MAY-JUNE 2022

VIEW

# OFFICE

Meet Grace Banker of the Hello Girls



## "Good, the more Communicated, more abundant grows."

–JOHN MILTON, Paradise Lost

Dear Companions,

As the passage above reminds me, leadership's goal is to communicate better so information can be conveyed, promoting Companions' engagement resulting in bringing the Order into the future.

Leadership has undertaken numerous actions to modernize the Order and streamline operations using organizational best practices. Individually, these actions may have limited success; however, cumulatively, these actions can move the Order from the past and into the future. Individual projects are interrelated, requiring coordination to maximize their effect.

We began by engaging marketing and website development firms to assist with brand strategy, social media presence, and our visibility in the world of Veterans Service Organizations and the veteran community. Departure (marketing firm) and Ironistic (website development) began work in these areas and will soon have products ready to review.

Other efforts are directed toward efficient, accountable operational changes. Modernizing the MOWW Constitution & Bylaws (C&BL) to take advantage of institutional best practices allows the Order to respond to exigencies quicker and more effectively. Numerous C&BL Amendments are currently being reviewed by the C&BL Committee to be brought forward at the convention.

Likewise, reevaluating our Strategic Plan allows us to better focus on what the Order desires to become in the long-term. IPCINC BGen Fred Lopez is chairing the committee tasked with reevaluating the MOWW Strategic Plan (2020-2025). This is a two-year project and will conclude by better defining our purpose and vision, end state, and how the Order will achieve these goals. Part of our vision includes developing new outreach program(s) and new ways to fund these plans. All of these areas are actively being pursued by leadership concurrently.

Companions can be a part of this process by taking part in committee work, running for elected office, and attending the convention where progress on these initiatives will be discussed and delegates will vote on C&BL Amendments and new officers. I invite you to become part of the change.



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### **ON THE COVER**

Grace Banker in uniform following award of the Distinguished Service Medal. The Medal was awarded to only 18 Signal Corps officers of the US Army, including her. Source: Robert, Grace, and Carolyn Timbie.

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# THE "HELLO GIRLS" OF WORLD WAR ONE

CW5 PHYLLIS J. WILSON, (RET) TREASURER/ADJUTANT NORTHERN VA CHAPTER

In the fall of 2019, I became the President of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation and thought that as a 37-year veteran of the United States Army, I knew a thing or two about military women. I had never heard of the "Hello Girls" of World War One.

The new American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) telephone system began in October 1917 and experienced severe communication problems between the American soldiers and the French women telephone operators. The Army needed bilingual telephone operators. A total of 450 American women answered the call! Not only were these women trained in military radio and switchboard operations, but they also completed other military training. Upon graduation,

they were sworn in, required to purchase their own uniforms (like other officers), and were issued dog tags and gas masks. The uniforms of the Hello Girls were navy blue at first, and later they were changed to a version of olive-drab green.

The operators received promotions and carried positions like anyone else in the Army at that time. The "Stars and Stripes" on 29 March 1918 identified the rank of the Hello Girls as follows: "Their ranks were identified by white Armbands. An Operator First Class wore the white armband with an outlined blue Telephone



Chief Operator's Emblem

mouthpiece. A Supervisor, who rates as a platoon sergeant, wears the same armband with a wreath around the mouthpiece. A Chief Operator or "Top" had the emblem with the mouthpiece, the wreath and blue lighting flashes shooting out above the receiver." They also wore the Signal Corps insignia on their headgear.

In March 1918, the first contingent of 33 Hello Girls arrived in France. Others

followed and were sent to numerous locations throughout the war zone, where they connected the front lines to general command. During their time at the front, the Hello Girls took on incoming fire like any other soldiers and were called combatants.

Congress issued a citation to Grace Banker, Chief Operator, for leading eight operators to the front. They arrived just in time to be part of the 12 September 1918 push in the Battle of St. Mihiel. For eight days, these Hello Girls worked around the clock handling communications on eight lines. On 26 September 1918, they were chosen



The first contingent of 33 Hello Girls arrive in France, 3/1918. (National Archives Identifier 530718)

for a new offensive and reassigned to the front, which was northwest of Verdun, according to a "Stars and Stripes" account of the events.

Grace Banker served in some very high places during World War I. For 20 months, she lived like a soldier at a time when the Army didn't allow women in the ranks. She wore a US Army uniform with three stripes on her sleeve and carried a helmet and a gas mask to the front lines in France. And like any soldier, Banker had to keep her cool under fire, working the switchboard at GEN John Pershing's headquarters amid the thunder of artillery shelling.

In France, she learned to fire a pistol—just in case. And when Pershing led the American Expeditionary Forces through a showdown with the Germans at the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, Banker was with him, keeping the lines of communication open in the closing campaign of the war.

After training, the first operators, under the leadership of Chief Operator Grace Banker, left for Europe in March 1918. Members of this unit were soon operating telephones in many exchanges of the American Expeditionary The Chief Operator of the Second American Unit of Telephone Operators was Inez Crittenden of California.

By July 1918, the Army telephone service in France tripled the number of calls per day due to the addition of the women operators. Soon, more American-built circuits had been added to locations in France, reducing reliance on French switchboards. The Signal Corps relaxed the bilingual requirement for new women recruits. In September 1918, Pershing informed the War Department of the immediate need for 130 additional operators and for 40 more every six weeks through 1919.

The War Department was not equipped to provide housing for the women operators overseas and reached an agreement with the YWCA to take over billeting, supplies, and chaperonage for the telephone operator units. During the Meuse-Argonne offensive, a team of telephone operators accompanied Pershing to Souilly, where they maintained communications around the clock. A YWCA secretary accompanied the team and arranged billeting for the women in an old shed that had been used to house French troops during the Battle of

Forces in Paris, Chaumont, and seventy-five other French locations, as well as British locations in London, Southampton, and Winchester.

The Chief Operator supervising the Hello Girls, Grace Banker of Passaic, New Jersey, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Out of 16,000 eligible Signal Corps officers, Banker was one of only 18 individuals so honored.



Banker was one of only 18 individuals so honored. With their gas masks and helmets slung over their chairs, the women of the signal Corps connected messages that dealt with top-secret information. Credit: The National WWI Museum and Memorial.

Verdun. Each of these operators near the front line managed 50 phone lines connected to the Army's Operations Section.

As described by one of the operators: Every order for an infantry advance, a preparatory barrage to the taking of a new objective, and, in fact, for every troop movement, came over the 'fighting lines,' as we called them. With their gas masks and helmets slung over their chairs, the women of the Signal Corps connected messages that dealt with topsecret information, like battle orders, artillery commands and emergency calls from the trenches.

Two days after the Armistice, the chief signal officer for the First Army stated in his official report, "a large part of the success of the communications of this Army is due to...a competent staff of women operators." Thirty of the operators received special commendations, many signed personally by Pershing, and Chief Operator Grace Banker was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The operators were still considered essential after hostilities ceased, with many of the women being transferred to Paris. Individual operators were gradually discharged through 1919, with the final operator being discharged on 20 January 1920. General Pershing reportedly credited the Hello Girls with shortening the length of the war by at least twelve months!

The status of the women operators in the Army Signal Corps was muddled from the start. The women were issued military uniforms and took the Army oath. However, the adjutant general of the United States sent an internal memo stating that the women were civilian employees, "authorized by contract and not by Army regulations." No contracts were ever prepared, though. The Army's lawyers determined that the women were not eligible for war risk insurance because they were civilian employees. In June 1918, the House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing war risk insurance for "women serving by official designation with the Army in the American overseas forces as telephone and telegraph operators," however that provision was deleted by the Senate.

In the press, news stories declared that the Army was recruiting women, that they would be "enlisted for the duration of the war" and referred to as "young women soldiers." The telephone companies said the "girl telephone operators" would be "regular army." The letter sent to potential recruits stated, "This will be the only



Grace Banker, front left, and some of her colleagues in the Signal Corps Hello Girls, line up before receiving recognition for their work in France during World War I.

unit composed of women which will actually wear Army insignia."

The women were required to purchase their own kits, including uniforms, shoes, hats, and insignia, at a cost between \$250 and \$350, because they were told that their status was "similar to officers" who required individually-fitted uniforms; the monthly salary for most positions was \$60.



Operators, it can be said they met the criteria to be an Army Warrant Officer. During an interview with Grace Banker's granddaughter, when asked what rank these women held, she said, according to her Grandmother's journals, the Hello Girls were between the enlisted and the officers. I immediately thought— WARRANT OFFICERS!

"These women were in positions of

Almost immediately after the war ended, the status of the telephone operators became a matter of contention. The women attempted to obtain official discharge papers and were refused. Leading Army officers, such as General George Squier, attempted to have the operators included in the federal bonuses being granted to "all persons serving in the military or naval forces"; their efforts were spurned by the War Department, which insisted that the telephone operators were civilian employees. Squier and other officers unsuccessfully continued to seek military recognition of the Hello Girls.

Although they wore US Army Uniforms and were subject to Army Regulations, they were not given honorable discharges but were considered "civilians" employed by the military. Multiple efforts were made to obtain Congressional recognition of the Signal Corps telephone operators in the decades after the war, with at least 24 bills being introduced between 1927 and 1977. Former operator Merle Egan Anderson persisted with efforts to have the operators recognized into the 1970s, by which time she was an elderly widow. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill and the Hello Girls finally earned their status as US veterans. By that time there were only eighteen of the original Hello Girls who had left for France in 1918, but they indicated no resentment toward their long-awaited victory. They were awarded their Honorable discharges and World War I Victory Medals.

A Hello Girl uniform is on display at the US Army Signal Museum. The uniform was worn by Louise Ruffe, a US Signal Corps telephone operator.

Due to the technical expertise required to serve in the Signal Corps, especially the Chief

extreme trust, because every command to fire or cease-fire or advance or retreat in World War I was made by telephone," Elizabeth Cobbs, author of the book, Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers, said in an interview. "And that telephone call was connected by a woman who could hear every word."

The job was fast-paced and exhausting. The Signal Corps often connected 150,000 calls a day, and the coded language they used to mask critical details about the Army's positions and personnel frequently changed to deter the enemy. For example, Toul, the French city where the Army was based, could be identified by the code "Podunk" one day and "Wabash" the next. Male recruits had proved largely inexpert in the work, Cobbs said. It took a man an average of 60 seconds to connect a call, while it took a woman only 10. The difference could mean winning or losing a battle.

# And there is one more battle: Congressional Gold Medal

On 10 March 2021, Senator Tester (Montana) introduced a Bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the Hello Girls. Currently, this Bill is judged to have a 4% chance of being approved. Anyone that has a desire to support Senate Bill 692 may contact their Senator. ★

GovTrack.us. (2021). S. 692 — 117th Congress: Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021. Retrieved from https://www.govtrack.us/ congress/bills/117/s692

# UKRAINE: A HISTORY OF AUTONOMY

COL JAMES T. ROBERTS, SR., USA (RET) CHAIR, MOWW NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Since the beginning of Ukrainian history, its inhabitants have fought, won and lost their freedom on multiple occasions. In the mid-1600s, the Cossacks rebelled against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to establish the Cossack Hetmanate. This autonomy lasted over 100 years despite constant pressure by Russian Czars. It became part of Russia near the end of the 18th

Century.



In October 1942, The Ukrainian Insurgent (Partisan) Army (UPA) was officially created as the paramilitary wing of the underground movement. It was an amalgamation of various Ukrainian paramilitary groups. At its height, it numbered as many as 200,000. Its members were organized into East, South, and West headquarters with command and control over geographical military districts.

Cossack Cavalier, c. 1820. by Carle Vernet; Cleveland Museum of Art

With the collapse of czarist Russia in 1917, Ukrainians reestablished independence, only to be reconquered in 1920. During 1921-22 and 1932-33, soviet leaders engineered two famines to break the spirit of independence. A total of over 8 million people died as a result. World War II gave the Cossacks another opportunity for independence.

With the invasion of the Germans in 1941, an underground organization was established to help the Germans drive the Russians out of the Ukraine. Over time, atrocities by the Germans turned the Nationalists against them. Political leadership from various underground groups joined together to form the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-B. In 1943, the leadership clarified its goal to establish a system of free peoples and independent states as the best solution to the problem of world order". The leadership rejected "Russian-Bolshevik communism" and "internationalist and fascist national-socialist programs and political concepts". It embraced the concept of "freedom of press, speech and thought" and the motto "Ukraine for Ukrainians".

The districts carried out tactical operations against the German, Russian, and later, the Polish Communist Armies. Toward the end of the war, the UPA switched strategies and reduced operations against the Germans in order to conserve its strength for the inevitable battle with the Soviet reoccupation armies.

In November 1944, Nikita Khrushchev employed approximately 20 NKVD (State Security) combat divisions supported by artillery and armored units (about 200,000 personnel) for a scorched earth operation in Western Ukraine. By February 1945, the UPA moved from a large unit operational force to operations at the platoon level. By Spring of 1945, the Soviets began depopulation efforts, mass arrests of suspected UPA informants and family members of UPA fighters, and physical violence against suspected UPA members. In the eight years between 1944 and 1952, it is estimated that as many as 600,000 individuals were arrested, imprisoned, or executed by Russian security forces for being suspected of UPA ties.

By 1946, UPA guerrilla operations were significantly reduced for a lack of personnel. By 1947, the OUN and UPA were consolidated by the OUN leader, Roman Shukhevych. Guerrilla fighting continued until the mid-1950s with OUN/UPA killing an estimated 35,000 Soviet occupation police, security force members and communist party cadre (CIA estimate). The insurgency was finally defeated in 1956.

Analysis of the World War and post-World War periods indicated that the Ukrainian people:

- Continued to hate Russian/Soviet governance
- Had a burning desire for independence
- Were overwhelmingly proud of their heritage, culture, and customs
- Were imbued with the Cossack warrior spirit
- Would fight for an independent Ukraine.

After the war, Moscow developed the Ukraine as a Soviet vassal. The Soviet Army and Air Force slowly created a Ukrainian military structure complete with political officers advising commanders at each level. The expectation was that these forces would be under Soviet control, politically and militarily.

When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, the Ukrainians became increasingly independent from Soviet political and military doctrine. The 2014 seizure of the Crimea and Donbas regions by Russia was an eye-opener. Ukrainian leadership realized their military weakness and, in the last eight years, have reorganized their command and control, organizational structure, training and doctrine to more closely align with NATO. Ukrainian history was also reviewed to identify the strengths of the Ukrainian people.

Enter the territorial defense brigade concept. Prior to the recent conflict, there were a total of 25 territorial defense brigades listed. Each was to be made up of male and female citizen volunteers and draftees who would receive basic individual, squad and platoon combat training before or during the initial activation phases. As uniformed soldiers, they would fall under the 1949 Geneva Conventions concerning the protection of civilians, wounded soldiers, and prisoners of war under non-international armed conflicts. The brigade missions would be used to back up the active army brigades or conduct Defense in Depth operations to include guerrilla warfare against the Russians. As of January 2022, there were approximately 100,000 receiving territorial defense training.

In springtime, the conventional, undermanned Russian Army must be concerned with soggy fields that bog down vehicles as snows melt and rains arrive. Its commanders also know that vehicle and personnel losses will continue to rise if they cannot disperse off the roads. Another dilemma they face is the order to seize cities with its made-to-order rubble that favors the Ukrainian defense forces in the urban fighting that will take place. Surrounding cities also is a question mark. They must have enough personnel and fighting power to constrict the inner ring and more than enough forces to fend off the territorial units attacking the outer ring and ambushing the supply line logistics convoys that bring in food, ammunition, gas, and replacements.

Military analysts project that Russia must have close to a 5-to-1 advantage in manpower to successfully seize and hold a major city such as Kyiv and other large cities. Even though some feel that the Russian Army of 170,000 soldiers still has yet to actively employ 90% of its units, to conquer and hold a Ukraine of 40 million people, it would take about 800,000 Russian associated troops.

"For the liberty the folk strives ardently from San to Don, and will let no alien power in our common home. Aged Dnieper and Black Sea arm in arm rejoice, and Ukraine will see daylight and live by Fortune's choice.

We will lay our soul and body for cherished freedom. Cossack blood will raise the nation of the joyous people."

—Part of the Ukrainian National Anthem (poetic translation).

Putin should have read Ukrainian history. ★

Multiple open source research and analysis reflect the opinion of the author. Tom Roberts, President, Starboard Focus Continuity Planners, 912-898-9284.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Military Order of the World Wars.

# SO FEW LEFT TO TELL THEIR OWN STORY



1LT ANTHONY F. ABBATE USA (FMR) SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

> My wife's father, Hubert F. Torrence, never spoke much about his time in WWII. Oh, there would be occasional bits and pieces, mostly of a humorous nature. Hugh shared a few stories about the reality of battle with me, but only a few and probably only because I was an officer in the Army. He died in 2008.

Our family knew very little about his role in service to our country during such trying times.

He was drafted into service in March of 1942. We knew he ended up as a Tank Commander in a medium Sherman tank. He said they referred to them, not so affectionately, as "Ronsons," after a popular cigarette lighter of the day. When a superior German Tank hit a Sherman, the strike would ignite the gasoline fuel tank, and it would light up like a Ronson. This anecdote and a few stories like that were about the extent of what we knew.

It was not until I joined the Military Order of the World Wars that my interest was renewed in the history of those war years and my father-in-law's involvement. I decided it was time to put everything together and document his service.

I think it is important for his descendants to know as much as possible about his service to our country.

The Torrence family goes as far back in US history as one can go. There was a Torrence that fought in the Revolutionary War. He was an officer



and took part in the battles at Brandywine and Germantown. We know very few additional facts. Other descendants served in other conflicts right up to Vietnam. A written history of the family was made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hugh's father fought in the Spanish American War. We have a photograph of him standing next to Teddy Roosevelt.

To dig further into my father-in-law's history, I enlisted the help of my friend and neighbor, COL Lonnie Dale Vona, USA (Ret). Being a 30-year veteran and military history buff, Dale better understood the many details we dug through.

Our first task was to collect any memorabilia. When Hugh moved to Florida to be closer to his daughter after the death of his wife, his son, LT Hubert E. Torrence, USN (Fmr), boxed up all that he could find relative to his father's time in the Army and gave it to his son. When Hubert E. died, his son gave all the materials to his mother, who in turn gave them to his only surviving child, my wife, Jacquelyn. (We always thought the French spelling was odd, but he did spend time in France. Probably where that came from). The box lay stashed away for many years until now.

Dale arrived at my house with a few military history books and maps of western Europe. I had everything I collected, and we spread it all over my dining room table.

In the box were: his discharge papers (then known as Form 53-55), photographs, French currency where he had written the day of his arrival in France on 23 July 1944, his uniform cap, insignia with five battle stars, newspaper clippings from home and The Stars and Stripes, a French police handgun (don't know how he got that) a Hitler Youth knife, a leather flying suit (in his size, of course) plus various documents. All these proved very useful.

In our effort to establish a timeline, the separation papers were of enormous help. We also had a

Page opposite, left: Hubert Torrence as a new private.

Page opposite, right: Hubert Torrence's father, of the same name, standing to the right, in the light colored shirt, next to Teddy Roosevelt.

This page, right: March 1945 in Dackscheid, Germany

All photos from the collection of the author.

very detailed booklet, "Unit History 68<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion." Similarly, an equally informative book, complete with maps, titled "Combat History of the Super Sixth" and a booklet titled "Brest to Bastogne."

This is what we were able to uncover: Hubert entered the service, after being drafted, on 30 March 1942. He had civilian experience as a tracked crane operator, so, logically, he was destined for the Tank Corps.

Basic training was two months, followed by armor training and various other skills necessary to be an effective combat soldier. Time was spent at Ft. Meade, Ft. Jaffee, Camp Cooke, and finally, Camp Shanks, where he departed for Europe on a Liberty Ship on 10 February 1944. The Liberty ship took him direct to Liverpool, England, where he waited for orders to leave for France. By that time, he had risen to the rank of SSGT.

He was stateside for quite some time, as this was a period when our country was busy building armaments and creating battle strategies for the eventual arrival in Europe.

He landed at Utah Beach, Normandy, on 23 July 1944, as a Tank Commander in the 68<sup>th</sup> Armored Division under Patton. His campaigns and battles included Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, and Rhineland.

He was awarded the Bronze Star on 8 May 1945 "for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United State in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany during the period 29 July 1944 to 20 April 1945. Taking command when his platoon





leader became a casualty, he proved a cool and courageous leader maintaining excellent control even when completely detached from the company."

Records do not state exactly when this happened, but it is probable that it occurred during mile drive up the

Hubert Torrence a few years after the 10-day, 250enlistment.

Brittany Peninsula, known as the 6th Armored Division's Race to Brest (France). This campaign occurred from 28 July 1944 to 7 August 1944.

The Commander of Operation was General Robert W. Grow. He awarded 40 Silver Stars and approximately 100 Bronze Stars to the men of his Division for their gallantry in action and meritorious achievement during the campaign to Brest.

As reported in The Stars and Stripes on 22 August 1944, "in one action, Lt Col. Embry D. Langrew... took a tank-infantry task force of 500 men and in five hours killed 250 Nazis and captured 760 others."

I realize now that compiling this history was late in coming. I only wish I could have done it while he was still alive. Hugh passed on 9 May 2008 at the age of 88.

So many men and women from those days, so many stories to tell, and so few left to tell them. **★** 

# **OY 2022 National Officer Elections**

PCINC LTC CHARLES S. CHAMBERLIN, JR., USA (RET) CHAIR, MOWW NOMINATING COMMITTEE



NOMINATING COMMITTEE POINTS OF CONTACT:

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- Vice Chair, Nominating Committee IPCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret) | flopez23@cox.net

### "It Is Nobler To Serve"

Each year, Companions can fulfill the promise of MOWW's motto, "It Is Nobler To Serve Than To Be Served," by running for election as a National Officer.

Become a candidate for a national officer position for operating year 2022 (1 July 2022-30 June 2023) by emailing your candidacy statement to the listed Nominating Committee leaders. Multiple candidates for each position are encouraged.

#### **NATIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS:**

Commander-in-Chief

Treasurer General

Surgeon General

Chaplain General

- Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- Vice Commanders-in-Chief (4 each) Note: the MOWW Constitution [Article V, Section 2, Paragraph A. 2)], states, "Four each, with no two of whom coming from any one region.'
- Judge Advocate General
- Historian General

# COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S TRAVELS

LTC PATRICK STOLZE, USA, (RET) • REGION XIII CONFERENCE COL ARTHUR TULAK, USA (RET) • CAPT DILLINGHAM CHAPTER, HI CAPT B. FRANK KEPLEY, USN (RET) • SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

#### **MESA-CHANDLER, AZ**

Region XIII conducted its OY 2021-2022 Fall Conference over the weekend of 21-23 January 2022. The event was our second region-wide conference conducted in-person and via ZOOM.

For some years now, we have been conducting Region XIII Conferences using a Multi-Business Meeting format incorporating Region,

Department, Chapter and Youth Leadership Conference planning in a combined agenda with the sponsoring Chapter's Membership Meeting.

We were honored to host CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret), who attended all weekend activities. In-person attendees included Region Staff, Department Commanders, Chapter Commanders (or designated representatives), and a number of Companions via ZOOM. COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter Companions arrived for lunch, followed by their chapter membership meeting. We were also joined by Lt Col David Dunlap, National Patriotic Education Committee Chair.

HPM Laura Beltran (Greater El Paso Chapter) offered our Invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by COL Dick Minor (Phoenix Chapter); the Preamble was read by CAPT Buz Isban (West Valley Chapter), and the Benediction was offered by LTC Craig Cummins (COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter). A moment of silence was observed for the passing of the Order's 78th Commanderin-Chief, LTG Robert (Sam) Wetzel.

Our Region XIII VCINC, Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), provided innovative technical enhancements, including a more robust sound system and a camera that trained automatically on the speaker within the room. He also provided numerous Good Practice Tips throughout the

#### meeting.

The business agenda included approving the previous Spring Conference Minutes, Chapter Commanders briefing their Interim Chapter Activity Reports, Region & Department Treasurers rendering reports, a Training Moment, and CINC LTC Okin's remarks. Discussions occurred on recent CINC and Chief of Staff

> letters, specifically the Patriot Program, accessing the National Directory and the Companion Roster on the MOWW Web page, and the upcoming Membership Seminar. Additionally, COL Dick Minor briefed on the upcoming Arizona Youth Leadership Conference, and COL Stephen Shambach reported on his forthcoming Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference plans.

> We secured the CINC's guidance on numerous items during the business sessions and questions following his comments to the Companions. He fielded quite a range of questions.

We sponsored two dinners over the weekend. The first was at BJ's Brewhouse and Restaurant on Friday evening, and the second was at The Keg Steakhouse on Saturday evening.

CINC LTC Okin presented two awards during the session. One was the National MOWW VADM DYER Writing Excellence Award to LTC Joe Harris (Catalina Mountain Chapter); and an Award of Merit plaque to Ms. Kenya Griffith, Director of Sales for the Holiday Inn, Mesa, for her and her staff's support during the weekend.

We are very grateful to the sponsoring Chapter Companions, Commander MAJ Rosanne Trujillo, and her staff for coordinating an excellent venue and luncheon for the Regional Fall Conference activities. ★



COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter Commander, MAJ Rosanne Trujillo, USA (Ret), presented a memento to CINC LTC (Dr) Michael Okin in honor of his visit.



(L-R): Companions LTC Curtis A. Manchester, USAR (Ret), and COL Arthur Tulak USA (Ret); LTC Wayne Anno, CDR-Hawaii National Guard; State Sheriff Billy Oku; Capt Valoroso, HPD Lieutenant; Clifford Ramson; CINC LTC Okin; Ms. Rohr; COL Felix; Ms. Claire Levinson; HPM Mrs. Deborah Okin; 1stLt Steven H. Querry, and Chapter Commander Col Jason Seal, USMC (Ret).

#### OAHU, HAWAII

The Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter was honored to host CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret), and his wife, Deborah, on 10 January 2022. The schedule included opportunities to support chapter events set to recognize and honor exemplars in the community.



(L-R): CINC Okin, COL Felix, COL Arthur Tulak.

The first honoree was COL John Henry Felix, Ph.D., who is well-known to the veteran community on Oahu. Dr. Felix is a retired US Army Colonel, a Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, and former Commander of the CAP Hawaii Wing. The CINC presented Dr. Felix with the Order's Silver Patrick Henry Medal (SPHM), signed by Region XIV Commander CDR Ted Parsons, USN (Ret). The SPHM was awarded to Dr. Felix's in recognition of his several decades of service supporting our veterans and his efforts and involvement with the Scouting movement. In addition to his other accomplishments, Dr. Felix chairs the Homeless Veterans Task Force which the Hawaii VA supports. Col Felix' SPH citation read in part:

Exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the veteran and scouting communities in Hawaii. In support of Hawaii's Veterans, Col Felix spearheaded the establishment of the Hawaii state office of veteran affairs, and served as the chairman of the VA's homeless veterans in Hawaii.

In addition, he was critical to establishing an integrative treatment program at Tripler army medical center for active duty, reserve & veterans coping with chronic pain. He served as chairman of the governor's Jobs for Veterans Task Force and left a lasting legacy of service as a result of his efforts to advocate for the establishment of a VA medical center in Hawaii, which was realized with the Sparks K. Matsunaga Veterans Medical Center at Tripler. Significantly, he donated 15 acres to expand the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. Col Felix supported patriotic education of boy scouts in Hawaii for over 80 years...

Following this event, the CINC met with Ms. Claire Levinson, the Executive Director of the Oahu Veterans Center (OVC), which serves as the Chapter's "HQ" and mailing address. The OVC hosts the Oahu Veterans Council, which brings veterans organizations together to work on important projects and commemorations in a cooperative manner. The member organizations of the council provide support to projects that provide all member organizations are authorized to conduct meetings at no cost, and the Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter will be hosting its very first YLS at the OVC in June 2022.

From the OVC, the CINC visited the recently opened West Oahu Veterans Center established by the Hawaii Department of AMVETS. AMVETS Commander Donovan Lazarus briefed the CINC on how the AMVETS were able to coordinate with the Navy for the use of the derelict building that was formerly the club for the Navy's Iroquois Point Housing area and the *Pearl Harbor Magazine* at the West Loch. The AMVETS, with help from other volunteer organizations, transformed the derelict building into a first-class meeting facility for any veterans group who requests use of the facility, at no cost. Capping off the day, the CINC participated in the Chapter's Law & Order Awards presentation, at the famous Sunset Lanai at Camp H.M. Smith Marine Corps Base overlooking Pearl Harbor. The following Hawaii law enforcement officers were presented the MOWW Silver Patrick Henry medallion: State Sheriff William "Billy" Oku Jr; 1st Deputy Hawaii State Sheriff LaniKoa Debrowski; LTC Wayne Anno, Hawaii Army National Guard; Major Thomas Taflinger, Honolulu Police Dept. and Captain Deric Valoroso, Honolulu Police Dept. Other law enforcement officers in attendance included 1stLt Steven H. Querry, the Camp Smith District OIC of the Provost Marshal Office, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and HPD Lieutenant Clifford Ramson.

Following the presentations of awards, CINC Okin spoke to those assembled about the Order, its purposes, and the future of the organization. The overview prompted a lively question and answer period. In the days that followed, honorees Dr. John Henry Felix and LTC Wayne Anno completed their MOWW application forms to become Companions. ★

#### SUN CITY CENTER, FL

The Sun City Center Chapter, FL, held their Annual Dining Out event on 17 February 2022, at the Renaissance Club in Sun City Center. CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret), was the guest of honor. The CINC was joined by VCINC LTC Charles R. Conover Jr., USA (Ret), a Companion of the SCC Chapter and past Chapter Commander in 2019-2020.

During the visit, the CINC and VCINC participated in a Chapter Staff meeting, during which they were briefed by the Chapter officers and Outreach Program Coordinators.

Chapter 226 has grown from a mid-size 93 Companion chapter

to a large 206 Companion chapter by virtue of the closure of the Bradenton and Miami chapters. Thus, the chapter's program area went from one county to fifteen counties and a territory from Tampa to Naples to Miami.

That evening, Chapter 226 held a Dining Out at Club Renaissance with a reception and dinner, honoring the CINC and celebrating the 29th anniversary of Chapter 226

During the event, 1st Lt Kristen Nyquist, (USAR) was inducted as a Perpetual Member and Companion MAJ Roberta Troxell, USA (Fmr),



The Chapter's 29th cake cutting ceremony



(L-R): COL Darryl Reyes, USA (Ret), and CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret).

was presented with a Silver Patrick Henry Award for her dedication and assistance to Chapter Commander Companion Col Doug Roderick, USAF (Ret), that has been well beyond what is expected of a person in that position. In addition, the CINC presented a National Citation to Companion COL. Darryl Reyes, USA (Ret), for his

dedication to improving the lives of veterans.

Prior to dinner a cutting of the Chapter's 29th Anniversary Cake, see above photo, with the assistance of the CINC, VCINC and the past chapter commanders, using a US Marine Corps Sabre took place. This was followed by a message from the CINC, who stressed

the importance of MOWW recruitment efforts, the continued support of the Youth Leadership program as well as the use of social media for getting the MOWW message out to prospective members and community residents. He commented that the Sun City Center Chapter was well ahead of most chapters with regard to their outreach programs and general activities.

The following morning the CINC, along with a few other companions, visited the Hillsborough County Veteran's Memorial Park. ★

# JOINT AWARDS AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

LTC CARL R. WITTE, USA (RET) DELAWARE CHAPTER, DE

The Delaware Chapter hosted a Joint Awards Ceremony and Memorial Service on 30 October 2021. The Chapter was joined by the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation (DMHEF), the VFW Post 475 (Newark, DE), and the William E. Taylor US Naval Sea Cadets in honoring the founders of Mount America.

"The Mount" was established by Vietnam veteran George Turak and his wife, Michelle. The site, a former horse farm, has been turned into a place for group activities including support of the US Naval Sea Cadets.

The Mission Statement of the Mount America Foundation is to serve as a hub of network organizations helping Veterans, First Responders, and their families build a better future for themselves and the Nation.

The Awards presentation was followed by a Memorial service that included honoring 21 fallen heroes of major American wars. Three people



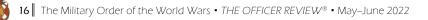
Left: MOWW VCINC CAPT Edward Gantt, USN (Ret), presented a plaque to Michelle and George Turak and the Mount America Foundation on behalf of the US Navy Sea Cadet Corps

Below left: MOWW VCINC CAPT Edward Gantt and Delaware Chapter Commander LTC Joe Effinger presented an MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Award to George and Michelle Turak.

Below: Historical reenactors participated in the 21-bell salute honoring the fallen.







stood at each cross and, in turn, said a name. Each time a name is said, the helmet is tapped, sounding like a bell. At the conclusion, Taps was

sounded by bugler Matt Grieco.

After the retirement of colors by the VFW Color

Guests then joined for a meal, including venison

Dignitaries attending included Companions and

DMHEF members MG Frank Vavala, DEARNG (Ret); BG Terry L. Wiley, USA (Ret); BG Ken

Wiggins, DE ANG (Ret); Region Commander COL

Guard, Matt played "America the Beautiful."

chili prepared by George and Michelle.

"Seeing what George and Michelle have created up here makes them eligible for the Silver Patrick Henry Award"

- LTC CARL WITTE USA (RET)

Loren A. Weeks, USA (Ret); former Chapter and Department Commander COL Earl E. Seppala, USA

(Ret); COL James Dickinson, USA (Ret); Chapter Commander LTC Joe Effinger III, USA (Ret); Capt John A. Taylor, USMC; HPM Ms. Judy C. Campbell; Patriotic Affiliate Teddi Silver, and LTC Carl R. Witte, USA (Ret), who served as Master of Ceremonies. The Commander of VFW Post 475, Jim Greenplate was in attendance, as well as LTJG Sam Elliott, Commander of the Wm. E. Taylor Sea Cadets. ★

Photos Courtesy of Jane Bellmyer, The Cecil Whig

Right: A US Naval Sea Cadet "rings" the helmet as a name is called.

Below right: Guests joined in to create groups of three at each cross.

Below: A William E. Taylor US Naval Sea Cadet read the names of the fallen. Behind him is the marble statue of a WWI doughboy guarding the flag.





# Assist Your Chapter by Submitting a Grant Request

PCINC LTC GARY O. ENGEN, USA (RET) HANN BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER COMMANDER

Traditionally, the Hann Buswell Chapter has funded grant requests submitted by Companions which target goals of the Order; for example, to provide extra funds not available in the budgets of component chapters, to recruit new members, to initiate attempts to rescue Chapters falling adrift, or to fund other innovative ideas to stimulate interest in the Order.



PCINC LTC Gary Engen displays the "Charles Hann-Leslie Buswell Memorial Chapter History," a booklet following the Chapter from its establishment in 1957 and follows events through the year 2000.

The Hann Buswell Grants Committee reviews grant requests at their annual meeting held during the National Convention. The Hann Buswell Grants Committee may vote to: approve as requested, modify, or deny the proposal. The Committee discusses the merits of each submission then forwards its recommendations to the chapter's Companions. Hann Buswell Chapter Companions will discuss the recommendations of the Committee, hear additional oral arguments from submitters and then cast their vote. The discussion and vote will consider total chapter funds available for distribution. Requesters should understand that the funds available for grants are limited each year. Grants are funded only with the annual earnings from the chapter's principal investments, which vary with general economic conditions in the nation. Such earnings are the only source of grant funds. An invasion of the investment corpus is never permitted. Requesters should be prepared to seek other sources of funds in addition to grants if required for their projects.

Grants are funded for one year only with no automatic renewals. Additional grants may be requested in a subsequent year(s).

The Hann Buswell chapter requires all grant requests be submitted **no later than June 1** of each fiscal year. The request must be specific and include the following parameters stated clearly and concisely:

- 1. The duration of your project
- 2. How the project will advance the goals of the Order
- 3. The time frame from implementation to completion
- 4. Projected overall cost of the project
- 5. Additional sources of funding you intend to seek beyond the grant
- 6. A stated commitment to return any unused funds to the Hann Buswell Chapter if completion of the project is unattainable.

For 2022, all grant requests should be submitted in PDF format to Hann Buswell Chapter Adjutant, LTC William Rapp, at email: williamrapp@mac.com

Companions were briefed on these procedures at the MOWW National Convention in 2021. Recommendations for further improvement are welcomed. ★



The Northeast Florida Chapter and North Central Florida Chapter are newly chartered chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars.

They are hereby organized and instituted as chapters of the Order to be known as the Northeast Florida Chapter and the North Central Florida Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

The Order Congratulates CWO4 David A. McCuistion, USN (Ret), Chapter Commander of the Northeast Florida Chapter, and COL Robert F. Schlegel, Jr., USA (Ret), Chapter Commander & Treasurer of the North Central Florida Chapter With best wishes for their continued success.

# Reserve Officer Training Corps

CDR ALAN M. MANDIGO, USN (RET) CHAIR, ROTC COMMITTEE MOWW

#### Introduction

MOWW's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Committee is the program manager of MOWW's ROTC and Junior ROTC (JROTC) outreach activities. As the Order's ROTC program manager, the ROTC Committee ensures adherence to the ROTC Program's policy and, with the chain of command, promotes participation in the program by all chapters. The ROTC Committee's responsibility is to support MOWW chapters in establishing, sustaining, and continuously improving their ROTC programs by keeping the MOWW ROTC references up-to-date. The committee also serves as program advisors to MOWW chapters' chain of command and their ROTC Committees for all ROTC & JROTC matters.

ROTC Committee Roles & Responsibilities The Chapter ROTC Coordinators' duties and responsibilities are listed in MOWW Form 34, "ROTC Committee Guide" (Reference 4). All of the duties listed are important, but developing a Point of Contact (POC) list of ROTC and JROTC units that your chapter sponsors is the first task to complete. When initially developing or updating your POC List, always introduce yourself as the MOWW chapter ROTC program put on probation, leading to deactivation if not corrected. However, local circumstances may also apply, so understand what they are and use your best judgment.

After the ROTC & JROTC POC lists are complete, send an email to all your units providing them with a MOWW ROTC & JROTC awards list. This list should include the due date for the MOWW ROTC/JROTC award; the cadet's names (cadet rank, first name, middle initial, last name, and suffix), and the date of their spring awards ceremony. Our experience shows that almost half of the units will already have their date set. As a complementary action, having a verified ROTC & JROTC POC list is also the vehicle you need to order your ROTC and JROTC Medals of Merit sets, certificates, and folders from the MOWW Store: https://store.moww.org and https://store.moww.org/product-category/ product-type/rotc-jrotc/. Early orders from the MOWW Store are always recommended to give chapters the most flexibility, preparation-and scheduling-wise.

#### ROTC Committee Outreach to Chapters

The ROTC Committee is not only the MOWW chapter's link to the ROTC & JROTC units in

chair and provide all of your contact information.

The committee suggests Chapter ROTC Chairs wait until after 1 October annually to contact JROTCs because of the required 1 October JROTC enrollment report. On 1 October, each JROTC unit must have 100 cadets or more, or they will be



Each year, MOWW presents ROTC and JROTC Awards of Merit to outstanding cadets. Pictured: Companions of the Greater El Paso Chapter (TX), recognize JROTC Cadets at St. Teresa High School in 2019.

the chapters area of responsibility, but in actuality, it is the link to all youth in college, high school, middle school and elementary school. What does Outreach really mean? It is not only working with schools with ROTC/JROTC programs to provide awards, speakers, and volunteers but the same may



PCINC Col Jim Elmer helps guide a group of fifth graders as he teaches them how to march in an honor guard formation during his presentation on flag etiquette.

be offered to schools without ROTC/JROTC programs. Examples: Some states require each educational institution to have a Veterans Day Program which is a great way for MOWW Companions to help as speakers. Many schools also have Memorial Day programs and other patriotic programs that need experienced veterans to help. Don't be narrow-minded and only approach ROTC & JROTC schools; offer your outreach services to non-ROTC/JROTC schools.

#### ROTC and JROTC Cadet Awards

MOWW'S ROTC and JROTC awards involve medals, certificates and locally created awards. MOWW'S Gold, Silver, and Bronze ROTC Medals of Merit recognize college ROTC cadet performance excellence. The bronze JROTC Medals of Merit recognize the same for high school JROTC cadets. MOWW Companions present Medals of Merit to the recipients during ROTC & JROTC award ceremonies. These ROTC and JROTC Medals of Merit come in sets that include a full-size medal and a ribbon bar. Embossed Medal of Merit certificates and a special MOWW presentation folder for the certificate are also available. These items and a range of other items are available for purchase in the MOWW Store, which is on the MOWW website.

These are not the only awards that a chapter may present to cadets. For example, Reference 3 permits chapters to use embossed MOWW certificates of appreciation. Chapters may also use the various embossed MOWW vertical and horizontal "fill in the blank" certificates available in the MOWW Store. These certificates thank cadets for presenting colors at a MOWW meeting, honor cadets as the Most Improved Cadet or the Cadet of the Year, congratulate drill or color guard competition winners, and honor instructors. In addition, ROTC cadets may be given a saber/sword, cash awards, and more. Companions presenting awards at chapter meetings, Massing of Colors ceremonies, annual ROTC/JROTC award ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies, or other events, in person or by a hybrid method, is also outreach to the units and the community. Presentations are counted in the annual ROTC program award submission, reference 5.

#### Conclusion

ROTC/JROTC programs are an integral part of a chapter. ROTC & JROTC cadets and instructors are a great source of help for all patriotic activities that a chapter sponsors and chapter companions are a great source of speakers and trainers for ROTC & JROTC units. The ROTC Committee is available to help with your chapter's ROTC Program. Please give us a call (our contact information is in the MOWW National Directory on the MOWW Store website)! Also, don't forget to submit your Reference 5, MOWW Form 39 by 1 June of each year. Form 39 lets MOWW HQ and the ROTC Committee know how your ROTC Program is going. In the meantime, we'll be calling you. ★

#### Resources on the MOWW website (www.moww.org):

- 1. ROTC & JROTC Program | FACT SHEET: MOWW Website (www.moww.org) Home Page.
- 2. MOWW Policy Letter re ROTC & JROTC Recognition Support, HQ MOWW/CS Letter, Subject: MOWW Support of and ROTC & JROTC Award Programs, 7 February 2018.
- 3. MOWW Policy Manual, 9 April 2019.
- 4. MOWW Form 34 ROTC Committee Guide.
- 5. MOWW Form 39 ROTC Program Award Submission.
- 6. MOWW Strategic Plan 2020-2025, 19 March 2020.

# DEMENTIA, CAREGIVING AND RESOURCES

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR) SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW



### Part 1: The 7 Main Stages Of Alzheimer's Dementia

Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia that impacts memory, thinking and behavior. Over time, symptoms grow severe and interfere with daily life. More than 5 million Americans live with Alzheimer's today. By 2050, this number is expected to be almost 14 million. Let's discuss its signs, symptoms and progression in the first of this group of articles.

As victims become less functional, others must take on those responsibilities. Sixteen million Americans provide care for Alzheimer's patients. Progression varies but usually ranges from 4 to 20 years. Most live 4-8 years after diagnosis. There are seven recognized stages of Alzheimer's.

**Stage 1: No Impairment** In stage one, there is normal behavior and no discernible memory problems. Only a PET scan showing how the brain is working can make a diagnosis.

**Stage 2: Very Mild Decline** The individual starts to experience very mild forgetfulness common to the person's age. Memory loss or confusion is common in half of adults aged 65 and older. A mild decline won't be identified as an Alzheimer's symptom. Not recalling names as well as previously, not remembering where they put things, having trouble concentrating, finding the correct word or mastering new skills but not severe enough to impact the ability to work or live independently can happen. Patients still perform well on memory tests.

**Stage 3: Mild Cognitive Decline** Forgetfulness increases, difficulty with focus and concentration, results in decreased work or completing tasks, such as paying bills or cleaning. Getting lost, struggling for the right words, forgetting something they just read, asking the same questions repeatedly, finding it challenging to plan or organize, inability to remember new names, or losing items frequently can occur. Symptoms are significant enough that family members notice. A memory test would be affected. A physician may detect impaired cognitive function. The average duration of stage three is approximately seven years.

**Stage 4: Moderate Cognitive Decline** The individual is categorized as having early-stage dementia. Their symptoms become more severe, exhibiting increased forgetfulness and difficulty concentrating. Complex tasks, organizing, and expressing thoughts become challenging. A person may struggle with the date or amount on a check, forget the month, ordering off a menu, doing arithmetic, and forgetting details about their life.

**Stage 5: Moderately Severe Decline** Marks the beginning of moderate dementia: Memory deficiencies become severe, people often require assistance with daily living, such as help dressing or preparing meals. The person requires monitoring and can no longer live alone. Some symptoms are: Forgetting information, such as home address and phone number, difficulty with place, time, life details, inability to remember current information, picking appropriate clothing, repeating questions, or counting down from 20. Individuals require assistance and frequent monitoring, but they retain some functionality. Stage five typically lasts 1.5 years.

**Stage 6: Severe Cognitive Decline** referred to as "middle dementia." The individual needs substantial assistance to carry out day-to-day activities. This stage signals the start of significant personality changes such as anxiety, agitation, and delusions. Symptoms include difficulty remembering recent events and faces, forgetting the names of family members and confusing individuals. Patients exhibit difficulty with cognitive skills such as counting backward from 10. They experience incontinence of the bowel or bladder, diminished speaking ability, require help with bathing and maintaining hygiene, and may wander off if left unsupervised. Stage six lasts about 2.5 years.

**Stage 7: Very Severe Cognitive Decline** This final stage is "late-stage dementia." The individual has lost the ability to speak or communicate; they require assistance with all activities, bathing, dressing, toileting and eating. They need around-the-clock supervision. People often lose their psychomotor capabilities and may be unable to walk without assistance. This stage lasts an average of 2.5 years.

Be well. ★

# Let There Be Peace on Earth

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

# "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" -Luke 2:14

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" was a song written in 1955 by Jill Jackson and sung by an international children's choir. The lyrics to this song could not be more applicable today. An excerpt of the song states,

"Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me Let There Be Peace on Earth The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father Brothers all are we Let me walk with my brother In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow To take each moment and live Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me"

Peace is mentioned 429 times in the Bible, hence its importance. Today, our world is more turbulent than ever with war and threats of war. The upheaval levied on families and communities seeking refuge in unfamiliar places and leaving everything familiar harkens us back to many dark historical stories. The refugees are not only seeking physical safety for themselves and their loved ones, but they are seeking peace. Peace to raise their children in a stable and loving environment and realize dreams. People should not have to flee their homes to seek peace; a home is usually a familiar place filled with peace and love, but global chaos leaves many homeless and unstable.

Luke 2:14 (King James Version) highlights God's glory, peace on earth, and goodwill towards men. The triad cannot exist without each segment. The love towards our fellow brothers and sisters, wrapped in God's glory, helps support peace on earth. Today world peace is lacking due to the deceit in the hearts of those individuals who devise evil (Proverbs 12:20 (KJV). However, the Bible promises us that good will win out over evil.

As an individual, you may be wondering how you can support world peace. Each person can do their part by volunteering at an organization supporting similar goals, helping a local refugee family, financial support to a legitimate nonprofit organization, sponsoring a war orphan, or joining a prayer group are some tangible endeavors. As global citizens and brothers and sisters under God, it is our responsibility to become involved because sitting on the sidelines is not an option.

Peace begins with each of us, and the moment is now. ★







#### Hill Country Chapter, TX

### Law & Order Presentation

BY COL NORMAN WELLS, USAF (RET)

The Chapter nominated Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha for the MOWW Exceptional Law & Order Service Award for his leadership during the recordbreaking winter storm in February 2021. His First Place award was presented to the Chapter at the MOWW 2021 National Convention. The Chapter invited the local press and worked with the Sheriff's public affairs officer to ensure that the presentation received wide distribution. The presentation made the front page.

(L-R): Hill Country Chapter Commander Col Norman Wells, USAF (Ret), presents MOWW's 2021 Exceptional Law & Order Service Award to Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha.

LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab Chapter, NJ

### Honoring PCINC LTC Shehab

BY PCINC LTC RUTH HAMILTON, USA (RET)

On 22 August 2021, Companions of the LTC Shehab Chapter held a Memorial Ceremony for LTC Alfred H.M. Shehab—the Chapter's namesake—in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park in Cape May, NJ. BG Jeffery Pierson, USA (Ret), Chapter Commander; PCINC LTC Ruth Hamilton, USA (Ret), Adjutant; and Mr. Thomas Raniszewski, who authored an article about LTC Shehab in the *Cape May Magazine*, participated. Approximately 50-60 people attended the ceremony, including the Mayor of Cape May, Mayor Zachary Mullock.

(L-R): BG Jeffery Pierson and Mr. Thomas Raniszewski.

Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

### **Eagle Scout Presentation**

BY LTC JESUS BELTRAN, USAR (RET)

Greater El Paso Chapter Commander LTC Jesus Beltran, presented a MOWW Eagle Scout Certificate to Nicolas Diaz, Troop 187, at his Court of Honor held on 19 September 2021. Nicolas was sponsored by Elks Lodge 187.

#### COL Roosevelt Chapter, NY

### Father & Son Take the Oath

BY LTC PAUL F. FARINELLA, USA (RET)

Chapter Commander LTC Farinella recently inducted a father-son team. Col Lawrence Jindra, USMC (Ret), was inducted as a PM; while his Dad, former SSG Leonard Jindra, USA, age 100+, and a veteran of D-Day before, during, and after the invasion of 6 June 1944, was inducted as a RHM. Dr. Jindra has written a book, as told by his Dad, titled *American Hero*, available on Amazon.com that discusses his extraordinary life.

(L-R): Col Lawrence Jindra, USMC (Ret), with his Dad, former SSG Leonard Jindra, USA, and Chapter Commander LTC Paul Farinella, USA (Ret).



#### Clearwater Chapter, FL

### Honoring LTC George Smith

BY LT COL RICHARD GOUIN, USAF (RET)

LTC George K. Smith, USA (Ret), a 92-year-old veteran and Companion with over 20 years of service to the Clearwater Chapter was honored as "Our Hero of the Game!" at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers stadium on 19 December 2021. LTC Smith and guests were welcomed to the Salute to Service Suite. Just prior to the game, George was escorted to the Buccaneer ship to ring the bell to start the game. Various pictures from George's service were televised on the closed-circuit TV for the audience of over 60,000 attendees to view.

Photo posted on Twitter @BucsFoundation

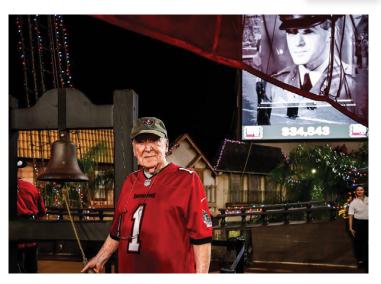
Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

### A 30-Year Tradition

BY MR. CHARLES W. BENNETT, JR.

On 21 December 2021, MOWW CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret); Chapter Commander CDR Michael C. Reeves, USN (Ret); Chapter VCINC LT Peter H. Bryan, USN (Fmr), and Past Chapter Commander LCDR Joel D. Kramar, USN (Ret), delivered over \$2,800 worth of requested merchandise and supplies to the Salem VA Hospital. LT Peter Bryan led the effort to raise funds and coordinate this project.

(L-R): LT Peter H. Bryan, USN (Fmr), LCDR Joel D. Kramar, USN (Ret), CINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret), and CDR Michael C. Reeves, USN (Ret).











#### Sun City Center Chapter, FL

### **Post-Convention Luncheon**

BY CAPT FRANK KEPLEY, USN (RET)

Photo top left: In September, Chapter Commander Col Doug Roderick, USAF (Ret), presented the First Place MOWW National Law and Order Outstanding Service Award to Deputy Charles Williams, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO).

Top right: Companion Capt Vern Elarth, USAF (Fmr), last year's Commander, displays Chapter of the Year Award, Second Place, for large chapters. This was the first year for the chapter to evaluated as a large chapter.

Below: Col Doug Roderick and second from right, Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret), with HCSO Officers.

MG Chamberlain Chapter, ME

## Veteran Support

BY CPT ALAN JOHNSON, USA (FMR)

On 6 November 2021, Chapter Commander CPT Alan Johnson presented a donation of \$2,500 to The Veterans' Place (TVP). TVP provides transitional housing, meals, counseling and guidance to eligible veterans.

(L-R): Mayor of Barre, Lucas Herring; Chapter Commander CPT Alan Johnson, and Karen Boyce, Managing Director, The Veterans' Place.



### Puget Sound Chapter, WA

# In Support of JROTC

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

Chapter Commander LTC Heinz Haskins, USA (Ret), presented a donation to NJROTC instructor LCDR Hood to help start their new unit at Peninsula High School, WA. Cadets look on, with CDR Alan Mandigo, USN (Ret), and CDR Ronald Kirkland, USN (Ret).

(L-R): Companions CDR Alan Mandigo; CDR Ronald Kirkland; NJROTC Instructor LCDR Hood, and LTC Heinz Haskins.

#### BG Holland Chapter, CA

### Herbkas Recognized

BY BGEN PAUL K. LEBIDINE, USMCR (RET)

As Nick and Diane were traveling, the BG Holland Chapter was able to catch up to them to present awards for their long-time service to the Chapter. LCDR Nicholas S. Herbka, USN (Ret), received the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for his outstanding leadership as the Chapter Commander. Mrs. Diane Herbka, RHM, was recognized for her outstanding devotion to the Chapter. Many events in support of JROTC and our local Veteran Park would not have happened without their efforts to ensure our traditions and history continue for future generations.





COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ

### **Eagle Scout Recognition**

#### BY MR. CHARLES E. MACKEY

On 11 December 2021, the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America, based in Phoenix, AZ, held an in-person recognition ceremony honoring those Scouts who earned their Eagle Rank in 2020 and 2021. Sixty-five Eagle Scouts representing 46 Troops were honored at this event held at the Heard Scout Pueblo in Phoenix. LTC Patrick Stolze, USA (Ret), current MOWW Region XIII Commander, and Mr. Charles E. Mackey, the Region XIII Scouting Outreach Coordinator, presented MOWW Eagle Scout Certificates, with assistance provided by MAJ Rosanne Trujillo, USA (Ret), Commander of the COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ.

This was the first time the MOWW participated in the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and we are planning to make this a yearly event. We presented each awardee the MOWW Eagle Scout Certificate, a congratulatory letter signed by Patrick Stolze and Rosanne Trujillo, and a MOWW patch.

VA to propose adding rare respiratory cancers to the presumed service-connected list



On 1 March, VA announced its intention of adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to exposure to toxic chemicals in the air, water, or soil for Veterans who

served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

Veterans, dependents and survivors who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers would be encouraged to file a new or supplemental claim for benefits once the rule-making process is complete: Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx; SCC of the trachea; Adenocarcinoma of the trachea; Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea; Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung; Large cell carcinoma of the lung; Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung; Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and; Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would be eligible for service-connection.

VHA's Health Outcomes Military Exposures team began a focused review of scientific and medical evidence related to exposure to fine particulate matter and the subsequent development of rare respiratory cancers. Its research affirmed a biologic plausibility between airborne hazards and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract.

Based on these findings, VA Secretary Denis McDonough is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for these rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans.

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process. Once rule making is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

VA to publish recommendations to realign and modernize VA health care nationwide



VA publicly released a report containing recommendations to invest in the most significant redesign of the VA health

care system since the World War II era. The recommendations aim to realign and modernize VA health care facilities to improve Veteran health care access and outcomes.

The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) report, released 14 March 2022, includes recommended investments that, if implemented, will see VA conduct a nationwide effort to build a VA health care network with the right facilities, in the right places, that provide the right care for Veterans in every part of the country. What's in the report?

The recommended investments in the report include constructing new and modernizing existing VA health care facilities, as well as expanding VA partnerships with organizations that supplement VA's own care delivery, such as the Department of Defense, Indian Health Service, academic institutions and community providers. The report also includes recommendations to close or relocate aged and underused VA health care facilities within some markets in a manner that will maintain the level of care VA currently offers and improve Veteran access in that market. Taken as a whole, the recommendations seek to maximize VA's opportunities to provide Veterans a modern care experience; it also puts VA on a path to remain the primary, world-class provider and coordinator of Veterans health care for generations to come.

In the near-term, the AIR Report will have no significant impact on Veterans, VA employees and the VA facilities where Veterans receive care.

The Military Order of the World Wars is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization (VSO) composed of US Federally-recognized commissioned officers and warrant officers who are citizens of the United States of good moral character and repute who are serving or have served honorably in the Active, Reserve, or National Guard of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Corps and/or the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Corps. Membership eligibility is also extended to descendants and spouses of these officers, and US Service Academy cadets. Eligible individuals may join one of the Order's chapters located throughout the United States or National Headquarters Chapter.



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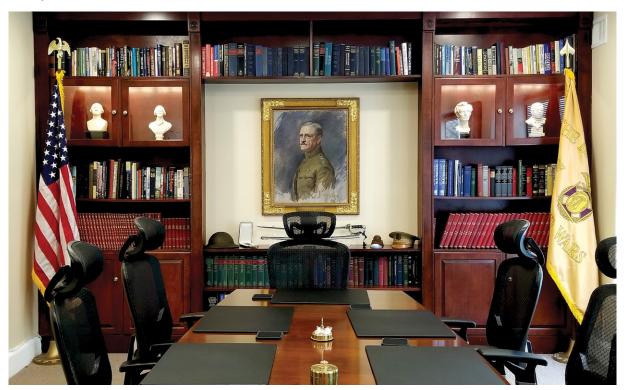
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### "Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D.) Friday" was created to remind people of our heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them.



Cardinal Red, 100% Cotton t-shirt made exclusively for MOWW. The front of the shirt features the MOWW logo in white and the letters "MOWW" underneath on the left breast area. The right sleeve features an American flag.

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People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is that we keep our troops in our thoughts.

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