaboration. Given the remarkable enduring legacy of this premier event and the unique connection to the “MOWW story,”

the MOC can be presented in a multitude of scenarios only limited by the creativity of fellow Companions.

Every chapter is encouraged to incorporate an annual Massing of the Colors (MOC) and Service of Remembrance ceremony into its respective Chapter Action Plan and community outreach goals. Thus, providing local community audiences a unique and memorable heartwarming opportunity to rekindle our collective national unity and patriotic pride. ★

The Ironwood Hills Evangelical Church Gatekeepers musical group, Chaplain Manuel R. Noriega, military veterans, the US consulate, the Mexican consulate and youth leadership organizations came together for the special service of remembrance honoring and promoting American patriotism.

Page opposite, far left: The Sahuarita High School Navy JROTC performed a US flag-folding demonstration and also gave a special 9/11 remembrance recital. Left: Concluding the event, the Gatekeepers performed “God Bless the USA.”

This page, top right: The Mexican flag is carried for posting. Below right: The US flag is escorted for posting.

Photos and captions by Arleth Ramirez, courtesy of the Nogales International newspaper from the Massing of the Colors on 13 September 2016.



Susan's Summer Social

COL BUCK BUCHANAN, USA (RET)

ADJUTANT, ATLANTA AREA CHAPTER, GA

After more than a year of Zoom chapter meetings due to COVID restrictions, Companion Dorothy (Dottie) Newman, HPM, graciously hosted the Atlanta Area Chapter at her lovely residence on 16 July 2022. Nearly 50 Companions, family, and friends attended the event. The annual event is named Susan's Summer Social in memory of Companion Susan K. Newman, who was the Chapter Treasurer, and recently deceased in 2020.

The social gathering held under the cool trees of the beautiful and spacious garden enhanced Companion camaraderie and exceeded the Chapter Commander's intent.

After a hearty picnic buffet coordinated by Past Commander Linda Ebert-Aruff, HPM, the meeting was formally opened. SVCINC BG Victor Perez, USA (Ret), gave a motivational speech on MOWW's purpose, essential roles and relevancy. He emphasized the continuing need for MOWW Chapter sustainment and membership growth.

BG Perez presented the Chapter Commander, Mr. Robert Soderstrom, HPM, with the Gold Patrick Henry Plaque with Medallion. The award was well-deserved for his superb leadership. Additionally, BG Perez presented CPT Carter Wood, USA (Fmr), the National MOWW Square Knot Boy Scouts of America Award. Additionally, SVCINC BG Perez

inducted two Perpetual Members, CPT Carter Wood, USA (Fmr), and CPT Jimmy Flanigan USANG (Fmr). The following Companions were also presented with the following prestigious awards: Dorothy Newman, HPM, (Silver Patrick Henry); Linda Ebert-Aruff, HPM, (Silver Patrick Henry), and LTC Vis Kimenis, USA (Ret), (Outreach Service Award).

The Chapter also acknowledged two Patriot Members. Patriot Rosemary Cantanesi is a friend to Chapter Companions. She volunteers her time, attends meetings, events, and now zooms with us too.

Patriot Mark Kopel's life is all about the Boy Scouts of America. He has been the liaison for the Atlanta Chapter for two years. This special relationship allowed the Chapter's Boy Scout Committee to increase presentations of MOWW Eagle Scout certificates. Mark created a "Request for Recognition" form to be used by any scout that is working toward an Eagle award. This form is specific to MOWW and expedites the process for gathering information from troop leaders i.e., selectee names, dates and other Court's of Honor details.

Patriot Membership is a new initiative for MOWW and will offer many benefits for chapters. ★



(L- R): COL Buchanan USA (Ret), HPM Robert Soderstrom, and BG Perez USA (Ret).

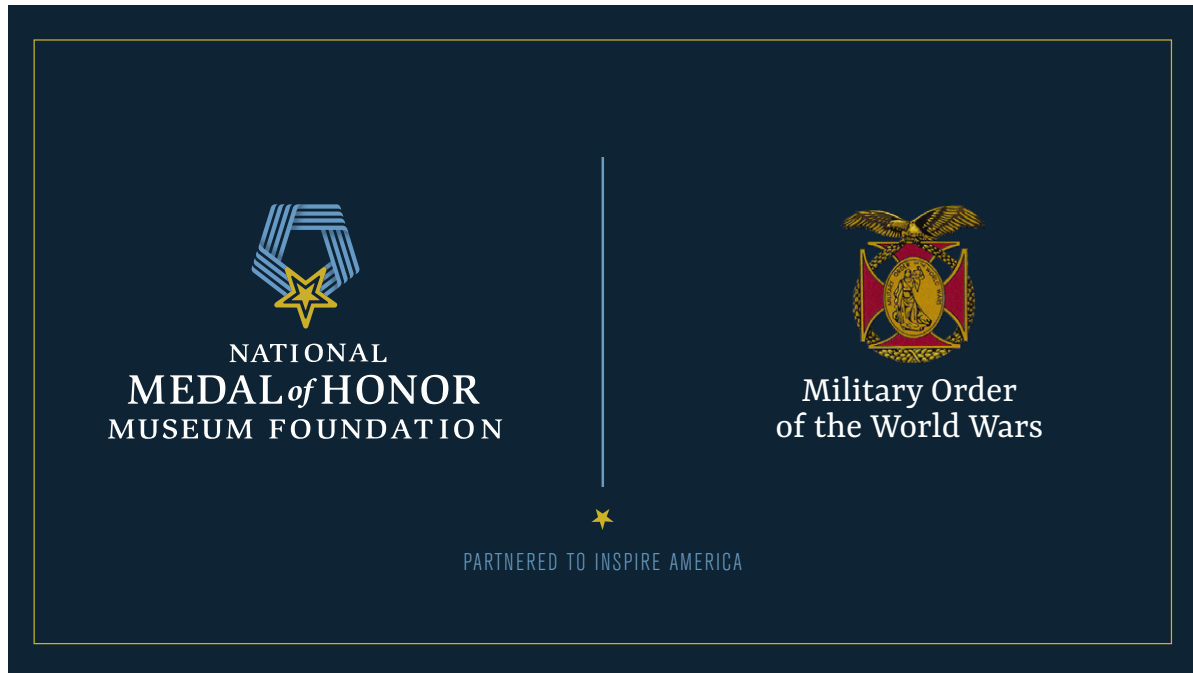


(L- R): CPT Carter Wood USA (Fmr) and SVCINC BG Perez USA (Ret).



(L- R): Patriots Mark Kopel and Rosemary Cantanesi receive their Patriot Member Certificates from SVCINC BG Perez USA (Ret).

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM DONATION ANNOUNCEMENT



The Military Order of the World Wars is proud to partner with the National Medal of Honor Museum! Please help us inspire America with the values of the Medal of Honor and preserve the stories and legacies of valor of these amazing individuals. There have been over 40 million service members since the civil war - fewer than 4,000 have been awarded the Medal of Honor. **Join the mission by donating today!**

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation is a non-profit organization that preserves the extraordinary stories of individuals who reached the highest levels of recognition, “above and beyond the call of duty,” in service to the nation. The Museum will inspire current and future generations about the ideals of courage and sacrifice, commitment and integrity, citizenship, and patriotism; to help them understand the meaning and price of freedom; and to encourage them to embrace their responsibilities as citizens in a democracy. *To learn more, visit www.mohmuseum.org*

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/national-medal-of-honor-museum-foundation/military-order-of-the-world-wars>

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation would like to thank the Military Order of the World Wars Fort Worth Chapter for igniting this MOWW fundraising effort. Thank you!



Our American Red Cross

BY LTC DONALD E. WILLHOUSE, USA (RET)
REGION VIII COMMANDER

My father, a WWII naval aviator, could not swim but somehow made it through the swim test with a bag of wet sand on his back. As a youth, I attended swim classes so I would never be in the same situation. The lifeguards, swim instructors, and first aid crews were all Red Cross trained and certified. That was my first exposure to the Red Cross. Even though the Red Cross now collects only 40% of blood donations, its' procedures are still followed.

Many do not know how the Red Cross started nor how much they support the armed forces and first responders. A Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant, observed the results of a major armed conflict in northern Italy in 1859, with 40,000 combatants needing care without an organization to provide it. Civilians in the area ventured out to help as best they could. In 1863 he was instrumental in founding the International Red Cross with a flag that is an inverse of the Swiss flag. Arab countries that are affiliated use the Red Crescent. The original Geneva Convention was signed in 1864.

In the US, Clara Barton, who later started the American Red Cross, was a former teacher who bravely worked to bring care supplies to the front lines of union forces during the Civil War. Afterward, she started the Missing Soldiers Office to aid in reuniting families or assisting in determining the location of the missing. Her office was successful in locating 22,000 missing persons. For her health, she resigned and went to Europe to recuperate. While there, she became aware of the Red Cross. Later she returned to the US and started the American Red Cross in 1881, with the US becoming a signatory of the Convention a year later.

During WWI, the Red Cross recruited 20,000 nurses to support the armed forces and civilian refugees, and in WWII recruited more than 104,000 nurses and sent more than 300,000 tons of supplies abroad. The Red Cross started the national blood donation program in 1941 and, by 1945, had collected more than 13 million pints of blood. The blood program for civilians was



Photo left: After tragic flooding across Eastern Kentucky on 28 July 2022, the American Red Cross is still there, working around the clock with their partners to provide comfort and critical support to help those in need. Below left, On 2 September 2022, the Mill Fire in California devastated hundreds of homes. Dr. Charles Smith, a retired psychologist and a mental health volunteer, speaks with a survivor. Above, Red Cross volunteers from across 50 states have arrived in Florida to assist people and pets from the devastation of Hurricane Ian which hit in late September 2022. Photos credit redcross.org

then started in 1948. The Red Cross continues to support the armed forces wherever stationed with SAF emergency communications (Red Cross Messages), morale activities in hospitals, and the many established programs. The Red Cross serves as an independent third party to confirm family emergencies, such as hospitalizations, deaths, births, or breakdowns in childcare, so that the commander can determine emergency leave and assistance.

The Red Cross is a patriotic organization that supports the community and the armed forces. It receives no government funding and directly supports FEMA in Emergency Support Function #6 for Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services in the national response framework. In disaster response, 90% of donations go to direct support to the public, and approximately 90% of the responders are volunteers.

Suppose a home or apartment is destroyed by fire, flooding, tornado, or earthquake. The Red Cross will assist with temporary sheltering, help find family, and aid in coordinating with other humanitarian organizations. The Red Cross will support First Responders with food, snacks, water, first aid, and mental health nursing and will be there as long as needed. Such is the case for the recent devastation in Kentucky, Florida, and other southern states and the wildfires of Colorado and California.

The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization chartered by Congress, as are the Scouts, veteran organizations, and other groups. It depends heavily on volunteer donations and members. Veterans have a multitude of skills that can be of service to help others through volunteer efforts. The Red Cross has been there when we needed them since the Spanish-American War. We should support them. You are encouraged to join at www.redcross.org ★



At the March 2022 meeting of the Red Cross board, a MOWW Silver Patrick Henry was presented to Ms. Marty McKellips, CEO of the 83 counties of the Central and South Texas Region (CSTR), by MOWW VCINC CAPT Deb Dombeck, USCG (Ret), then the Region VIII Commander. CSTR provides support to the first responders in the region, as well as the many reserve and guard units, twelve active military bases, and five VA clinics.



Dementia: Veteran's Resources

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR)

SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW



Part 4: Resources Available

Having covered dementia's progression, treatment modalities, memory care and dementia facilities, let's look at resources that may be available. The purpose of this article is to familiarize you with options which best fit your needs. The best source for details is the VA website...and your VA representative.

Blended adult daycare and in-home care provide secure care and assistance while caregivers work.

Assisted Living through privately owned facilities offer meals and services with 24/7 supervision.

Medical Foster Homes are local households that contract with the VA to provide full-time care equivalent to nursing homes. Such homes are licensed and inspected regularly. Caregivers live in the home.

VA Memory Care can provide homemakers and home health aide with trained non-medical personnel. For veterans who need help with Activities of Daily Living (ADL), and possibly provide copays.

Veteran Directed Home Based Care (VD-HCBS) can help with funding in-home caregiving, adult daycare, supplies, or other needs to a home-based caregiver for veterans who need help with three or more activities of daily living and copays. Not available in all communities.

Aid and Attendance Allowance supplies additional pension funds for caregiving needs, in-home caregivers, medical foster homes, assisted living, nursing homes, or other providers, or for an aid who will come to the veteran's home. Eligibility for regular VA pension plus a need for help with ADL must be shown. If a medical care team documents that a veteran is unable to leave home, a house-bound benefit can be awarded.

VA Community Living Centers are home-like, 24/7 residential care with nursing and memory care by skilled nursing providers employed by the VA. Eligibility is determined by service-connected disability status, level of disability, and income. To qualify for long term care a veteran needs to have a disability that is deemed to be 60% or 70% caused by

a service-related injury. There are veterans' nursing homes in all 50 states.

State Veterans Nursing Homes offer 24/7 care with skilled nursing, domiciliary care, and often adult day and memory care. Skilled nursing in state-run, VA-approved centers. Eligibility is determined by each state, sometimes partially covered by the VA.

Veterans who qualify for VA Healthcare: The VA should be able to provide funding or support based on the veteran's income and priority level within the VA system. Often times, the VA allows a veteran to use multiple programs at once.

Funding and care options may be available for veterans whose dementia can be linked to their service record and put them in a higher priority category. If the veteran has dementia and a record of TBI or PTSD connected to service, the dementia could be considered a service-connected disability. If they were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War their condition might be considered at least partially service connected. If there's no obvious connection, veteran may still be eligible for some VA Healthcare or pension benefits.

Veteran Directed Home Based Care (VD-HCBS) gives the veteran and caregiver some control. Those in need sit down with a VA social worker or case manager and set a budget based on actual needs. A care provider who's included in the budget or who purchase supplies will be reimbursed from VA.

To obtain Memory Care through the VA first determine eligibility: If the veteran is not enrolled in VA Healthcare, they can check eligibility for enrollment on the VA website.

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA): A veteran who struggles with mobility issues may be able to install a ramp, a roll-in shower,



alter a driveway, lower kitchen, or bathroom counters, and more.

Home-Based Primary Care helps if the VA healthcare team decides the veteran's doctors, pharmacists, therapists, psychologists, and nurses should visit the veteran at home.

Telehealth has a broad range of services that utilize technology to connect a patient at home to a healthcare team. This is available to all enrolled VA healthcare members who have a need.

Pension eligibility factors are applicable for any veterans who qualify for VA healthcare but don't qualify for a VA pension. If you have questions about whether or not you are eligible for VA Healthcare, call (877) 222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

How do I apply for benefits?: To apply for VA Healthcare benefits, visit the VA's website. The process will require you to have on hand some personal information.

More Resources for Veterans:

VA Caregiver Support (855) 260-3274. Helpful articles and videos for caregivers, a toll-free helpline, and a caregiver coordinator locator tool.

VA Beneficiary Travel information on how to access free transportation services from the VA, including forms and cost information.

Caregivers Video Series (801) 582-1565 ext. 2770
Links to videos for caregivers of veterans with dementia.

Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral Center (ADEAR) (800) 438-4380
Informational articles, up-to-date dementia research, resources for memory care professionals, and links to clinical trials for Alzheimer's treatments.

Alzheimer's Association (800) 272-3900 for a 24/7 helpline and general information on Alzheimer's.

Be well. ★

Important Notice for all Companions!

In accordance with MOWW's Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1, any Companion or subdivision (Chapter, Department, State or Region) of the Order, may submit a proposal to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order by submitting such proposal to the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, SVCINC BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret), not later than **15 MARCH 2023**.

You should submit your proposed change(s) electronically by email; however, these submittals must be in Word [.doc] format and addressed to SVCINC BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret) at **perez56@gmail.com**

Or mail your proposal for amending the Order's Constitution and Bylaws to:
SVCINC BG Victor S. Perez
Urb. Las Nubes, 56 Via Naranjales
Caguas, PR 00727

The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will review all submittals and vote to recommend approval or disapproval. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will present the proposals approved by the Committee to the Order at the annual National Convention. If the appropriate numbers of delegates voting recommend approval, the amendment is adopted by the Order.

This is the best opportunity for a Companion of the Order to recommend changes (amendments) to the way the Order operates. The Order's Constitution and Bylaws can be viewed on the MOWW website at **www.moww.org**



Spiritual Resilience

LCDR DEBRA F. ROGERS, ED.D., USN (RET)

CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power.
Put on the full armor of God, so you can take your stand
against the enemy’s evil schemes.”*

—EPHESIANS 6:10-18

Are you a palm tree or an oak tree? I never really took the time to observe trees until recently when I experienced Hurricane Ian and witnessed some of the firsthand destruction. Post-hurricane, I observed many of the oak trees were uprooted on their side or severely listing while the palm trees, albeit lost of branch or two, still stood upright and strong. I realized the oaktree, a hardwood, lacks flexibility and, despite its incredible strength and deep roots, cannot sustain the force of hurricane-strength winds. Conversely, the palm tree is flexible; during the storm, as I periodically peered outside, I saw how the palm trees were swaying against wind gusts that were calculated, at their highest peak, at 92-100 miles per hour. They sustain the wind’s force, unlike their stiff counterpart, the oak tree, which can snap in an instant.

Flexibility promotes resilience in a crisis. What is resilience? Resilience can be defined as the ability to adapt well in the face of adversity, highly stressful situations, or tragedy. One thing that is certain in life is that no matter who we are, how successful, or our current station in life, our faith

will be tested. God uses the challenges to help us understand the true measure of our faith by confronting the truth. It is in this time of tests that we don’t have to rely on our strength to deal with things. If we do, we can become filled with disillusionment and doubt. Being strong, flexible, and resilient means being continually strengthened in the Lord’s mighty power. In Ephesians 6:10-18, God’s word states, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so you can take your stand against the enemy’s evil schemes.”

Additionally, take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. It’s important to note two things that are critical to helping us build spiritual resilience: by wearing the armor and understanding the impetus of the struggle. Today, more than ever, we need to build spiritual resilience so that when life’s hurricanes toss us around, we can decide to hunker down and ride out the storm or give up. Will you be the oaktree that’s uprooted or the palm tree that sways with the wind yet is still resilient? I pray we all choose the latter. ★



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

Washington State Patriotic Day

BY PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)

The Chapter conducted the Washington State Patriotic Day and Massing of the Colors event on 5 March 2022 in DuPont, WA. The key speaker was Medal of Honor recipient Leroy Petry. Staff Sergeant Petry is only the second living recipient of the nation's highest award for valor in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In May 2008, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Ranger to cover. A grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. He lunged forward, picked it up, and threw it back—just as it exploded. He lost his hand, saved his fellow soldiers, and later re-enlisted.



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

General Membership Meeting OY 2022

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

The Puerto Rico Chapter inducted two new Perpetual Members into MOWW during their first General Membership Meeting for OY2022 on 27 August. The new members are COL Elliot Goytia, USA (Ret), and LTC Carlos G. Rivera-Torres, USA (Ret). COL Goytia is a dentist, while LTC Rivera-Torres is a Senior Army Instructor, JROTC. They both received their MOWW PM lapel pins and Membership Medals. The ceremony took place at Antonio's Restaurant in Condado, Puerto Rico.

COL Daniel Osorio (right) performs the induction of the two new perpetual members. (L-R): SVCINC BG Victor Pérez, USA (Ret) (sponsor), LTC Ramon Negron, USA (Ret) (sponsor), COL Elliot Goytia and LTC Carlos Rivera-Torres



Greater Boston Chapter, MA

Region I Annual Leadership Meeting

BY PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)

Region I had its year-end leadership meeting at the Veterans, Inc. building in Worcester in June. A highlight of the day's events was the presentation by Lt Col Vincent J. Perrone, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of Veterans, Inc. He recounted the history of the conversion of the old armory to a veterans shelter and the expansion of its activities to all of New England, becoming an organization with an annual budget of about \$20 million which has assisted many thousands of veterans since its founding nearly 30 years ago.

(L-R): Lt Col Perrone shaking hands with COL Larry Willwerth, USA (Ret), CINC LTC (DR) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret), stands at far right with a representative of Veterans, Inc.





Narragansett Bay Chapter, RI

Cadet Major Kieran Egano Recognized

BY COL LEO FOX, USAF (RET)

On 20 May 2022, Chapter Commander Col Leo Fox, USAF (Ret), presented awards to the Newport Area Career and Technical Center (NACTC) and its Viking Battalion JROTC, Rogers High School, Newport, RI. The school was recognized for maintaining its “Honor Unit With Distinction” rating, scoring in the top 10% of programs nationwide. Cadet Major Kieran Egano was presented the MOWW JROTC Award of Merit and Medal for individual excellence. Col Fox also attached the “Honor Unit With Distinction” guidon streamer to the cadet command flag. The ceremony took place at the historic Fort Adams, Newport, established in 1824, to protect the Rhode Island colonies from sea attacks.



Sun City Center Chapter, FL

GPH Awarded to Lt Col Zahrobksy

BY CAPT BENJAMIN KEPLEY, USN (RET)

During the Chapter’s May meeting, then-VCINC LTC Charles Conover, USA (Ret), presented Lt Col Frank Zahrobksy, USAF (Ret), a Gold Patrick Henry Plaque and Certificate, the highest award given by MOWW. Lt Col Zahrobksy is a past Chapter and Region Commander and longtime chapter treasurer. He has held multiple leadership positions over a sustained period. VCINC LTC Conover also installed newly elected Chapter officers for the current OY.

(L-R): Lt Col Frank Zahrobksy, USAF (Ret) and VCINC LTC Charles Conover, USA (Ret).



Col Elmer Chapter, AR

Silver Patrick Henry Medallion Presented

BY MG RONALD S. CHASTAIN, USA (RET)

The Col Elmer Chapter awarded the Silver Patrick Henry Medal to Lt Col Edward M. Merck, USAF (Ret), at its February 2022 meeting. The recognition was for LtCol Merck’s community service to not only MOWW, but also other VSOs. Since 2012, Lt Col Merck has developed, managed, and maintained the chapter’s website. He has also provided photographs for submission to the *Officer Review*. After the pandemic hit, Lt Col Merck hosted Zoom meetings, which allowed the chapter to never miss a scheduled meeting.

(L-R): Lt Col Merck is presented the SPH by Chapter Commander MG Ronald S. Chastain, USA (Ret).

Colorado Springs Chapter, CO and Denver Chapter, CO

Chapter Officers for OY 2022-2023

BY LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)

The Chapter installed its Chapter Officers for OY 2022-23 on 28 July 2022. We were honored to have Denver Chapter Commander LCDR Coy D. Ritchie, USN (Ret), serve as our installing officer and guest speaker. He shared some lively experiences from his time in the Navy, not the least of which was the 21½ gun salute!

Officers for OY 2022-2023 are (L-R): Adjutant-Lt Col Ulysses C. Swift, USAF (Ret); Junior Vice Commander-Lt Col Rich Peters, USAF (Ret); Senior Vice Commander-Col Kermit D. Neal, USAF (Ret), Chapter Commander-COL Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), and installing officer, Denver Chapter Commander LCDR Coy D. Ritchie, USN (Ret). Not pictured, Treasurer and Assistant Adjutant-LTC Mike Berendt, USA (Ret).



Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!

BY MR. CHARLES BENNETT, JR.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Blue Ridge Chapter; the Military Order of the World Wars, Virginia Piedmont Chapter, and The Sons of the American Revolution, Patrick Henry Chapter commemorated Patrick Henry's birthday on 29 May 2022. Chapter Commander C. Michael Reeves laid a wreath during the ceremony. SAR Members in colonial dress and DAR members also laid wreaths on Patrick Henry's grave at the Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial in Charlotte County, VA.

Learn more at www.redhill.org



Atlanta Area Chapter, GA

Eagle Scouts of the Order of the Arrow

BY CPT CARTER J WOOD, USA (FMR)

Five young men received well-deserved recognition as Eagle Scouts on 29 August 2022 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Alpharetta, GA. All five are members of the Order of the Arrow, the honor society of the Boy Scouts of America, which is composed of Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives as elected by their peers.

CPT Carter J Wood, USA (Fmr), of the Atlanta Chapter, presented MOWW Eagle Scout Certificates to (L-R): Scout Oliver Stone, Scout Rohith Acharya, Scout Nikhil Acharya, Scout Ronan Chandaria, and Scout Henry Leeman.





The PACT Act and Your VA Benefits



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide

generations of veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. Learn more at www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411). Also see www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/

Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Visit the Cybercrime Support Network for additional resources to help veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime: <https://fightcybercrime.org/scams/>

Natural disaster affecting your area?



Use the Find VA locations tool to check the status and operating hours of your local VA facility: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

VA offers debt relief to Veterans affected by recent hurricanes



VA is offering a suspension of debt repayments for veterans and family members affected by Hurricane Fiona or Hurricane Ian.

For suspension of benefit debt, veterans and beneficiaries can contact the VA Debt Management Center via Ask VA at <https://ask.va.gov> (select Veterans Affairs-Debt as the category) or call 800-827-0648.

For suspension of medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center by calling 866-400-1238. Veterans can also check the status of their VA debt online on VA's debt portal.

Veterans Day Coverage



On 11 November, tune in to your local PBS station for "National Salute to Veterans" honoring the 22 million Americans who have served throughout our country's history.

You have questions. VA has answers.

Call VA today.

1-800-MyVA411

(1-800-698-2411)

The number to call when you don't know who to call. You only need to remember one number for information on VA care, benefits, and services or to speak to a live agent for assistance!





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*MAJ Howard P. Lewis, USA (Ret)**

MRS. LAI-CHU KOSTECKE**

*MAJ Howard P. Lewis, USA (Ret)**

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*Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey **

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*Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey **

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*Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey **

COL DOUGLAS J. MORRISON, USA (RET)**

*Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey **

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HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER, TX

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HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 11, 2022

VETERANS DAY

