



The Military Order of the World Wars

The Association of All Military Officers
Chapter 131, West Valley, Arizona
P. O. Box 7938, Surprise, AZ 85374
WEB SITE-www.moww131.org



Bulletin No. 7

March 2025

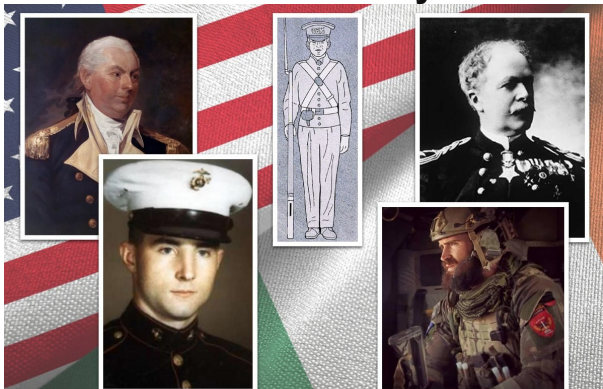
The Preamble

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;
- 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;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- And to transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our Country, we unite to establish

**THE MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS.**

SPECIAL FEATURE (Page 11)

5 Notable Irishmen Who Served in the US Military



Commander's Message



Mel Howry
Commander

March 8 found our MOWW meeting at Kimbles Kitchen. Our speaker for this meeting was Ken Coffman. The topic was "Vietnam". His presentation was informative and enjoyed by all. We will have our next meeting at Kimbles Kitchen.

Commander's Announcements/Emphasis Current/Future Events

- **Officers for 2025-2026:** Commander – Chris Schmidt, Senior Vice - vacant, Junior Vice - Randy Meyer, Adjutant-Melvin Howry, Treasurer- Buz Isban, Marshall - Ken Blanchard, Chaplain – Thomas Troxell, Surgeon - ?, Bulletin Editor - ?, Historian, Web Master, and MOC - Ken Coffman, and Recruitment Committee: Ann Garnett and Linda Howry
- **AZYLC:** Postponed until next year.
- **National Youth Civics Summit Conference:** July 25 in Washington, DC

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for **April 12th, 2025 at 0930 to 1130 at Kimbles Kitchen. Guest Speaker: Col Bill Fedor USAF (Ret) - "Desert Brass Band".**

Address: 7300 N Sun Village Pkwy Unit D, Surprise, AZ 85374.

- **America 250:** 5 July 2025 to 4 July 2026
- **August 5-9, 2025 MOWW National Convention at Tucson, AZ in the Desert Diamond Casino.** The Chapters in Tucson are asking attendees and their spouses for pre-convention activities, they would like for entertainment, like golfing, shopping, etc. I encourage you all to attend to see the workings of MOWW, and it is not a long drive.

Email: melhowry@aol.com or call 928-252-6340

Surgeon's Note

Surgeon's Note

By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians #13

The Beginnings of the Nurse Corps and the Career of Ruby Bradley

Female nurses served in the American Revolution. They were typically untrained mothers, wives, sisters, or daughters who volunteered to accompany their loved ones. They assisted with meals, laundry, uniform repair, and caring for the ill and wounded. They received little if any compensation and no military recognition for their services.

Both the US Navy and Army accepted volunteer female nurses during the American Civil War. These women were paid 12 dollars per month; but were never officially a part of the military. Over two thousand women served; with many receiving basic instructions in hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, first aid, and wound care. The Union survival rate of ~75% for wounds and ~65% for disease during the conflict is a testament to their contributions.

The Army Nurse Corps was not officially formed until 1901. It did not actively recruit women and relied on volunteers up until the start of World War I.

The Navy Nurse Corps was authorized in 1908. Twenty women were recruited and became the first women to officially join the US Navy. They are revered in Navy lore as the "Sacred Twenty".

The Army Nurse Corps did not accept male nurses until 1956 and the Navy did not until 1965.

During WWI, Army nurses were the only military women to serve overseas with the American Expeditionary Force. Navy nurses served in hospitals in the Pacific and Caribbean. In addition, many nurses served stateside at training and recruitment facilities. Here, both Army and Navy nurses risked their lives battling the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Neither Army nor Navy nurses received official rank until the interwar period. Nursing personnel numbers for both services were drastically reduced during this period. By 1939, there were less than 700 nurses in the Army Nurse Corps and only about 400 in the Navy Nurse Corps. During WWII 57,000 would serve in the Army and 11,000 in the Navy. It is fitting to highlight the extraordinary contributions of one of them.



Colonel Ruby Bradley

Ruby Bradley was born on December 19, 1907, near the small rural West Virginia town of Spencer. She taught in a one-room rural school for four years after graduating from Glenville State Teachers College in 1926. She then attended the Philadelphia General

Hospital School of Nursing. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps as a second lieutenant in 1934. Her first assignment was as a surgical nurse at Walter Reed General Hospital. In February 1940 she was transferred to the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. There, her post came under attack on December 7, 1941. Within three

weeks, she was one of the first two nurses to be captured by the Japanese. She would spend the next thirty-seven months as a prisoner of war.

Her time as a POW is significant for both hardship and perseverance. Bradley was moved to three different prison camps during her captivity. In each situation, she assumed senior leadership roles in organizing nursing care, obtaining medical supplies, and assisting in surgery. Her fellow nurses looked up to her for her practical ingenuity. Instruments were scarce, and supplies were soon depleted. Bandages were re-used after being cleaned and sterilized in boiling water and an oven. Medical and surgical instruments were improvised or stolen from the local facilities. Soap was crafted from lye made from ashes and coconut oil. The suture material was made from strands of hemp soaked in alcohol. Iron supplements were created from stolen gel capsules and iron filings. Outdated quinine and vaccines were smuggled through the local underground.

Military and civilian prisoners were confined together. Ruby assisted in over 230 surgeries and 13 deliveries. She often hid a portion of her meager rice rations in her pockets to share with the starving children in the camp. At the time of her liberation in February 1945, Ruby weighed only 86 pounds. She and her fellow nurses were known by the Filipino people as the “Angels in Fatigues”.

She was again deployed during the Korean War as Chief Nurse for Evacuation Hospitals in Tague, Seoul, and Pyongyang. The Chinese began a counter-offensive against Pyongyang in November 1950. Her position was surrounded by 100,000 Chinese troops and came under heavy artillery and small arms fire. She refused to evacuate until the last wounded soldier was loaded onto a plane. She was the last person to board the plane; just seconds before the ambulance she had supervised was hit by an enemy shell.

She served in Korea until the armistice supervising more than 500 nurses throughout Korea as the Chief Nurse of the Eighth Army. She

became the first woman ever to receive a full-dress honor guard ceremony when she left Korea in 1953.

For her service, Ruby received 19 different military decorations, including two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and two Army Commendation Medals. She retired from the Army Nurse Corps in 1963 as a Colonel.

Ruby continued to work in nursing as a civilian for an additional 17 years. She died on May 28, 2003, at the age of 95. She was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Colonel Ruby Bradley is the most decorated woman in US military history.

Photo credit:

"Colonel Ruby Bradley." *Wikimedia Commons*, 30 Nov. 2018, gotmountainlife.com/the-most-decorated-woman-in-u-s-military-history/.

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MOWW Chapter Leadership – 2024-5

Commander: Mel Howry

Senior Vice: Chris Schmidt

Junior Vice: Randy Meyer

Treasurer: Buz Isban

Marshal: Ken Blanchard

Surgeon: Chris Schmidt

Chaplain: Tom Troxell

Bulletin Editor: Carlton Bjerkaas (Acting)

Web Master: Ken Coffman

Recruitment Committee: Ann Garnett and Linda Howry

Historian: Ken Coffman

AZYLC Member at Large: Linda Howry

MOC: Ken Coffman

Essay Contest: Fred Garnett


Immediate Past Commander: Linda Howry



March Meeting in Pictures




THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

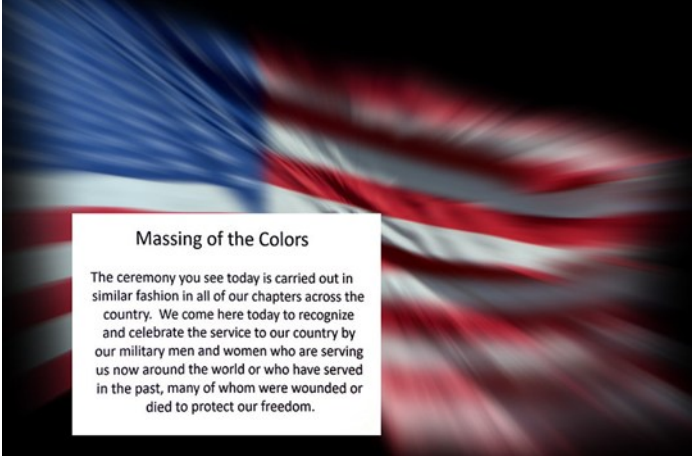


Chapter 131, West Valley, AZ
PRESENTS

Massing of the Colors And Service of Remembrance



A Patriotic Ceremony in Memory of our Military Men and Women
Who Have Died Serving Our Country



Massing of the Colors

The ceremony you see today is carried out in similar fashion in all of our chapters across the country. We come here today to recognize and celebrate the service to our country by our military men and women who are serving us now around the world or who have served in the past, many of whom were wounded or died to protect our freedom.









Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 8 Mar 2025

General Fund	\$9,725.52
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$9,775.52
Patriotic Savings Account	\$4,107.48
Endowment Fund	\$16,357.36
GRAND TOTAL	\$30,240.36

Arizona Youth Leadership Academy (AZYLC) 2025

– Due to personnel and administrative issues (nothing illegal or immoral), the conference is taking a sabbatical. We anticipate the conference will return in the summer of 2026. Those schools we support have been notified. Those schools that received tax credit donations for the 2025 conference were asked to preserve these funds for the 2026 Arizona Youth Leadership Conference.

Happy Birthdays - March

4 March	Sheri Jenson
6 March	Linda Bjerkaas
8 March	Robert Peake
11 March	Laurel Coffman
24 March	Bill Fedor
24 March	Ken Williams
31 March	John Merson

Happy Anniversaries - March

40 Years	Carlton Bjerkaas
31 Years	John Merson
21 Years	Jerry Wojtas
21 Years	Pam Wojtas

Future Events

12 Apr 2025 – Chapter Meeting

10 May 2025 – Chapter Meeting
25 Jul 2025 - National Youth Civics Summit Conference: in Washington, DC
5-9 Aug 2025 - MOWW National Convention: Desert Diamond Casino, Tucson, AZ.

MOWW News

The MOWW Foundation, in partnership with Military Order of the World Wars, will hold the second annual National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) from July 13-19, 2025 on the campus of American University in Washington, DC.

The National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) is a non-partisan event that aims to enhance the civic education of high school students from across the country by providing them with firsthand experiences in and around the Washington, DC area, with a focus on government, history, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The NYCS is offered at no cost to its attendees.

Throughout the NYCS, students will engage directly with political leaders, experience Capitol Hill, participate in simulated activities, and explore institutions like the Supreme Court, Pentagon, State Department, and significant historical sites. The 2025 NYCS will bring together 20 students from across the country.



The application to attend the 2025 National Youth Civics Summit will be available soon. Please check this page for updates: [National Youth Civics Summit - Military Order of the World Wars](#)

MOWW America 250 Ad Hoc Committee



The MOWW America 250 Ad Hoc Committee is officially formed to coordinate and promote MOWW Chapter's patriotic activities associated with the 250th Anniversary of this great nation. The committee will be establishing a National Marketing Plan to integrate American 250 initiatives across all echelons of the Order and will be working closely with the Information and Publicity Committee in the execution of that plan.

2025 MOWW National Convention Hosted by Region XIII

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

AMERICA 250 1776 ★ 2026

Tues-Sat | 5-9 August, 2025
Desert Diamond Casino, Tucson, AZ

[MOWW.org/Convention](https://moww.org/Convention)

The convention registration form and hotel reservation information are now available on the MOWW Convention page: <https://moww.org/convention/>.

Did You Know

March was named for ...war. The month is named for Mars, the Roman god of war. Incidentally, almost all major US-NATO led military operations beginning with Vietnam, have begun in the month of March, with the exception of the recent action in Afghanistan.

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the April 2025 Bulletin is the 16th of April.

Email articles to carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com



Preview of Next Months Events and Bulletin

Breakfast Meeting: April 12th, 2025 at 0930 to 1130 at Kimbles Kitchen. Guest Speaker: Col Bill Fedor USAF (Ret) - "Desert Brass Band".

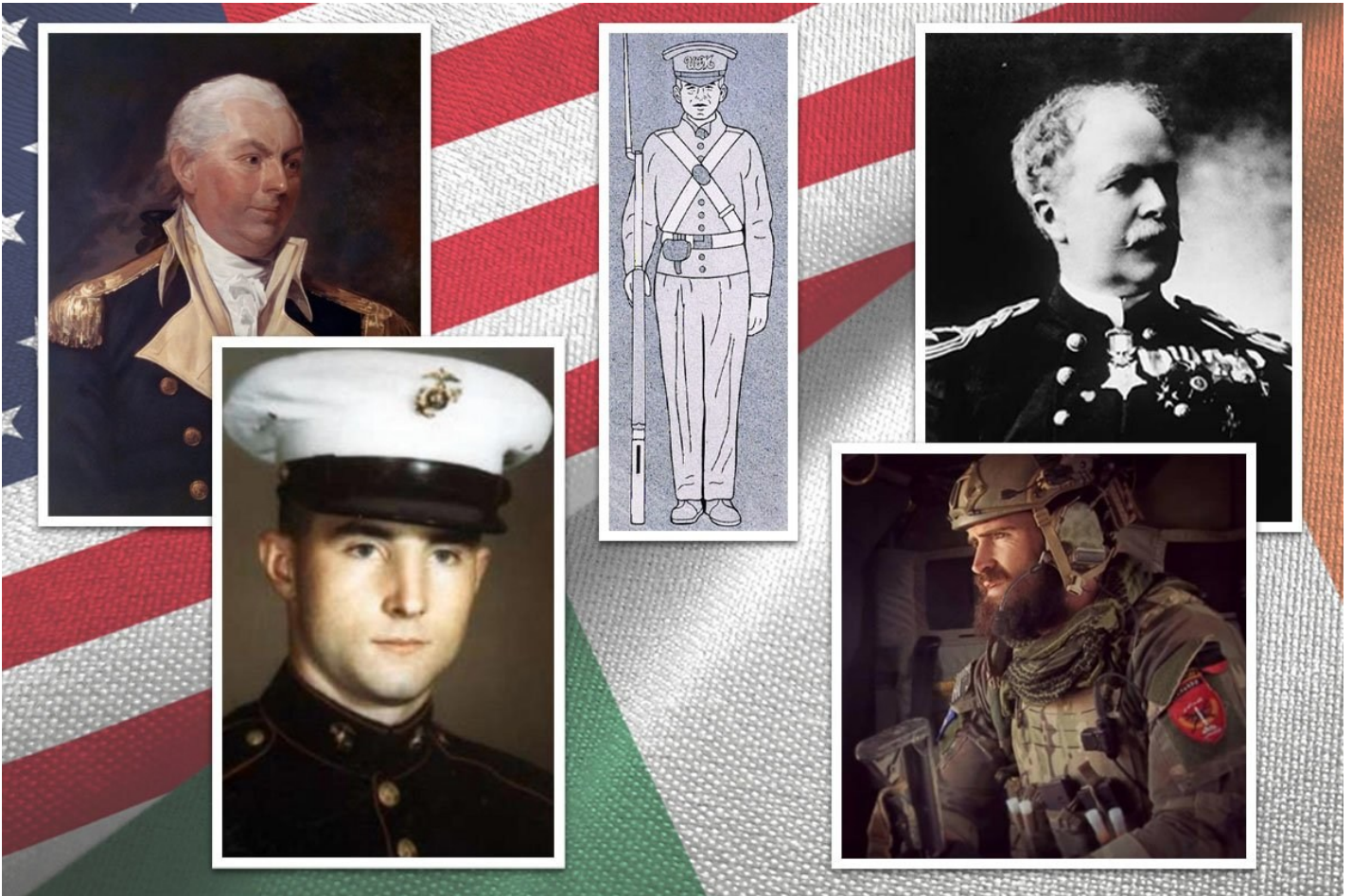
SPECIAL FEATURE

8 Key Technological Developments That Shaped the American Civil War

SPECIAL FEATURE

5 NOTABLE IRISHMEN WHO SERVED IN THE US MILITARY

March 17, 2021 Mac Caltrider



Since the American Revolution, the Irish have filled the ranks of the US military. From the father of the US Navy to modern-day operators, Irish-born immigrants have wielded an unbreakable beam of American military power. Of the 19 Americans who have received more than one Medal of Honor, four of them were Irish immigrants — more than any other single [demographic](#). If you look closely at every conflict in American history, you will find the Irish fighting for Uncle Sam. Here are five notable Irishmen whose service in the US military highlights that long-standing tradition.



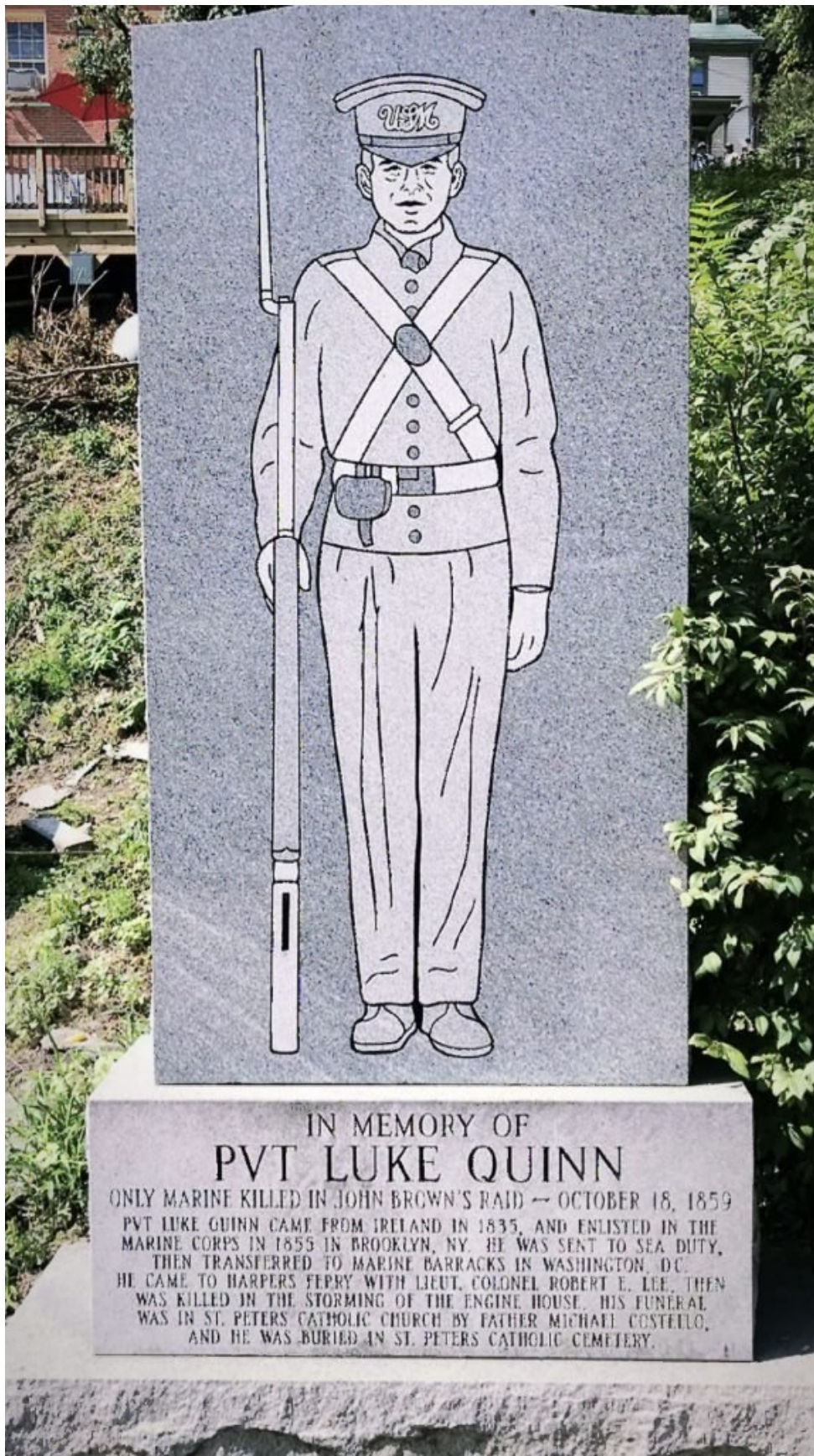
Statue of Commodore John Barry in Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of the US Naval Institute Press/public domain.

John Barry

Weeks before the Declaration of Independence was pronounced, John Barry, the Irish-born captain of the newly commissioned USS Lexington, was desperate to live up to the expectations placed on him as “the father of the American Navy.” His 14-gun brigantine along with the newly commissioned Colonial fleet was anchored off the coast of Philadelphia, trapped by the Royal Navy’s blockade. Under the cover of heavy fog, Barry managed to break through the enemy armada to open water, where he waited to aid American privateers smuggling much-needed supplies from the Caribbean. According to Mark Donnelly’s book *Pirates of New Jersey*, Barry received word on June 29, 1776, that the privateer Nancy, carrying 386 barrels of precious gunpowder, was racing toward Cape May, pursued by the Royal Fleet.

Barry made contact with the fleeing Nancy and instructed her to run aground in Turtle Gut Inlet. From there, still concealed by thick fog, Nancy would be safer from the British cannons confined to deep water and would be accessible by Colonial longboats. Patriots manning the longboats then successfully offloaded the priceless cargo. Barry oversaw the salvage of the gunpowder, rescued the crew, and escaped British capture, all while under fire from the large British ships — only suffering one casualty.

Before disembarking the grounded Nancy, Barry ordered the final 100 barrels of gunpowder to be lit with a delayed fuse. As Barry was ferried to safety, he peered through his spyglass in time to see the British boarding party disappear in the massive explosion. By the conclusion of the battle, Barry had outsmarted and outmaneuvered the Royal Navy. His infant fleet successfully saved the cargo, killed the British boarding party, and proved to the world the colonists were a formidable naval force. Through his leadership under fire, Barry forever cemented himself in the annals of American history. He was the first in a long line of Irish-born Americans to stand out in the nation's military.



Memorial to Pvt. Luke Quinn in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Photo by Mac Caltrider for Coffee or Die Magazine.

Luke Quinn

Less than a century later, a young Irish immigrant again made history in service of the United States. On Oct. 17, 1859, a group of abolitionists led by John Brown besieged the small river crossing known as Harpers Ferry in an attempt to seize control of the federal armory. The Harpers Ferry armory housed more than 100,000 firearms that Brown intended to confiscate for an army of slaves and abolitionists. He hoped to lead an uprising that would end slavery, but his army never materialized.

Among the 87 troops dispatched from the Washington Navy Yard to quell the uprising was Marine Pvt. Luke Quinn. Born in Ireland in 1835, Quinn had already served nearly four years in the Marine Corps and was nearing the end of his enlistment by the time he boarded the fateful train bound for the small mountain town. When Quinn and the Marines arrived, Brown's remaining raiders were sheltered in a small carriage house, clinging to a handful of civilian hostages. When US Army Col. Robert E. Lee failed to negotiate Brown into surrendering the hostages, the Marines were ordered to assault the engine house where the raiders hid. Unable to gain access with sledgehammers, a handful of Marines used a ladder as a battering ram, eventually breaking a hole in the door. With fixed bayonets, Quinn and the other Marines poured through the small opening. In the brief firefight that ensued, every one of Brown's men were killed or captured, and the hostages were rescued. Quinn was mortally wounded, becoming the only Marine fatality.

Bernard Irwin

While Quinn was taking his fateful train ride from DC to Harpers Ferry, another Irish-born private was on his way to making military history. Bernard Irwin emigrated from Roscommon, Ireland, in 1840 when he was 10. After serving in the New York Militia, he finished his education and was [promoted](#) to assistant surgeon in the US Army. In 1861, Irwin led a 14-man unit from the 1st Dragoons to attempt a daring rescue of several soldiers being held captive by the feared Apache warrior Chief Cochise. Irwin strategically placed his men around a mountain gorge known as Apache Pass, giving the false appearance that they were just a fraction of a much larger force. As Cochise entered the pass' most vulnerable point, Irwin startled the chief and successfully negotiated the return of the prisoners. Irwin was later awarded the Medal of Honor for these actions, the earliest for which the medal was awarded. He went on to build a notable career in the Army and even pioneered battlefield medicine with the creation of the first field hospital during the Battle of Shiloh.



Irish Brigade Memorial at Gettysburg National Battlefield. Photo courtesy of the United States Army Center of Military History/public domain.

Two months after the events at Apache Pass, the United States entered the deadliest war in its history. Nearly 200,000 Irish Americans served in the Civil War. In fact, there were so many soldiers

from Ireland they established their own units, such as the famed “Irish Brigade” of the 69th Infantry Regiment. The Irish Brigade tragically lost more soldiers during the Civil War than all but two other units.

Irish immigrants again distinguished themselves at the turn of the century during the Boxer Rebellion. Among the infamous “China Marines,” three Irish-born Americans — James Cooney, Joseph Killackey, and Martin Hunt — all received the Medal of Honor. During World War I, nearly 1,000 Irish-born Americans gave the last full measure of devotion in service of the United States. This number of immigrant dead was soon surpassed on the battlefields of World War II.

Following World War II, Irish Americans served in Korea, where 28 were killed in action. Twelve years later in Vietnam, 24 were killed. Among those Irish immigrants in Vietnam was a Marine lance corporal from Ballyhaunis, Ireland.



Illustration of future guided-missile destroyer USS Gallagher. Courtesy of US Naval Institute Press/public domain.

Patrick Gallagher

Patrick Gallagher enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966. He became a rifleman with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, and was quickly promoted to lance corporal. Later that year Gallagher found himself in Vietnam fighting near Cam Lo. During the fight, an enemy soldier threw a grenade at Gallagher's position. Seeing the grenade land among his friends, Gallagher kicked the deadly device, which immediately exploded just out of lethal range.

Moments later, a second grenade landed among the Marines. Gallagher again moved toward the threat, this time using his body to cover the grenade. When it didn't immediately detonate, he threw it into the water, where it exploded. For his actions, Gallagher was awarded the nation's second highest award for valor, the Navy Cross. Not even a full year later, Gallagher was killed in action. In honor of his sacrifice, Lance Cpl. Gallagher is scheduled to become the namesake of the Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer, the [USS Gallagher](#).



Staff Sgt. Liam Flynn in Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion 8th Marines/Facebook.

Liam Flynn

The Irish American tradition of service continued into the 21st century. Irish men and women have served in all four branches of the US military during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among them was Marine Staff Sgt. Liam Flynn. Flynn, a native of Clane, Ireland, enlisted in the Marines in 2006 and served as an infantry squad leader with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines. He later went on to serve in special operations as a Marine Raider, deploying a total of four times to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he earned several medals for valor, including a Bronze Star. Tragically, Flynn was killed in a training accident in 2015 off the coast of Florida.

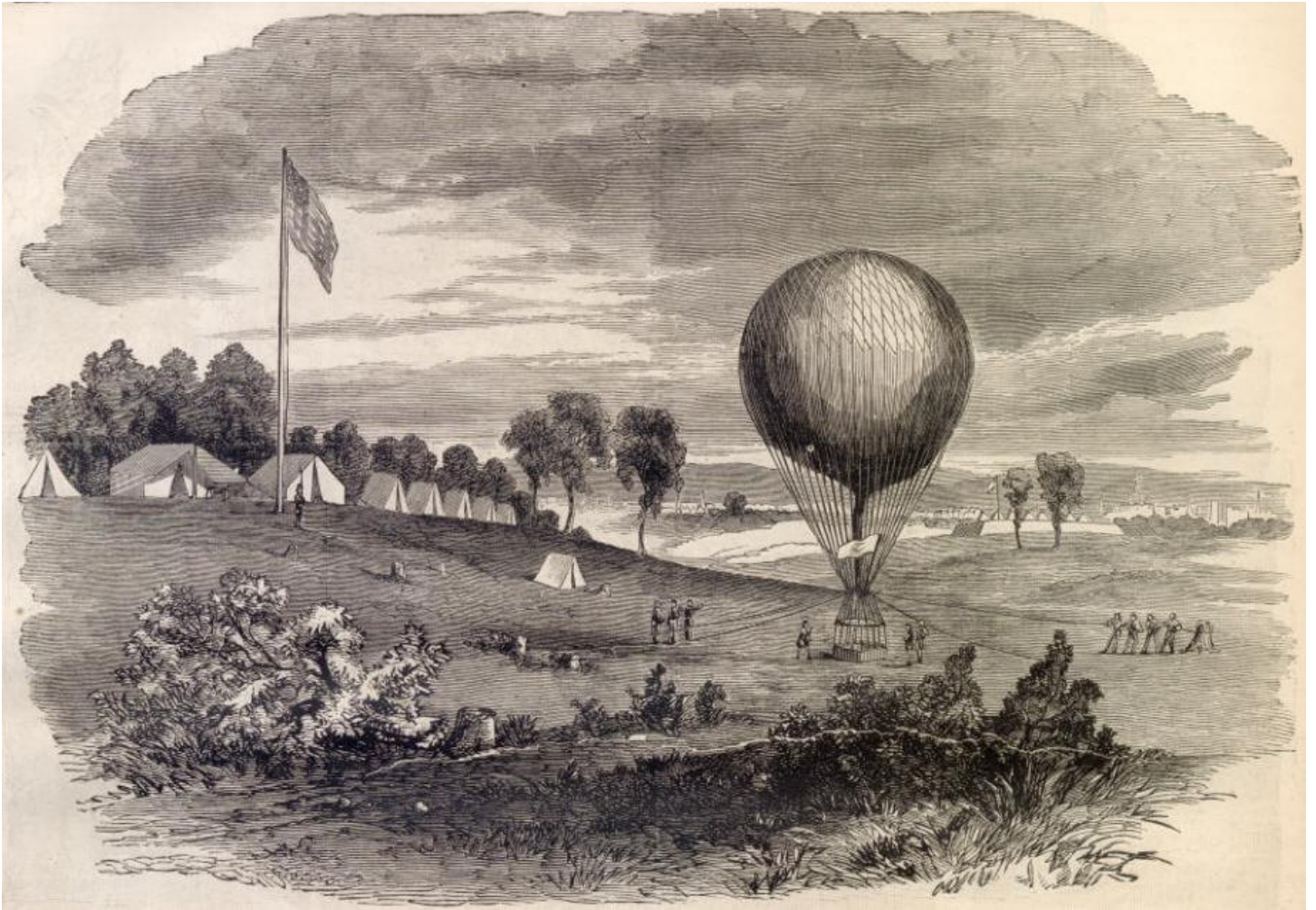


Mac Caltrider

Mac Caltrider is a senior staff writer for *Coffee or Die Magazine*. He served in the US Marine Corps and is a former police officer. Caltrider earned his bachelor's degree in history and now reads anything he can get his hands on. He is also the creator of *Pipes & Pages*, a site intended to increase readership among enlisted troops. Caltrider spends most of his time reading, writing, and waging a one-man war against premature hair loss.

Source: <https://coffeeordie.com/irishmen-us-military>

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[Civil War Reconnaissance Balloons](#) Source: sonofthesouth.net



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