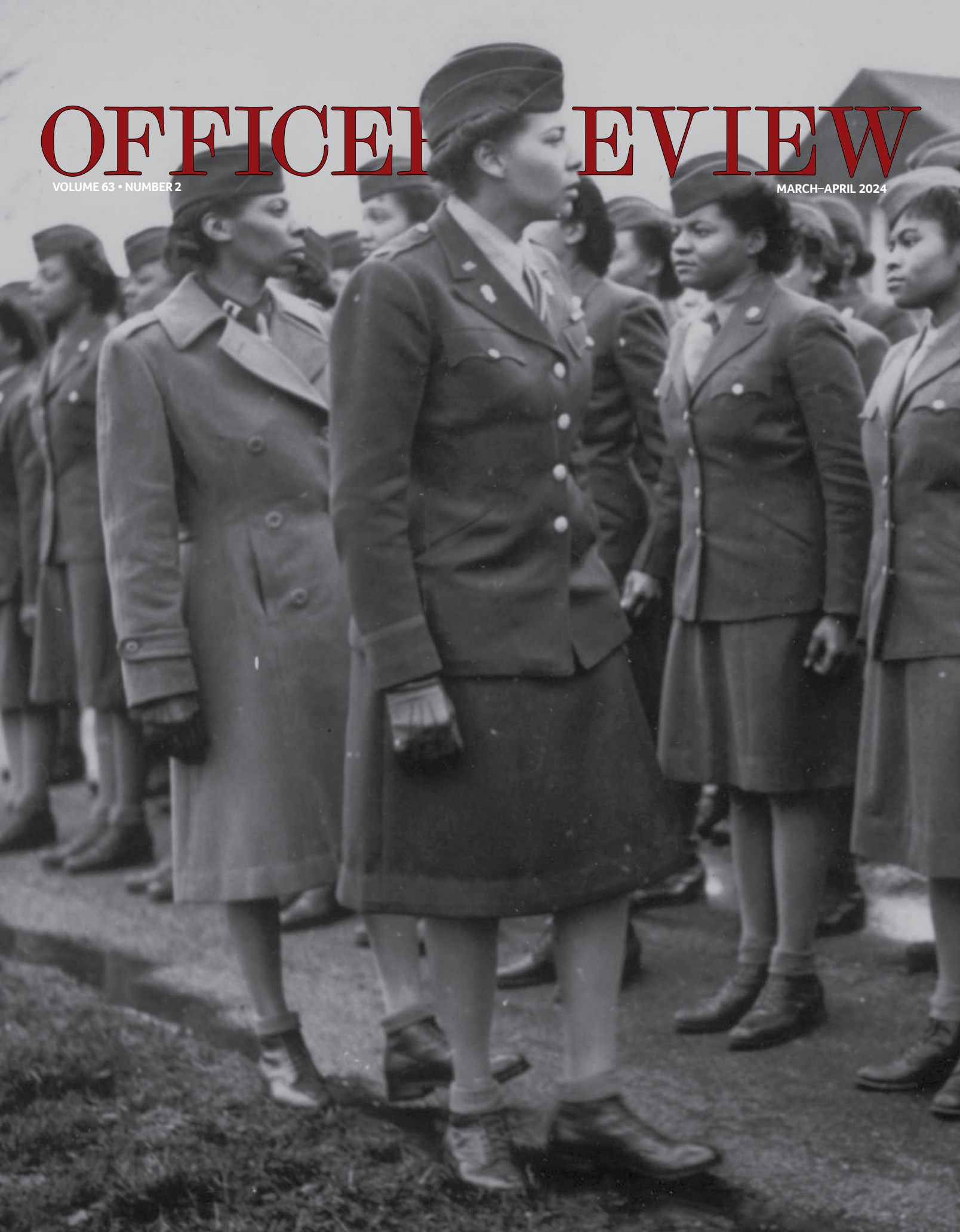


OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 63 • NUMBER 2

MARCH-APRIL 2024





What You Don't Touch Does Not Happen!

My experience while serving in the military and as a volunteer today has taught me an important lesson: if you don't pay attention to something, it's unlikely to happen. This doesn't mean micromanaging but ensuring that the most critical tasks are completed to the best of the organization's abilities and interests. Some may argue that we should focus solely on strategic planning from a higher level, but my experience has shown that follow-up is essential for success.

What is hands-on? What are we touching?

At the National Convention in Annapolis, we approved our new Strategic Plan 2023-2028, focusing on outreach programs. We

started its implementation on the right foot; everyone is involved. Regions and Chapters have reset their plans accordingly, and everyone participates in its implementation. Therefore, everyone needs to concentrate on performing activities that support the Strategic Plan.

It is all about collaborative execution between Chapters, Regions, and partnerships with communities and other VSOs. As I shared in a recent CINC Perspective, communication is key. Working with respect, listening to each other in harmony. We are all volunteers at heart, serving other than ourselves. We need to ensure we stay in contact with our Companions, keeping them informed and involved. Chapter meetings and Region Conferences, either virtual or in-person, are essential in this collaborative scenario.

Our focus is on our Outreach Program, SG#1. We do not expect all chapters to execute all programs, but what we do must advance the Order's visibility and ability to serve our Youth, Community and Nation. Again, no need to do it all or do it alone.

We are confident that our Outreach Programs will increase our visibility, SG#3, which helps us increase membership and engagement of companions, SG#4 and 6. Every companion is a recruiter. Colonel Ogilvie, Commander of the Northern Virginia Chapter, shares, "we are all billboards wearing our MOWW polo and cap." In every event, you need to ask those present to join MOWW. Every chapter needs a Membership Committee to overwatch gains, losses, and retention intensively. Although the application is online, Justin at MOWW HQ will process a paper copy, ensuring every gain counts.

We all agree that succession continues to be a challenge at all levels. We need to seek out, convince, and mentor those Companions with the potential to assume leadership positions. Often, the answer to those you approach is, "Well, you never asked." Also, in my case, a little pushing works. Once sitting in the chair, they will perform.

This year's National Convention will take place in Valley Forge, Philadelphia, from 6- 11 August 2024 and will mark a significant milestone for the Order as we move into the future. Possible membership and naming changes will be discussed and decided. All voting delegates need to attend, ensuring we jointly make the best decision "For the Good of the Order." Attend, be part of this well-coordinated convention, enjoy, learn, and be part of our decisions. "See you at the Convention."

Everyone needs to be hands on to make it happen.

Thank you all for your service and commitment!

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

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On the Cover

“Somewhere in England, MAJ Charity E. Adams, and Capt. Abbie N. Campbell inspect the first contingent of Negro members of the Women’s Army Corps assigned to overseas service.” National Archives Identifier: 531249. Local Identifier: 111-SC-200791



THE 6888TH CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION

The Women of the SixTripleEight

MAJ CLEMENT I. GOODWINE JR., PH. D., USA (RET)
COMMANDER, PRINCE GEORGE'S-MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER, MD

Not long ago, *The Officer Review* published a magnificent article titled: “The Hello Girls of World War One.” [*The Officer Review*, May-June 2022.] This article inspired me to share a segment of our nation’s history related to a group of women who played a significant role in the war effort during WWII.

I applaud the author of “Hello Girls of World War One,” CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson, USA (Ret), for three reasons. Firstly, thank you for reminding us that without these women, the communication up and down the chain of command would have been severely impacted, which was pivotal to the success of the war effort. Secondly, women’s contributions to our nation’s history are often overlooked despite the immense support and sacrifices they have made for our country. Lastly, the leadership of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), both past and present, consistently emphasizes the importance of clear and precise communication at every level of our organization.

As important as it was then to keep communication lines open to ensure the success of the war effort, it is just as critical to continue this simple task today. Good communication is essential to sustain good unit morale. During WWI, the chain of command needed clear telecommunication lines transmitting data regularly from one command level to another. However, during WWII, the lowest levels of communication became stalled because of a simple message-connection system known as “mail.”

Mail was essential to every soldier on the Forward Edge of the Battle Area (FEBA) or the battlefield anywhere in the theater of operations. This system was the number one morale booster, which affected every soldier’s physical, mental, and spiritual well-being as they pressed forward in the war effort to protect our country’s reputation, demonstrate our nation’s strength, and uphold the freedoms of our democracy. Mail was the flint that reignited the fire in the hearts and minds of every soldier so they may arise another day and fight until the battle was won. Mail was the catalyst of hope for a future, which may have at times appeared dim.

Allow me to share a significant segment of our WWII history that caused the morale of our soldiers on the battlefields throughout Europe to “go through the ceiling” because of the women who served in the SixTripleEight (6888th) Central Postal Directory Battalion. These women’s dedicated service contributed to the war effort’s success simply because soldiers received a long-awaited letter from home. There are “turning points” documented in the annals of our war history, which shows that when the mail communications from the shores of the homeland reached the hands of the soldier, a “shift” in battlefield warfare took place, which led to decisive victories, everywhere in the theater of operations. All because of a simple message system called “mail,” which ensured that every soldier obtained timely delivery of it.



The SixTripleEight attend the ceremony in honor of Joan of Arc Day, Rouen, France. Source: National Archives.



Again, this was because of the “unsung service” of the women who served in the SixTripleEight, the Central Postal Directory Battalion, whose motto was “No Mail, Low Morale.”

BATTLE LOSSES AND REPLACEMENTS

During WWII, significant shortages occurred in soldier replacements due to battlefield losses, which also caused unit morale to fall. There was a shortage in every Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), which also occurred in the postal service of the US Army overseas.

In 1944, a well-known African American woman named Mary McLeod Bethune was making history. She was an educator from Indiana and became aware of the soldier shortage problem in the military and throughout the war effort. She desired to offer a partial solution to the soldier shortage problem.

She solicited the aid and support of a friend and colleague, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who also happened to be the first lady of the United States. Mrs. Bethune made her case to the First Lady to open the opportunity for black women to have a role in supporting the war overseas. This initiative caused black journalists and news outlets everywhere to challenge the government and the US Army to incorporate black women in meaningful Army jobs. Support from across the country led to the creation of the Six Triple Eight (6888th) Central Postal Directory Battalion in support of Mrs. Bethune and First Lady Roosevelt’s initiative.

This military service unit was unique to the US Army and holds the distinction of being the only all-female African American unit in our nation’s history. These women seized the opportunity and were excited to contribute in service to their nation. They signed up for service and attended basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. There were around 850 personnel in the unit, including many officers and enlisted personnel from the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) who joined the unit. The unit was organized into four postal directory companies, A, B, C, and D, and a headquarters company, which managed the battalion’s administrative and service support mission.

Although the mission assignment for the SixTripleEight was initially unclear, it became clear



Then-CPT Adams with her staff. By the end of the war, Lieutenant Colonel Adams was the highest ranking African-American woman in the military.

during their journey to their overseas duty station. The service and sacrifices of the women in this unit gave our soldiers another day’s strength to go out again and fight the battles on the front lines, in ditches and bunkers, across hills tops, valleys, beachheads, and villages.

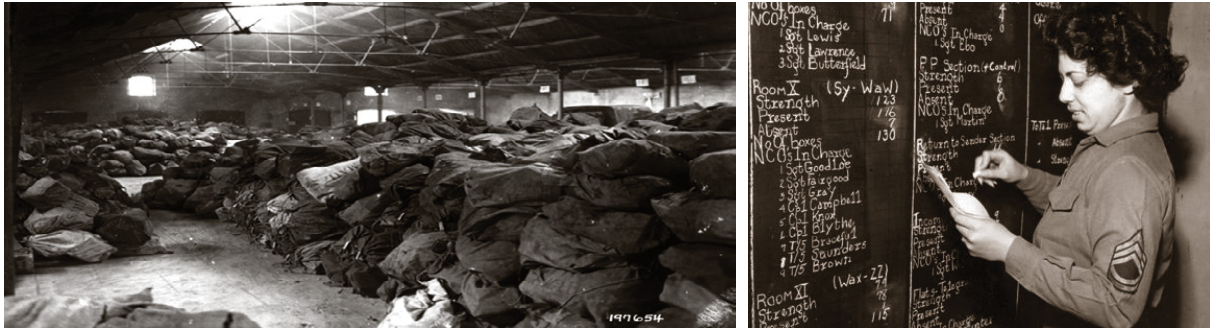
American troops continued to meet every conflict on land, sea, and air with more incredible determination each new day, all because they began to receive mail from home.

MAJ Charity Adams was appointed as the Battalion Commander by the Army. She was initially a Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) member, the predecessor to the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). In 1942, Major Adams became the first African American woman to receive a commission in the United States Army and obtain the rank and grade of Lieutenant Colonel. During WWII, she was the highest-ranking black woman in the Army.

No one from the unit was killed or injured during their tenure of service, but their experiences served as a strict reminder that as soldiers, regardless of gender, their lives were at risk even behind enemy lines. The SixTripleEight left the United States on 3 February 1945.

They sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe and arrived in Glasgow on 12 February 1945. While *enroute*, they encountered several German U-boats, which forced their transport ship to take evasive action and maneuvers to protect the unit. Before disembarking from the ship, they came under





Left: In Birmingham, bags of mail, packages, and boxes stacked to the ceiling. The SixTripleEight processed over 65,000 pieces of mail per shift. In all, the battalion processed 17 million pieces of mail. Right: Creating the APO mail system. Source: Army Historical Foundation.

fire from German rockets, also known as “Buzz Bombs.” A simple jet engine propelled these plane-like bombs. The sound of the exploding bombs’ engines filled the air and the women took cover for safety. The unit quickly realized they were not exempt from the realities of war.

After arriving safely in Glasgow, they took a train to Birmingham. Upon their arrival in-country on 15 February 1945, the battalion stood inspection under the leadership of CPT Abbie N. Campbell, the unit’s executive officer, and commander MAJ Charity Adams. They then marched in review before LTG John C. H. Lee, Commanding General of the Communications Zone in the European Theater of Operations (ETO), and MG Robert McGowan Littlejohn, Chief Quartermaster, in the ETO. A portion of LTG Lee’s duty and unit mission requirement was mail delivery and distribution.

WORK CONDITIONS AND TIMELINES

When the unit settled in Birmingham, the mail workload was overwhelming. There were bags of letters, packages, parcels, and bundles stacked from the floor to the ceiling of several temporary make-shift post office buildings.

The temporary post office buildings were in converted hangars, and much of the undelivered soldiers’ mail (letters, parcels, packages, and bundles) had been in these workplaces for as long as two years. The work conditions were not the best, but the unit made the best of a bad situation. Vermin managed to access the facilities and destroy much of the Christmas content sent to soldiers. Undeterred, the women sorted, separated, and pitched through the mail in a damp, poorly lit space, with no heat or windows. Panel-like window openings were painted over in blackout conditions.

The women battled the cold by layering long underwear, lined coats, ski pants, field jackets, and fatigues. They worked three eight-hour rotating shifts seven days a week. Again, undaunted and undeterred, they worked through the winter and into the spring, meeting the mission tasks in record time.

Senior officials and leaders of the Army suspected that the undelivered mail had a severe effect on the morale of the soldiers in the field, and they also believed this affected their ability to engage the enemy on the battlefield. The SixTripleEight had numerous situations in which letters and packages for soldiers were difficult to source because of limited address information. Some mail only had the soldier’s first name or a commonly used name, such as the individual’s nickname. Other packages contained partial name and unit information. Further, other mail pieces were misaddressed to soldiers initially assigned to one unit and reassigned to another.

The WAC set up the overseas mail distribution system called the Army Postal Office (APO), where carts were used to pitch mail. Once the carts were full, the mail would be delivered to the APOs through the ETO for further distribution. Soldiers with common surnames, such as “Jones,” were placed in a special record locator that contained the soldiers’ names and unit numbers to ensure proper delivery. The unit also repackaged salvageable damaged goods and sent them out.

The women and soldiers of the unit devised their own system to expedite the management of the backlog by working three different shifts, seven days a week, to process and deliver mail to the troops on the ground in Europe. The soldiers’ morale in the field began to rise, and as word began to spread throughout the ETO that mail was being

delivered, morale increased even more! The postal unit consistently processed 65,000 pieces of mail per shift.

When the mail backlog in Birmingham was complete, the SixTripleEight was shipped across the ocean channel to Le Havre, France, in May 1945. They took the train to Rouen and began again to tackle another long-term backlog of mail. Detailed record keeping was essential to reflect the efforts taken to identify timelines from receipt to delivery destination of mail. There were many letters, packages, and parcels in Rouen's mail backlog, which were three years old. It is noteworthy to mention that the same degree of "piled high and deep" mail also existed in this new assignment.

A JOB WELL DONE

Early in the operational functions of the 6888th's history, it reflects that the unit faced many challenges and obstacles as it sought to accomplish its mission. The exceptional work of the unit drew the attention of others who observed the work and positive production, yet some sought to deter their progress. The unit was tasked with resolving complicated operational mission functions on a short deadline.

They initially faced a two-year backlog of mail, which later increased to a three-year backlog. This mail was intended to support seven million soldiers operating within the theater. However, because of the strength of leadership and mental fortitude to "get the job done," the unit commander, MAJ Adams, assured her chain of command and naysayers that previously set timelines to clear the backlog would be completed on or before pre-established deadlines. Ultimately, the battalion finished what was supposed to be a six-month mission task in three months, and the job was completed in May 1945.

Five months later, in October 1945, the mail backlog in Rouen was completed, and the 6888th was sent to Paris, France, for well-deserved rest and relaxation. They marched into Paris through the streets, into two of the city's most luxurious hotels. The enlisted women stayed in the lavish Bohy Lafayette, and the officers had accommodations in the elegant Hôtel États-Unis.

Since the start of their military service, this was the first time many of them had ever been treated with



The US House of Representatives passed legislation to award the women of the SixTripleEight the Congressional Gold Medal in 2021. The monument honoring the battalion is in the Buffalo Soldier Military Park at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

first-class service in a five-star rated facility. Maid service and high-quality prepared meals were not a norm but were thoroughly appreciated.

These unsung, hardly noticed, and rarely talked about women are worthy of an honorable mention as "Sheroes" of WWII.

They worked hard with grace and dignity, and they were treated with utmost respect at the end of their tenure. As the war drew to a close, the battalion was left with only 300 women, out of which 200 were discharged by January 1946.

In February of the same year, the SixTripleEight was disbanded at Fort Dix, NJ.

This unit did not receive immediate public recognition for their service and sacrifices to our nation at the time of their immediate discharge from duty. However, we are proud of the work these women contributed to our nation's war effort.

In recent years, the women of the SixTripleEight have obtained recognition for their service. These women have a rich legacy that our nation is proud to highlight for the many years to come.

The women of the "Hello Girls" were essential to ensuring our telecommunication across the ETO of WWI. However, the women of the SixTripleEight in World War II made the difference in keeping the morale of our soldiers in the field high by ensuring that the mail was delivered. Two stories and one great lesson on the importance of communication! ★



2024 MOWW National Convention

“Youth Leadership— Building the next Greatest Generation”

**Join your fellow Companions
in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania**

6-11 August 2024



Philadelphia—“Where it all Began!”

LTC PAUL FARINELLA, USA (RET)
COMMANDER, COLONEL THEODORE ROOSEVELT CHAPTER

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, it is time to celebrate the courage and spirit of the founding fathers who made it possible. The Philadelphia Chapter, the first chapter formed in the MOWW, is teaming up with Region III to take on the exciting challenge of hosting the National Convention (NATCON) 2024. All Companions are invited to come together and honor the legacy of our founding fathers.

The convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Valley Forge Hotel. With its 225 rooms on five floors, it has all the amenities any MOWW Companion could want. The Crowne Plaza is fully wheelchair accessible, has plenty of parking, and has fine dining facilities and meeting rooms. The hotel is a 15-minute walk from the King of Prussia Mall, 6.7 miles from Villanova University, and 2.7 miles from Valley Forge National Historical Park and the Freedoms Foundation.

It's likely that before you became a veteran and a MOWW Companion, you spent some time thinking about the historical birth of our great nation, which you learned about in school. The idea of wearing a colorful colonial uniform with a tricorne hat, carrying a musket rifle with a bayonet, or maybe firing off a cannonball always excites young people.

In September 1777, when the British captured Philadelphia, the new Congress fled alongside George Washington and his 12,000 soldiers. These soldiers were poorly trained and ill-equipped. They encamped at Valley Forge, named after the iron forge built along Valley Creek, about 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia. During the terrible period from 19 Dec 1777 to 19 Jun 1778, his men were freezing, hungry, weak, and dying from smallpox. However, they managed to survive by placing their trust and lives in the leadership ability of George Washington.

Washington faced numerous challenges, including smallpox, but he successfully managed to control

it and united his troops into a strong and effective fighting force. Despite many difficulties, his soldiers remained disciplined and displayed high morale, which helped them develop a powerful military stance. Many historians often consider Valley Forge the American Army's birthplace.

Tour 1 for the 2024 Convention on Wednesday, 7 Aug, is a six-hour guided tour, starting in the morning, with a visit to the Freedoms Foundation and the famous Medal of Honor Grove. This is the location where MOWW annually hosts a three-day Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). Educators have said that these YLCs are some of the best offered in the country. After lunch, the tour will travel to Valley Forge National Historical Park to experience the conditions in which Washington and his soldiers lived. Some of the sites there are Washington's headquarters, Muhlenberg Brigade huts, National Memorial Arch, and Artillery Park.

On Thursday, Tour 2, a six-hour guided tour, will take you to Philadelphia, the sixth largest city in the United States and the cradle of American Liberty. Many of you may have only seen historical sites in pictures, but during your visit to Philadelphia, you will have the opportunity to enjoy them in person. Some noteworthy sites include Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed, the Liberty Bell, the Museum of the American Revolution, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The latter is particularly famous for the scene in the movie "Rocky" where Sylvester Stallone triumphantly runs up the museum's steps. Our heritage will come alive and be in full view with its rich historical significance, as explained by your guide. The Philadelphia Mint, located near Independence Hall, is where the 'P' is stamped onto American coins.

Are you looking for an unforgettable experience? Join Tour 3 on Saturday and visit Longwood Gardens, a magnificent botanical garden that spans over 1,077 acres of vibrant flower gardens, woodlands, and meadows. You will be awed



by the greenhouse and fountain shows in the Brandywine Creek Valley. This 4-hour tour allows you to immerse yourself in nature and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

In addition to the MOWW business sessions, meetings will include committee training sessions, panel discussions, and the election of new MOWW leaders. Other highlights are "A Taste of Philly" CINC's reception on Wednesday evening and a splendid Awards Luncheon on Friday. The culmination of the Convention is the CINC's Banquet on Saturday evening. Enjoy an evening filled with delicious cuisine, delightful company, entertainment, and dancing. This year's NATCON is shaping up to be one of the best ever. The last National Convention held in the City of Brotherly Love was in the summer of 1989.

Our 2024 schedule, registration, and tour fees will be posted in the Officer Review Magazine, MOWW website, and MOWW National FB page, as well as emails sent to Regions and Chapters. So,

fellow Companions, get your cameras ready and your uniforms pressed, and consider bringing your spouse and children. The National Convention 2024 is from 6-11 August 2024. It could be a family vacation and allow your family to view, learn, and appreciate the sacrifices the colonialists endured, to discover more about our heritage and our early beginnings as a startup nation that other people and nations envy.

We hope to see you at NATCON 2024 on 6 -11 August 2024. Mark your Calendars NOW! ★

LTC Paul Farinella, USA (Ret), is a 36-year retired NYS Jr-Sr High School Science teacher. He is the Chapter Commander of the Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Chapter in New York (Region III), and Treasurer of Region III. He has been a member of the Pershing Riflemen since 1965 and was the first president of the National Society of Blackjacks (the high school equivalent of Pershing Rifles) in 2013. He also chairs the MOWW-PR Committee and the Strategic Growth Committee under the direction of the MOWW Chief of Staff.



Against the British, both Washington and Lafayette (left and right, at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-78) had to learn how to lead citizen-soldiers rather than mercenaries, motivating their men through affection and idealism rather than through fear. Library of Congress

MOWW National Convention 2024 Hosted by The Philadelphia Chapter

“Youth Leadership—Building the Next Greatest Generation”

CROWNE PLAZA PHILADELPHIA-VALLEY FORGE HOTEL
260 MALL BLVD, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

HOTEL: 1 877-227-6963

VISIT <https://moww.org/convention/> FOR MORE INFORMATION.

IMPORTANT CHAPTER DEADLINES

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ARE DUE NLT 15 MARCH 2024

- Submit proposed amendments to the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, PCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret), via email to flopez23@cox.net

NATIONAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF NLT 1 JUNE 2024

- Submit all reports in a Word.doc format (3-page limit) as an attachment to an email to chiefofstaff@moww.org

CHAPTER PROGRAM AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS NLT 1 JUNE 2024

- Submission requirements are IAW the MOWW Policy Manual, as supplemented by the applicable national committee’s guidance.

COMMANDERS’ NATIONAL CITATION NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO HQ MOWW NLT 1 JUNE 2024

- Commanders at all levels submit their National Citation recommendations via the online MOWW Form 17, National Citation Nomination.

COMMITTEES SUBMIT PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS TO HQ MOWW NLT 15 JUNE 2024

- National committee chairs must email the committee’s list of award selectees to membership@moww.org by 15 June annually. The selectees can either be in the body of the email or as a Word.doc attachment.

HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER GRANT REQUESTS ARE DUE NLT 1 JUNE 2024

- Submit the Grant request (see page 14 of this issue) in a PDF format to the Hann-Buswell Chapter Adjutant, LTC William Rapp, USA (Ret), via email to williamrapp@mac.com





2024 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION



“YOUTH LEADERSHIP - BUILDING THE NEXT GREATEST GENERATION”

Tuesday, 6 August 2024 | Dress: Casual

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
0800-1030	Pre-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	Wayne	EXCOM Members
0800-1600	GOLF OUTING & LUNCH - Waynesborough Country Club, Paoli, PA		ALL Golfers
1600-1700	National Candidate Orientation	TBD	Candidates for National Office
1700-1830	HQs Membership Seminar	Independence	All Attendees

Wednesday, 7 August 2024 | Dress: Casual

0730-0900	Council of Area Commanders (CAC)	Independence	CAC Members
0845-1600	TOUR 1: FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE, PA		ALL ATTENDEES
1600-1700	Hann-Buswell Chapter Meeting	Independence	H-B Chap Members
1800-2100	CINC Welcome Buffet	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees

Thursday, 8 August 2024 | Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress)

0730-0930	Council of Past CINC's Breakfast	Radnor	CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS
0800-0930	New Chapter Commanders Forum	Independence	All Attendees
0815-1630	TOUR 2: HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA		ALL AVAILABLE
0945-1030	Naming Ad Hoc Committee Brief	Independence	All Attendees
1045-1130	Membership Ad Hoc Committee Brief	Independence	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED		
1300-1500	Youth Leadership Panel	Independence	All Attendees
1530-1700	Commander's Call	Independence	All Attendees
1800-2100	Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner	Freedom V & VI	H-B Chap Members
	DINNER AS DESIRED		

Friday, 9 August 2024 | Business Casual

0730-0900	National Candidate Presentations	Independence	All Attendees
0930-1030	Teller Meeting	Wayne	Tellers
0900-1030	Nominating Committee Voting	Independence	Nom Cmte Del
1045-1115	Veterans Affairs Committee Seminar	Independence	All Available
1130-1330	MOWW Awards Luncheon	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
1400-1445	Patriotic Education Committee Mtg	Independence	All Available
1500-1730	Convention Business Session I	Independence	All Available
	DINNER AS DESIRED		

Saturday, 10 August 2024 | Business Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress/Tuxedo)

0730-0830	MOWW Memorial Service	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
0900-1130	Convention Business Session II	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED		
0915-1600	TOUR 3: LONGWOOD GARDENS, KENNETT SQUARE, PA		ALL AVAILABLE
1300-1345	Scouting Committee Seminar	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1400-1445	ROTC Committee Seminar	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1500-1545	PS/L&O Homeland & National Security Mtg	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1600-1645	Non-Denominational Worship Service	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1730-1800	National Officer Photos	Freedom Foyer	CPC/CINC/VCINC/CS
1800-1850	CINC Reception	Freedom Foyer	All Attendees
1900-2100	CINC Banquet	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees

Sunday, 11 August 2024 | Dress Casual

0800-1030	Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	Wayne	EXCOM Members
0800-1030	EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast	Radnor	Spouses/Partners



Tour 1: Freedoms Foundation with Medal of Honor Grove & Valley Forge National Park

WEDNESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2024, 0845-1600



Tour the Freedoms Foundation, which was founded in 1949 and is celebrating 75 years of promoting civic responsibility. After the tour, enjoy a brief guided tour through the Medal of Honor Grove, the nation's oldest living memorial to Medal of Honor recipients. Lunch will be provided on-site, followed by a short ride to the historic Valley Forge National Park. A two-hour guided motorcoach tour of the park includes stops at Washington's Headquarters, Muhlenberg's Brigade (reconstructed soldier's huts), and the gift shop.



Tour 2: Historic Philadelphia

THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST 2024, 0815-1630

Enjoy a tour of historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of America's freedom and the nation's sixth-largest city. The tour commences at Independence Historical Park, known as "America's most historic square mile." Visit the Liberty Bell Center and tour Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were signed.

Other stops include a visit to Christ Church, a tour of the Museum of the American Revolution combined with a scrumptious box lunch, a trip to the National Constitution Center, and a brief stop at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where the Rocky steps are located. Handicap accessible van may be available upon request.



Tour 3: Longwood Gardens

SATURDAY, 10 AUGUST 2024, 0915-1600

Explore the beauty of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, with a self-guided walking tour. Featuring over 1,077 acres, it is one of the world's premier botanical gardens. The conservatory is one of the most extensive indoor gardens in the world, spanning over 4 acres with 20 gardens and 5,500 plants.

Dining on your own:
Options in the garden include "The Café" or alfresco dining at the "Beer Garden" for light lunch fare. For fine dining, reserve a table at the "1906" in advance.



The Visitor Center has a Garden Shop and restrooms and also provides wheelchairs and mobility scooters on a first-come basis. Dining facilities are a 7-minute walk from the Visitor Center.



Assist Your Chapter by Submitting a Grant Request

PCINC CAPT JOHN M. HAYES, USAF (FMR)
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 1 June** 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 2024, 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 MOWW Election Process

LTC WILLIAM RAPP, USA (RET)
NJ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
CONVENTION CO-SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

This article is presented to explain the process for electing our national officers. This is a three-step process. The first step is the National Candidate Presentations. The second step is convening the Nominating Committee to vet and vote on a slate of national officers to be presented at the General Session. The third step is the voting for the national officers by convention delegates.

On Friday, 9 August 2024, the National Candidate Presentations will begin at 7:30 AM and are open to all convention attendees. The Nominating Committee Meeting will convene at 9:00 AM following the candidates' presentations. The following day at the General Session, the slate of officers selected by the Nominating Committee will be presented for official election by convention delegates for the Operating Year 2024. Just as the responsibility for a national office should not be taken lightly, the responsibility of voting for these national officers should also not be taken lightly.

The Nominating Committee comprises the Chair, all Past Commanders-in-Chief, all Region and Chapter Commanders currently installed, or one alternate member of the region or chapter should the respective commanders be unable to attend. Department Commanders are not voting members of the Nominating Committee. However, Department Commanders may have one vote as an alternate and represent any one chapter in their department with no delegates present at the convention.

MOWW Form 23 is to be used to appoint an alternate to the Nominating Committee. The signed Form 23 is to be turned in to the Nominating Committee desk at check-in or sometime prior to the convening of the Nominating Committee.

All eligible members of the Nominating Committee will report to the Nominating Committee desk upon their arrival or at any time prior to the convening of the Nominating Committee. Each committee member will be given a packet with a

number on it. This packet is the entrance ticket to the Nominating Committee voting session. The Nominating Committee voting session will only be open to those members possessing the numbered packet.

After the national candidate presentations, the room will be completely cleared of all personnel, and the room doors will be closed. One door will be opened, and only the committee members with the numbered packets will be allowed to re-enter. Their names will be checked off and verified from a master list by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Once inside, the doors will then be closed, and the official nominating process will begin. If you have been asked by one of the national candidates to either present a nominating speech or a seconding speech, it is very important that you make sure that you are waiting outside of the room and available at the beginning of the meeting. If you are not present when your name is called by the Sergeant-at-Arms and not able to give either the nominating or seconding speech, your candidate's name will not be put forth for the recommended slate of national officers.

Under no circumstances are committee members to open the envelopes at any time unless instructed by the Nominating Committee Chair. Inside each envelope are ballots to be used only if there is a contested position for one of the national offices. A group of tellers will be standing by to count the votes for any contested position. The election will proceed from the top down, from Commander-in-Chief to Historian General. The completed slate of national officers will be voted on and will be presented at the General Session of the convention. At this point, the Nominating Committee Chair will instruct all committee members to pass their unopened envelopes to the aisles to be collected by the Sergeant-at-Arms. No envelopes are to leave the room. The Nominating Committee Chair will then close the meeting and the members will be dismissed. ★





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MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS

STARS
AND
STRIPES®



*MOWW IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH STARS AND STRIPES!
Stay up to date with the #1 independent source for military news*

MOWW COMPANIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A 50% DISCOUNT ON AN ANNUAL DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION.
USE THE PROMOTIONAL CODE MOWW50 VISIT [HTTPS://WW2.STRIPES.COM/SUBSCRIBE/DIGITAL-ACCESS](https://ww2.stripes.com/subscribe/digital-access)

NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT

The inaugural MOWW National Youth Civics Summit is still on track for our desired dates of 7-13 July 2024. In late February, we anticipate signing the contract with The American University in Washington, DC, for that week's lodging, meals, and meeting rooms.

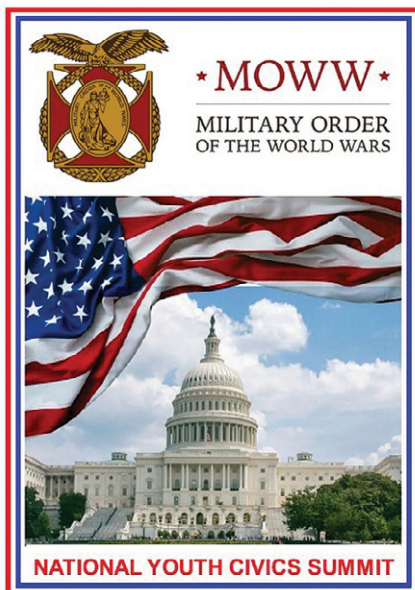
A new button on our MOWW website is labeled National Youth Civics Summit. Here, you can find periodic updates to the schedule and information for parents, students, and potential donors.

Donors' contributions are tax deductible when made to the NYCS through the YEF (Youth Enrichment Foundation).

Contact CAPT Ed Gantt with your questions or suggestions at edgantt.moww@gmail.com



moww.ORG/NYCS



Here are a few highlights for the week:

- Supreme Court history and evolution presented by a former Clerk for the Honorable Chief Justice Rehnquist
- NYCS Dinner with a Medal of Honor Recipient as the featured speaker
- Friday evening visit to the famed Marine Barracks, 8th & I, for the Sunset Parade
- An entire day on Capitol Hill, interacting with key participants of our Legislative Branch
- Attendance at a Major League Baseball game, Washington Nationals versus the St. Louis Cardinals
- U.S History visits to the Gettysburg Battlefield and George Washington's home at Mount Vernon
- College Campus visits in Washington, DC





Phoenixian Award Recipients

Winner: Ms. Samantha Hazel “Sam” Schirato

THOUSAND OAKS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | DIRECTOR: COL JERRY KNOTTS, USAF (RET)

1st Runner Up: Mr. Cody John Kelley

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | DIRECTOR: COL STEPHEN A. SHAMBACH, USA (RET)

2nd Runner Up: Ms. Kailyn Emalee Alee

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | DIRECTOR: LTC PAUL S. FAIDLEY, JR., USAR (RET)

2023 MOWW PHOENICIAN ESSAY QUESTION

“Should any one person, Senator or Representative, be able to hold up congressional legislation?”

ESSAYIST RECOGNITION

MOWW’s Phoenixian Awards provide national recognition to three Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) students who are judged as the “The Military Order of the World Wars Outstanding Student of the Year.” Candidates are chosen from among students who were selected by their multi-day Youth Leadership Conference. The national recipients are determined by the outcome of the essay contest, including a review of comments by the Conference Director.

All award recipients receive their awards during local MOWW ceremonies attended by family, fellow students, friends and local media. In addition, MOWW features the winning essay in *The Officer Review*® magazine, and in its annual MOWW Convention Book.

ESSAYIST AWARDS

MOWW presents the Phoenixian Award Winner, and First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up award recipients, with scholarships of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, for the best essay on a specific national issue. Upon selection of the award recipients, they receive several awards:

- The winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship, a Phoenixian Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The First Runner Up receives a \$1,000 scholarship, a Phoenixian Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The Second Runner Up receives a \$500 scholarship, a Phoenixian Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.



The Power of Individual Influence in Congressional Legislation

BY MS. SAMANTHA HAZEL "SAM" SCHIRATO

2023 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD WINNER
THOUSAND OAKS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In the grand tapestry of American democracy, the question of whether any one person, be it a Senator or Representative, should possess the ability to obstruct or hold up congressional legislation has been a subject of debate since the nation's inception. While some argue that this ability undermines the democratic process, it is crucial to recognize that our founding fathers envisioned a system where individual voices and principles could play a significant role in shaping legislation. This essay argues that, yes, any one person should be able to hold up congressional legislation, as this right is intrinsic to the principles of democracy and the protection of individual liberties.

One common argument against allowing individual members of Congress to hold up legislation is that it can lead to gridlock and inefficiency in the legislative process. Critics contend that it prevents timely action on critical issues and exacerbates the polarization already present in our political landscape. While these concerns are valid, they should not overshadow the essential principles of democracy that lie at the heart of this issue.

The power to hold up legislation can serve as a safeguard to protect the rights of the minority. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Allowing one individual to delay a bill ensures that justice is not hastily denied to minority groups. It acts as a necessary check on the potential abuse of majority power and guarantees that the concerns of marginalized communities are taken into account.

The ability to halt legislation promotes thorough deliberation. As Abraham Lincoln once noted, "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed." Allowing one person to slow the legislative process enables public sentiment to be thoroughly examined, ensuring that bills align with the will of the people and receive the careful consideration they deserve. Rushing through legislation without adequate discussion can lead to policies that do not truly reflect the needs and desires of the nation.

In a deeply divided political climate, the power of one person to delay legislation can encourage bipartisanship and negotiation. As Ronald Reagan aptly put it, "Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives." When a single Senator or Representative objects to a bill, it often prompts the need for compromise and collaboration, in alignment with the fundamental principle of limited government intervention. This can lead to better, more balanced legislation that reflects the diverse needs and opinions of the American people.

In a democracy, the voices of the many are essential, but so too are the rights of the few. The ability of any one person, whether a Senator or Representative, to hold up congressional legislation is a fundamental aspect of our democratic system. It safeguards minority rights, ensures careful consideration of legislation, and promotes bipartisanship. The framers of the Constitution designed a government that values individual influence and the protection of liberties, and this principle should continue to be upheld in our modern democracy. Ultimately, the power of one person to hold up legislation is a testament to the enduring strength and wisdom of our nation's founding ideals. ★



Winner 2023 MOWW Phoenician Award Samantha Hazel “Sam” Schirato

BIOGRAPHY

Most call me Sam, but really, my name is Samantha Hazel Schirato. I am a junior at Heritage High School and a Cadet Chief Master Sergeant in my AFJROTC cadet corps. I am the Drill Commander and just interviewed to be promoted to Cadet Second Lieutenant.

Academically, I am average, but I love science classes and plan to take as many as possible. I was able to take Anatomy my sophomore year, which is very uncommon. After High School, I plan to attend a four-year college and join the military. My end goal in life is to be an astronaut, so I am still undecided on what branch to go into.



MOWW CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), and SVCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), presented Samantha Hazel “Sam” Schirato with the 2023 MOWW Phoenician Award. As the winner, she received a \$2,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, a congratulatory letter, and a Coin from the CINC during her awards ceremony.





First Runner Up 2023 MOWW Phoenician Award Mr. Cody John Kelley

The Colorado Springs Chapter, CO, of MOWW, at its January 2023 meeting, was pleased to recognize Mr. Cody Kelley of Manitou Springs High School as the First Runner Up of the 2023 MOWW Phoenician Award.

Cody attended the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference (RMYLC), sponsored by the Colorado Springs Chapter, where he wrote his essay for this year's contest.

COL Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), RMYLC Conference Leader, and his wife Miriam Shambach, Essay Evaluation Lead, presented Cody with a MOWW National Certificate, a MOWW Coin, and a \$1,000 check to recognize his outstanding writing achievement. Cody will graduate this spring and has accepted an appointment to join the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Class of 2028.



Second Runner Up 2023 MOWW Phoenician Award Ms. Kailyn Emalee Alee

On 11 January 2024, the Fort Worth Chapter, TX, hosted Ms. Kailyn Emalee Alee, her parents, and special guests. Ms. Alee attended the Texas Wesleyan University YLC last summer and was selected as the Outstanding Student. Additionally, Kailyn was chosen as the 2nd Runner Up for the 2023 MOWW Phoenician Essay contest.

During the visit, LTC Paul Faidley, USAR (Ret), and Col Bob Gebhauer presented Kailyn with a \$500 scholarship check, and Col Ric Hamer, USAF (Ret), presented her with an Air Force Association membership. Additionally, LTC Faidley presented Kailyn with the MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Certificate and Medallion. Kailyn had the opportunity to share her essay with the Companions and guests, providing them with a detailed and thoughtful insight into her perspective.

Non-Invasive Rays, Scans, and Peeks

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

Back in the day, the only way to see inside the human body was to actually open it up and look. Nowadays, this method of diagnosis has become antiquated. Better views can be obtained in other ways.

Non-invasive imaging is any technique that enables viewing the body's internal structures without surgery, autopsy, or other invasive procedures. Various imaging technologies have been developed, such as X-rays, Computed Tomography (CT) scans, PET scans, ultrasound, and nuclear methods to create these images.

Various imaging test techniques differ from each other. They create images using various forms of electromagnetic energy, such as radio waves and X-rays.

A regular X-ray sends radiation through the body. Areas of the body with high calcium levels, such as bones and teeth, block the radiation and appear white in the image. Soft tissues, on the other hand, allow the radiation to pass through and appear gray or black in the image. An X-ray is the fastest and most accessible form of imaging.

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) uses a powerful magnet to pass radio waves through the body. Protons in the body react to this energy and create highly detailed 3-dimensional pictures of the body's structures, including soft tissues, nerves, and blood vessels. MRIs don't use radiation. Any organ or tissue with a high water content, such as the brain, is suitable for MRI, distinguishing grey matter from white matter.

A CT or Computed Tomography scan sends radiation through the body. It offers a much higher level of detail, creating computerized, 360-degree views of the body's structures. CT scans can detect blood clots, organ injuries, and bone fractures, including subtle fractures that may not be visible on X-ray. CT scans create images of bones and soft tissues. However, they aren't as effective as MRIs at exposing subtle differences between types of tissues.

A PET scan (Positron emission tomography) detects early signs

of cancer, heart disease, and brain conditions. It involves an injection of a safe radioactive tracer that detects diseased cells. PET scans usually use a form of radioactive sugar. Body cells take in different amounts of sugar depending on how fast they grow. Cancer cells, which grow quickly, are more likely to take up larger amounts of sugar than normal cells and produce images of organs and tissues at work.

Computed tomography (CT) scans use X-rays. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans produce still images of organs and body structures without radiation. PET scans use a radioactive tracer to show how an organ functions in real-time.

Ultrasound diagnostic imaging uses sound waves to create an image of the internal body. These high-energy waves pass through the body and capture shadows and reflections that are seen on a computer screen in real-time, without using radiation.

An Electrocardiogram, or ECG (invented in 1895), is a non-invasive scan of the heart. Wires connect a computer or portable monitor to patches on your chest. The monitor records your heart action as electrical waves.

Nuclear scans use different radioactive substances to infiltrate your organs and record differential uptakes as indicators of cellular activity. The abnormal area may show up as a "hot spot."

Fluoroscopy is an older medical imaging procedure that uses brief bursts of an X-ray beam to show internal organs and tissues moving in real-time on a computer screen, like a video. Providers use fluoroscopy for two main purposes: for diagnoses and to help guide certain treatment procedures such as surgeries and catheter placements.

Some new ultrasound devices and other diagnostic imaging technology have allowed healthcare professionals to discern needed medical services during ambulatory and aeromedical transport. The information gained through this diagnostic approach supports the care team's decisions regarding the best treatment and destination. ★



“Hands On” Makes It Happen

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

The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.”

During his recent visit to the North East Chapter, FL, CINC BG Victor Perez, USA (Ret), shared his four key priorities. His primary focus is for the Companions of MOWW to achieve their mission by enhancing collaboration. He emphasized, “Whatever we DON’T touch—WON’T happen!”

God can help us achieve our mission by providing guidance and support. The Bible is full of stories illustrating the importance of collaboration and working together towards a common goal.

One famous story from the Bible is that of the Tower of Babel, as described in Genesis 11:1-9. The people of the earth came together to build a tower that would reach the heavens. However, God saw that their intentions were not pure and confused their language, so they could not understand each other. The people then scattered across the earth.

Interestingly, the average age of members in MOWW’s 74 chapters is 69 years, which means that within the organization, there is abundant knowledge, wisdom, experience, and leadership. Like the people working on the Tower of Babel, we too have a collective and collaborative spirit that we can and must utilize, with the guidance of God, to accomplish our chapter tasks and further the mission of MOWW.

The story of the Tower of Babel teaches us the importance of collaboration but also highlights the need for pure intentions. Companions must work together with a common goal and pure intentions. We must also increase our visibility by participating in community events, volunteering, and engaging with the public. During the meeting, the CINC emphasized the importance of focusing on our youth. This can help establish trust and promote a sense of unity between MOWW, other patriotic organizations, and the general public. Ultimately, this will contribute to building a stronger America.

In conclusion, the MOWW’s Companions can achieve our mission by increasing collaboration and working together with pure intentions. We should look to the Bible daily for guidance and inspiration while practicing prayer and fasting. For example, you can read and grow with each chapter of Proverbs for each day of the week. By doing so, we can influence our communities and make a stronger America! Give it a try.

May the Lord bless us and keep us. Amen. ★



San Diego Chapter, CA

The 67th Annual Massing of The Colors

The 67th Annual Massing of The Colors and Service of Remembrance occurred on 14 October 2023 at Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park. Companion CDR George “Ted” Parsons was the Master of Ceremonies. A special mention in the ceremony and program acknowledged Vietnam Veterans and their sacrifices. The Keynote speaker was LTC Alec Lange, US Army Reserve (Ret) and Representative for the 50th Vietnam War Commission. The heartfelt, patriotic event was co-sponsored with the Spreckels Organ Society. Artistic Director and Organist Raul Prieto Ramirez was a highlight of the event. Scouts and Scouters in uniform received a special large Massing of the Colors patch for attending.

Photo: CDR Parsons addresses the gathering.



LTG Middleton Chapter, LA

YLC Students Address LTG Middleton Chapter Companions

BY PCINC COL CLAY LE GRANDE, USA (RET)

Two students from Walker High School who attended the Chapter’s Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) were special guest speakers at the Chapter’s first meeting of the new year. Alliyah Rodriguez and Owen Waldrop spoke at the LTG Middleton Chapter meeting on 2 January 2024.

They shared their experiences attending the Huntsville Youth Leadership Conference in October 2023. During the conference, they had the chance to interact and work with high school students from other states. Among their favorite presentations were seminars on “Ethical Decision Making,” by CW5 Dr. Harry Hobbs, USA (Ret), Vice President of Huntsville Utilities, and “The Neuroscience of Leadership,” by MG Paulette Risher, USA (Ret), an organizational psychologist. Both students highly recommended the conference to their fellow students as it provided training unavailable in high schools today.

Photo Top: (L-R): LTG Middleton Commander, PCINC COL Clay Le Grande, presented gift cards and pen sets to Alliyah Rodriguez and Owen Waldrop, both of Walker, LA, as a memento for their presentations to Companions.



Photo Below: Huntsville YLC students, including Alliyah Rodriguez and Owen Waldrop, participated in “Ethical Decision Making” a training conducted by Dr. Harry Hobbs (CW5, USA Ret) Vice President of Huntsville Utilities.





Clearwater Chapter, FL

Chapter's Inaugural YLS—A Success!

BY LT COL RICHARD GOUIN, USAF (RET)

The Clearwater Chapter held its first Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) on 25 April, attended by 15 JROTC students from Dunedin High School. An excellent program was compiled for the event, with a great itinerary and prominent guest speakers. The YLS opened with a “Sea Survival” exercise. Presentations included Money Management and Personal Success; Ethics; a comparison of Washington and Benedict Arnold in “Leadership Styles in the American Revolution” and, “The History of Our Flag.” Students eagerly interacted throughout the seminars. The students provided feedback, which will help plan the next YLS. The goal is to recruit from all eight JROTC schools in Pinellas County.



General Meade Chapter, MD

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

BY COL KENNETH O. MCCREEDY, USA (RET)

On 7 December 2023, COL Ken McCreedy, Commander of the General Meade Chapter, represented the Order at a ceremony remembering the attack on Pearl Harbor 82 years before.

Fittingly, the commemoration took place on the deck of the USCGC Roger B. Taney, WHEC-37. She was named for Roger B. Taney (1777-1864), who served as US Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury, and Chief Justice of the United States. The Taney, which is docked in Baltimore Harbor today, is the last combat ship still afloat that survived the attack that morning in 1941. The ship, commissioned in 1936 and decommissioned in 1986, went to general quarters after anti-aircraft fire was observed over Pearl Harbor on 7 December, and engaged enemy aircraft with its 3” guns.

The ship went on to earn four Battle Stars for actions in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and in the Pacific off Okinawa. She also served off the coast of Vietnam in 1969 and interdicted drug shipments in the 80’s. The ceremony featured personnel from the Navy and Coast Guard. The keynote address was given by Captain Andrew Pecora, USCG, Commander, Surface Forces Logistics Center in Baltimore. The St. Andrew’s Society of Baltimore performed a remembrance ceremony and fired a salute, while “Amazing Grace” was played by a bagpipe.

Dallas Chapter, TX

CPT Allen Clark Addresses DAR

BY LTC MARTHA CENKCI, USA (RET)

On Veterans Day, CPT Allen Clark, USA (Ret), Commander of the Dallas Chapter, was the speaker and honored guest at the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. CPT Clark's remarks were particularly meaningful as this year marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The DAR is a Commemorative Partner with the US Vietnam War Commemoration. After his remarks, Chapter Regent Dr. Georgianna Braden and First Vice Regent Dr. Julie Schellen presented CPT Clark with an American flag flown over DAR Headquarters in Washington, DC, in his honor on Constitution Day.



Detroit Chapter, MI

Gold Patrick Henry Presentation 2LT Mary Sue Layle, USA (Fmr)

BY BG DAVID ESTES, USA (RET)

The final meeting for Program Year 2023 featured award presentations. The Order's most prestigious award, the Gold Patrick Henry to honor exceptional achievement, was presented to Detroit Chapter Commander 2LT Mary Sue Layle, USA (Fmr). Region II Commander BG David Estes, USA (Ret), traveled to Detroit to present the plaque and certificate to her. Despite facing many challenges, including COVID shutdowns, she successfully planned, organized, and executed MOWW's exceptional 100TH Convention in Detroit. She also continues to oversee the Chapter's community involvement efforts by annually awarding ROTC, JROTC, Girl Scout, and Boy Scout Awards throughout Michigan. Her family was present to celebrate this prestigious award with her.



A Certificate of Appreciation and a plaque were awarded to Ms. Mimi Sion, Director of Sales at Hilton Double Tree Dearborn, in recognition of her outstanding support of the 2021 convention. Additionally, a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation was presented to SSG Brian Gaignard, USARMY NG, and his National Guard members for warmly welcoming MOWW Companions at Detroit Metropolitan Airport during the 100th Convention in Detroit.

Photo Top: (L-R): Region II Commander BG David Estes presented the Gold Patrick Henry to 2LT Mary Sue Layle, USA (Fmr), Commander, Detroit Chapter.

Photo Below: 2LT Mary Sue Layle surrounded by family after the award presentation.





Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

The Interment of SFC Medardo Vega

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

On 27 September 2023, the Puerto Rico Chapter received a request from the Director of the National Cemetery in Puerto Rico to attend the interment service for an unclaimed veteran. A small group of representatives from several VSOs, including MOWW and staff of the Bayamon National Cemetery, were in attendance. The ceremony honoring SFC Medardo Vega, who served in Korea and Vietnam, was deeply felt by all. The Director of the National Cemetery ensures that every veteran is buried with someone present to honor their service.

(L-R): Veteran Deborah Dones received the American Flag in a symbolic gesture since there are no family members surviving the veteran.



Northern Virginia Chapter

The Order Recognizes Karen Worcester, Wreaths Across America

BY COL VINCENTE C. OGILVIE, USA (RET)

On 16 December 2024, Karen Dow Worcester, the co-founder and Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, received the Military Order of the World Wars Silver Patrick Henry Medal at the Military Women's Memorial.

LTC Edmund Feige, USA (Ret), Northern Virginia Chapter's Vice Commander, presented her with the medal and citation. The award was presented to her on behalf of all 77 MOWW Chapters, many of which participate in the program yearly at their local cemeteries.

The Silver Patrick Henry is a symbol of exceptional patriotism. Karen Worcester's decades-long dedication to honoring and recognizing veterans embodies the Order's motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served."



THE US HONORS ALL VIETNAM VETERANS

Across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. This is the main focus of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration—a national 50th anniversary commemoration, authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense, and launched by President Barack Obama in 2012. Congress penned a total of five objectives, with the primary being to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation.

Thousands upon thousands of organizations—Commemorative Partners—have joined in the noble mission of honoring our 7 million Vietnam veterans, living at home and abroad, and the 10 million families of all who served. Publicly and individually, Vietnam veterans are being presented with a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, a lasting memento of the Nation’s thanks.

If you are a Vietnam veteran, find commemorative events in your area, where you and your family will be honored and receive your Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin.



MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

In honor of National Women’s History Month, VA is celebrating the brave women veterans of yesterday, today, and tomorrow by highlighting their unique stories of courage, bravery, and persistence.

Women have been serving in the military with honor for generations and continue to break barriers even today. From Deborah Sampson and

Cathay Williams, who disguised themselves as men to serve their country, to Florence Blanchfield, who became the first woman to receive a military commission in the Army, women have played a crucial role in the military.

Women’s service significantly increased during World War II, especially in the Army and the Women’s Army Corps, where they performed critical jobs such as military intelligence and parachute rigging. Throughout the Gulf War and post-9/11 era, servicewomen and women veterans accomplished many “firsts.”

Today, every military occupational specialty (MOS) is open to women, and active duty service women continue to pave the path for future generations.

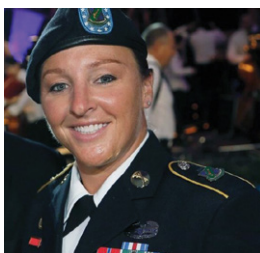
Below are three such women, veterans of yesterday, today, and tomorrow:



LTC Florence Blanchfield was instrumental in advocating for the law allowing full rank for nurses. She became the first woman to receive a military commission in the Army.



ADM Grace Hopper was a Naval Reservist during World War II. She was at the forefront of computer programming and devised the theory of machine-independent programming languages that was used to create COBOL, which is still used today.



SGT Leigh Ann Hester “With thirty-three insurgents killed or wounded and one captured, every member of her unit survived.” The first woman since World War II to earn the Silver Star Medal and the very first to ever earn it for combat valor.



1LT ARNOLD EARL LUETGE, USA (FORMER) 70TH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

24 AUGUST 1933–21 JANUARY 2024



Past CINC 1LT Arnold Earl Luetge, USA (Fmr), passed away on 21 January 2024 at the age of 90, in Cincinnati, OH.

1LT Luetge was born in Houston, TX, and attended Lamar High School. He graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Business. He served in the Army from 1954 to 1959, and was honorably discharged. After his military service, he began his business career with Bristol Myers, where he worked for 30 years.

He was an active member of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) for many years, holding various positions in the organization. He served as Commander-in-Chief from 2000 to 2001.

1LT Luetge was a devoted family man and was married to his wife Nancy for 69 years. He is survived by his daughter D'Anne Pientka and her partner Mike, his son Lee Luetge, daughter-in-law Amanda, and two grandchildren, Alexis and Carys. He was loved by all who knew him and will be deeply missed.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/houston-tx/arnold-luetge-11639497>



Left: 1LT Earl Luetge with his bride, Nancy. Right: CINC Luetge represents the Order at the White House. He is in conversation with President George W Bush.



Reveille

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***Denotes RM/HRM*

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Ms. Linda Ariff

AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA

LT COL KURT D. BARRY, USAF (RET)**
LTC Gary O. Engen, USA (Ret)

MAJ RICHARD T. GREEN, USA (RET)*
CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)

CAPT DILWORTH CHAPTER TX

1SG AMERY E. VASSO, USA (RET)**
LTC Donald E. Willhouse, USA (Ret)

CHICAGO CHAPTER IL

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CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)

CPT TRACY L. CARLSON, USA (FMR)**
COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)

1LT KENZIE P. HELMAN, USA**
COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)

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Col James D. McEntire, USAF (Ret)

LCDR KEVIN D. McLENITHAN, USN (FMR)**

LCDR John J. Coyne, USN (Ret)

COL ELMER CHAPTER AR

MAJ RICHARD A. ENGEL, USA (RET)**

LTC Joe J. Volpe, USAF

CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER CA

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Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret)

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LCDR Coy D. Ritchie, USN (Ret)

FORT HOOD CHAPTER TX

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GEN RIDGWAY CHAPTER PA

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MG WHEELER CHAPTER AL

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COL Robert F. Schlegel, Jr., USA (Ret)

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CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)





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RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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DATA FROM 1 DEC 23–31 JAN 24

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LTC Edmund F. Feige, USA (Ret)

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COL EDWIN RODRIGUEZ, USAR**

LTC Francisco J. Vargas Robledo, USAR

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LTC Samuel T. Scott, USA (Ret)

LTC DANIEL M. STILL, USA (RET)*

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Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

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LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr., USA (Ret)

COL RONALD L. TUCKER, USA (RET)*

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)

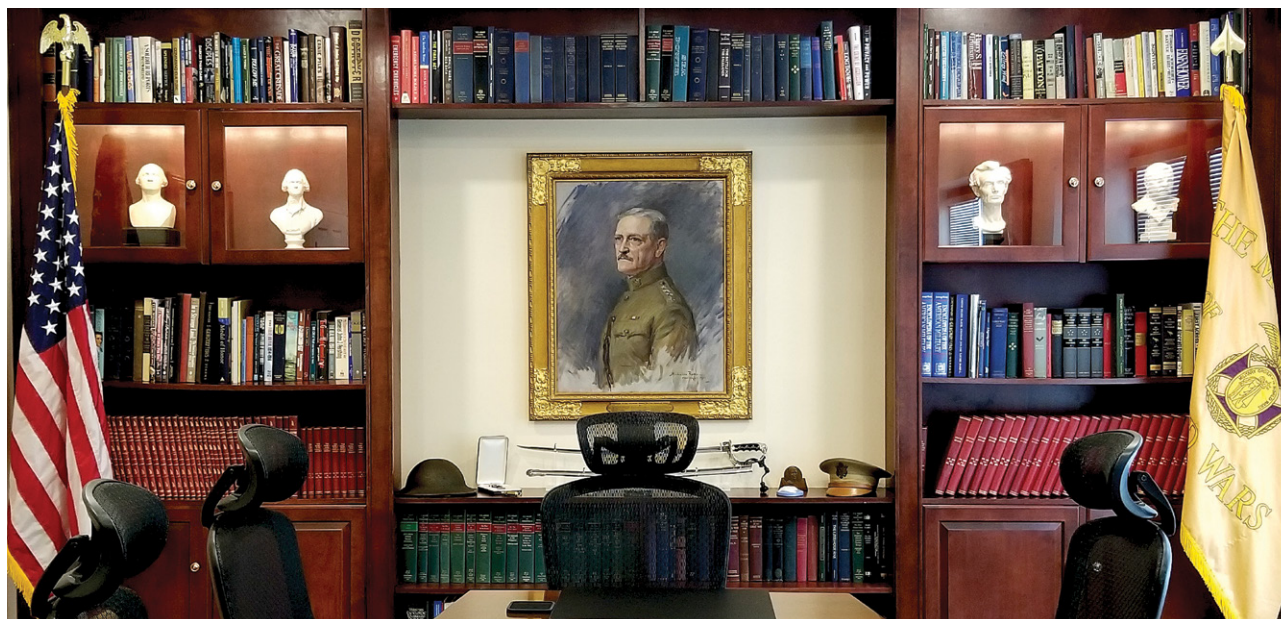
VIRGINIA PIEDMONT CHAPTER VA

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LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret)

SSG GEORGE J. WINTERS, VAARNG**

MAJ Elizabeth A. Jarrett, USA (Ret)





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RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

*Denotes PM/HPM
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DATA FROM 1 DEC 23– 31 JAN 24

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- COL DAVID C. MUNTZ, USA (RET)*
- COL THOMAS L. MOORE, USAF (RET)*

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- CWO4 CASIMIR C. MROZ, USMC (RET)**
- LTC FRANCIS G. SCANLAN, ILARNG (RET)**

COL WOODS-OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER OK

- LTC EDWARD L. POOLE, USA (RET)*

COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER CO

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- COL WATT G. HILL, JR., USAF (RET)*

FORT KNOX CHAPTER KY

- COL ALBAN LIANG, USAR*

FORT WORTH CHAPTER TX

- LT COL THOMAS J. BRADSHAW III, USAF (RET)*

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HOUSTON CHAPTER TX

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MAJGEN PENDLETON CHAPTER CA

- CAPT RAYMOND L. KUNKLE, USMC (RET)*

MG BUTLER CHAPTER KY

- PCINC 1LT A. EARL LUETGE, USA (FMR)*

MG WHEELER CHAPTER AL

- COL MICHAEL A. RODDY III, USA (RET)*

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PA

- LTJG RICHARD A. HENDERSON, USN (FMR)*
- COL JOSEPH P. KIRLIN, JR., USA*

PHOENIX CHAPTER AZ

- LT COL RICHARD L. NELSON, USAF (RET)*

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- LTC JOSE G. RIVERA RIVERA, USA (RET)*

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- RADM G. ROBERT MERRILEES, USCGR*





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