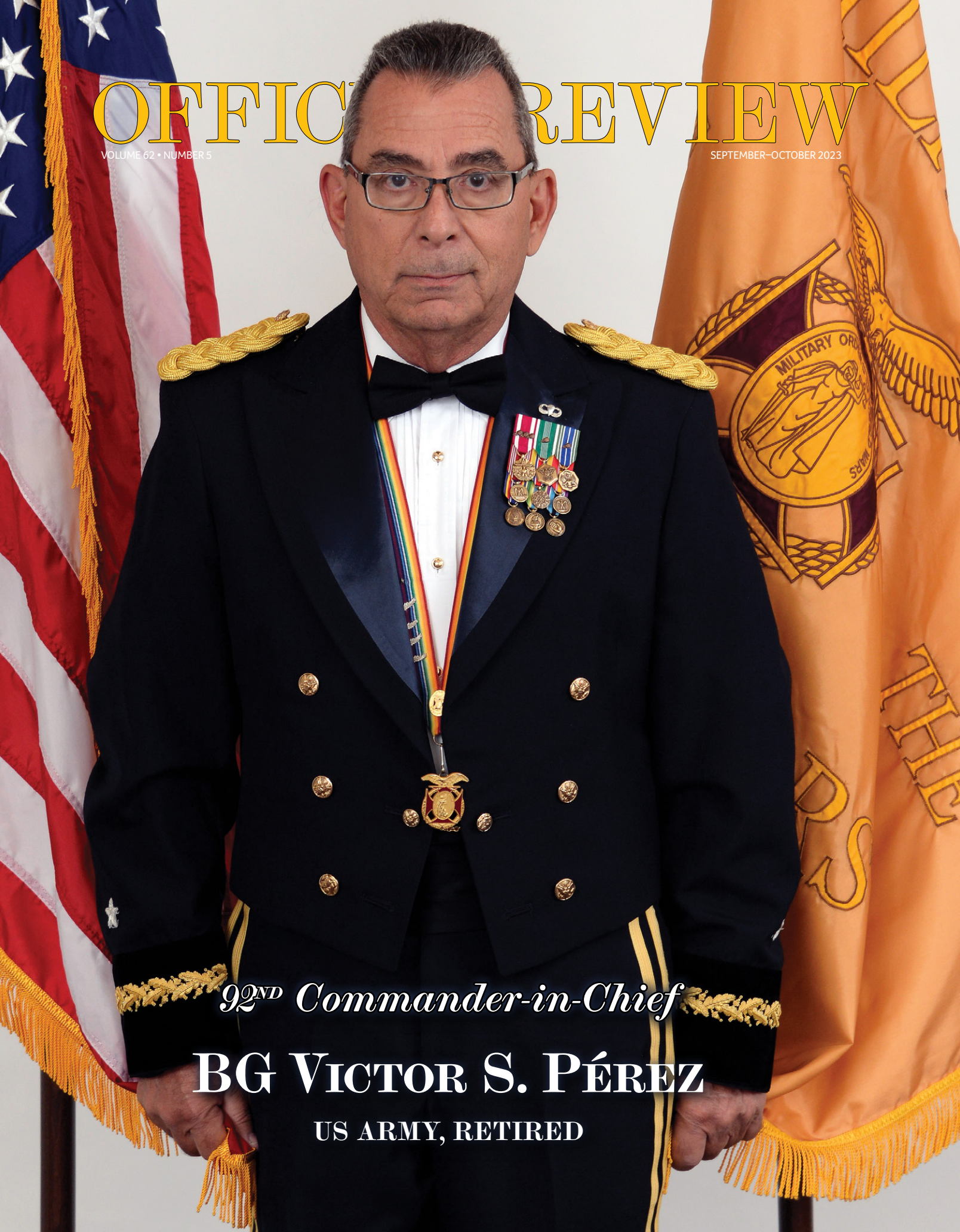


OFFICER REVIEW

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92ND Commander-in-Chief

BG VICTOR S. PÉREZ

US ARMY, RETIRED



Commander-in-Chief's Intent (OY 2023)

1. As the 92ND Commander-in-Chief (CINC) of the Order, I aim to modernize our organization and establish ourselves as a prominent Veterans Service Organization (VSO) in the 21st century. To execute our intent, we must work as **one strong team**, understanding that we should prioritize serving others over ourselves and what we do: "Serving Youth, Community and Nation."
2. Our Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 outlines our interconnected goals and objectives. We will encourage innovation and out-of-the-box thinking. As the plan states, "Every component at every level of the Order is expected to make these goals the focus of its core agenda." The main focus of our organization is our Community Outreach Programs. We will continually evaluate our progress and outcomes and adjust as needed to ensure we grow as the VSO for all veterans.
3. Collaborative actions critical to our success:
 - a. Implement Strategic Plan 2023-2028.
 - b. Maintain effective and clear communication ensuring all levels of the Order are well informed, always understanding where we stand and how we are progressing to meet our goals and objectives.
 - c. At every level of leadership, including EXCOM, Headquarters, VCINCs, Program Chairs, Region Commanders, and Chapter Commanders, it is crucial to embrace the Strategic Plan, creating a solid up, down and across collaborative working environment that ensures the Order consistently achieves its goals and objectives.
 - d. We will pursue and create new partnerships with other VSOs, the community, and subject matter experts multiplying our capabilities to:
 - 1) Execute outreach programs.
 - 2) Improve the visibility of the Order.
 - 3) Grow membership and Chapters.
 - 4) Seek outside financial resources, adding funds to operate the Order.
 - e. **All levels of the Order** will ensure a clear succession plan, ensuring smooth operational continuity and responsibility changes—essential to the Order's short and long-term success.
 - f. Inspire collaborative relationships and engagement within all levels of the Order, recognizing voluntarism.
4. Our ultimate goal is to evolve into a prominent VSO that veterans are proud to join *to make a difference for "A Strong America."*
5. It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served!

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Retired)
Commander in Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

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On the Cover

The Order elected BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Retired), as the Military Order’s 92nd Commander-in-Chief (CINC).



The CINC's Incoming Remarks

BG VICTOR S. PÉREZ, USA (RET)
COMMANDER IN CHIEF, MOWW, INC.

Companions, family, friends, ladies, and gentlemen, it is truly an honor to stand before you as the 92nd Commander in Chief of this Order. You have given me your collective vote of confidence and trust, which I will use as the directive to devote and commit the best of myself to fulfill the responsibilities of Commander in Chief. "So, help me God."

Together, we will lead this organization to evolve and grow as a well-known Veterans Service Organization that all veterans proudly join in making a difference for "A Stronger America."

I welcome and recognize our most distinguished special guest, Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck, our Distinguished Service Award recipient, and his wife, Mrs. Joanne C. Buck. Sir, Ma'am, thank you for being here tonight; you honor and inspire us to continue our life of service. Thank you both!

We also welcome our partner and new Companion LTC Raja Nelson from the Pershing Rifles Group Board of Directors. We will use our partnership as a standard to pursue and engage in other agreements so our organizations better serve our "Youth, Community, and Nation." Thank you!

Standing here today, and from here on, I will always start my remarks by repeating my favorite words: Thank you!

First, I want to express my gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve. I am grateful to be standing before you today and thankful for the support of many committed professionals, partners, and leaders dedicated to overcoming the challenges we face.

Thank you, Michael and Deborah Okin, for these tremendous past two years. You have led us to change and challenged the resistance to change,



The Odenton Volunteer Fire Department of Maryland served as the Honor Guard for the CINC's Banquet.



which is now irreversible. You join the illustrious legacy of our past leaders, recorded in our history. Our Order is in a higher state of readiness today due to your leadership, insightful contribution, and strong commitment “For the Good of the Order.” Let us join in giving our outgoing Commander and his wife a strong round of applause. Sir, Ma’am, Thank You!

On behalf of this Order, I sincerely express a LOUD THANKS to all the past Commanders in Chief of this Order, ten of whom are present here today, for their outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication. It cannot be denied that we have achieved much for our Youth, Communities, and Nation. Our Nation continues to flourish and our commitment to this country has never been stronger, all thanks to your contributions. I request all the past CINCs who are present to kindly stand up and be acknowledged. Thank you all for your service.

Thank you, SVCINC Worley, VCINCs Dombeck, Gantt, Ruiz, and Weeks; I am honored to sit beside you. Region and Chapter Commanders, you are the backbone of this organization. Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and service!

To the chairs of standing committees and outreach programs, it cannot get done without you! Thank You!

To Col Farrell, Justin, Sunny, and our new teammate Jenna at Headquarters: Thank you for your professionalism and exceptional management skills. Your teamwork improves us daily.

I cannot stand before you without THANKING our families, spouses, sons, and daughters, and, considering our age, also include our grandchildren in sharing their resiliency with us so that we may continue our life of service. We sincerely recognize that we could not do it without you. You are all amazing. Thank You!

Most importantly, I thank my wife, Paquita, for these extraordinary 46 years. She is part of everything I do. Paquita, Gracias por siempre apoyarme. Te quiero. ¡I love you!

So, where do we stand? An update on our progress and current status.

The Chapter Activity Reports and our observations during our visits show an active working



(L-R): The newly elected Commander in Chief (CINC) BG Victor S. Pérez (Ret), with Mrs. Pérez, alongside Immediate Past CINC LTC (DR) Michael A. Okin (Ret), and Mrs. Okin, with the 2023 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient VADM Sean S. Buck, USN, and Mrs. Buck.



operational Order. With some minor exceptions, we meet and execute our vision and mission through our outreach programs. We recognize our youth and community partners and promote Patriotic and Civic Education. Most of our regions execute our Youth Leadership Conferences and Seminars exceptionally well.

We have grown membership for the first time in many years, leveling the downward membership trend. In the last few years, we have gained two new chapters, the Northeast and Central Florida Chapters, commanded by CWO4 David McCuiston and COL Bob Schlegel, respectively. Thank you both for showing us that it can be done.

At the Headquarters level, we have changed to an improved, more friendly website with an online membership application and the ability to make secure online transactions. We have added an outreach program manager to the Headquarters team, engaged in a new partnership with AUSA, invested in advertisements, and transitioned to a new membership management system. For the first time, everyone used an online registration for the convention.

We have two *Ad Hoc* Committees studying membership and name changes to ensure our viability, readiness, and execution of vision and mission.

We acknowledge that change is necessary to continue our journey toward the future. Our commitment is to strive for progress as it is constantly ongoing.

To this end, as the 92nd Commander in Chief, I aim to continue to modernize and establish ourselves as a prominent Veterans Service Organization (VSO) in the 21st Century. The key to executing our intent, and I repeat “our intent,” is that we must work as one strong team, understanding who we are, “Serving others rather than ourselves,” and what we do “Youth, Community and Nation.”

The main focus will be our “Community Outreach Programs.”

The following collaborative actions are critical to our success. I highlight the word “collaborative.”



Induction of BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), as the 92nd Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the World Wars.

We will implement the Strategic Plan 2023-2028. We will encourage innovation and “out of the box” thinking. We will maintain effective and transparent communication, ensuring all levels of the Order are well-informed, always understanding where we stand and how we are progressing to meet our goals and objectives.

Every level of leadership must embrace the Strategic Plan, creating a solid up, down and across collaborative working environment.

We will pursue and create new partnerships with other VSOs, community organizations, and subject matter experts, expanding our capability to:

- Execute outreach programs.
- Improve the visibility of the Order.
- Grow membership and Chapters.
- Expand our financial resources.

We must ensure that there are clear succession plans at *All* levels of the Order, which will guarantee continuity of operations and proper change of responsibilities.

Our ultimate purpose is to evolve as a well-known VSO, which all veterans proudly join in making a difference for “A Strong America.”

We now take a moment to thank the National Convention Committee for this praiseworthy historical Convention—the most attended in many years. Your extraordinary planning and execution make us all proud. Thank you, Col Mike Farrell, Chief of Staff and Chair, PCINC John Hollywood, PCINC Ruth Hamilton, and COL Ken McCree, General Meade Chapter Commander. Super Convention. Congratulations.

As we continue our way into the future, I quote one of our most important innovative American leaders who changed our way of life and made our Nation greater and more robust, Henry Ford: “If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got.”

God Bless all our Companions and families, the Military Order of the World Wars, and the United States of America. Thank you! ★



The Major General George Harries Award was presented to General Meade Chapter Companions for planning and conducting the 2023 National Convention.

The Delegates to the 2023 MOWW National Convention Approved:

- Voted unanimously to approve the new MOWW Strategic Plan 2023-2028.
- Approved the EXCOM recommendation to increase the Regular Member (RM) Dues from \$40 to \$60 effective 01 Jan 2024.
- Approved the EXCOM recommendation to increase the perpetual member (PM) dues from \$350 to \$500 effective 01 Jan 2024.
- Approved an Amendment to MOWW Bylaws Article I, Section 8, which increased memorial membership in perpetuity from \$200 to \$250, effective immediately.

The MOWW General Staff at Convention approved the below:

- The formation of a 501(c)(3) MOWW Educational Foundation.
- Maj Robert W. Williams, USAF (Ret), for General Staff Emeritus member status.
- The 2025 MOWW National Convention will be hosted by Region XIII and held in Tucson, AZ.
- The 2026 MOWW National Convention will be hosted by Region VIII and held in San Antonio, TX.

Look for additional guidance to be published in the updated MOWW Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual.

Welcome Jenna Tomas, MOWW's National Outreach Program Manager



HQ Staff at the 2023 Convention (L-R): Jenna Tomas, COS Col Mike Farrell, Justin Hiller and Sunny Alley.

The Order's Outreach Programs are a top priority in MOWW's Strategic Plan. Jenna's impressive abilities and extensive experience will undoubtedly prove invaluable to the Order.

Jenna Tomas is a professional in management with extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. As the former Executive Director for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Jenna has specialist knowledge in program management, community outreach, and fundraising. She has a passion for creating and driving strategies that support the missions of the organizations she works with. As a member of MOWW HQ Staff, Jenna will be working to professionalize and advance our Outreach Programs, promote community awareness, and raise funds to support and expand MOWW's initiatives.



MOWW National Youth Civics Summit

VCINC CAPT EDWARD W. GANTT, USN (RET)
CHAIR, NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT

Nearly 20 years ago, I attended my first MOWW Youth Leadership Conference. As a JROTC Instructor at the time, some of my students were participating, and I felt that it was important for me to take a look at what my students were learning. I was quite impressed and, as a result, became a Companion.

Last year, MOWW Chapters and Regions conducted 25 Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs) across the US, customizing each event to the local area's geography, available resources, and physical facilities.

Beginning in July 2024, MOWW plans to introduce a National Youth Civics Summit, which will build on the experience we have learned over the years. From 7-13 July, we will host a group of students in Washington, DC, where they will spend time watching and learning much more about our government to augment the classroom instruction available back home.

This initiative directly supports two Strategic Goals recently approved in the MOWW Strategic Plan 2023-2028:

- SG (1) Consistently develop and deliver attractive, high-impact community outreach programs and
- SG (3) - Increase visibility of the Order at national and local community levels through focused communication, marketing strategies, and local community engagement.

This advanced residential program will begin on a Sunday evening as the students arrive on the campus of American University, Washington, DC.

Our main goal is to focus on the establishment and evolution of our government over the past 236 years and how it conducts the people's business in the 21st century. We plan to dedicate the first two days to this topic.



We expect to spend one afternoon learning about the Departments of our Executive Branch of government, those Cabinet-level organizations that our nation relies upon daily. A highlight will be the day spent on Capitol Hill, which includes an audience with at least one member of the US Congress. Schedule permitting, there could be an opportunity for each participating student to meet with their Congressional Representative or Senator.

One day this week, the focus will shift to significant American History sites near Washington, most likely Harpers Ferry, WV, and Gettysburg, PA.

While in Washington, we hope to visit some college campuses and receive information regarding ROTC scholarships and US Service Academy selection. There is plenty to explore in our country's capital, all located near each other, allowing the group to visit Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial, and part of the Smithsonian Institution in one day.

By the end of the week, the students will have a far better understanding of what a Foreign Service Officer does for our nation around the world, or of the many different internships available to future executives in our civil service, and even the broad and varied career opportunities that uniformed officers can pursue and enjoy. This group of outstanding students will be equipped to eventually make their college and career decisions with "service to our nation" as a component of their individual decision matrices.

Our first National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) in 2024 will only accommodate 16 students. Applications for the July 2024 NYCS will be open in October 2023. Our Order will bear the cost for this week in Washington with no cost to the student. Applications for the July 2024 NYCs will be open in October 2023. ★



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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The MOWW Constitution and Bylaws established the Distinguished Service Award of the Military Order of the World Wars. This award is presented at the National Convention to recognize an American citizen who has made extraordinary contributions to the preservation of our constitutional liberties, and who selflessly promotes a strong national defense. It is the most prestigious award of the Order.

RECIPIENT:

VADM Sean S. Buck, USN
(General Meade Chapter, MD)



NATIONAL COMMANDER AWARD

The Commander-in-Chief is authorized to present the National Commander Award to the individual who, in his or her opinion, has made an outstanding contribution to the Order and has done the most in assisting the Commander-in-Chief in fulfilling their responsibilities.

RECIPIENT:

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)
(Puerto Rico Chapter, PR)

General of the Armies John J. Pershing CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Chapter Activities Awards are presented to those chapters who have actively fulfilled the ideals and principles of The Military Order of the World Wars as set forth in the Preamble. They are also awarded to chapters which are a positive patriotic force within their communities, and that have grown in stature by performing good deeds for "The Good of the Order." The First Place recipients are presented a check for \$500 to support chapter programs.

SMALL CHAPTER:

- 1ST PLACE: LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- 1ST PLACE: Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- 2ND PLACE: Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
- 3RD PLACE: Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

LARGE CHAPTER:

- 1ST PLACE: Puerto Rico Chapter, PR
- 2ND PLACE: Dallas Chapter, TX
- 3RD PLACE: Puget Sound Chapter, WA

GOLD MEDAL PATRICK HENRY RECIPIENTS

The Commander-in-Chief (CINC), Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief (SVCINC), the four Vice Commanders-in-Chief (VCINC) and the Immediate Past Commander-in Chief (IPCINC) award Gold Patrick Henry Medals to Companions.

PRESENTER: CINC LTC (DR) OKIN

CPT Neil W. Bohnert, USA (Fmr)
Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA (Region IV)

COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret)
Colorado Springs Chapter, CO (Region XIII)

2LT Mary Sue Layle, USA (Fmr)
Detroit Chapter, MI (Region II)

Capt Owen S. Haddock, USAF (Fmr)
Knoxville Chapter, TN (Region V) (Posthumous)

PRESENTER: IPCINC BGEN FREDERICK R. LOPEZ

Maj Jose A. Ramirez, USMC (Ret)
COL Woolsey Chapter, CA (Region XIV)

PRESENTER: SVCINC BG PÉREZ

CW04 David A. McCuistion, USN (Ret)
Northeast Florida Chapter (Region VI)

PRESENTER: VCINC CAPT GANTT

Col William E. Townsley, USAF (Ret)
Hampton Roads Chapter, VA (Region IV)

**PRESENTER: VCINC CAPT DEBORAH A. DOMBECK,
USCG (RET)**

CW04 Jacques B. Loraine, III, USA (Ret)
North Texas Chapter TX (Region XIII)

PRESENTER: VCINC LT WORLEY

CAPT Quinn L. Hawley, USN (Ret)
LTG Wright Chapter, CA (Region XIV)

PRESENTER: VCINC COL RUIZ

CAPT Michael A. Isban, USN (Ret)
West Valley Chapter, AZ (Region XIII)



OY 2022 MOWW AWARD RECIPIENTS



LTC SHEHAB CHAPTER, NJ



SANTA CRUZ VALLEY CHAPTER, AZ



PUERTO RICO CHAPTER, PR

GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NATIONAL CITATION RECIPIENTS

Every Companion named has made major contributions to the advancement of the patriotic ideals of MOWW. On the recommendation of the CINC, SVCINC, VCINC and PCINC, and Region, Department/ State and Chapter Commanders, each individual listed below was honored by the Commander-in-Chief, identifying the accomplishment and its contribution to the goals of the Order as set forth in the Preamble.

REGION RECOGNITION

Region I

CAPT Harry H. Weinberg, USN (Ret)
Greater Boston Chapter, MA

Region IV

Ms. Ethel L. Goodwine
Prince George's County Chapter, MD

Region VII

HPM Julee K. Blanchard
LTG Middleton Chapter, LA

Region VIII

LT Jonathan L. Mitchell, USN (Ret)
North Texas Chapter, TX

Region XIII

Lt Col Richard D. Peters, USAF (Ret)
Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

Region XIV

CAPT Jason A. Gilbert, USN (Ret)
San Diego Chapter, CA

DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

Department of Massachusetts

2LT Jason A. Sokolov, USA (Fmr)
Greater Boston Chapter, MA (Region I)

Department of the National Capital Area

COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, USA (Ret)
General Meade Chapter, MD (Region IV)

Department of Southern Virginia

Maj Earl M. Johnson, USAF (Ret)
Hampton Roads Chapter, VA (Region IV)

Department of Puerto Rico

LTC Ramon A. Negron, USA (Ret)
Puerto Rico Chapter, PR (Region VI)

Department of Arizona

LTC Ken Robinson, USA (Ret)
Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ (Region XIII)

Department of Rocky Mountains

LTC Michael D. Berendt, USA (Ret)
Colorado Springs Chapter, CO (Region XIII)

Department of Hawaii

Col Jason C. Seal, USMC (Ret)
Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter, HI (Region XIV)

CHAPTER RECOGNITION (STANDARD CHAPTER)

Greater Boston Chapter, MA

LTC Frederick J. Maguire, Jr., USA (Ret)
Region I

Fort Knox Chapter, KY

COL William R. Betson, USA (Ret)
Region II

GEN Ridgway Chapter, PA

MAJ John R. Skovran, USA (Ret)
Region III

General Meade Chapter, MD

LTC Bruce W. McPherson, USAR
Region IV

Maj Gen Wade Chapter, DC

Ms. Constance A. Burns
Region IV

Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson, USA (Ret)
Region IV

Prince George's County Chapter, MD

CPT Sharon R. Fitzgerald, USA (Fmr)
Region IV

Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

Mrs. Susan R. Reeves
Region IV

Augusta Chapter, GA

COL Maryetta M. Beck, USA (Ret)
Region V

Knoxville Chapter, TN

Ms. Linda L. Campbell
Region V

Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

COL Hector L. Sanchez, USA (Ret)
Region VI

LTG Middleton Chapter, LA

HPM Mary G. McKeough
Region VII

Fort Hood Chapter, TX

CPT Richard A. Briggs, Jr, USA (Ret)
Region VIII

COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ

Maj Lewis C. White, USAF (Ret)
Region VIII

Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

Lt Col Ulysses C. Swift, USAF (Ret)
Region XIII

Denver Chapter, CO

LT Evan L. Totten, USN (Fmr)
Region XIII

Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

LTC John A. Hamilton, USA (Ret)
Region XIII

MG Miles Chapter, NM

CDR Bonnie J. Stickles, USN (Fmr).
Region XIII

Phoenix Chapter, AZ

COL Jeanne J. Blaes, USA (Ret)
Region XIII

Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ

Ms. Gloria J. Nelson
Region XIII

West Valley Chapter, AZ

Col Gerald O. Jenson, USMC (Ret)
Region XIII

BG Holland Chapter, CA

Col John P. Valencia, USMCR
Region XIV

Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter, HI

LTC Leslie I. Bise, USA (Ret)
Region XIV

COL Woolsey Chapter, CA

CPT Alfred J. Danely, USA (Fmr)
Region XIV

Puget Sound Chapter, WA

HPM Diane S. Gibson
Region XIV

San Diego Chapter, CA

PO2 Charles C. Noble, USN (Fmr)
Region XIV





CHAPTER RECRUITING EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Recruiting Excellence Award is presented to the top three chapters who achieved the most significant net new member increases in living veteran and hereditary Perpetual and Regular member categories. The recipient is awarded a streamer, is listed on the MOWW Recruiting Honor Role on the MOWW website, and is presented a check to be applied to support chapter programs.

• **1ST PLACE:** Presented to the chapter that recruits at least six (6) new members AND achieves a ten percent or greater (≥10%) net increase in membership. The recipient is presented a check for \$2,000 to be applied to support chapter programs.

RECIPIENT: Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

• **2ND PLACE:** Presented to the chapter that recruits at least four (4) new members AND achieves an 8.0- 9.9 percent net increase in membership. The recipient is presented a check for \$1,200 to be applied to support chapter programs.

RECIPIENT: North Central Florida Chapter, FL

• **3RD PLACE:** Presented to the chapter that recruits at least two (2) new members AND achieves a 7.0 - 7.9 percent net increase in membership. The recipient is presented a check for \$750 to be applied to support chapter programs.

RECIPIENT: Northeast Florida Chapter, FL



CERTIFICATES OF RECRUITING MERIT

Certificates of Recruiting Merit honor those chapters with strong recruiting programs during the operating year.

• **WINNER:** Presented to the chapter that recruits the most new members.

RECIPIENT: Dallas Chapter, TX

• **WINNER:** Presented to the chapter with the greatest net chapter growth

RECIPIENT: North Central Florida Chapter, FL

TOP RECRUITER AWARD

The MOWW Top Recruiting Citation is presented to the single Companion who personally recruited the greatest number of new members of all membership categories.

RECIPIENT (12 NEW MEMBERS):

LTC Robert W. Mathews, USA (Ret)
(COL Woods-Oklahoma City Chapter, OK)

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING CITATIONS

Individual Recruiting Citations honor Companions who personally recruited at least 5 or more new members.

• **CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING MERIT:**

ELEVEN NEW RECRUITS:

CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)
(Dallas Chapter, TX)

NINE NEW RECRUITS:

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)
(Puerto Rico Chapter, PR)
COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)
(Philadelphia Chapter, PA)

EIGHT NEW RECRUITS:

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)
(Northern Virginia Chapter, VA)



SEVEN NEW RECRUITS:

Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey
(GA Bradley-COL Hanson Chapter, CA)

SIX NEW RECRUITS:

CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)
(Augusta Chapter, GA)

FIVE NEW RECRUITS:

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)
(Sun City Center Chapter, FL)

LJTG Charles P. Collins III, USNR (Fmr)
(Sun City Center Chapter, FL)

RECRUITING HONORABLE MENTIONS

The MOWW Membership Recruiting Citation are presented to Companions who personally recruited at least 3-4 new members of all membership categories.

• **HONORABLE MENTION:**

FOUR NEW RECRUITS:

BG Charles D. Estes, USAR (Ret)
(Fort Knox Chapter, KY)

CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)
(Chicago Chapter, IL)

VCINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)
(Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ)

LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr., USA (Ret)
(Sun City Center Chapter, FL)

LTC Christian D. Taddeo, USA (Ret)
(San Francisco Chapter, CA)

LTC Rollins J. Collins, USA (Ret)
(Houston Chapter, TX)

LtCol David C. Yorck, USMC (Ret)
(BG Holland Chapter, CA)

CDR George T. Parsons, USN (Ret)
(San Diego Chapter, CA)

THREE NEW RECRUITS:

Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret)
(Puerto Rico Chapter, PR)





- COL Ariel O. Jusino-Córdova, PRARNG (Ret)
(Puerto Rico Chapter, PR)
- Col David B. Gibson, USAF (Ret)
(Puget Sound Chapter, WA)
- CS Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
(BG Bultman Chapter)
- COL Robert F. Schlegel, Jr., USA (Ret)
(North Central Florida Chapter, FL)
- CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)
(Northeast Florida Chapter, FL)
- Lt Col David L. Dunlap, USAF (Ret)
(MG Wheeler Chapter, AL)
- Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret)
(Puget Sound Chapter, WA)

CHAPTER PATRIOTIC EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARD

The Chapter Patriotic Education Program Award is bestowed on the chapter conducting the best patriotic education program for the preceding year. The purpose of this competition is to encourage chapters to develop programs that will provide the youth of our country with a knowledge and appreciation for this nation's institutions and government.

- SMALL CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Fort Hood Chapter, TX
 - 2ND PLACE: MG Wheeler Chapter, AL
 - 3RD PLACE: West Valley Chapter, AZ
- MEDIUM CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Conejo Valley Chapter, CA
 - 2ND PLACE: Fort Knox Chapter, KY
 - 3RD PLACE: Hampton Roads Chapter, VA
- LARGE CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Puget Sound Chapter, WA
 - 2ND PLACE: Dallas Chapter, TX
 - 3RD PLACE: Puerto Rico Chapter, PR



- ### ROTC AWARDS
- The ROTC Annual Award is presented to the chapters providing the best support of ROTC units.
- CATEGORY 1:
SUPPORTING 1-9 ROTC UNITS**
 - 1ST PLACE: Col Woolsey Chapter, CA
 - 2ND PLACE: Roanoke Chapter, VA
 - 3RD PLACE: Maj Gen Wade Chapter, DC
 - CATEGORY 2:
SUPPORTING 10-17 ROTC UNITS:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
 - 2ND PLACE: Fort Hood Chapter, TX
 - 3RD PLACE: Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
 - CATEGORY 3:
SUPPORTING 18-23 ROTC UNITS:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Atlanta Area Chapter, GA
 - 2ND PLACE: COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ
 - 3RD PLACE: Fort Knox Chapter, KY
 - CATEGORY 4:
SUPPORTING 24-29 ROTC UNITS:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Denver Chapter, CO
 - 2ND PLACE: Clearwater Chapter, FL
 - 3RD PLACE: Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
 - CATEGORY 5:
SUPPORTING 30-83 ROTC UNITS:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Philadelphia Chapter, PA
 - 2ND PLACE: LTG Walker Chapter, MS
 - 3RD PLACE: Fort Worth Chapter, TX
 - CATEGORY 6:
SUPPORTING 84+ ROTC UNITS:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Puget Sound Chapter, WA
 - 2ND PLACE: Sun City Center Chapter, FL
 - 3RD PLACE: Houston Chapter, TX



- ### SCOUTING PROGRAM AWARD
- For excellence in supporting the goals and objectives of the Military Order's Resolutions of Cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.
- SMALL CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: North Central Florida Chapter, FL
 - 2ND PLACE: COL Roosevelt Chapter, NY
 - 3RD PLACE: LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ
 - MEDIUM CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Atlanta Area Chapter, GA
 - 2ND PLACE: COL Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, AZ
 - 3RD PLACE: COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
 - LARGE CHAPTER:**
 - 1ST PLACE: Dallas Chapter, TX
 - 2ND PLACE: Puerto Rico Chapter, PR
 - 3RD PLACE: Augusta Chapter, GA

HPM JAMES C. BAIRD NATIONAL SCOUTING AWARD

This award recognizes the Companion who contributed the most through the year to realize the goals and objectives of the Order's Resolution of Cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

- RECIPIENT:**
CPT Carter J. Wood, USA (Fmr)
(Atlanta Area Chapter, GA)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA “SQUARE KNOT” AWARD

The Boy Scouts of America “Square Knot” Award recognizes Companions who are dedicated to and actively involved in furthering the Boy Scouts of America program.

RECIPIENTS:

- LCDR Richard J. Robson, USNR (Fmr)
(Houston Chapter, TX)
- LTC Craig E. Knowlton, USAR (Ret)
(Atlanta Area Chapter, GA)

VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAM AWARD

This award honors excellence in program outreach and community support, in keeping with the MOWW motto, “It is nobler to serve than to be served.”

SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** MG Chamberlain Chapter, ME

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **2ND PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **3RD PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Chicago Chapter, IL
- **3RD PLACE:** San Diego Chapter, CA



CHAPTER LAW & ORDER PROGRAM AWARDS

The Law & Order Award, which has chapter and individual categories, was instituted to honor exceptional chapters supporting the following Preamble tenant: “Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States.”

SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Pinson Memorial Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL
- **3RD PLACE:** West Valley Chapter, AZ

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY
- **2ND PLACE:** Col Stephens–Apache Trail Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **3RD PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

LAW & ORDER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

The National Law & Order Exceptional Service Award was created to recognize the distinguished service of a law enforcement or criminal justice official.

- **1ST PLACE:** Sheriff Grady Judd
(Polk County Sheriff’s Office (FL)
Sponsor: Sun City Center Chapter, FL
- **2ND PLACE:** Chief Ryan Zuidema
(Lynchburg, VA Police Department)
Sponsor: Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
- **3RD PLACE:** Chief Greg Wormser
(Lynchburg, VA Fire Department)
Sponsor: Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

Note: These awards are presented at local ceremonies by the sponsoring chapter.



LAW & ORDER OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

The National Law and Order Outstanding Performance Award recognizes outstanding performance for heroic actions.

- **1ST PLACE:** Detention Officer Daniel T. Cardenas
(El Paso County, TX Sheriff’s Office)
Sponsor: Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Officer John “Jay” Duffy
(Santa Barbara, CA Police Department)
Sponsor: COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **3RD PLACE:** Commander Erik Grasse
(Georgetown, TX Police Department)
Sponsor: CAPT Dilworth Chapter, TX

Note: These awards are presented at local ceremonies by the sponsoring chapter.

NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM AWARDS

The National Security Awards are given annually to the chapters demonstrating the most effective local programs in support of the resolutions pertaining to national security passed by the Order in the National Convention.

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **2ND PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** MG Miles Chapter, NM

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Augusta Chapter, GA
- **3RD PLACE:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR



OY 2022 MOWW AWARD RECIPIENTS



HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM AWARDS

The Homeland Security Award recognizes excellence in supporting the MOWW Homeland Security Program.

SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **2ND PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA

INFORMATION & PUBLICITY AWARDS

The Information & Publicity Award is conferred annually to the chapter with the most effective public relations program for the operating year within the chapter, the community and at a national level. It includes published items (except for items published in the *Officer Review*®), as well as electronic media (television, radio and the internet).

SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ
- **2ND PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL
- **3RD PLACE:** MG Chamberlain Chapter, ME

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Phoenix Chapter, AZ
- **2ND PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL



CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARDS

The Chapter Newsletter Award is presented to the chapter with the most comprehensive newsletter.

SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL
- **2ND PLACE:** Pinson Memorial Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX

MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Phoenix Chapter, AZ
- **2ND PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** North Texas Chapter, TX

LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1ST PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL
- **2ND PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** General Meade Chapter, MD

BG HORACE W. PORT AWARD

For being the Region with the highest percentage of its National Staff Officers registered and in attendance at the annual National Convention.

- **WINNER:** Region VI

CHAPTER COMMANDERS' AND ADJUTANTS' AWARD

For being the Region with the highest percentage of its chapter commanders and adjutants registered, and in attendance at the annual National Convention.

- **WINNER:** Region XIII



VADM DYER WRITING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Vice Admiral George C. Dyer Awards for Writing Excellence in MOWW's magazine, *The Officer Review*®, are made possible by the VADM Dyer Memorial Magazine Trust Fund.

WRITING PRIZES

• 1ST PRIZE AWARD (\$2,000):

- CAPT Thomas J. Marshall, Jr., USN (Ret)
"The Doolittle Raid:
The Seed of Victory in the Pacific,"
(OR, Nov-Dec 22)
San Diego Chapter, CA

• 2ND PRIZE AWARD (\$1,000):

- CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson, USA (Ret)
"The Hello Girls of World War One,"
(OR, May-Jun 22)
Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

• HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

- BG Raymond E. Bell, Jr., Ph.D., USA (Ret)
"Patton the Unpredictable?,"
(OR, Jul-Aug 22)
BG Bultman Chapter

• HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

- COL Robert L. Reese, USA (Ret)
"Washington Was Not the First President?,"
(OR, Jul-Aug 22)
GEN Ridgway Chapter, PA

• HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

- COL James T. Roberts, Jr., USA (Ret)
"Ukraine: A History of Autonomy,"
(OR, May-Jun 22)
BG Bultman Chapter





Together...in Companionship





Together...in Companionship





Together...in Companionship



2023 Photos of MOWW's National Convention

Free for Companions to download

Companions are eligible to acquire photographs from the 2023 National Convention at no cost. The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) extends its deepest gratitude to KRR Photography Limited for generously allowing this opportunity.

To acquire free digital copies of the photos or to order physical prints for a fee, simply click on the following link:

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To access the portal, kindly utilize the username **23081**, along with the password **3141**.

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MICHAEL FARRELL, Colonel, USMC (Ret) September 15, 2023
Chief of Staff, & COO, MOWW, Inc.



Decisions and Age

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

At times, either ourselves or our loved ones may reach a point where making well-informed decisions becomes difficult, and we may choose to rely on experts to make decisions regarding our future. I am considered very old in this issue (84 by the time you read this), so this, in theory, applies to me. For those approaching old age, it is vital to consider some facts and recommendations as decision-making becomes even more crucial. Gone are the days when surgeons and doctors were considered infallible. All of us need to have open discussions and take the necessary time to address critical issues and undergo necessary tests.

It is important to recognize that we tend to become less involved in decision-making as we age. As caregivers, it is essential to acknowledge this and strive to increase the importance of patients being involved in their personal issues. This may require a deeper understanding of how patients' values change over time.

Some elderly patients have tests or interventions from which they have a low likelihood of benefit or for which the goal is not aligned with their values. Engaging these patients in the decision process is one approach to improve the individualization of care. Some clinicians perceive, and survey data suggests, that older adults prefer not to participate in decision-making based on factors such as communication.

The most common barrier is the perception that there are no options to consider. Clinicians may need to modify interviewing skills and spend additional time eliciting values, goals, and patient preferences. The concern is that the healthcare system fails to deliver care aligned with the needs and preferences of a growing segment of the population-- the oldest. It suggests that healthcare decisions with elderly adults are not centered on their needs and preferences. One approach would be to adopt a shared decision-making process since a critical barrier is the physicians' impression that elders wish to defer decision-making to their providers.

Decisions for surgery have the greatest level of participation. The participants understand there is a choice. They talk with other people and discuss the decision with their family and/or their primary care physician. In the process of changing medications, active participation often occurred after the visit. The participants often describe re-evaluating the medication decision without communicating the change to the physician. Decisions about whether to have diagnostic procedures were generally perceived as "needed" without any options to consider. The participants' belief that they had an important role in their health was related to how much they participated in decisions. Some avoided the conflict altogether by changing physicians.

It is crucial to consider patient values when making healthcare decisions, especially for older individuals whose priorities may shift as they age and their life expectancy decreases. With people who are decades from death, the clinicians' assumption that life extension is the overriding goal of care will be accurate in the vast majority of cases. However, in the last decade of life, preferences for quality of life may become dominant. It is risky for clinicians to assume they know what is most important for an older adult without asking. The physician may need to spend more time helping the elderly to understand the options, make clear when reasonable alternatives of action exist, and probe more often about the patient's preferences. So, it is clear that when it comes to making good decisions, getting older may not be a deterrent after all. ★

Be well / Bob

Approximately 92 percent of older adults have at least one chronic condition, and 77 percent have two or more. Four conditions—heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes—cause almost two-thirds of all deaths among individuals 65 and older each year.



Abraham Believed God When

LTC VICTOR W. BURNETTE, USA (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

*“Abraham set the course of his life by faith,
setting an example for us to follow.”*

In June 2023, I celebrated my retirement—a pivotal occasion for all retirees. I asked God to direct my path. I actively sought out God’s will for my future endeavors. My key scripture was Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

In Galatians 3:7, “Abraham is known as the father of our faith.” Why? Abraham set the course of his life by faith, setting an example for us to follow.

God asked Abraham to go on a journey with Him. The Lord called on Abraham at his older age to lead a nation by walking with Him on a journey. Abraham did not know precisely where he was going, how long it would take to get there, or what his life would be like once he got there. Genesis 12:2-3 states, “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Abraham packed his belongings and moved out on nothing but a promise and faith.

Today, the Companions of MOWW, whether retired or on active duty, have one more mission. Our mission is enormous and requires an all-hands-on-deck call. Following Abraham’s example, we must use our former training, love for country, and MOWW core values of patriotism, civic responsibility, public service, and leadership to make a positive impact on our nation’s communities. Simply, Faith is trusting in the Lord and His promises completely despite the unknown.

While we cannot see everything in the future, we must continue to work toward Proverbs 3:5-6,” Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Continue to allow God to order your steps.
ATTENTION! FORWARD, MARCH! ★

LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret), is a former Army Medical Services Corps Officer, Senior Army Instructor, and currently serves as Chaplain to the Northern Virginia Chapter.





Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

Sixty students participated in YLS.

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

The Chapter held its second Youth Leadership Seminar for OY 2022 at the old Puerto Rico National Guard Headquarters Building in San Juan. The one-day event hosted 60 participants from the Scouting Program and Civil Air Patrol cadets. Among the themes presented to the students were “Climate Change and How It Affects Our Daily Lives,” “Free Enterprise System,” and “Mental Health.” The staff presented MOWW Certificates of Participation to all the cadets and scouts who attended the seminar.

Civil Air Patrol cadets proudly display their MOWW certificates from the Youth Leadership Seminar.



Colorado Springs, CO

Presentation of the National MOWW Luftbery Award

BY COL STEVE SHAMBACH, USA (RET)

Cadet First Class Christopher Agnew received the MOWW Outstanding Cadet in Western Language Minor Award at the Air Force Academy Awards Ceremony in May 2023. The award is given in memory of Major Gervais Raoul Victor Luftbery and is presented annually to the top-performing USAFA cadet in Western languages.

(L-R): The Commander of the Colorado Springs Chapter, Col Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), presented the prestigious award to C1C Christopher Agnew, USAFA, on 30 May 2023.



LTG Troy H. Middleton Chapter, LA

Chapter Recognition for OY 2022

BY PCINC COL CLAY C. LE GRANDE, JR., USA (RET)

Award presentations were held for the final meeting for Program Year 2022. Col David Couvillon was presented with his Perpetual Companion Certificate, and awards were given to Companions who showed outstanding service to the community and nation through MOWW. Mrs. Christy Smith and several other Companions received Silver Patrick Henry Medals, while others were awarded Outstanding and Outreach Service Medals. HPM Julee Blanchard and HPM Mary McKeough also received National Citations from the CINC.

HPM Julee Blanchard is awarded the Silver Patrick Henry Medal for her exceptional support of the MG Wheeler Youth Leadership Conference by PCINC Col Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret).

Philadelphia Chapter, PA

National Writing Award Presented

BY COL JOSEPH P. KIRLIN III, USA (RET)

Each year, MOWW recognizes one recipient for excellence in research and writing that contributes to US national security. This award is presented by a Companion to the individual with the best research paper addressing an aspect of theater campaign strategy or the conduct of theater warfare. COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret) presented the 2023 Military Order of the World Wars Writing Award to Lt Col Branko Z. Versalovic Serrano, Chilean Army, in recognition for excellence in professional writing.

(L-R): The National Military Order of the World Wars Writing Award was presented to Lt Col Branko Z. Versalovic Serrano (Chilean Army), by Philadelphia Chapter Companion COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret).



Gaylord Dillingham Memorial Chapter, HI

Massing of the Colors Held on Flag Day

BY COL ARTHUR N. TULAK, USA (RET)

The Chapter held a “Massing of the Colors” ceremony on 14 June 2023, at the Oahu Veterans Center to commemorate Flag Day, honor past and present service members and to reaffirm love of the flag and belief in our nation.

The ceremony featured representatives from twenty-one Veteran Service Organizations, four Civic Organizations, and the Gold Star Family Association. Younger groups such as JROTC units, Scouts, Sea Cadets, Young Marines, and American Heritage Girls were also present. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries such as SgtMaj Alan Kellogg, USMC (Ret), Medal of Honor recipient; Gen Joseph Lengyel, USAF (Ret), 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and MG Edward Richardson, USA (Ret), former Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. Speakers included GEN David Bramlett, Commanding General of US Army Forces Command; Dr. Adam Robinson, and John Henry Felix, Ph.D. Furthermore, Dr. John Henry Felix was awarded the prestigious St. Benet’s Hall, University of Oxford Medal for his exceptional contributions to education in the US and the UK.

The “Massing of the Colors” ceremony was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Oahu Veterans Center staff. Former Governor John Waihe’e provided a prepared greeting in absentia, and noted in his remarks, “Hawaii is a much better place because of their patriotism!”

Follow dvidshub link to view event galleries:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7861942/oahu-veterans-centers-national-flag-day-massing-colors-ceremony>





Col Elmer Chapter, AR

Chapter Welcomes New Companions

BY THE HONORABLE LTC JOE J. VOLPE, USAR

The COL James Elmer Chapter awarded medals to ROTC and JROTC cadets. Three University of Arkansas Army ROTC cadets were recognized for their exemplary behavior. CDT Cunningham received the Bronze Medal, CDT Daniels received the Silver Medal, and CDT Pace received the Gold Medal. Additionally, Cadet Ibrihim received the MOWW JROTC Gold award from former Chapter Commander LTC Stan Warrick, USA (Ret). We are proud to honor all these cadets for their dedication and excellence in the classroom.

(Left, L-R): University of Arkansas Army ROTC medal recipients CDT Meghan Cunningham, CDT James Daniels and Ahmad Pace. (Right, L-R): LTC Stan Warrick, USA (Ret), and Cadet Kiki Ibrihim.



Chicago Chapter, IL

Vietnam Veteran Returns from Ukraine

BY COL MICHAEL P. PECK, USA (RET)

Doug Wallace, a Navy corpsman who bravely served in Vietnam, recently had the opportunity to share his inspiring experiences with the Chicago chapter. His noble efforts to assist refugees in their journey from Ukraine to Poland were recognized by CW2 Lee Lopez, the Chicago Chapter Commander, who awarded Mr. Wallace with the chapter's prestigious Commander-in-Chief Award and named him a Patriot Member of the chapter on July 23rd. A photo of the heartfelt presentation captures the significance of this well-deserved honor.

(L-R): Doug Wallace and CW2 Lee Lopez



Region VIII

Always Be Prepared!

BY LTC DONALD E. WILLHOUSE, USA (RET)

Since its inception in 1912, Scouting in Central Texas has been a source of quality programming for the youth of the area. The BSA, Capitol Area Council, upholds the ideals of Scouting, continuing to teach leadership and other valuable life skills that encourage the development of youth leaders. At the Council's board meeting in June 2023, LTC Donald E. Willhouse, USA (Ret), Region VIII Commander, presented Jon Yates, Scout Executive of the Capitol Area Council, with the MOWW Silver Patrick Henry award and a citation. LtCol J. Robert Howard, USAF (Ret), Austin chapter, served as adjutant and read the citation. Before the award presentation, Jon Yates invited all veterans in the room to come forward, identify themselves and their service careers.

Puget Sound Chapter, WA

Chapter Welcomes New Companions

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

The Puget Sound Chapter welcomed new Companions on 11 June 2023 at Steilacoom Town Hall, WA.

(From left, reciting their oaths with hands raised): President of the Society of Military Widows, (Tulip Chapter) Captain Marilyn Likens, USAF, (Ret); LtCol Michael Wagner, USAF (Ret); Lori Gibson; Gabby Warren, and Mary Muri.

New faces, great people making the Puget Sound Chapter chapter stronger.



North Central Florida Chapter, FL

Fostering Respect and Support for Law Enforcement

BY COL ROBERT SCHLEGEL, USA (RET)

The North Central Florida Chapter has recognized two Law Enforcement agencies in their area, the Ocala Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office, during Law Enforcement Appreciation Month. This recognition aligns with MOWW's mission "Ever to Maintain Law & Order."

(Photo top): Chapter Commander COL Robert Schlegel, USA (Ret), presented a MOWW Plaque to Detective Austin Ridge of the Ocala Police Department for his outstanding work solving crimes against children, especially those who have been sexually exploited online. Looking on are (left) Chapter Jr. Vice Cmdr LTC Frank M. Rasbury, Jr., USA (Ret), and (right) Ocala Deputy Chief of Police Lou Biondi.



(Photo below): During the month-long observance, COL Robert Schlegel and LTC Frank M. Rasbury visited the Marion County Sheriff's Office to recognize Deputy Lisa Newton for her actions. The award was presented by Chapter Jr. Vice Cmdr LTC Frank M. Rasbury, Jr., USA (Ret). This award recognized her for displaying remarkable situational awareness and helping in a medical emergency while off duty. Sheriff Billy Woods (left) and Chapter Commander COL Schlegel (right) observe the ceremony.





COMPACT ACT EXPANDS FREE EMERGENCY SUICIDE CARE FOR VETERANS

During September, the Department of Defense (DOD) recognizes Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Department’s 2023 theme, Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach, promotes connection and belonging to prevent suicide and encourages programming that supports the military community. By promoting hope, community, and care the DOD seeks to increase support and reduce suicide risk and death.

Prevention of veteran suicide continues to be VA’s top clinical priority, and now, veterans facing acute suicidal crisis have expanded options to receive immediate medical care during periods when they are most vulnerable.

Under the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act, veterans with acute suicidal crisis can go immediately to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost to them.

“Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they’re enrolled in VA care,” said VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough in a news release. “This expansion of care will save veterans’ lives, and there’s nothing more important than that.”

Veterans do not have to be enrolled in VA health care to receive such emergency care, meaning the COMPACT Act could potentially affect up to 9 million former servicemembers who currently are not enrolled.

Veterans must, however, meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible for this emergency care, regardless of enrollment status:

- Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable after a period of at least 24 months of active service.
- Veterans who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation, either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location, who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

- Veterans who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Under the COMPACT Act, VA will provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible veterans’ emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at any VA or community health care center for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.

Additionally, VA will make referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care and will determine if a veteran might be eligible for other VA services and benefits. Those eligible will be referred to appropriate VA programs following their period of emergency care.

If a qualifying veteran receives a bill for emergency suicide care after treatment, VA will expedite the review process to ensure those costs are handled appropriately.

Veterans in crisis, or concerned about one, can contact the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and pressing option No. 1. Confidential support is available 24/7, regardless of enrollment status.

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY TOOLKIT

Veterans aged 18-34 have the highest suicide rate. They also happen to use social media at extremely high rates. According to Refuel Agency’s Military Explorer Series 2020, about 9 in 10 post-9/11 veterans use some kind of social media. This could include Meta, Instagram, TikTok, Twitch and X.

Knowing this, VA wants to encourage everyone to learn what to do if you spot a social media post or comment that makes you concerned for a veteran. Reaching out to a veteran in your life before they hit a crisis point decreases their overall suicide risk.

VA’s Social Media Safety Toolkit outlines the steps you can take to support a veteran expressing emotional distress, feelings of crisis, or thoughts of suicide on social media. If you notice someone on social media exhibiting signs of a potential crisis, use the guidance in this toolkit to take action:

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Social-Media-Safety-Toolkit-FINAL-508-5-24-23.pdf





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)
NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

*Denotes PM/HPM

**Denotes RM/HRM

DATA FROM JUN– JUL 2023

AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA

CPT YVETTE M. LACHUTE, USA (RET)**
CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)*

MRS ANDREA T. STRIPLING*
LTC David R. Titus, USA (Ret)*

AUSTIN CHAPTER TX

CPT LARRY WALLACE, JR., USA (RET)**
Lt Col J. Robert Howard, USAF (Ret)*

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

COL THOMAS C. SODEMAN, OHANG**
BG Charles D. Estes, USAR (Ret)*

CAPT DILLINGHAM MEM CHAPTER HI

LTC ANTOINETTE A. CORREIA, USA (RET)**
LTC Leslie I. Bise, USA (Ret)*

CAPT DILWORTH CHAPTER TX

COL GARY D. DENNETT, USA (RET)**
CAPT James L. Robinson, USCG (Ret)*

CHICAGO CHAPTER IL

COL PETER J. RZEMINSKI, USA (RET)**
CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER CO

COL MARK A. ELLIS, USAR (RET)*
COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret)*

LTC LESLIE D. KROHNFELDT, USA (RET)*
COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret)*

DALLAS CHAPTER TX

MRS ALICIA N. FORMAGUS**
CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)*

DELAWARE CHAPTER DE

MRS RACHEL E. HESS**
LTC Joseph C. Effinger III, USA (Ret)*

GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER MD

VADM SEAN S. BUCK, USN*
Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)*

GREEN MOUNTAIN CHAPTER VT

MAJ DANIEL R. JARVIS, USA*
LTC Michael J. Jarvis, USA (Ret)*

LTC PAUL D. STAFFORD, USA (RET)*
LTC Michael J. Jarvis, USA (Ret)*

HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER VA

LT CARLIN D. CARPENTER, USN (FMR)**
Col William E. Townsley, USAF (Ret)*

HOUSTON CHAPTER TX

COL ROBIN P. RITCHIE, USA (RET)**
LTC Rollins J. Collins, USA (Ret)*

MEMPHIS CHAPTER TN

MRS ANN W. FORD**
LTC Fred F. Persechini, USA (Ret)*

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER FL

COL CLIFFORD L. DEAL, JR., USA (RET)*
COL Robert F. Schlegel, Jr., USA (Ret)*

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PA

CDR ERIC D. HUMPHREYS, USN (RET)*
COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)*

MAJ JAMES G. MACEACHERN, USAF (RET)*
COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)*

PHOENIX CHAPTER AZ

MRS CAROL LYNN ERWIN**
LTC Neil S. Erwin, USA (Ret)**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER MD

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CPT Dan L. Cameron, Jr., USA (Fmr)*

COL MICHAEL E. ROBINSON, SR., USA (RET)*
CPT Dan L. Cameron, Jr., USA (Fmr)*

PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR

COL CARLOS G. TORRES-FEBUS, PRARNG**
BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret)*

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER WA

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MR EDWARD L. KAISER*
Mrs. Diane S. Gibson*

CPT MARILYN C. LIKENS, USA (FMR)*
Mrs. Lori K. Gibson*

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CA

2LT JOSEPHINA M. PADILLA, CAARNG*
HPM Barbara C. Peralta*

CPT SARAH N. WOOD, USA (RET)**
LtCol David C. Yorck, USMC (Ret)*

SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER FL

CAPT GARY MARSTON, USAF**
LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr., USA (Ret)*



MG George Gustavus Kundahl

FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
7 JULY 1940-16 AUGUST 2023

On August 16, 2023, George Gustavus Kundahl, 83, died in Naples, Florida, at Avow Hospice.

George Kundahl was the beloved husband of Joy Kundahl, the father of Gustavus and Griffith Kundahl, and the dear grandfather of Kate, Caroline, and Harrison Kundahl.

George Kundahl was born in Washington, DC, on 7 July 1940 and raised in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He attended Davidson College in North Carolina and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1962. George then pursued his Master of Arts degree at the University of Alabama in 1964 and later earned his Ph.D. in Political Science in 1967.

In 1980, George successfully graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College followed by the United States Army War College in 1983. Between the years 1990-1993, he held the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon. He served as Chief of Staff of the Military Order of the World Wars from 1996-2000. George attained the rank of Major General in the US Army Reserve.

Along with his lifetime devotion to military service, George also served in government as a civilian, during which he was a Budget Examiner at the



MG George Gustavus Kundahl
Former Chief of Staff,
Military Order Of The World Wars
1996-2000

Office of Management and Budget and the Executive Director (1981-1990) of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

George and Joy lived in the south of France for twenty years, where they made many friends and pursued various interests while enjoying travel. While there, he authored *The Riviera at War*, which detailed the World War II experience in the French Riviera.

His passion for Civil War research and the example of his direct ancestor, Captain John Morris Wampler, inspired General Kundahl to write *Confederate Engineer* (2000), a detailed account of Captain Wampler's war experience and one of the only books written from the unique perspective of a civil engineer.

Later books on the Civil War that he authored include *Alexandria Goes to War* (2004) and *The Bravest of the Brave* (2014).

George will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He will always be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted father, and a dear friend. George had a relentless curiosity, a prodigious drive, and an occasional flair for minor mischief.

The family requests that any donations be made to Avow Hospice online at www.avowcares.org. ★





Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

**Denotes PM/HPM*

***Denotes RM/HRM*

DATA FROM JUNE–JULY 2023

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

MR. WILLIAM L. STEARMAN, USN (FMR)*
 LTC MAURICE R. WAINWRIGHT, USA (RET)*
 MG GEORGE G. KUNDAHL, USA (RET)*

CAPT DILWORTH CHAPTER, TX

CAPT BARRETT G. HINDES, USNR (RET)*

COL WOOLSEY CHAPTER, CA

MAJ PAUL F. STRITTMATTER, USAF (RET)*

CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER, CA

CAPT ROBERT W. P. HOLSTROM, USN (RET)*
 SGT DORIS K. RUFENER, USA*

DALLAS CHAPTER, TX

COL RONALD L. BARKER, USAF (RET)*

DETROIT CHAPTER, MI

LT COL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON, USAF (RET)*

FORT WORTH CHAPTER, TX

MRS. CHELSEA G. BOULDIN**

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER, TX

ENS EILEEN M. ROBERTS, USN (FMR)**

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER, TN

CAPT OWEN S. HADDOCK, USAF (FMR)*

MAJ GEN WADE CHAPTER, DC

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“IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED”

OFFICER REVIEW®

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Fort Meade Cub Scouts Pack 377 and Fort Meade Boy Scout Troop 377 opened the award presentations for the Order's 2023 National Convention in Annapolis, MD. They are celebrating their 80th anniversary this year. The General Meade Chapter is the Chartering Organization for both Pack and Troop 377.