

THE

# OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 64 • NUMBER 2

MARCH-APRIL 2025





# Honoring Our Veterans Past and Present

Companion recognition has always been a priority for our Order. Each year, we celebrate this commitment through the Patrick Henry Awards, Distinguished and Outreach Service Medals, and awards presented during the Annual Convention Awards Luncheon. We use plaques, certificates, and other forms of recognition to honor outstanding contributions. And, of course, our highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, generally goes to a fellow veteran. Additionally, we recognize and honor veterans who are not MOWW Companions but are selfless in their service to fellow veterans and the community. Our Chapters also honor those who served or are serving in the military, including those who preserved our freedoms while serving in various conflicts. All in all, honoring our living veterans who exemplify our motto that "It Is Nobler To Serve Than To Be Served" is at the core of our Order's beloved Preamble to the MOWW Constitution.

Please read my article about Wreaths Across America (WAA) in this issue. Through our partnership with this amazing organization, we have an opportunity to honor our deceased veterans interred in cemeteries throughout the nation in a unique way. Wreaths Across America (WAA) not only enables us to sponsor and place wreaths at veterans' gravesites, as many chapters are actively doing, but also provides additional ways to honor our veterans. One option is to place dog tags on a Remembrance Tree in a dedicated Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) grove at the WAA farm in Maine. Another way to honor a fellow veteran is by adding their name—and a personal message—on the Remember Wall on their website.

"To acquire and preserve records of individual services . . ." We can further recognize our veterans, both past and present, through the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. Here, you will find over 65,000 collections of recorded interviews, original letters, diaries, photos, memoirs, and historical documents related to a veteran's wartime service. Many of our Chapters have already conducted numerous interviews and assembled required documentation, some with the assistance of high school students for their community service projects. All veterans in the Order should be interviewed if they have not done so already.

Finally, through various care package programs across the country, many Chapters express gratitude to active duty members, reservists, and local veterans. Partnering with these programs offers a fantastic opportunity for outreach by participating in a packing day, donating items, writing letters to include in the packages, and identifying veterans and organizations to distribute the packages. This initiative is both selfless and impactful.

And let us not forget The POW/MIA Missing Man Table Ceremony that so many of our Chapters perform.

Though not all-inclusive, these are means of Honoring Our Veterans Past and Present, a benchmark of our Order. Through this selfless recognition, we truly honor our fellow comrades.

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Retired)  
Commander in Chief and CEO, MOWW, Inc.



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Cover: Photograph of a painting of [LTG] Raymond S. McClain at American First Trust Co., Oklahoma City, OK. Photo taken by Meyers Photo Shop for the American First Trust Co. Acct., 12 October 1945. Courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Colorized by Jim Meeks, Oklahoma Historical Society. Painting by Howard Chandler Christy



# The Tall Oklahoman

HE WAS A SELF-EDUCATED CITIZEN-SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT IN THREE MAJOR 20TH CENTURY CONFLICTS

LTC EDWARD McGEHEE, USA (RET)

LTG MIDDLETON CHAPTER, LA

*Overseas action during the Sicily Invasion became brisk quickly. Things were supposed to be happening, but the division commander hadn't received any reports of ground gained. Hence, MG Troy Middleton asked his division artilleryman, BG Ray McLain, to "head up there and get 'em moving."*

*The Oklahoman threw a case of .30 caliber machine gun ammo into his Jeep and said, "I know. You get out there with them; they will move."*

*Supported by two half-tracks with gunners, he took his rat patrol to the forward edge of the battle area, where he found a lieutenant colonel bogged down, not advancing. Racing toward the enemy with the battalion commander behind in a second Jeep, McLain led the charge, firing his machine gun.*

*Tearing up the Axis advance unit, a brigadier, a light colonel, five soldiers in three small vehicles with belt-fed firepower forced the enemy to withdraw—they were convinced these seven GIs were spearheading a big push and pulled back to warn the main body. The 45th Infantry Division took the town and nearby airfield the next day. For his bravery, he would be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, confirming the British Secret Air Service motto: "Who Dares, Wins."*

## THE EARLY YEARS

In 1890, when 45% of Americans worked ranches and farms, Raymond Stallings McLain was born in rural Washington County, KY. Anxious to hone the boy's appreciation of the rewards of hard work, his parents pulled him out of school the summer

after sixth grade. And yet, through self-education, he became a learned, respected Oklahoma City banker and National Guard officer for 28 years between the world wars.

He enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1912 and joined the 1st Infantry Regiment. Two years later, he passed the officer confirmation tests, and in June 1916, the lieutenant's unit mobilized at Ft. Sill and trained to fight Pancho Villa.

Five months later, they arrived in San Benito, TX, where they linked up with COL Robert Bullard's provisional 1st Separate Brigade.

In addition to rolling up and down the Mexican border on high alert, they were deployed to the American side of the Rio Grande River to guard a key water pumping facility. More than once, Villanistas and associated gangs of bandits attacked the station.

Released from active duty a year later in March 1917, the tall Oklahoman had no idea how quickly things were about to pick up militarily.

## "OVER THERE"

Mobilized for WWI in late 1917 and trained at Ft. Sill, he marched to the East River wharf in lower Manhattan and boarded a troop ship bound for France. Not two months passed before his unit, part of the 36th Infantry Division, chased the Huns through St. Etienne all the way to the Aisne



WWI bayonet practice



River. There, they were bombarded with mustard gas. Refusing medical treatment, he insisted he was fit to drive on.

Clawing his way through the Meuse-Argonne Forest for what seemed like an eternity, the battered and bruised doughboys planted a victory flag in the Ferme Forest. Armistice Day arrived two weeks later.

Following the cessation of hostilities, the 36th Division pulled five months of occupation duty in Flogny, southeast of Paris. It was there where GEN “Blackjack” Pershing formally declared McLain’s unit, the 131st Machine Gun Battalion, the finest in the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF).

His knowledge of French—the language, their maps and terrain—would serve him well in France 25 years later. Always the scholar, he mastered calculus as well as the mathematical intricacies of laying artillery. Ask any artilleryman who laid a 155mm gun more than 37 years ago, before the introduction of “Tacfire” and subsequent computerized control. You will get an earful regarding field-filthy arty books filled with logarithms, temperature, wind speed/direction, declination and the hem and haw of rifled 75-pound rounds screaming down range.

Between the wars, McLain made himself indispensable to Oklahoma’s 45th Infantry Division. He rose from battalion commander to 45th chief of staff and pinned on bird-colonel rank in 1925; their guard regiments and assorted support units hailed not only from the Sooner State but also Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

### REDLEG MAGIC

Resuming his career with vigor, he helped build the Savings & Trust Bank in Oklahoma City. Oklahoman home life, which included his charming wife, Bertha, and daughter, Betty, was plentiful due to his success in business and busy work schedule. After 12 years of civilian progress and solid military dedication, it was no surprise that he was appointed to command a key division asset, the 70th Field Artillery Brigade.



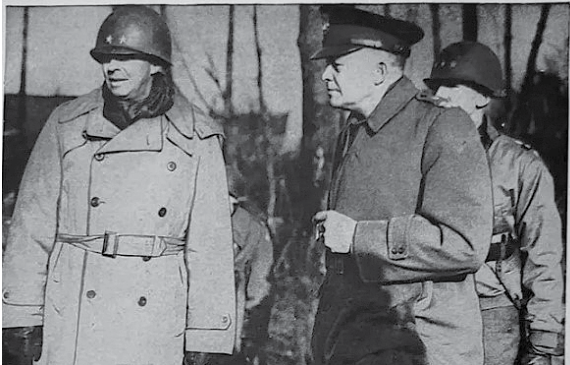
*BG Raymond McLain, 1938  
Oklahoma Publishing Co.  
Photography Collection, OHS*



*Doughboys celebrating the 4th of July in 1918 on the battlefield. Source: WWI Museum*



Putting the pinch on the Nazis February 24, 1945



19th Army Corps Commander MG Raymond McLain, here with Ike Eisenhower, 24 February 1945, discussing a large scale offensive towards the Rhine.

Wearing a brigadier's star came with the promotion. A year later, McLain was off to Command & General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, where he took the top diploma as valedictorian.

Embracing his new love of artillery, the old machine gunner immersed himself in what they call "Redleg Magic." He drank in every facet and nuance required for a cannoneer to accurately put steel on target and on time from three miles behind the forward edge of the battle area. So many factors are in play. The terrain is important, including the differential in azimuth going from map to curvature of the Earth. Weather can make you or break you, whether part of your calculations or the realization it takes twice as long to lay guns in the rain or at night when there's no moon. And take your everyday howitzer round; is this batch the same as the last? Maybe they asked for smoke, canister, or flares. All require different calculations.

While focused on banking and how best to educate his guardsmen, McLain found time to polish his fluency and translate one of France's most respected artillery manuals. "A Battery of 75s in a Tempest, May 1918" appeared in the September 1939 issue of the *Field Artillery Journal*. His most notable character trait was his eagerness to learn new disciplines.

### THIRD ARMY MANEUVERS

Mobilized at Ft. Sill a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 45th was called up extraordinarily early. Probably because the nation

was caught with its pants down regarding military preparedness.

Rolling through rural Mansfield, LA, to Camp Polk for the August 1941 Third Army Maneuvers, the division was lean, mean, and honed for action. It was the Blue Corps vs. the Red Corps. The Blues included Patton's 2nd Armored Division—the 36th and the 45th. With a commander in sickbay, the Oklahoman had to take the reins of the 45th's lead brigade as well as DIVARTY (Division Artillery). He directed the blue troops through forced marches and an envelopment at Peason Ridge, conquering the high ground. This led Judge LT GEN Krueger to declare, "These exercises are over."

The 45th trained at Ft. Devens, MA; Camp Barkley, TX, and Pine Camp, NY, before shipping out to Italy. When offered command of the division, he declined and convinced them that Troy Middleton should lead the unit during the invasion. Interestingly, two years later, Patton, Middleton, and McLain would each command their own corps at the Battle of the Bulge.

### THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

The Salerno invasion earned him the first of two Distinguished Service Crosses. After calling in a dozen dirty soldiers fresh off the battle line so GEN George Marshall could pin on the "fruit salad," he asked Patton whether or not he should promote a proven combat sergeant to mustang lieutenant, even though the guy had been in reform schools and had a rap sheet a foot long. "Hell, I'd make him a captain," Patton shot back.

Then came the June 1944 landing at Anzio. McLain was suffering from gallstone attacks. Like his Lewisite gas experience in WWI, he sucked it up and charged on, shunning medical attention.

The troops joked that if you saw him, you were too far forward. His artillery chops were on full display at Anzio, as he masterminded a stunning bombardment highlighted by his coordination of no less than 17 Artillery battalions. "Time on Target McLain," his redlegs called him. His system for success included a lot of "film room"—time pouring over aerial photos, looking for possible gun emplacements. Anything out of place received a barrage. His performance was not lost on decision-makers like Marshall and Eisenhower. Concerned about questionable

leadership during the Normandy Invasion, by some division commanders, leadership was looking for new two-star blood. On 25 July 1944, LTG Omar Bradley gave him the 90th Infantry Division, comprised of mostly Texas and Oklahoma draftees. The 90th had suffered a high casualty rate, not to mention way too much bad drama involving command structure breakdowns.

### NEW DIVISION COMMANDER

Overnight, McLain relieved 16 field-grade officers. The dramatic remake of the division was a huge highlight in a career full of highlights. Then Bradley split his command and gave away a portion, of which McClain's 90th was a part—they were now part of Patton's Third Army. "We were definitely putting him on the spot," Bradley told Marshall. "And he came through with flying colors."

The ragtag outfit with the WWI pedigree had stormed Utah Beach, joined the St. Lo breakout and raced through northern France, central Europe, the Ardennes and the Rhineland—many of the combat-hardened units who fought their way to the Bulge, like McLain's, would earn five battle stars.

It was a long push through northern France and Belgium, where they took point, kicked butt and

took prisoners. Having destroyed 85% of an entire Panzer Brigade in the town of Mairy, he crossed the Moselle River but balked when corps commander LTG Johnny Walker ordered him to frontally attack the rear of the ancient fortress of Metz.

Walker had sent in the 5th Infantry and 7th Armored divisions, but they reported losing 300 men in the first rush. It was a meat grinder. He postponed the attack, much to Walker's angry chagrin. Patton had posted a temporary rule: no expenditure of artillery ammo unless the Nazis counter-attacked. Scrounging around the old Maginot line defense fortifications near Thionville, he found a dozen old German field pieces and enough rounds to bombard the fortress and take Metz two days later.

Then came the brutal chore of cracking the Siegfried Line, so fortified it had to be penetrated in sections. Praise led to promotion. Word came down that McLain was tapped for high command: he was assigned to the XIX Corps, part of the First Army.

His decorations, besides the Distinguished Service Cross (two), included the Silver Star with cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal (two), Legion of Honor, French Croix de Guerre with palm, Belgian Croix de Guerre with palm, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars for WWI and seven



Bronze Stars for WWII. Quite a chest full.

### 90,000 STRONG

The XIX Corps gave him a force of 90,000 strong, 5,000 of whom became casualties during the Battle of Aachen. The 2nd Armor Division lost 164 tanks. It led to the second Battle of Aachen, during which McLain spent much more time far forward and his victorious results proved vastly better than the first effort.

The drive to the Ruhr, Rhine, and Elbe rivers was spearheaded by the 2nd Armored with the 30th and 83rd Infantry divisions battling along its flanks. It was a brutal, icy advance through Belgium toward Bastogne and the snow-weary Battle of the Bulge—which broke just south of his corps. McClain helped orchestrate the taking of one objective after another.

As Stonewall Jackson once said, “You can’t lead from the rear.” During one intense afternoon, he climbed a tree and acted as a forward observer, directing fire from three gun batteries. In the Hurtegen Forest, he took over five battered divisions of VII Corps to beef up his decimated corps. This enabled him to defend the north side of the salient throughout the big Bulge push, while Patton, Middleton, Lawton, Collins and other corps commanders slugged it out south of him.

With the dismal Christmas Bulge in his rear view mirror, he campaigned on and on across the Rhine. Suddenly, he was told to await orders as he sat idling 35 miles from Berlin. Washington put the kibosh on them and ordered a 100-mile retreat. At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, the capture of Berlin was bequeathed to the Soviets. Why not? The Reds suffered five times more casualties than the Americans.

During the occupation, his tour ended governing three Hesse provinces in the Frankfort area. During the Big One, 22 US corps saw combat; 34 general officers commanded those units, but only one was a national guardsman—the Oklahoman.



*MG Raymond McLain, 1945*

In May 1945, he flew to the states, where he had the most severe gall bladder attack to date. Two operations at Walter Reed finally got things under control.

### POST WWII

Returning to Oklahoma to recuperate and await separation from active duty, Marshall called. Behind McLain’s back, he had submitted his name to the US Senate for confirmation as a Regular Army general officer.

For the next seven years, the lieutenant general roamed the halls of the Pentagon, where he served as chairman of the Equipment Policy Board. According to co-workers, he was one of the most popular men in the building.

His procurements exceeded \$30 billion during the Korean War. He had definite ideas about the effectiveness of select wheels, tracks and weapons, and whether they were worth the cost. One principle he held firm was to adapt the weapon to the target. “You don’t use a sledgehammer to kill a cockroach,” he said.

In 1952, he retired with 42 years of service. Copying the Army, the other service branches appointed military procurement directors instead of civilian ones; that was his legacy.

A parade was thrown for him in the District of Columbia at Ft. McNair, where ceremonial troops passed in review. Gen. Lawton Collins, then chief of staff threw a dandy reception and invited many of McLain’s best Oklahoma friends and colleagues.

He settled quietly back in Oklahoma with his wife Bertha, for a couple of years. In an odd twist of fate, he returned briefly to Washington in late 1954 for a convention. Suddenly, while playing golf, he was stricken direly ill. They rushed him to Walter Reed, where he died a week later from acute leukemia. He was 64. ★





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# The Hand Salute

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

On a very hot summer's day at Arlington National Cemetery last year, I attended a funeral ceremony honoring a departed retired Army colonel who was a long-time military associate and, in retirement, a close personal friend. The ceremony conducted by troops of the Third Infantry, The Old Guard, was performed to standard: that is, to perfection. As required by protocol, an honor guard consisting of two infantry platoons, the regimental colors, a band contingent from Pershing's Own, a firing party, an internment detail, the horse with reversed riding boots, and officiating officers were all present. The flag ritual over the urn took place, the firing squad saluted, honors were given, and appropriate words were spoken. As a final phase of the ceremony, the presentation of the folded flag was made to the widow by a young Army captain.

But to me, there was one thing amiss. In hand saluting, the captain's arm appeared to be broken. The elbow of his right arm seemed to rest on his right hip. If not broken, was this hand salute being rendered to a new Army standard, or was this an accepted practice within the regiment? If it was, I was, at the time, disappointed.

Is not the proper way as follows? Hold the right upper arm horizontally and parallel to the ground. The fingers are held together, and the right hand forms a straight lower arm extension to the elbow. The tips of the fingers held together touch the right eyebrow.

I have a great concern about the proper way our soldiers hand salute. From my first day as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point more than 67 years ago, I have watched with interest and, unfortunately, often with dismay how one hand salutes.

If one visits West Point today, they are greeted at the various gates by armed civilian guards. But in years past, the gates were manned solely by military police personnel. Depending on the standard operating procedures, the police officer would examine your identification card and signify your acceptance for entrance with a military greeting and a smart hand salute. When I entered

the post in my automobile and received a proper salute, I often hesitated before I drove off to tell the salute renderer, "I like that salute." At one point, after a long series of visits after which I received a number of exemplary hand salutes, I felt inspired enough to visit the post-military police company commander and personally commend him and his personnel for the great impression their greeting hand salutes made.

Fast forward to my 65th Military Academy class reunion and the pass in review for the alumni. Prior to assembling on the parade field, I talked to a third-year cadet, acting as an usher. While asking her about saluting officers at West Point, a major walked by and received her proper hand salute. In response to the cadet's salute, the passing major sort of waved his right arm in the air as if bating off some insect. I think he considered that a returned hand salute.

Minutes later, standing with my classmates, some of us leaning on our walking sticks, we prepared to salute the cadet Color Guard when it passed by our class reunion group. Standing in the back row rank, I wondered just how we would greet the Color Guard as it marched past. To my delight, all the right arms were raised promptly, and their fingertips touched the correct eyebrow. After 65 years, I sure was proud that all of us still knew how to render a proper hand salute.

The event led me to remember when I was on the Military Academy faculty and had to walk between buildings during class breaks. The academic buildings' layout and their relationship to the barracks offer a challenge to cadets in getting to class on time, often requiring fast walking and even running. If a cadet met an officer in transit, military protocol required that he slow down and salute. That could be an inconvenience for the cadet, but for the officer, it could be a physical disaster. The officer should have properly returned each salute, which would have meant bringing the right arm to its correct position multiple times in a very short time span. As one would suspect, that rarely happened. The officer literally found himself just waving at the passing cadets.





*A US Military Academy at West Point junior teaches a new cadet how to salute, Reception Day June 2021. Photo: Jorge Garcia*

The officer could have avoided the situation in a couple of ways. One was for the officers not to appear amidst the mob of cadets during class breaks and time themselves to be elsewhere. A second option was to declare the space through which cadets had to move to different academic buildings a “no hand salute zone.”

If that situation exists today, a second look at that option might be worthwhile. Indeed, I once mentioned that option to a recently graduated cadet who thought such a zone was not a bad idea.

A “no hand salute zone” at West Point, notwithstanding, where and when saluting is appropriate, all officers should realize, or remember, that subordinates, especially cadets, are always consciously or unconsciously looking at them as role models. At the United States Military Academy, new cadets begin their journey by meeting the “cadet with the red sash” on Reception Day. From that moment until graduation, cadets will closely scrutinize and evaluate officer conduct. An improperly rendered officer hand salute may not receive major attention or make a significant impression at the time, but it is noted. Unfortunately, when the cadet graduates, they carry such improper impressions into their active service, thus denigrating Army standards.

This also brings to mind the military police personnel at the gate of the funeral I attended. Somewhere during that soldier’s service, he or she got the right message. But what was the message projected at the Arlington National Cemetery by the soldiers and officers I saw performing the sacred ritual of rendering hand salutes that I did not recognize as the Army standard?

This past January 16, I attended the funeral of one of my sons-in-law at West Point. At the appropriate time in the ceremony, I rendered a formal hand salute. Although I could no longer bring the fingers of my right hand tightly together, at that time, I was well aware that my right upper arm was held firmly horizontally parallel to the ground and that those misshapen fingers at the end of my extended arm were somehow touching my right eyebrow.

As to my concern about the Old Guard “broken arm” salute, it was explained to me by a Third Infantry officer attending the funeral thus: the formal dark blue blouses of the troops worn on special ceremonies are so closely fitted that it is impossible to bring the right upper arm to a horizontal position when hand saluting. Ergo, giving the impression the arm is “broken.” But he told me that on other occasions and with other uniforms when worn, I should rest assured they render a proper standard hand salute. ★





# MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



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

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





# 2025 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION

## AMERICA 250

CELEBRATING PATRIOTISM, UNITY, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel 7350 S. Nogales Hwy, Tucson, AZ 85756			
Tuesday, 5 August 2025   Dress: Casual			
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
0800-1600	<b>GOLF OUTING: Canoa Ranch Golf Club</b>		
Wednesday, 6 August 2025   Dress: Casual			
0800-1000	Pre-Convention EXCOM Meeting	Boardroom	EXCOM Members
0815-1530	<b>TOUR 1: Historic Tombstone, AZ</b>		
1000-1600	<b>TOUR 1B: Pima Air &amp; Space Museum (See Hotel Concierge)</b>		
1200-1330	<b>LUNCH AS DESIRED</b>		
1600-1700	Hann-Buswell Chapter Meeting	Hotel 4	H-B Chap Members
1700-1730	National Candidate Orientation	Hotel 1,2,3	National Candidates
1800-2100	CINC Welcome Buffet	Conf B & C	All Attendees
Thursday, 7 August 2025   Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress)			
0630-0800	Breakfast Buffet	Conf B & C	All Attendees
0800-0900	CINC Opening Remarks	Conf A	All Attendees
0915-1015	Chapter Outreach Program Seminar	Conf A	All Attendees
1030-1200	America 250 Presentation	Conf A	All Attendees
1200-1330	Council of Past CINCs Luncheon	Boardroom	CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS
1200-1330	<b>LUNCH AS DESIRED</b>		
1330-1500	Keynote Speaker	Conf A	All Attendees
1515-1600	Promoting the Order	Conf A	All Attendees
1615-1730	Commander's Call	Conf A	All Attendees
1800-2100	Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner	Hotel 1-3	H-B Chap Members
<b>DINNER AS DESIRED</b>			
Friday, 8 August 2025   Business Casual			
0630-0800	Breakfast Buffet	Conf B & C	All Attendees
0800-1030	National Candidate Presentations	Conf A	All Attendees
0900-1030	Nominating Committee Voting	Conf A	Committee Members
0930-1030	Teller Meeting	Boardroom	Tellers
1100-1330	MOWW Awards Luncheon	Conf B & C	All Attendees
1400-1700	Convention   Business Session I	Conf A	All Attendees
1730-2100	<b>Dinner Show – Gaslight Theater</b>		
<b>DINNER AS DESIRED</b>			
Saturday, 9 August 2025   Business Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress/Tuxedo)			
0630-0730	Breakfast Buffet	Conf B & C	All Attendees
0800-0900	MOWW Memorial Service	Conf B & C	All Attendees
0900-1600	<b>TOUR 2: Downtown Tucson Self-Guided Tour</b>		
0930-1200	Convention   Business Session II	Conf A	All Attendees
1200-1330	<b>LUNCH AS DESIRED</b>		
1330-1445	Council of Area Commanders (CAC)	Hotel 4	CAC Members
1500-1545	Website Seminar	Conf A	All Attendees
1600-1645	Planned Giving Seminar	Conf A	All Attendees
1730-1800	National Officer Photos	Foyer	CPC/CINC/VCINCS/CS
1800-1850	CINC Reception	Foyer	All Attendees
1900-2100	CINC Banquet	Conf B & C	All Attendees
Sunday, 10 August 2025   Dress Casual			
0800-1000	Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	Hotel 1-3	EXCOM Members
0800-1000	EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast	Hotel 4	Spouses/Partners





MOWW National Convention 2025 Hosted by Region XIII and the Santa Cruz Valley Chapter

## America 250 “Celebrating Patriotism, Unity, and Community Engagement”

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO  
7350 S. NOGALES HWY, TUCSON, AZ 85756

HOTEL: 1 520-342-3100

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

# ★ IMPORTANT CHAPTER DEADLINES ★



### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ARE DUE NLT 15 MARCH 2025**

- 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](mailto:flopez23@cox.net)

### **NATIONAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF NLT 1 JUNE 2025**

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

### **CHAPTER PROGRAM AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS NLT 1 JUNE 2025**

- 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 2025**

- 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 2025**

- National committee chairs must email the committee’s list of award selectees to [membership@moww.org](mailto: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 2025**

- Submit the Grant request in a PDF format to the Hann-Buswell Chapter Adjutant, LTC William Rapp, USA (Ret), via email to [williamrapp@mac.com](mailto:williamrapp@mac.com)  
(for instructions see *The Officer Review*® January–February 2025, page 9)



# The Pop-up YLS

CDR RONALD E. KIRKLAND, USN (RET)  
PUGET SOUND, WA CHAPTER

One super AJROTC Cadet Major Camren Edwards, a Northwest Youth Leadership Conference graduate and the 2024 MOWW Youth Civics Seminar leader, returned to his unit at West Valley High School, Yakima, Washington, with an idea. Early in his 2024-25 school year, he proposed to the Director of the Puget Sound Chapter's NWYLC the idea of conducting a YLS at his school in Yakima, WA, over the mountains and two hundred miles from the Puget Sound MOWW Chapter.

This YLS would go from idea to completion in about 45 days. Earlier in 2024, Puget Sound Chapter Companion CDR Ronald Kirkland, USN (Ret), had conducted, in conjunction with 2024 Earth Week, the Puget Sound Chapter's first YLS on "Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans."

PCINC Col David B. Gibson, USAF (Ret), referred this Pop-YLS opportunity to Companion Ron Kirkland for "Can this be done consideration?" He replied that a YLS needs a theme. Cadet Camren indicated he had a speaker who had been a city mayor in his neighborhood, and with Camren being a civics seminar graduate, the theme of community leadership developed quickly. The plan was Companion Kirkland would travel to Yakima, with support money and other resources across the mountains along with former Town Councilman, Companion COL Michael K. Johnson, USA (Ret), to conduct a YLS on Community Leadership.

The plan for a YLS 200 miles away, with two community leaders as guest speakers and an experienced YLS director, is set for a go in two

weeks. Puget Sound Chapter's YLS Director would carry Costco-style breakfast food and water across the mountains for forty students and locally arrange for a pizza and salad lunch to be delivered. Camren also organized a cadet color guard, team-building activities, and games to keep students moving.

As it turns out, Councilman Johnson gets a call for major surgery he had been waiting for and must cancel. Ten days to go. Companion Kirkland throws his fiancé Faye Doyle under the bus as a newly minted motivational speaker. As a former "Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year" recipient from Seattle, she was a natural motivational speaker for entrepreneurship. Faye stepped up and gave a presentation on "Career Changes and Learning from Your Experiences."

The Pop-up YLS was a success, serving 35 students over the mountains from Puget Sound. One student commented to Faye Doyle, "Your concepts not only encouraged us to reflect on our own experiences but also inspired us to embrace a mindset of adaptability and resilience."

Cadet Camren Edwards did the registration, obtained the school venues, involved students from other schools, and built the agenda—based on modest guidance from Ron Kirkland.

The Puget Sound Chapter awarded Cadet Edwards a MOWW Bronze Patrick Medal, Medallion and Plaque. A YLS can be conducted "off station" if a motivated adult or student is present at a location away from the chapter's homebase. ★





# ROTC/JROTC Outreach Program

CWO4 DAVID A. McCUISTION, USN (RET)  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER

Of the eight MOWW Outreach Programs, the ROTC/JROTC Program serves the largest number of youths in the nation's communities. The chapter's ROTC/JROTC Award of Merit program is one of the Orders' most essential functions.

The visibility given by the local supporting MOWW chapter does much to enhance MOWW's image in the community. Companions feel a sense of pride and experience a comforting, intrinsic reward from the smiling cadet receiving the recognition. Parents, community leaders, school administrators, and ROTC instructors greatly appreciate awards presented to cadets by organizations external to the school.

The program recognizes college and high school students with a MOWW Award of Merit medal, ribbon, and Certificate whose performance meets or exceeds their units' highest standards of excellence.

#### THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS:

MOWW Policy Manual Chapter 7;  
MOWW Policy Manual, Appendix J;  
ROTC/JROTC Committee Guide; and,  
MOWW Form 39 ROTC/JROTC Award Submissions (E-Submission).

Chapter Commanders and the chapter's ROTC/JROTC Committee should familiarize themselves with these guidelines. A trifold brochure can also be downloaded from the MOWW website using the ROTC/JROTC Outreach Program link.

For new MOWW Cadres and for chapter use in general, the MOWW website contains several reference links for ROTC/JROTC Units and locations. Here are the specific links for all ROTC/JROTC/NNDC Programs:

#### ARMY:

**ROTC:** <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc/find-schools>  
**JROTC:** <https://www.usarmyjrotc.com/u-s-army-jrotc-locations/>

#### NAVY/USMC:

**ROTC:** <https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Program-Information/Navy-ROTC-Schools/>

**JROTC/NNDC:** <https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NJROTC/Find-an-NJROTC-Unit/>

#### AIR FORCE:

**ROTC:** <https://www.afrotc.com/college-locator/>  
**JROTC:** <https://www.afaccessionscenter.af.mil/Holm-Center/AFJROTC/Article-Display/Article/4014330/cadet-information/>

NNDC: Established in 2008, the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDC) program provides schools without a NJROTC unit an opportunity to teach principles of citizenship, service, and responsibility to students. This program mirrors NJROTC but is primarily funded by the host schools. Schools pay for instructor salaries, uniforms, and daily operations, while the Navy provides curriculum materials, essential equipment and certifies instructors.

#### AWARDS

College Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Midshipmen and Cadets receive three Awards of Merit—Bronze for the first year, Silver for the second year, and Gold for the third year. The awards consist of a medal, ribbon, and a Certificate of Merit. Some ROTC Units have an awards ceremony at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters, whereby a total of six awards can be awarded each year.

The high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program recognizes one cadet each year with a MOWW Award of Merit.

Military high schools without a JROTC program can receive a Bronze Award of Merit medal, ribbon, and certificate. The Bronze Award of Merit does not specify either ROTC or JROTC, which permits usage for non-JROTC Units.

Two other awards available for youths 18 years of age or younger are the MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry (BPHM) and the MOWW Youth Merit Medal (YMM).

The Bronze Patrick Henry Medal may only be awarded to youths 18 years of age or younger for their outstanding patriotic activities in their





respective communities. There is no limit to the number of BPHMs awarded each year.

The Youth Merit Medal (YMM) is awarded to youths aged 18 and under who have demonstrated excellence in selfless service through various programs and activities. Eligibility examples include top graduates of MOWW Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC), youth performing notable public or community service, youth displaying leadership excellence in high schools and universities, youth performing other notable service in related, service-oriented groups or serving as student staff supporting MOWW YLCs.

### ANNUAL REPORT & AWARDS

All chapters should submit a ROTC/JROTC annual report, so the ROTC/JROTC Committee Chair will receive it no later than 31 May annually, using MOWW online Form 39, “ROTC/JROTC Program Award Submission.”

The annual ROTC/JROTC report aims to provide feedback on chapter ROTC/JROTC activities and to encourage all chapters to engage actively with local ROTC units, aligning with the Order’s Preamble. A MOWW chapter should support each ROTC unit. Chapters are required to purchase and present the award medals and certificates.

The ROTC/JROTC Committee aims to have 100% of the MOWW Chapters submit an annual report. All chapters need to present an award to all JROTC in their communities and submit the annual report. It helps with analyzing the effectiveness of our program. Therefore, chapter Commanders need to encourage some form of ROTC/JROTC award, monetary, merit, or chapter support to a Unit.

### ANNUAL FORM 39 AWARD SUBMISSIONS

The Chapter Commander is responsible for the annual submission of Form 39 and must approve the annual report.

Prior to submitting Form 39 online, the Chapter’s Commander and ROTC/JROTC Committee Chair should thoroughly review the ROTC/JROTC Committee Guide and MOWW Policy Manual, Appendix J (the ROTC/JROTC Program Report & Awards guidelines).

Additionally, a thorough review of all sections of Form 39 and the required data should be

conducted for the chapter to achieve the highest possible score for an award.

Scoring for annual ROTC/JROTC recognition uses a logarithm scale that balances the chapter’s size (living members) and the number of ROTC/JROTC units supported, which makes chapters more equally competitive.

### FORM 39 DATA INPUT

**Region and Chapter Name and Number:** Click the arrow and find your region and chapter. The Region and chapter leadership is required as each receives a copy of the submitted form.

*The number of ROTC and JROTC Units supported is determined by the number of awards purchased by the chapter; if the ROTC/JROTC Unit purchases the award, the chapter does not get credit for the award.*

**Trip Mileage:** Click on the number of trips for the three distances. The form calculates the trip mileage point total.

**Miscellaneous and Other Activities or Projects, Awards:** Be clear and avoid leaving room for misunderstanding. The Committee will not make assumptions about unclear statements.

### SUBMISSION SCORING

After 31 May, the Committee will enter all chapter submissions into the scoring spreadsheet to calculate the Form 39 Section Summary Totals. The Chapter Strength is obtained from the MOWW National Roster and entered into the Scoring Spreadsheet.

Each chapter’s Final Score is determined thusly: The Chapter Strength is multiplied by Log10, The Section Summary Totals are divided by the Log10 total, determining the Chapter’s Final Score.

Chapter submissions are separated into Six Categories, which are based on the number of ROTC/JROTC Units receiving awards. At the annual National Convention, the top three chapters in each of the six categories are recognized with a MOWW award.

The MOWW Policy Manual, Appendix J, provides in-depth information on the ROTC/JROTC Report and Award Program. Chapter Commanders and committee coordinators can call the ROTC/JROTC Committee Chair for additional information. ★



# American Independence Youth Leadership Conference

# 2025



Join us, the *American Independence Youth Leadership Conference*, for an intense, four-day three-night leadership conference set in the heart of Virginia's Tri-Historic area of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown. Students will be taught to develop their own personal style of leadership as they participate in interactive games, historical tours, and lectures that focus around our three core educational objectives: Leadership, Patriotism, and Free Enterprise.

The conference is led by corporate, government, and military professionals who provide many perspectives on leadership, financial management, and how to become successful in your community. All participants will be housed at the Jamestown 4-H in Williamsburg with vetted chaperones to ensure their safety.

High school students, or equivalent, are invited to apply for this incredible opportunity. Scholarships and sponsorships may be available. Visit our website at [www.AIYLC.org](http://www.AIYLC.org) or use the QR link provided.

## April 24-27, 2025



★MOWW★  
MILITARY ORDER  
OF THE WORLD WARS

**Leadership • Patriotism • Free-Enterprise**

[www.aiylc.org](http://www.aiylc.org)

*These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the York County School Division or this school.*



# CINC Visit to Wreaths Across America

LT COL DAVID J. WORLEY, USAF (RET)  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND CEO, MOWW, INC.

Late in the morning on 5 September 2024, Gayle and I pulled into the National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Headquarters and National Wreaths Across America Museum in Columbia Falls, ME. MOWW recently signed a partnership agreement with WAA last spring. It was an honor to represent MOWW as your newly elected 93rd CINC. Additionally, I was excited to fulfill one of my bucket list items by visiting the location of this remarkable organization. As I was parking, we navigated around nearly twenty vehicles that I later found out were donated explicitly to WAA by Chevrolet, all branded to display custom advertising. Gayle and I knew right then and there that we had arrived at a very special place.

Established in 2007 by Karen and Morrill Worcester, Wreaths Across America has become synonymous with its annual wreath-laying ceremonies each December; however, its mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom is yearlong. WAA has participating locations in over 4,900 communities nationwide, with over three million sponsored wreaths this last year, engaging volunteers in educational initiatives

and sharing veteran stories of service and sacrifice. At Arlington National Cemetery alone, over 32,000 volunteers helped place wreaths at every one of more than 260,000 gravesites.

The signed Memorandum of Understanding between WAA and MOWW emphasizes our commitment to engaging members and volunteers in joint community service activities to raise awareness for our missions.

## *The National Wreaths Across America Museum*

Upon parking and entering the front door of the Wreaths Across America Office and Museum, we were greeted by Amber Caron, the Director of Communications for WAA, who coordinated our visit. I gazed down the museum hallway and was immediately inspired: the museum is an 1,800-square-foot facility showcasing thousands of items donated to the organization over the decades. Displays include personal photos, awards, uniforms, helmets and other military memorabilia. All donations received are displayed as space permits and contribute to telling the broader story of the experiences of US military personnel and their families. The museum is free to the public. I highly



WAA National Office and Museum, Columbia Falls, ME.



(L-R): Karen and Morrill Worcester, CINC Lt Col David J. Worley and Gayle Worley.



encourage our Companions to add it to their bucket list and visit. We couldn't wait to get started.

Our visit included a planned tour of the museum, which was to be escorted by Karen, who also serves as WAA's Executive Director. When we entered the museum, Karen greeted us from down the hallway. She was an incredibly gracious host, guiding us through the museum with enthusiasm and passion for the next five hours. This included a tour of the grounds and a visit to the Worcester Wreath Company farm five miles down the road. Other WAA Board of Directors and staff members joined us off and on to include a wonderful homemade lunch in the museum boardroom: in short, Karen oversees WAA, and Morrill, her husband, oversees the wreath company.

We toured the museum for an hour, had lunch, and then spent another half hour completing the tour. The words "inspired" and "touched" barely capture what we experienced. Karen began the tour by sharing her incredible story about the origins of WAA. It began with a vision from her husband, Morrill, to ensure that a wreath is placed on every headstone in Arlington National Cemetery each December. My wife, Gayle, is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and is currently serving as her chapter's Regent. She had previously heard Karen speak during a DAR webinar in California while COVID restrictions were in place. Gayle was inspired by Karen's passionate support for veterans and how that motivation helped shape WAA into

what it is today. The first-hand stories Karen told further inspired us and unquestionably made the tour extra special. Karen shared the story of how, in 2006, she was encouraged by a MOWW Companion to expand efforts beyond placing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery because "what she was doing was important," and in 2007, WAA was formed. I strongly encourage everyone to visit the WAA website, listen to Worcester's story, and view their stories on YouTube through various WAA videos; I believe you will be inspired as well.

### *MOWW Recognition*

The museum included numerous mementos to Karen and Morrill amongst the displayed items, expressing support and gratitude for their efforts toward honoring our deceased veterans and Gold Star Families. Among various veterans' organizations and other service groups, such as the DAR, four significant presentations by the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) were highlighted:

- At the 2006 MOWW National Convention, Morrill was awarded the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Achievement.
- In December 2006, Morrill received a special recognition plaque from the Region I Commander for "Outstanding Service As A Citizen, Family Man, and Most Notably, a Patriot in Personifying The Ideals of Our Society and the United States of America."
- Also, in December 2006, Morrill was honored with a Certificate of Recognition from the Greater



*Remember, Honor, Teach—displayed above one of thousands of personal photos donated to WAA.*



*One of several displays, this one features the Vietnam War.*

Boston Chapter for his dedication to honoring deceased veterans.

- In December 2023, Karen was presented with a MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Medallion by the Northern Virginia Chapter for Exceptional Patriotism.

These are well-deserved recognition for two individuals who love and believe it is their duty to honor America’s veterans and their families. After lunch, I presented Karen and several members of the Board of Directors, along with staff present, with the MOWW CINC Coin of Excellence for their selfless efforts.

### *Worcester Wreath Company Farm*

We were then transported to the Worcester Wreath Company farm in one of the company vehicles. During the five-mile drive, a strong feeling of patriotism began to develop. Since the tragic events of 9/11, the flying of American Flags in and around Columbia Falls became a daily occurrence, which the citizens believed was their civic duty. There were even signs along the route with the words of the Pledge of Allegiance every few hundred feet. After we drove onto the company farm, the continued feeling of patriotism exuded throughout the tour.

“Worcester Wreath Company is a family-owned balsam farm in a quiet corner of Downeast Maine. For almost 50 years, the Worcester family has cared for thousands of acres of balsam forests and handcrafts the most beautiful fresh wreaths and balsam products to honor and decorate homes around the country each holiday season.” ([www.worcesterwreath.com](http://www.worcesterwreath.com)). We entered the grounds of this expansive farm to primarily see examples of the balsam forest, including the dedicated grove



*The American flag overlooks the farm. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited here Tuesdays at 9:30 am.*

where Remembrance Trees are located. We soon found that there was more to this farm than trees: an elevated American Flag extending hundreds of feet above the ground by a large crane in an area titled “The Circle of Heroes 42 Million Strong,” which included descriptions and statistics of numerous American military conflicts; memorials throughout the farm of military units, military battles, salutes to military women, and military heroes; and recognition of organizations such as DAR that actively support our military. There is even a chapel on the farm. Overall, the entire farm was a tribute to our military, an effort to build unity and pride in America, and a reflection of the Worcester’s love of this great country.

After we entered and drove to the location of the elevated American Flag, we were greeted by Morrill Worcester, who accompanied us for the remainder of the farm tour. From there, we viewed many of the aforementioned locations and saw first-hand the expansiveness of the number of balsam trees grown. We then drove to the Remembrance Trees Grove.

### *Remembrance Trees*

“One walk through the fragrant grounds of Worcester Wreath Co., and you’ll feel something quite different...a sense of peace, of purpose. A drive along the many miles of back roads, you’ll see the dog tags of thousands of veterans who have served glistening in the trees, each set of tags seeking to honor and remember a fallen veteran. When the wind is right, you will hear the gentle chimes of those who sacrificed for our freedom ...” (<https://www.flagpoleviewcabins.com/about>).

“We created the Remembrance Tree Program because we wanted to find a way to recognize



*Each year, WAA conducts a yearly convoy as part of its mission, visiting thousands of veterans’ cemeteries and other locations across all 50 states.*



veterans and their families in a more permanent way,” ... “This endless forest is a truly visual representation of our unwavering commitment to our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach and to recognize our veterans and families this year and for many years to come.” (<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/About/RemembranceTree>). There are a number of grove “sections” dedicated to members of military groups/units/ships, Medal of Honor recipients, Honor Flight Visitors, Gold Star Families, and various veteran service organizations. Several sections were dedicated to service members who served in specific wars and conflicts.

Within the grove is a group of trees specifically dedicated to MOWW, an area that will soon have its specific marker. I hung three replica dog tags to include two deceased WWII heroes, LTC Edwin Ramsey, USA, and Lt Rex Link, USNR, on behalf of our G/A Omar Bradley-COL L. Thaxton Chapter. Tags can be purchased through the WAA website for only \$1. If you cannot visit Columbia Falls to attach the dog tag to the tree yourself, the tag will be placed on the tree for you, along with a photo that will be mailed to you. I strongly encourage all of our Chapters and Companions to participate in this unique program that honors our past and present veterans. Please make sure to indicate on the website’s request form that you would like the dog tag to be placed in the MOWW section.

### *Assembly & Meaning of Each Wreath & Balsam Bouquet*

Each veteran’s wreath contains ten “Balsam Bouquets” harvested from the tips of the trees and constructed in nearby off-site facilities. Every wreath is carefully assembled and finished with



*CINCLt Col David J. Worley places the first of three dog tags on a Remembrance Tree to remember and honor MOWW veterans during a September 2024 visit to WAA.*

a red ribbon. While every wreath is a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY, each of the ten balsam bouquets symbolizes ten special qualities:

1. Their BELIEF in a greater good;
2. Their LOVE for each other;
3. Their STRENGTH, work ethic, & character;
4. Their HONESTY & integrity;
5. Their HUMILITY, selflessness, & modesty;
6. Their AMBITIONS & aspirations;
7. Their OPTIMISM for America;
8. Their CONCERN for the future;
9. Their PRIDE in their duties; and
10. Their HOPES & DREAMS that didn’t always come true, but left them with no regrets.

### *The Lindbergh Crate*

Before we departed the farm, we stopped to visit the Worcester’s recently acquired Lindbergh Crate. The 290-square-foot building is the crate used to bring Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis back to the United States after his historic flight from New York to Paris, France. Built in England in 1927, the crate has had quite a historical 97-year journey, primarily utilized as a centerpiece of numerous educational endeavors. The building was converted into a museum that honors Charles Lindbergh and pays tribute to fallen military heroes. Morrill hopes that school groups will frequently visit the museum. From there, we said our goodbyes, expressed our heartfelt thanks to Morrill, and then headed back to the Wreaths Across America Office and Museum grounds.

### *Gold Star Family History and Hospitality House*

The newly renovated historic home is located next door to the office and museum. The website describes the renovation effort as “an endeavor



*The Lindbergh Crate now functions as a museum and is used for educational purposes.*

that began nearly five years ago as an extension of the Museum. It is open for tours and also serves as a free bed and breakfast where Gold Star Families can gather and share their stories. As part of the renovation effort, WAA dedicated each room to an era of conflict in US military history, offering a step back in time, hands-on experience for visitors and guests staying in the home.”

As Karen began her guided tour, one could see the passion and emotion she felt for our Gold Star Families. “We decided it would make a great house for the many Gold Star families that visit throughout the year. In keeping with our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.” Karen believed that when Gold Star Family members visited Columbia Falls, she should take them under her wing and afford them the honor and hospitality they so justly deserved. “Incredibly Amazing” doesn’t begin to describe the house decorum that reflects a feeling of honor, respect, and gratitude.

“The house has five bedrooms, a parlor, dining room, large living room, eat-in kitchen, sunroom, 2.5 bathrooms, and features a handicap-accessible bedroom with full bath. Stepping back in time in this beautiful home, experiencing the lifestyle of the era, and further learning the personal stories of those who served in that time will be a history lesson to remember. The five-foot-diameter stained glass window is a focal point designed and crafted by Tennessee couple Ralph and Cheryl Campbell. The piece features a wreath encircling an eagle flying over balsam trees.”

The WAA website provides descriptions of each of the four rooms and wings, along with

tributes to fallen heroes from Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Vietnam War. Each room and wing tells a distinct story, evoking a sense of pride and reverence. In addition to the sleeping areas mentioned above, there is also dorm-style bedding on the top floor of the house. The ceiling features two tributes to the American flag, with the lyrics from “God Bless America” and “America the Beautiful” interwoven. Even the kitchen was uniquely designed.

Numerous WAA events are held throughout the year for Gold Star Families, including the placement of replica dog tags for the family’s loved ones on the Remembrance Tree.

### *Concluding Our Visit*

After concluding our overall tour, we returned to the museum to briefly take in the atmosphere one last time. I have been to many military museums throughout the country, and this museum is unquestionably one of the most enjoyable I have visited. It wasn’t just the memorabilia, the awards and recognition, or even the incredible 9/11 tribute display that moved me deeply-- it was the love, the passion, the gratitude, and the dedication that one felt. The museum was personal, not just to Karen and Morrill, but to each member of the Board of Directors and staff we met. The museum represented them as well as each and every individual and organization that donated a piece of their history and lives to the displays. After thanking Karen and everyone who took time out of their day to be with us, we departed with a sense of humbleness and reverence, knowing that the Worcesters and everyone associated with



*The Gold Star Family Hospitality House (L-R): The Gold Star Mother’s Quilt was hand-made and donated by Gold Star Mother Ruth Stonesifer; the 5ft diameter stained glass window designed and crafted by Tennessee couple Ralph and Cheryl Campbell; top floor showing a tribute to the American flag*



WAA loved our nation, cared about veterans, and believed in everything our country stands for. If one visits Wreaths Across America in Columbia Falls, I have no doubts that you will leave feeling the same way...

### *How The Partnership Benefits MOWW*

Thanks to our partnership with this incredible organization, we have an opportunity to honor our deceased veterans interred in cemeteries across the nation in a unique way. Additionally, through WAA, we aim to expand and strengthen our community outreach efforts. Wreath purchases can be grave-specific, in honor of a living veteran, or in memory of one who has passed: through this selfless act of recognition, we truly honor our fellow comrades.

Most Chapters that have established themselves as a Sponsorship Group utilize WAA as a Chapter fundraiser, receiving \$5 back for every sponsored wreath purchased; many choose the 3-for-2 wreath multiplying option instead (See the Nov-Dec 2024 issue of *The Officer Review* to review your options).

While most of our Chapters include wreath sponsorship and placement as part of their overall community outreach program, there are numerous other ways WAA affords us an opportunity to further “Honor Our Veterans Past and Present,” a benchmark of our Order. We have the option to place replica dog tags on a Remembrance Tree located in the dedicated MOWW section of the grove at the Worcester farm. Additionally, you can post the name of a fellow veteran, along with a message, on the Remember Wall page of the WAA website.



*Entrance to the Circle of Heroes. cites US conflicts and how many served in each one.*

Wreaths Across America Radio not only offers patriotic music from various genres but also provides informative content about members of the US Armed Forces, their families, military veterans, and volunteers who support our mission to remember, honor, and teach. Pre-planned interviews on WAA Radio present an excellent opportunity for our Companions to share their stories and for Chapters to promote their activities. Additionally, the WAA website’s resource page titled “Serving Our Veterans,” lists resources for service members, veterans, and their families. Finally, we can further our Patriotic Education footprint within our communities by promoting WAA’s Educational Resources in our local schools and through our YLC/YLS programs.

### *Final Thoughts*

We were profoundly honored that Karen and Morrill Worcester graciously guided us during our visit, making it an unforgettable experience. Their passion and dedication are second to none, and to hear their stories firsthand was indeed priceless. Their selflessness indeed attests that they emulate our motto, “It Is Nobler To Serve Than To Be Served.” Our visit was a further testament that the partnership with WAA is a shining example of how MOWW can partner with outside organizations that share our common values as a Veterans Service Organization and provide expanded opportunities for Chapter growth towards executing our MOWW mission.

We are truly honored to partner with such a remarkable organization that loves our fellow veterans, respects their sacrifices, and values the freedoms we have fought for. ★



*Presented to Morrill Worcester at the Maine Statehouse in 2008, this tribute in the lobby at WAA acknowledges his “love and dedication for all who have served for our freedoms.”*



# Summer Safety Guide 2025

CPT DAN L. CAMERON, JR., USA (FMR)  
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Summer is a time for fun, relaxation, and outdoor activities, but staying safe is essential. This guide covers heat safety, water safety, food preparation, medication management, and emergency contacts to ensure a healthy and enjoyable summer.

## ☀️ *Heat Safety & Sun Protection*

- Stay hydrated by drinking 8-10 glasses of water daily. Avoid sugary and caffeinated drinks.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing to stay cool.
- Take breaks in the shade or air-conditioned areas when outdoors for long periods.
- Apply sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) every two hours and after swimming.
- Recognize heat exhaustion signs: dizziness, nausea, excessive sweating, and fatigue.

### *Emergency Action for Heat Stroke*

- Call 911 immediately if someone is confused, unconscious, or has a high body temperature.
- Move the person to a cool, shaded area and apply ice packs or wet cloths.

## 🏊 *Water Safety*

- Always swim with a buddy, and supervise children at all times.
- Wear a life jacket when boating or swimming in open water.
- Supervise children near water and use life jackets when necessary.
- Follow lifeguard instructions and obey warning signs.
- Avoid swimming in unknown or dangerous waters with strong currents.
- Never dive into shallow or unfamiliar water to prevent injuries.

### *Emergency Action for Drowning*

- Call 911 immediately.
- If trained, perform CPR until emergency responders arrive.
- Use a lifesaving device instead of jumping in unless you are a trained rescuer.

## 🍔 *Safe Food Preparation & Storage*

- Wash hands before and after handling food.
- Keep raw meat separate from other foods to

prevent contamination.

- Cook meats to safe temperatures:
- Chicken: 165°F; Ground meats: 160°F; Steaks, roasts, chops: 145°F (with 3-minute rest); Fish: 145°F

Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours (or 1 hour if above 90°F). Use coolers with ice packs to keep perishable foods cold.

### *Grilling Safety*

- Keep grills 10 feet away from buildings and flammable items.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.
- Use long-handled tools to prevent burns.

## 💊 *Medication & First Aid Essentials*

- Carry essential medications, including:
- EpiPens (for allergies)
- Inhalers (for asthma)
- Pain relievers (ibuprofen, acetaminophen)
- Antihistamines (for allergies)
- Electrolyte tablets (for dehydration)

Store medications in their original containers and check expiration dates.

### *First Aid Kit Checklist*

- Bandages & antiseptic wipes
- Tweezers (for splinters/ticks)
- Sunscreen & aloe vera (for sunburn)
- Ice packs (for heat exhaustion)
- Thermometer & disposable gloves

## ☎️ *Emergency Contacts*

- 911 - Emergency Services
- Poison Control - 1-800-222-1222
- Local Hospital - [Insert Number]
- Primary Care Physician - [Insert Number]
- Family Contact - [Insert Name & Number]

### *Final Safety Tips*

- Stay hydrated and take shade breaks in extreme heat.
- Keep your phone charged and a backup power source when traveling.

By following these safety tips, you can enjoy a fun, healthy, and worry-free summer! ★



# The Lord's Prayer

## THE PURPOSE OF BEING A MOWW COMPANION & MATTHEW: 9-13

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

This past Christmas, I witnessed my daughter feeding her dog, Princess. To my surprise, she taught Princess to pray and give thanks before her daily meals. A funny sight at each meal, this prayer time made me think about the purpose of prayer and the importance of talking with God.

Talking with God is easy using the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a powerful way to encourage a sense of purpose for our MOWW mission. We can use the biblical principles outlined below to emphasize values like honor, service, sacrifice, unity, protection, and provision. These values are both in our former military life and the spiritual teachings of the Bible.

As your MOWW Chaplain, I submit to you the following thoughts, which I hope will inspire you:

1. "Our Father"  
*Embracing Brotherhood and Leadership*
2. "Hallowed be Thy Name"  
*Reverence for Service and Sacrifice*
3. "Thy Kingdom Come"  
*Building a Better Future*
4. "Thy Will Be Done"  
*Surrendering to a Higher Purpose*
5. "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"  
*God's Provision and Responsibility*
6. "Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors"  
*Healing and Reconciliation*
7. "Lead Us Not into Temptation, but Deliver Us from Evil"  
*Protection and Vigilance*
8. "Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is Done in Heaven"  
*Seeking to Serve God.*

*Here are three practical applications that the Military Order of World Wars can implement on Earth:*

**Service Projects:** Encourage Companions and other Veterans to take on community service projects where they can continue to serve others in tangible ways. Engaging in activities such as mentoring JROTC/ROTC cadets and at-risk youth,

volunteering at food banks, or providing support to veterans in need can be immensely rewarding.

**Mentorship Programs:**

Continue our mentorship initiatives where experienced veterans can guide younger generations, offering wisdom and counsel on leadership, resilience, and service. An excellent opportunity awaits for new senior NCOs to assist with or take the lead.

**Faith-Based Support within your place of worship:**

Foster a faith-based approach to healing and reconciliation, offering Bible studies, prayer groups, or

counseling for veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress or moral injury.

In conclusion, by drawing from biblical themes of provision, service, unity, forgiveness, and protection, we can encourage our chapters to persist in their mission of service.

Companions have already demonstrated extraordinary courage and commitment to our nation. With a foundation rooted in faith, our service does not end with retirement or after our military careers. We can continue serving as leaders, mentors, and protectors in our communities, inspired by the higher calling reflected in the Old Testament and New Testament teachings of the Lord's Prayer. ★

*God bless America, and God bless the MOWW.*



Albrecht Dürer: Study of an Apostle's Hands



Conejo Valley Chapter, CA

## Conejo Valley Chapter Welcomes 12 New Companions at Annual Christmas Party

BY BRIG GEN DANIEL H. PEMBERTON, USAF (RET)

In the calendar year 2024, the Conejo Valley Chapter recruited 12 new Companions. Recognizing the recent change in eligibility to include the top three enlisted grades and knowing that over 77% of our existing members are veterans, the chapter joyfully welcomed a dozen new members. We deeply appreciate the diverse experiences and dedication they bring, and we look forward to supporting the Order. At our annual Christmas Party, 11 of the 12 new Companions were inducted by the CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret).

*(L to R): Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret); CAPT Victor Pesce, USN (Ret); Lt Col Robert Bradshaw, USAF (Ret); CMSgt Alan Williams, USAF (Ret); Col Barry Harper, USAF (Ret); Mrs. Mary Knotts; Col William Marshall, USAF (Ret); CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret); Mrs. Rose Pemberton; CAPT Steve Huber, USN (Ret); CCM Michael Koslow, USAF (Ret); Col John Ramos, USAF (Ret); MSgt Andy Romanisky, USAF (Ret), and COL Jerry Knotts, USAF (Ret).*

Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

## NCC CEO Aleta Jeffress on Cybersecurity Initiatives

BY COL KERM NEAL, USAF (RET)

The Colorado Springs Chapter welcomed Ms. Aleta Jeffress, CEO of the National Cybersecurity Center (NCC), as our guest speaker in January 2025. She provided an excellent presentation on NCC's mission and its significant impact on both our community and the nation. Located in Colorado Springs, the NCC offers training and specialized expertise to state and local governments, businesses, and corporations to secure their information technology networks and infrastructure. It also fosters collaboration in the cybersecurity sector across Colorado and the United States. Ms. Jeffress, a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), has considerable experience in securing the Defense Financial Accounting System, which supports millions of Department of Defense employees. We thank her for her dedicated service and insightful presentation on cybersecurity.

*Chapter Commander Col Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret), presented a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Aleta Jeffress, CEO of the National Cybersecurity Center.*





Puget Sound Chapter, WA & Houston Chapter, TX

## LTC Cheryl Brady, USA (Ret), Honored with Congressional Veteran Commendation

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

Companion LTC Cheryl Brady, USA (Ret), the Order's former national Chaplain, pictured with a US flag flown over the Capitol in her honor by the Honorable Pete Sessions, US Senator. He recognized LTC Brady with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. LTC Brady's military awards and decorations during her distinguished 28-year career include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Army Superior Unit Award and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Additionally, she has demonstrated remarkable dedication as a volunteer in Nacogdoches, TX.



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

## Christmas Gala: Honors and Recognitions

BY VCINC COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

The Chapter conducted its annual Christmas Gala on 7 December 2024. The event was well-attended by numerous Companions, spouses, and distinguished guests. Notable attendees included the guest speaker, CINC Lt Col. David Worley, USAF (Ret), and SVCINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret). The evening's program featured the induction of new members and recognition of outstanding individuals. PCINC BG Victor Perez received the Gold Patrick Henry Medal, presented by the CINC. Additionally, Lt Col Ruiz inducted ISG Abel Ortolaza, USA, as a new Companion.

*(L-R): PCINC BG Perez, Mrs. Paquita Nevis, CINC Lt Col Worley, SVCINC Lt Col Ruiz, and Chapter Commander COL Ariel Jusino, PRARNG (Ret).*



MG Miles Chapter, NM

## New Mexico Girl Scouts Achieve Prestigious Gold Award in 2024

BY LTC GREGG C. GIESLER, USA (RET)

In December, the Chapter presented MOWW Girl Scout Gold Award Certificates of Recognition at the annual Highest Awards Ceremony & Celebration. Three Girl Scouts from the New Mexico Trails Council earned this prestigious award in 2024. The Gold Award is the highest achievement among Girl Scouts of the USA, awarded to Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Notably, only 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts achieve the Gold Award.

*(L-R): Emma Brundage, Jenna de la Rosa-Galey and Naya Stamets.*



## ARTICLES BY CENTER STAFF

(Note: PTSDpubs is the new name for the PILOTS database.)



To bring the most current research on PTSD to health care professionals, staff at the National Center for PTSD publish many articles and chapters. To access citations for these documents online, you can search the PTSDpubs Database, the largest electronic index to the worldwide literature on PTSD and trauma in the world (formerly called PILOTS).

In PTSDpubs, the abstracts of thousands of publications on trauma are available with links to the full text (by subscription). In addition, articles by National Center for PTSD staff, which are in the public domain, are made accessible to you as PDF files so that you can easily download them.

Search the PTSDpubs Database Link will take you outside the VA website. To find full text articles by entering the name of any National Center for PTSD author as your search term.

**Accessibility:** We are working to fully implement Section 508 to make all of our documents, web pages and videos accessible to people with disabilities. If you find an something on the website that you would like to view that is not yet accessible, please contact [ncptsd@va.gov](mailto:ncptsd@va.gov) and we will provide you with a 508 accessible copy.

See [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/staff\\_articles.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/staff_articles.asp)

## VA DECLARES HIRING-FREEZE: FULL MEMO



Following successful implementation of President Trump's federal hiring freeze, the Department of Veterans Affairs, announced several exemptions to the policy. These exemptions clarify the department's ability to continue filling essential positions that provide health care and other vital services to veterans and VA beneficiaries.

Although Trump's January 20 Executive Order states it shall not adversely impact veterans' benefits and does not apply to positions related to public safety, VA worked with the White House and Office of Personnel Management to develop

this updated guidance. "Under President Trump's leadership, VA will always do what is necessary to provide America's veterans with the benefits and services they have earned." The targeted hiring-freeze exemptions announced today underscore that fact," said VA Director of Media Affairs Morgan Ackley.

View the memo: [https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/12678309\\_memo-hiring-freeze-guidance-signed.pdf](https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/12678309_memo-hiring-freeze-guidance-signed.pdf)

## CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

If there is a glitch on the VA website please use the appropriate phone numbers below:

### MAIN INFORMATION LINE

MyVA411  
800-698-2411  
Hours: 24/7

If you need an interpreter: Call 800-698-2411 and select 0. We'll connect you with a VA call center agent. Tell the agent that you want a language interpreter to join the call.

Telecommunications Relay Services (using TTY)  
711  
Hours: 24/7

VA Benefits Hotline  
800-827-1000  
Hours: Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

GI Bill Hotline  
888-442-4551  
Hours: Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans  
877-424-3838  
Hours: 24/7

Va Health Benefits Hotline  
877-222-8387  
Hours: Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My HealtheVet (help desk)  
877-327-0022  
Hours: Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET





# Reveille

**RANK/NAME (SERVICE)**

**NEW MEMBER**

*Sponsor*

*\*Denotes PM/HPM \*\*Denotes RM/HRM*

*NOTE: Primary Memberships Only*

**DATA FROM 1 DEC 2024–31 JAN 2025**

**AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA**

CSM R. E. PRICE, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Maryetta M. Beck, USA (Ret)*

**CAPT DILWORTH CHAPTER TX**

LTC JOHN F. YEARWOOD, USA (RET)\*\*

*LTC Donald E. Willhouse, USA (Ret)*

**CHICAGO CHAPTER IL**

LTCOL DOUGLAS A. COLUMBUS, USMC\*

*1LT Brian R. Burch, USA (Fmr)*

**COL ROOSEVELT CHAPTER NY**

SCPO PHURRIOTT E. HENRY, USN (RET)\*\*

*Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC*

CPT MARK O'ROURKE, USA (FMR)\*\*

*Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC*

**COL WOOLSEY CHAPTER CA**

MAJ LEON CARROLL, JR., USMC\*\*

*BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)*

**CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER CA**

COL J. BARRY HARPER, USAF (RET)\*\*

*Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret)*

CAPT VICTOR L. PESCE, USN (RET)\*\*

*Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret)*

**DALLAS CHAPTER TX**

MRS VICKI V. HOWLAND\*\*

*Mrs. Alicia N. Formagus*

LTC CARL D. WILEY, USA (RET)\*\*

*CW3 Ramon E. Ramos, USA (Fmr)*

**FORT HOOD CHAPTER TX**

CSM GUY R. NILES, USA (RET)\*\*

*CPT Richard A. Briggs, Jr., USA (Ret)*

SGM FRANKLIN A. ZEPP, USA (RET)\*\*

*CPT Richard A. Briggs, Jr., USA (Ret)*

**FORT WORTH CHAPTER TX**

CPT ERIC C. BALES, TXARNG\*\*

*BG John M. Wallace, USA*

**GA BRADLEY-COL HANSON CHAPTER CA**

COL TREVOR E. KLEINEAHLBRANDT, USMC (RET)\*\*

*Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)*

**GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER MD**

MAJ GORDON J. JOHNSON, JR., USAF (RET)\*\*

*Maj James H. Shiffrin, USAF (Ret)*

CDR JEFF C. KUHNREICH, USN (RET)\*

*Lt Col Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret)*

SFC EDWIN RAMOS, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, USA (Ret)*

SMSGT SCOTT SCHLESINGER, USAF (RET)\*\*

*Lt Col Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret)*

CPT LISA L. STEPTOE, USA (RET)\*\*

*Lt Col Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret)*

CPT RONALD J. STEPTOE, USA (RET)\*\*

*Lt Col Sheldon A. Goldberg, USAF (Ret)*

**GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER MA**

LTC MOLLY K. ALESCH, MAARNG\*\*

*MAJ Paul J. Cancelliere, USA (Ret)*

**HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER TX**

LTC DALE E. KLEIN, USA (RET)\*\*

*RDML Stephanie T. Keck, USN (Ret)*

**MAJGEN PENDLETON CHAPTER CA**

LTC JAMES K. HITT, USA (RET)\*

*Capt Theodore G. Vallas, USAF (Fmr)*

GYSGT RICHARD J. JENNINGS, USMC\*\*

*Capt Theodore G. Vallas, USAF (Fmr)*

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER VA**

MSG ELIZABETH A. HELM-FRAZIER, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)*

LTC DAVID L. PETERS, ALARNG\*

*COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)*

MAJ TOBIN SEVEN, USA (RET)\*\*

*Ms. Roberta L. Yourtee*

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PA**

SFC BOBBY MOODY, SR., USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)*

**PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR**

CSM RAFAEL A. DE LEON, USA (RET)\*\*

*BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret)*

COL PASCUAL MARRERO, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Ariel O. Jusino-Cordova, PRARNG (Ret)*

**SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CA**

AMN CHARLES A. CLARK, USAF (FMR)\*\*

*CDR George T. Parsons, USN (Ret)*

**SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER FL**

RADM SEAN F. CREAN, USN (RET)\*\*

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

LT COL ALICIA G. ROSSITER, USAF (RET)\*\*

*COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)*

**VIRGINIA PIEDMONT CHAPTER VA**

CMSGT SEAN H. NELMS, USAF (RET)\*\*

*MAJ Elizabeth A. Jarrett, USA (Ret)*





# Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

*\*Denotes PM/HPM \*\*Denotes RM/HRM  
NOTE: Primary Memberships Only*

**DATA FROM 1 DEC 2024–31 JAN 2025**

**AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA**

COL ROBERT L. BISHOP, USA (RET)\*  
SFC MARLON G. BUFF, USA (RET)\*  
COL EDWARD I. WEXLER, USAF ANG\*

**AUSTIN CHAPTER TX**

COL W. CAVETT BROWN, USA (RET)\*

**BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)**

BG ARNOLD ALBERT, USAR\*  
CDR LAWRENCE J. FETNER II, USN (RET)\*  
COL RAYMOND E. KETCHUM, USA\*  
LT SHIRLEY C. KRUSE, USAF (FMR)\*  
RADM J. ROBERT LUNNEY, USN (RET)\*  
LT VIRGINIA D. SMITH III, USN (RET)\*  
DR. GEORGE J. THOMPSON\*

**BG HOLLAND CHAPTER CA**

MS. EILEEN C. BAUM\*

**CHICAGO CHAPTER IL**

COL FRANCIS J. JENNIK, USA (RET)\*  
CPT ROBERT C. PREBLE, JR., USA\*

**CLEARWATER CHAPTER FL**

COL MARLIN C. LANG, USA (RET)\*

**COL WOODS-OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER OK**

BG HARRY W. BARNES, USA (RET)\*  
COL RAY W. STANDIFER, USA NG\*

**COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER CO**

COL PHILIP L. MADDEN, USAF (RET)\*

**COLUMBIA CHAPTER SC**

LT GEN E. G. SHULER, JR., USAF (RET)\*

**CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER CA**

LT COL WOLF D. ASCHER, USAF (RET)\*  
LTG HERBERT R. TEMPLE, JR., USA (RET)\*

**CPT GREVEMBERG CHAPTER LA**

MS. RITA A. GRANT\*

**DALLAS CHAPTER TX**

COL REYNALDO A. RODRIGUEZ, USAF (RET)\*

**DELAWARE CHAPTER DE**

LTC RICHARD W. CHAPPELL, USA (RET)\*

**DENVER CHAPTER CO**

BRIG GEN JAMES L. COLWELL, USAF (RET)\*

**GA BRADLEY-COL HANSON CHAPTER CA**

MAJ CHARLES M. PHILL II, USAF (RET)\*

**GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER MD**

LTC RICHARD E. DARCY, USA (RET)\*  
LTC RICHARD J. KNAUER, JR., USA\*

**GRANITE STATE CHAPTER NH**

MS. VIRGINIA R. CORSELLO\*

**GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER MA**

COL DONALD L. BABBIN, USA (RET)\*

**GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER MO**

LCDR JOE L. DWIGANS, USN (RET)\*  
COL GEORGE G. LONG, USMC (RET)\*  
COL IRWIN WAXMAN, USAFR\*

**LTC SHEHAB CHAPTER NJ**

CPT ROBERT W. HASBROUCK, JR., USA (FMR)\*

**LTG WRIGHT CHAPTER CA**

CPT CONSUELO T. EVANS, USA (FMR)\*  
LT COL RICHARD B. FOWLER, USAF (RET)\*

**MG MILES CHAPTER NM**

MS. BARBARA J. WILSON\*

**NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER FL**

CAPT RICHARD A. STRATTON, USN\*

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PA**

COL CATHERINE E. SCICCHITANO, USA (RET)\*  
CPT MACK SMITH, USA (RET)\*\*

**PHOENIX CHAPTER AZ**

COL ROY E. COULSON, USA (RET)\*  
LTC CRAIG C. CUMMINS, USA (RET)\*

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER MD**

COL WILLIAM A. VOGEL, USAF (RET)\*

**PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR**

COL ELLIOTT GOYTIA-CALDERON, USA (RET)\*

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER CA**

CAPT BERNARD F. BAYUK, USAF (FMR)\*

**SPACE COAST-INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER FL**

COL ROBERT A. BROOKS, USAF (RET)\*  
COL PAUL A. ILL, USA (RET)\*  
COL HENRY C. NEWELL, USA (RET)\*

**SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER FL**

CDR WILLARD F. BURGESS, JR., USN (RET)\*  
LT COL WALTER C. GRACE, USAF (RET)\*

**VIRGINIA PIEDMONT CHAPTER VA**

CPT SCOTT D. MYERS, USA (FMR)\*\*  
CAPT ROBERT H. BOWDEN, USN (RET)\*\*





“IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED”

**OFFICER  
REVIEW®**  
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

★ MONTH OF THE ★  
**MILITARY CHILD**

APRIL

**APRIL 15 IS PURPLE UP! DAY**

Every April, all month long, we celebrate the courage, perseverance and tenacity demonstrated by our military-connected children, youth and teens and what they mean to our community.

Purple is the official color of the military child. It's a combination of all the colors of the US Armed Forces: Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard blues, Army green, and Marine Corps red. Programs and activities that are similar across all branches of service are called “purple.”

**WEAR PURPLE ON PURPLE UP! DAY • APRIL 15 2025**

**Wearing purple is a visible way for everyone to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices.**

Your community may select an alternative date in April to celebrate Purple Up! Day. To find out the specific date and events in your area, please consult your local listings or community announcements for the most accurate information.

For resources visit <https://militarychild.org/>