



THE  
**OFFICER REVIEW**

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## Continuing a Life of Service

*The call to continue a life of service unites us, giving us purpose beyond ourselves to serve Youth, Community and Nation in fortifying “A Stronger America.” We all share a collective aspiration to contribute positively to our nation, for which we have sacrificed in the past and will continue to do so in the future, “So help us God.”*

*We have done so much, yet there is much more we need to do. Our dedication to service provides the strength and energy our Order requires. We will partner with organizations that share our values within our communities. We will promote ourselves as a Veterans Support Organization (VSO), which every veteran will join to make our country more prosperous in the best interest of all citizens of this great nation.*

*Our vision, “A Strong America, dedicated to preserving and advancing America’s Ideals and Founding Principles,” set our path of voluntarism, focused on executing high-impact outreach programs. In partnership, we serve to inculcate and instill patriotism, good citizenship, leadership, and service to our country in our most valuable asset—our youth. Contributing to the success of our society by guiding and supporting young men and women is incredibly fulfilling.*

*As we paid tribute this past November 11th Veterans Day, we took the opportunity to “THANK” in capital letters, shouted out loud and all together, every Companion, every veteran, and every serving member of our Armed Forces and their family for their service. Thank you for your continuous dedication and for giving the best of you in the unselfish benefit of our country. Undoubtedly, our nation is safer, living in peace, liberty, and justice because of your service at home and abroad.*

*I hope you had a merry Christmas with your family, loved ones, and friends. May this new year, 2024, bring you joy, health, and energy to continue serving.*

*It is truly “Nobler to Serve than to be Served!”*

Sincerely,

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

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War trophy cannons from the Mexican-American War at Trophy Point, West Point, NY  
Photo by Ahodges7, wikipedia.com



# Counting Cannon

BG RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., PhD, USA (RET)

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER, VA

Located at the prominent location of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, Trophy Point is a vast array of cannon, mostly dismounted gun tubes. As an informative walk through American military history, there are weapons from countries the United States has fought over the ages that have been put on display to tell that story. The ordnance draws many visitors to the site as it overlooks a fabulous scene of nature, the majestic Hudson River, and draws their attention to an important aspect of American combat.

One of the frequent visitors in the early sixties was a boy named William (Bill) Grisoli from the New York City borough of Queens. He was not there alone but came with a grandmother and an uncle. His grandmother enjoyed the idyllic scenery while reading the New York Times. But the uncle was on

a different mission, and Bill was an essential part of it. Bill was not particularly interested in the guns spread out around Trophy Point. But his uncle was.

Bill's uncle had served in the artillery during World War II and landed on Utah Beach during the battle for Normandy in France, but he was more than a veteran cannoneer. He was an enthusiastic student of artillery pieces, and in his post-war civilian office, he had assembled a unique collection of gun models he had constructed over the years. So, it was the cannon that drew him to West Point.

With a young Bill tagging along, his uncle examined with a critical eye the array of cannon grouped according to the conflict the weapons were employed in. He recorded data from the gun tubes in an effort to trace them back to the armories of their origin. Bill's mission was to read



**Trophy Point is a scenic overlook of the Hudson River Valley located at West Point, New York.**





the embedded serial numbers on the cannon as his uncle wrote them down. But Bill was beginning to look elsewhere. From time to time, he wondered what went on at this military school besides having an outdoor museum featuring the various displayed cannon.

His uncle took notice and suggested that Bill might consider attending West Point as a cadet in the future. The repeated visits to the academy and his uncle's pursuit of learning all he could about the cannon on Trophy Point continued to make an impression on Bill.

At the same time, his father, who had been wounded as a tank platoon leader in Korea, was having an impact on Bill's future. A Notre Dame football fan but a respecter of Army's team performances, he also held the West Point college education in high regard. As Bill's teenage years passed, after learning about the education combined with knowledge of future military service, he decided that maybe West Point had a place for him.

Not coming from a military family but one with honorable military service, Bill was not quite sure what he was getting into when he took the preliminary steps toward applying for admission to the academy. But as the process continued, he began to see a possible future not only in the military but in the engineering field. His research revealed the significant role West Point played in American engineering history and this further piqued his interest.

Bill also had a big interest in sports. He did not miss the ambiance projected by the Army football team, almost as a counterpoint to his father's Notre Dame following. He was to become a big fan over the years and followed the team's record with great interest. He tracked the team's performance wherever he was stationed in such places as Korea, Washington State, the District of Columbia, or upstate New York. In recent years, he deftly analyzed what made the Army team a success or what needed to be improved. But that is getting ahead of the story.



*Mexican War Trophies, Trophy Point at West Point. Photographer: Bill Coughlin, [www.HMdb.org](http://www.HMdb.org)*





*The Director of Army Staff, LTG William T. Grisoli gives a thumbs-up before driving full-speed ahead in a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at the Automotive Technology Evaluation Facility test track on 22 April 2015, at the US Army Test and Evaluation Command's Aberdeen Test Center, MD. US Army Photo.*

Bill's congressman did not name Bill as his principal appointee to the Academy. Still, his total admission score, which included his high school academic record, test scores, athletic ability, physical health status, and various recommendations, placed him on a list of fully qualified candidates. From this list, in 1972, he was named an additional appointee, and he entered the United States Military Academy Class of 1976 with over one thousand other young men.



*West Point Cadet William T. Grisoli. Source: Meta*

After a successful four years as a cadet, Bill commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. One might have expected that with the influence of his "counting cannon" uncle, he might have chosen the artillery branch, but that was not to be. For him and the country, his branch assignment became an excellent fit.

Over the years, he had a distinguished career, being promoted frequently due to stellar performance in command and staff positions.

His efforts won him many decorations and key assignments in the Army Corps of Engineers and at the highest levels of the Department of Army. Not only did he play an essential part in the field as a combat engineer unit leader, but he did so as an operations staff officer in the Pentagon.

Bill retired from active service in 2015 as a lieutenant general and Director of the Army Staff. He then returned, as an adjunct professor, to his alma mater to teach cadets engineering subjects and enjoy the outdoors in nearby Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York.

Today, however, as often as he treads the grounds at the Military Academy, it does not include counting cannon and transcribing their serial numbers for his uncle at Trophy Point. Instead, his primary interest in artillery pieces is when he counts the number of rounds they are fired every time the Army football team scores points. Which, he hopes, occurs frequently at Army West Point's football games. ★



*Army West Point's Black Knights team logo, USMA*



# The Israel Defense Forces

COL JAMES T. ROBERTS, SR., USA (RET)

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER, VA



Israel Defense Forces  
Emblem

The 26th of May 1948 was a special day for the fighters belonging to the Haganah, Lehi, and the Irgun. It was the day that these partisan groups released their members to join the newly created Israel Defense Force (IDF). The IDF comprises three branches: the Ground Force, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Today, the IDF numbers over 200,000 active personnel with about 500,000 reservists. Israel enforces national conscription for both male and female citizens (there are religious and ethnic exemptions). Service can be in the military or national support needs (basic military training is required prior to most civilian service assignments). Men serving in the army must serve for 32 months, while women serve 24 months of active duty. After active duty, they are required to undergo one month of active reserve training every year until they are released into the inactive reserve at the age of 40 for enlisted soldiers and 45 for officers. However, reserve active-duty for training is based on national budget limitations. Those over those ages can request continued active reserve status with the approval of the IDF Manpower Directorate. All reservists can be recalled for active duty during times of war. Most reservists stay with their units for the entire period of active service.

**Non-IDF Service:** The combat option is to volunteer for the Israel Border Police (IBP). Recruits go through the IDF basic combat training, counter-terrorism training, and Border Police training. Units are capable of fighting in combat, although they have lower capabilities than IDF units. IDF Military Police units are tasked to support the IBP during high levels of unrest.

Non-combat options are service in the Israeli Police, the Israel Prison Service, or other positions in the Israeli Security Force structure.

**IDF Special Operations Units:** Each service has specialized units that carry out strategic missions of national importance.

The General Staff Reconnaissance Unit 269 (Sayeret Matkal) is based on the concepts of the British Special Air Service and the US Army Delta Force. Its mission is to identify high-level intelligence of strategic value and be prepared to execute successful hostage rescue in foreign countries.

Flotilla 13 (Shayetet 13) is equivalent to the US Navy SEAL Teams and the British Special Boat Service concepts. Its focus is on maritime hostage rescue and other maritime-related special operations.

Unit 5101 (Shaldag) mirrors the US Air Force tactical air control unit concept. It performs forward air control, reconnaissance behind enemy lines, and target designation outside of Israeli territorial borders.

**Israeli Ground Force:** The ground forces comprise approximately 126,000 active and over 400,000 reservists. The mission is to “defend the existence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of the State of Israel, to protect the inhabitants of Israel, and to combat all forms of terrorism which may threaten the daily life.” The mission is based on the reality that Israel may cease to exist if defeated on the battlefield.

Depending on the dates of various reorganizations, the IGF has 13-19 infantry brigades of all types, 9-13 armor brigades, and eight artillery brigades. Each combat support branch or corps has its own brigade/regiment/battalion structure. Using one recent reorganization, a breakout between active (A) and reserve (R) brigades shows the dependency on the reserve force: infantry A-4, R-9; infantry paratrooper A-1, R-4; infantry special forces A-1, R-0; armor A-3, R-9; artillery regiments A-4, R-4.

The 89th Brigade is a commando brigade within the IGF consisting of three units: 212, 217, and 621.



Unit 212 focuses on behind enemy lines. Unit 217 conducts undercover operations to kill or capture designated individuals. Unit 621 is involved in counter-guerilla operations.

Societal integration is reflected in the IGF. Over 88% of occupational specialties, including combat specialties, are open to women. The Paran Brigade has three combat infantry battalions composed of men and women. The original battalion, the 33rd “Caracal,” is assigned to patrol the Egyptian-Israeli border. Early in the morning on 7 October 2023, the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Or Ben Yehuda, received a call that the nearby Suda military post was under attack. She



*LTC Or Ben Yehuda, commander of the Caracal Battalion, whose troops successfully eliminated approximately 100 Hamas terrorists—ultimately saving countless lives.*

immediately activated a rescue force of 12 female headquarters soldiers, mounted them on M-113 armored personnel carriers, and moved to the Suda post. Upon arrival, her small force engaged approximately 50 Hamas terrorists in and around the post.

Using individual and crew-served weapons, the group pinned down or killed the enemy for the next four hours. LTC Yehuda, moving between positions, confronted and killed one terrorist (She had previously received a commendation for the same action while wounded during an ambush in 2014). During the fourth hour, elements of Shayetet 13 arrived to reinforce the Caracal soldiers. After ten more hours, the combined force was able to seize the military post and release more than 50 IDF soldiers held hostage. The final body count was over 100 Hamas killed during the 14 hours of battle.

In the past, the IGF created independent units for Negev Bedouins, Druze, Circassians, and Israeli Arabs. These units have been deactivated and service throughout the ground force is encouraged. Research noted that 83 percent of Druze young men serve in the IGF.

**Israeli Navy:** The Israeli Navy has approximately 9-10,000 active duty and another 10,000 personnel in the Naval Reserve. A shallow water Navy, its mission is to maintain access control and interdiction activities in its territorial waters from the Egyptian to the Lebanese borders and in the Gulf of Aqaba. The submarine is believed to have a nuclear second-strike capability as a secondary mission. One source indicates its combat power is in seven corvettes, eight missile patrol boats, 45 patrol boats, six submarines, and two support ships it maintains at its four naval bases (NB). Distribution of forces includes Haifa NB - the missile boat flotilla, Patrol Boat Squadron 914, and the submarine flotilla; Atlit NB - Shayetet 13, the Navy’s commando unit; Ashad-Patrol Boat Squadron 916; and at Eilat NB-Patrol Boat Squadron 915. The latter NB, located across from the Jordanian town of Aqaba, is responsible for maintaining sea control and interdiction of smuggling and other threats.

Air assets include UAV Squadron 193 and designated helicopter support from Israeli Air Force assets. There is also an unmanned



helicopter assigned to each of the 3 Sa'ar 5 missile corvettes.

Haifa is also home to the Naval Training Base. Academic elements are the submarine and missile boat operations schools and the Israeli Naval Academy.

October Naval operations have successfully thwarted Hamas' utilization of the Mediterranean Sea as an infiltration route into Israel. The commando unit successfully identified and destroyed Hamas tunnels used for coastal raids. The patrol boat squadrons have stopped Hamas small boat operations.

**Israeli Air Force:** The Air Force has approximately 35,000 active duty and 55-60,000 reserve and civilian contract personnel to maintain and operate a fleet of about 700 aircraft. Its mission has nine tasks, the first of which is to protect the State of Israel and IDF zones of operations. Another is to be able to strike targets deep in enemy territory. It has the capability to operate throughout the Middle East and Africa. In that capacity, the IAF destroyed a Syrian nuclear weapons site in 2007; IAF flew 12,000 sorties in the 2006 Lebanon War; 2,360 air strikes in December 2008 to take out Hamas targets, and destroyed arms shipments in Sudan in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Joint ground-air strikes targeted 1,500 Hamas sites in 2012, 4,762 Hamas sites in 2014, and 1,500 Hamas sites in 2021. Numerous air strikes were launched during the Syrian Civil War between 2014 and the present.

The Office of the Air Force Chief of Staff maintains control over a fixed-wing group, a helicopter group, an intelligence group, equipment group, medical assets, unit control group, air force special forces group, Air Defense Command (composed of 3 air defense regiments) and 4 air wings. There are ten air bases: Ramat David (4 squadrons), Sdot Micha (3 squadrons), Hatzor (1 squadron), Hatzetim (3 squadrons, aerobatic team, and Air Force infantry school), Tel Nof (4 squadrons, 1 flight test center squadron, and 1 electronic warfare unit), Ovda (1 squadron, aviation professions school, and IAF officer school), Haifa (technical professions school and IAF technological school), Ramon (5 squadrons), Nevatim (7 squadrons), and Palmachim (5 squadrons and 1 UAV squadron).

Aircraft are modern and up-to-date with latest technology. Airframe designation and number in inventory are: F-15A/C (84) multirole; F-15I (25) strike fighter; F-16C/I (175) multirole; F-35I (75 est) stealth multirole; Boeing 707 (2) AEW&C; Gulfstream G-550 (2) AEW&C; Super King Air (18) SIGINT/ELINT; Gulfstream G-550 (2) SIGINT/surveillance; Boeing 707 (7) aerial refueling; KC-46 (4 est) aerial refueling/transport; KC-130 (4) aerial refueling/transport; Super King Air (4) utility transport; C-130E/H (6) transport; C-130J-30 (7) tactical airlift; Bell 206 (4) utility; AH-64A/D (48) attack; UH-60A/L (48) utility; SH-60F (8 est) ASW; CH-53 (22) heavy lift; and Eurocopter AS565 (5) search and rescue (operated for the Navy). There are 151 fixed wing trainers. The IAF lists 5 unmanned aerial vehicle types without indicating how many are in stock.

Since 7 October, the IAF has continued around-the-clock softening of Hamas targets. As of week three, there has been no publicly reported losses to HAMAS counterfire.

Over 360,000 IDF reservists have reported to their units and deployed to their tactical positions. In the South, near the 252nd (Sinai Armor") Division positions, the Urban Warfare School has been rotating units through refresher training on village and tunnel clearance procedures.

In an internationally televised presentation on 28 October, the Prime Minister and his War Cabinet indicated that the softening-up phase (Phase I) had ended and Phase 2 had begun. Each member of the War Cabinet stated support for the counterattack and indicated that the operation would continue until the Hamas threat was terminated. The survival of their nation is at stake.

Note: Numbers and unit designations are subject to change based on what is published.

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

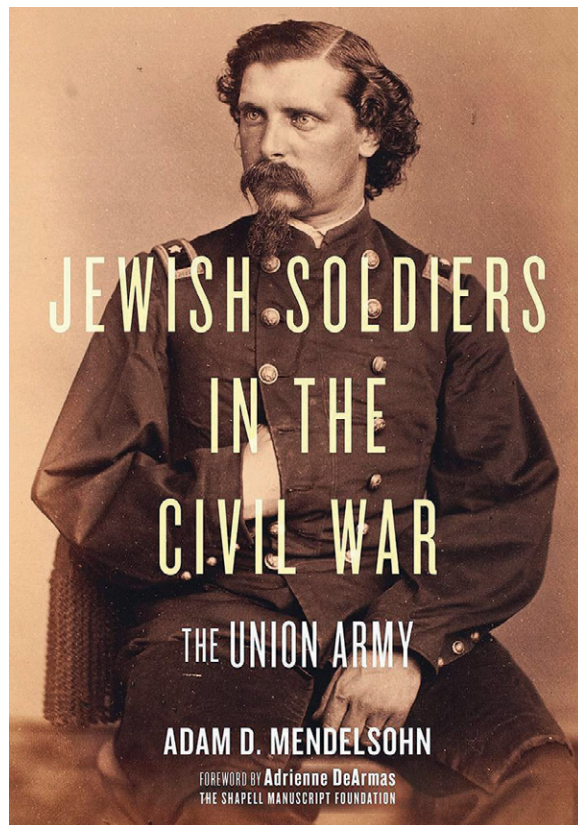
*DISCLAIMER: Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Military Order of the World Wars.*

# ‘Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army’ by Adam D. Mendelsohn

LT COL SHELDON A. GOLDBERG, PhD, USAF (RET)  
GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER, MD

In 1895, Simon Wolf, a well-known Jewish attorney and personal friend of several US presidents, published *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen* to counter the rise of antisemitism that existed in the United States in the late nineteenth century. This antisemitism stemmed, in many cases, from various claims and written articles that Jews did not fight in the Civil War, such as one written by J.M. Rogers in the *North American Review* claiming that in the “eighteen months before being permanently disabled in action, and was quite familiar with several regiments; was then transferred to two different recruiting stations; but I cannot recall meeting one Jew in uniform or hearing of any Jewish soldier.” He claimed further that after the war, “...for twenty-five years I was constantly engaged in traveling, always among old soldiers, but never found any who remembered serving with Jews.”

Wolf’s book was an attempt to prove the opposite and he planned to publish a “Roll of Honor” of Jewish participation in American wars. After four years, however, he felt his data was incomplete and he began to advertise for information about Jewish veterans through newspaper appeals and by obtaining access to official War Department records. Thus, in 1895, *The American Jew* was



*Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army*, by Adam D. Mendelsohn, New York University Press, 2022

published, initially listing Jewish soldiers in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War with brief biographies of each. The central portion of the book, however, contains listings of Jewish soldiers in both armies by state, rank, company and regiment, of Medal of Honor recipients, staff officers in both armies and the Confederate Navy, and finally, Jewish patriotism in civil life, in Latin and South America, Europe, and concludes with a brief discussion of Russian crimes against Jews and Russian Jewish refugees in America.

The problem with Wolf’s book, however, despite his research, is that it is replete with errors. Many of those he listed were the

result of having Jewish-sounding names. Three of the seven Medal of Honor recipients listed were not Jewish, and many Jews were left off the lists either because their names did not sound Jewish or no information was found about them. To correct this issue, the Shapell Manuscript Foundation uses Wolf’s book as a starting point, and after ten years of research, it has begun to correctly identify every Jew who served in the Union Army. The Shapell Foundation engaged author Adam D. Mendelsohn to put the fruits of their research into book form. *Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army* is, in fact, an unfinished work. Shapell researchers continue to seek out and identify Jews





Above: Author Adam Mendelsohn during an interview held at The Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies in Maryland.

Left: A photo of Isidore Isaacs in Grand Army of the Republic uniform. He co-founded the Hebrew War Veterans, which later became Jewish War Veterans. Left: The original Hebrew Union Veterans of America badge, produced in 1896. Courtesy of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History/ NYU Press/ Shapell Foundation.



who fought on both sides, delving into archives across the country that were not available to Wolf, finding personal letters, photographs, memoirs, and, of course, official documents, thus adding names on an almost daily basis.

*Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War* is presented in six chapters that describe where those identified Jews who served came from, i.e., from Europe and America, what their occupations were, how and why they enlisted—many, but not all, just for the bonus—and for how long, i.e., some for three months, some for six, while others enlisted for more extended periods of up to three years. It is important to note that not every Jew who served was an abolitionist. Many feared that formerly enslaved people would take the jobs they had been doing.

Mendelsohn uses the research to show that the dearth of Jewish compatriots, as opposed to some majority German or Irish regiments, led some Jewish soldiers to deny their faith, even to other Jews, or to change their names. Among those who served were brave heroes, cowardly deserters, upstanding members of society, and lowly crooks. Mendelsohn

also points out that while antisemitism existed, Jewish soldiers often changed their units to avoid the slurs and attempts to proselytize them. Nevertheless, the conditions under which all soldiers lived and fought created friendships between Jew and non-Jew, many of which lasted beyond the end of the war. Mendelsohn also debunks a long-held myth of how three Rabbis came to serve as the first Jewish Chaplains in the Union Army.

Lastly, although it is not made clear in the book, this project is a work in progress. Based on the research conducted when the book was published, there were only 1,235 Union soldiers positively identified as Jewish out of what is believed to be just over seven thousand. Of those identified are six generals, five of whom were breveted, i.e., temporarily promoted to a rank higher than what they normally held. One appendix shows that of those 1,235, only a few regiments had as many as twenty Jews, while most had but one or two. Furthermore, the research has confirmed a fifth Jewish Medal of Honor recipient. That said, *Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War* is an outstanding work that is easy to read and sheds a whole new light on the Jewish contribution to the Civil War. ★



## My Walk Through the 20th Century with Frank W. Buckles—the Last American Doughboy

VCINC CAPT EDWARD W. GANTT, USN (RET)  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER, MD



VCINC CAPT Ed Gantt visiting with Frank Buckles in 2009.

I have always had a great interest in history, especially spoken history from those eyewitnesses who lived through it. As an eight-year-old, I was spellbound when my grandfather spoke of his time serving in the US Army's 10th Cavalry, pursuing Pancho Villa with General John Pershing's "Punitive Expedition." Moreover, my mother, born in 1917, frequently discussed many of the 20th century's significant events, such as the Great Depression, the World War I "Bonus Army" encampment here in Washington, DC, and the response led by GEN Douglas MacArthur.

Then, in April 2009, I met Frank Buckles, the last surviving American soldier from the World War I era. He was famously known as "the Last American Doughboy." I was fortunate to meet Jim Roberts of the American Veterans Center, who organized a small group of veterans to pay a call on Corporal Buckles at his home in West Virginia. Buckles' personal stories were especially remarkable when you consider that he was 108 years old at that time. Born in 1901, he lived through the 20th century, and

I was mesmerized. We sat on the front porch at his farmhouse in West Virginia as he spoke of joining the Army after the US entered the war. Although only 16, he lied about his age to enlist. He had previously been denied enlistment into the Marine Corps and the Navy.

When he shipped out for Europe, Buckles found himself onboard RMS Carpathia, famous for its involvement a few years earlier in the rescue of Titanic survivors. Initially assigned in England, he later served in France and spent the remainder of the war as an ambulance driver. At the war's end, one of his duties was to escort German soldiers to be repatriated. Back in the US after the war, he recalled meeting with General John Pershing at an event in 1919 to celebrate the war's end.

Still having an appetite for adventure, he accepted a job with some of the shipping companies, allowing him to travel the world. As a civilian working in Manila, he was captured by the Japanese when they occupied the Philippines.







Two photos of Frank Buckles as a Corporal flank him on his farm in West VA. Source: [www.WestVa.gov](http://www.WestVa.gov)

Buckles would spend the next three and a half years of World War II in a Japanese prison camp. Almost 70 years later, he sat beside me on his front porch and recounted his experiences during both world wars with crystal clear descriptions.

After the end of World War II, Frank Buckles moved to West Virginia, got married, and settled into a quieter life on his farm. In recent years, he was honored by presidents and met with President George W. Bush at the White House. He participated in Congressional hearings attempting to have the name changed on the DC War Memorial and to the National World War I Memorial. That memorial, established in 1931 to honor the 26,000 DC residents who served in the Great War, sits on the National Mall.

Corporal Frank Buckles' legacy may very well be the recently dedicated National World War I Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, just one block

from the White House. His appearance before Congress helped to influence the decision for an appropriate site for the nation's response to the first truly global conflict, one where over 100,000 American soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. On Veterans' Day 2023, I was honored to represent the Military Order of the World Wars by laying a wreath at the World War I Memorial.

When he passed in 2011 after 110 years of service, the President ordered flags to fly at half-staff over all government buildings and embassies; the Governors of 16 states followed. Corporal Frank Buckles was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His gravesite is just a few yards from the gravesite of his former Army commander, General John Pershing. Our history connects us all, across generations, across the miles, and across all of those differences we devote far too much time focusing on; yet in the end, our connections to each other endure through the ages. ★



Left: Entrance into the WWI Memorial is located at the former Pershing Park. Right: On Veterans' Day 2023, VCINC Gantt laid a wreath (seen far right) at the WWI Memorial.



# Time for a Positive Change

COL MIKE FARRELL, USMC (RET) | CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW, INC.  
BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET) | COMMANDER, REGION IV

The Military Order of the World Wars is at a critical juncture in its existence. As Companions, our collective obligation is to preserve and protect chapters, increase their vibrancy, and strengthen their longevity—the Order. Despite that, our approach to membership eligibility has contributed to the Order’s membership numbers steadily declining since 1984. Likewise, the number of Companions participating in the Order’s meetings, outreach activities, and events have also steadily declined over the same period, while the average age of our Companions remains over 70 years old. Facts.



began shrinking, as did chapters, departments, regions, recruiting, retention, volunteerism, and even the number of candidates vying for elected office. What grew was the average age of Companions. Facts.

The Order is long overdue to adopt a modern member eligibility policy that allows all US veterans to be MOWW veteran members. This would

help the Order grow in volunteers, improve its demographics, move forward in collaboration with other Veteran Service Organizations, and make progress as an inclusive Veterans Service Organization that opens its arms to all veterans—officer and enlisted.

In addition, the Order’s finances are overly reliant on a long-held investment portfolio complicated by highly variable market performance—and not served by the addition of major fundraising or new revenue streams. The nature of the Order’s membership is key to improving the Order’s situation. It is time to allow the Order’s membership eligibility to include all veterans—officers and enlisted—so the entire veteran population can contribute to the much brighter MOWW future that our Order requires.

MOWW’s establishment was to give veterans a way to continue serving the nation by serving its communities via its chapters. This is not the exclusive realm of officers but instead is a defining desire of all veterans. That is why our motto, “It is nobler to serve than to be served,” naturally resonates with all veterans—not just officers.

As we all know, our Internal Revenue Service (IRS) designation, Section 501(c)(19), requires us to be predominantly comprised of veterans. The IRS makes no distinction between officer and enlisted veterans. However, the Order’s Constitution does make a “distinction” by imposing a restriction to only allow a small fraction of US veterans to be MOWW veteran members, i.e., only officers.

Likewise, the MOWW Mission, Vision, Preamble, Motto, Tagline, Strategic Goals, and outreach program objectives do not require that only an officer population achieve them; they require far more than that. Since enlisted veterans are the majority of the US veteran population, their presence and active participation would improve volunteerism, mission effectiveness, and community service. Core values and ideals drive all veterans who want to continue serving their country even after leaving active service.

When the current officer-only membership eligibility came into effect, the draft was in full form. The draft ended over fifty years ago and the United States went to a smaller professional military. Over that half-century, smaller annual numbers of new veterans—especially officers—resulted. Simultaneously, the Order’s membership

Another fact is that MOWW already allows some enlisted veterans to become Companions of the Order, though it does not allow them to do so as veteran members. MOWW currently has 64 “hereditary” Companions who served this nation in uniform as enlisted members. Enlisted Companions have served as chapter





“Of the 16.1 million Americans who served in the global conflict, little more than 119,000 are still living as of this year, according to the National World War II Museum. An average of 131 of them are dying each day, the museum estimates, citing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics.” —10 Nov 2023

members, program chairs, chapter officers, chapter commanders, and even region commanders. However, we only allowed this because these enlisted veterans had a hereditary connection to an officer, while we ignored their veteran status that even the United States Government and all states recognize. There is something fundamentally wrong with actively recruiting a veteran with enlisted service only because they have a parent or grandparent that served as an officer. It's time to become fully inclusive, veteran-wise—not exclusionary.



SGM Michael W. Culbertson, USA (Ret)  
*Hereditary Perpetual Member,  
 Military Order of the World Wars*

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, there were 1,328,282 officers and 18,069,662 enlisted veterans as of 2020. Some have looked at these numbers and only see that there are 1.3 million officers out there to recruit. We look at these numbers and see over 19 million potential Companions, including many younger veterans whom the Order drastically needs. We have long outlived our exclusionary membership

eligibility criteria that ignores the vast majority of the veteran population who could be strong, contributing Companions. We need only look at other Veteran Service Organizations to see the benefit of this.

Those who argue that we should stay with the “traditional” founding of the Order as an officer-only organization ignore the reality that membership eligibility adjustments have been part of the Order's traditions from the very beginning to keep up with changing times and circumstances. At first, only male WWI veteran officers were members. Then, male WWII veteran officers became eligible. Next, all male officer veterans became eligible, followed

by all female veteran officers being eligible in 1977. Continually increasing veteran inclusivity is our membership eligibility tradition. Given that tradition, which was adopted to maintain our relevance to succeeding generations and which is even more vital today, we are overdue in making a positive change to be fully inclusive by allowing all United States veterans to be eligible for MOWW veteran membership—regardless of their rank. ★



*Editor's Note: Our Order is once again engaged in a study of whether we should change our name or remain the same. This discussion has been with us since the end of the Korean War and has been almost continuously debated over the years. Companions may very well be faced with a debate and a vote at the upcoming National Convention in Valley Forge, PA. We thought it timely, interesting and instructive for our current members to take a look back at how some of our predecessors viewed the topic. The articles below were written after a proposal to change the Orders name was debated and "tabled" at the 1971 National Convention. They are reprinted from The World Wars Officer Review magazines November-December 1971 and March-April 1972.*

## What's in a Name

Brig. General Louis J. Fortier  
Past Commander-in-Chief

At the Seattle Convention, there were an unusually excellent series of resolutions approved. They were forthright and pertinent. They indicated that we recognized fully why America was in deep trouble both at home and abroad. In presenting arguments in favor of the resolutions, the main theme was that our nation had strayed too far from its basic roots and long-time traditions. It was shown that changes in the attitude of many of our citizens toward military preparedness, a willingness to accommodate with our declared enemies, a soft pedaling of our social upheaval and disorders at home, merely because we are said to be living in a "changing world," are neither sound nor advisable. It was agreed that America would be in a far more favorable situation if we had kept a firm rudder on the course and ideals that had been our orientation in the past.

Nonetheless, immediately following the adoption of the resolutions, there appeared a proposal by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee that we change the name of our Order. How inconsistent can one be?

For over fifty years, this organization has been known as the Military Order of the World Wars. We have had going for us a name that is recognized among commissioned officers of the twentieth century and by a large segment of the reading public. Should we adopt the name proposed in Seattle we would become the "Military Order of the United States of America" and thus lose our identity with the wars of the twentieth century. Inasmuch as we are essentially

a hereditary organization, sooner or later the doors would become open to heirs of commissioned officers beginning with the American Revolution.

The argument that was raised is that the commissioned veterans of Vietnam feel a lack of identity with a "World War." The irony of this contention is that it has been the progression of our conflicts in the twentieth century, including the Vietnam War, that has justified our "World Wars" name.

Let us examine briefly the four wars of this century:

First, some of us in 1918, participated in what was known as the "American Expeditionary Force." This involved six months of fighting in France while giving the *coup de grace* to a Germany badly depleted in four years of trench warfare.

Second, then came World War II lasting slightly over three years. It covered a considerable portion of the world's geography and required several major campaigns as well as strong logistic support.

Third, the Korean War comes next, and while it involved few divisions and had a very limited objective, it did require long lines of communications.

Fourth, and I trust finally in this century, we have the Vietnam War, the longest, the most unorthodox, and unquestionably the greatest logistical accomplishment in the history of warfare. Because it did not debouch from our Atlantic coastline and because it was not a rescue





“We would be wise to adhere to our inspiring traditions.”

operation for our European forebears, it has never received the favorable publicity from the more powerful communications media of New York and the District of Columbia. Fortunately the change in name was being evaluated in Seattle where the Pacific Ocean is given adequate importance.

Accordingly, it should be crystal clear that it is the summation of these four wars that brings our name of "The Military Order of the World Wars" fully into its own. On the somber side, the "Unknown" of World War II and of Korea have joined the

Unknown Soldier of World War I in Arlington, as will a veteran of Vietnam.

If there should be any hesitancy on the part of the Vietnam veterans to join our organization it will not be because of our name but because we have too few companions such as Stanley Scott, Gordon Young and Ettore di Giantomasso to spread the word and recruit fifty members annually. Normally, when asked "What are you doing about recruiting", a companion will reply: "I am too busy making a living". Scott, Young and di Giantomasso also have to "make a living." The Memphis Chapter has had no trouble enrolling Vietnam veterans and the current adjutant of the Long Beach chapter is a twenty five year old veteran of Vietnam.

The Constitution was not changed. But the thought of change persists and will be revived. We would be wise to adhere to our inspiring traditions and not sever our basic roots. Our name has served us well. ★

## What's *not* in a Name

Colonel Albert A. Amhym

"What's in a Name?" is the rueful question asked by the supporters of the close vote at the 1971 National Convention that decided to "table" the proposal for changing the name of our Order to the "Military Order of the United States of America." It may be well to look at the other side of the coin—What's not in a Name?

With all due respect for the companions who object to the name change, I fail to understand their logic. They maintain that war is war, regardless of what it is called, and that such a minor detail as semantics is no reason to change our traditional name. Everybody knows, they claim, that the words "World Wars" in that name are really not supposed to mean what they say, that they refer to any and all wars in which we were and are involved.

I have participated in World War II as well as in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and I have found that they differed vastly, not merely in semantics

but in strategy, tactics, scope and objectives. Moreover, we must face the sobering fact that the communists, deterred from starting another World War by our still existing nuclear superiority, will continue to pursue their goal of global domination by fomenting and supporting "brushfire wars" all over the earth. This means that, in the troubled years ahead, we may well be involved in more armed conflicts of varying types which, in turn, will keep swelling the ranks of our veterans.

Many great veterans organizations are vying for these men. To be sure, most of those organizations appeal to specific groups of veterans in their names. But none of them, except ours, carries a name that makes prospective members ask whether they fought in the wrong kind of war. No wonder, then that our membership went down during the past year instead of going up by gaining its share of new members from among the tens of thousands of returning Vietnam veterans. And



“ One does not honor the past by living in it but by building on it.

nine of our chapters were reported as “marginal” while it would have made far more sense if that many or more had been activated.

Where is the problem? We have capable and dedicated companions who go out of their way in trying to get new members, and we certainly have something to “sell.” Our goals and objectives, which have attracted so many patriotic and loyal citizens in the past, have remained the same. And there are large numbers of fine young men who not only qualify for membership but who are anxious to contribute to the public good. Why, then, should it be so difficult to interest these men in an organization that supposedly gives veterans of all wars the opportunity to apply their patriotism and love of country? The answer is simple - it just isn't in our name!

Industrial and business firms throughout the country often have found it useful, if not mandatory to change their old-established names to reflect

changes in their scope, activities or objectives. This does not mean that they repudiated their traditional business ethics and ideals. It means that they recognized the demands of sensible public relations in promoting their products or services in this day age. And it means they understood that one does not honor the past by living in it but by building on it.

Our Order has much to offer, and it can render an invaluable service in helping to keep alive and fan the flame of constructive patriotism in our youth. We must not permit our Order to wither on the vine for lack of young and enthusiastic members who not only can take over from us old World War types some day but who can talk to the young generation in their language or, as they say nowadays, relate to them.

Yes, our ideals have remained the same but they have outgrown the doughboy uniform of World War I, for they have become far more demanding and challenging than ever before. That is why their pursuit needs new blood. new enthusiasm, new strength The young men who possess these qualities are found among the veterans of Korea and Vietnam - but that's not in our name.

So, what should be in a name? Something with which all of us as well as the very young men we are looking for can identify—“The Military Order of the United States of America!” ★

## Submitting Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

Any member or sub-division of the Order may submit a proposal to amend the Constitution and/or the Bylaws of the Order by submitting such proposals to the Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, at the address listed in the current National Directory of the Order by 15 March 2024.

The current Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is PCINC, BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret). **You can submit your proposed change(s) electronically by email in Microsoft word [.doc] to [flopez23@cox.net](mailto:flopez23@cox.net)**

The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will review all submittals and vote to recommend approval or disapproval. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will present the proposals to the Order at the annual National Convention. If the appropriate numbers of delegates voting recommend approval, the amendment is adopted by the Order. This is the best opportunity for a Companion of the Order to recommend changes (amendments) to the way the Order operates. The Order's Constitution and Bylaws can be viewed on the MOWW web site at [www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org).





# **2024 MOWW National Convention**

## **“Youth Leadership— Building the next Greatest Generation”**

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

**6-11 August 2024**





# MOC—Northwest Style

PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)  
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA



The Puget Sound Chapter has been sponsoring a Massing of the Colors (MOC) for as long as anyone can remember. It started in a church in Tacoma, WA, migrated to Fort Lewis, and finally to a local high school to help keep public access free and easy.

Five years ago, the chapter expanded the MOC to have state-wide significance at the urging of companion MG Hemphill. The event is scheduled as close as possible to President George Washington's birthday in February. The MOC is wrapped into the Washington State Patriotic Day to take advantage of the state's namesake.

Leveraging the US Army I Corps Band from nearby Ft Lewis, a short opening concert of patriotic music highlighting the expertise of the Army

soldier musicians sets the stage for the program. A fife and drum group leads the procession of flag elements, numbering up to 100 American and unit flags from all walks of life, proceeding through the hall to their seats. Flags populate the bleachers and produce a patriotic feast for the eyes.

A noteworthy speaker focuses on a patriotic theme to educate and inspire the audience. Cash prizes are awarded to the groups with the highest attendance in three categories: youngsters, high schoolers, and adult organizations.

During the ceremony, the proclamation of the Washington State Governor is read and decorations are awarded to young people.

A Massing of Colors is a great way to make a big splash on a statewide scale. By involving the state's Department of Affairs and getting the governor's office to participate, you can generate more publicity for your chapter and encourage other organizations to join in and help do the work. Give it a try and you will super-charge your Massing of the Colors. ★







# Volunteer to Make A Difference

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

*Companions, the planning committee is still progressing toward a MOWW National Youth Civics Summit in Washington, DC, July 7 – 13, 2024. Our MOWW Foundation has moved along but may not be fully operational before early 2024. CINC Perez was recently elected to head the MOWW Foundation's Board of Directors.*

*As you look over the proposed summit (those details are available on the MOWW website under the convention presentations), I sincerely hope you will see something in that one-week summit that excites you personally. And then, you would become energized to take on an active role in the summit's planning, execution, or both.*

*Since the summit includes a US Government portion, a US History portion, and a citizenship development*

*portion, your area of interest would be significantly appreciated early in the planning.*

**Your input does not necessarily involve traveling to Washington, DC. Our planning committee meets via video conference on Zoom.**

*Do you know anyone with the expertise to educate and develop the future leaders of our nation? It is an excellent opportunity to make a positive impact on the future of our country. Please contact me and offer your assistance to this MOWW National Youth Civics Summit in creating an experience that will be inspiring, educational, enjoyable, and unforgettable in Washington next summer.*

CAPT Ed Gantt, USN (Ret)  
Email: [ed\\_gantt@hotmail.com](mailto:ed_gantt@hotmail.com)

## VETERANS DAY

11/11/2023

MOWW CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), and SVCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), attended National Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, and placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



# More Medical Breakthroughs

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

Last time, we talked about modern medical advances. This time, we will discuss historical advances that save, prolong, and increase our lives.

**ANAESTHESIA (1846)** is generally considered the best overall medical advancement. Before general anesthesia in the mid-19th century, surgery was undertaken only as a last resort, with patients often opting for death. William T. G. Morton made history in 1846 when he successfully used ether as an anesthetic during surgery. Chloroform became widely used but was considered high-risk after several fatalities were reported. Since the 1800s, safer anesthetics have been developed, allowing millions of painless operations to take place.

**GERM THEORY (1861)** Before the 'germ' theory, the believed theory was that disease was caused by 'spontaneous generation' rather than being air-borne or transferred via skin-to-skin contact. In 1861, French microbiologist Louis Pasteur proved that infectious disease resulted from an invasion of specific microscopic organisms. This understanding marked a significant turning point in how diseases were treated, controlled, and prevented, often preventing devastating epidemics.

**MEDICAL IMAGING (1895)** The first medical imaging machines were X-rays. A form of electromagnetic radiation, 'accidentally,' was invented in 1895 by German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen while experimenting with electrical currents through glass cathode-ray tubes. This discovery transformed medicine overnight. By the following year, Glasgow Hospital opened the world's very first radiology department.

**ANTIBIOTICS (1928)** Alexander Fleming's penicillin, the world's first antibiotic, revolutionized the war against deadly bacteria. This Scottish biologist accidentally discovered an anti-bacterial 'mold' growing in his lab. Fleming's findings were not properly recognized until the 1940s when they were mass-produced for use in World War II. Two other scientists were responsible for the mass distribution of penicillin: Australian

Howard Florey and German refugee Ernst Chain. Unfortunately, certain bacteria have become increasingly resistant to antibiotics over the years.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (21ST CENTURY)** Having been in gradual development since the turn of the century, artificial intelligence has already produced impressive technologies that have significantly altered the healthcare landscape. The current applications of AI in healthcare are broad, from diagnosis and drug discovery to personalized treatment plans and patient monitoring.

**ORGAN TRANSPLANTS (1954)** In December 1954, Dr Joseph Murray and Dr David Hume carried out the first successful kidney transplant in Boston, MA. This was the first instance where the recipient of an organ transplant survived. Various technical issues were overcome, such as vascular anastomosis, placement of the kidney, and immune response. In 1963, the first lung transplant was carried out, followed by a pancreas/kidney in 1966 and a liver and heart in 1967. Aside from saving thousands of lives in the years following, transplant procedures have also become increasingly innovative and complex.

**ANTIVIRAL DRUGS (1960S)** Throughout history, many human populations have suffered greatly due to virus outbreaks such as smallpox, influenza, and hepatitis. In the 1960s, the development of antivirals began to take off due to the unique structure of a virus. A virus consists of genetic material that is surrounded by a protective protein coat. Because of this protective layer, treating viruses without damaging the host cell has historically been challenging.

**REMOTE SURGERY.** Remote surgery combines the concepts of telemedicine and robotics. Telesurgery is surgery using a robot system, which allows a surgeon to perform surgery on patients that are remote to his or her current physical location. This is especially beneficial for patients who orbit the Earth in space or live in remote, underserved areas on Earth. Be well. ★





# Hope, Strength and Anticipation for 2024

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

## HOPE IN GOD, LET GO OF THE PAST, LIVE WITH ANTICIPATION FOR THE FUTURE IN 2024

Companions, as we stand at the threshold of a new calendar year, let us draw inspiration from biblical wisdom. Throughout Scripture, we are continually reminded to put our hope in God, release the past, and live with anticipation for the future. Companions, I ask you to recall our CINC's vision to make MOWW one strong team and to serve others over ourselves with these three points and three bible verses in 2024.

1. Reflect on the Exodus: Just as the Israelites embarked on their journey from Egypt during the month of Nisan, consider your own journey. Reflect on the trials you've faced, the liberation you've sought, and the resilience that has carried you forward. The biblical New Year marks a fresh start—a chance to leave behind the burdens of the past and step into a new season.
2. Reckon Your Years: Just as the Kings of Israel counted their reigns, consider your own legacy. What mark will you leave in the world? How will you lead and serve beyond your military service? The biblical New Year invites introspection and purposeful action. Set your intentions for the year ahead. This could mean mentoring fellow veterans, advocating for causes you believe in, or fostering unity in your MOWW Chapter.
3. Seek Divine Guidance: The Scriptures offer wisdom for every season. As you face global events, turn to the Bible for perspective. Psalm

121 reminds us that our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Seek His guidance, pray for peace, and find strength in faith. Let the ancient words illuminate your path as you navigate the complexities of our world.

- a. Bible Verses About Hope for the Future:  
“I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.” Isaiah 65:17-19
- b. Bible Verses About Strengthening Yourself for the Future:  
“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10
- c. Bible Verses About What to Expect for the Future:  
“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Companions, in 2024, let's lock arms to make a difference as servants—not “being served”—in our homes, communities, chapters, and hearts as we walk with the Lord. Blessings! ★





Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

### Recipient of the Euripides Rubio Medal

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

SEAC Ramón Colón-Lopez, the first Latino to hold the position of Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was awarded the Euripides Rubio Medal by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Representatives on 24 October 2023. The Euripides Rubio Medal recognizes acts of valor and risk of life beyond the call of duty by Puerto Rican military members. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram%C3%B3n\\_Col%C3%B3n-L%C3%B3pez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ram%C3%B3n_Col%C3%B3n-L%C3%B3pez)

(L-R): Region VI Commander Col Adalberto Rivera, USAF (Ret); Patriotic Education Program Coordinator Col Carlos Quiñones, USAF (Ret); CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret); Former PR Senator Lucy Arce (MOWW Patriot); SEAC Ramón Colón-Lopez with Companions BG Fernando Fernández, USAR (Ret), and Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret).



Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

### Recognizing Dedication and Service

BY COL VINCENTE C. OGILVIE, USA (RET)

On 9 November, COL Vincente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret), inducted Prince William County Neabsco District Supervisor Victor S. Angry into the Northern Virginia Chapter. Local officials attended the ceremony, made remarks, and presented a wreath. COL Ogilvie surprised Mr. Angry during the ceremony with a MOWW Certificate recognizing him as an MOWW Patriot Companion. Mr. Angry, a retired US Army Sergeant Major, was recognized for his decades of military service and continued dedication to serving his neighbors and constituents in the Neabsco district of Prince William County.

(L-R) COL Vincente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret); Commissioner, Occoquan District Nancy Jean-Louis; Ms. Roberta Yourtee, and Neabsco District Supervisor Victor S. Angry.



Amidst the celebrations of Veterans Day, COL Ogilvie actively participated in the 100th birthday ceremony of Maj Ozell M. Dean, USAF (Ret). The event was a grand success, and COL Ogilvie presented Maj Dean with the esteemed MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Medal for her significant contributions to the cause of patriotism. Maj Dean is a pioneer who holds the distinction of being the first African-American flight nurse in the US Air Force. She is the proud founder of the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD)—a national educational and humanitarian organization with 111 individual chapters throughout the US. TLOD was chartered by Congress in 1964. Maj Dean's vision for TLOD was "Whatever you do, do it well." Her efforts and commitment towards the cause have been inspiring and remarkable.

(L-R): MAJ Patricia Coates, USA (Ret); Maj Ozell M. Dean, USAF (Ret), and Northern Virginia Chapter Commander COL Vincente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret).



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

## Naval Air Support and Computer Support

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

*Photo left:* During the October monthly meeting, Chapter Commander Capt Ed Murphy, USAF (Fmr), presented the Puget Sound Chapter coffee cup to CAPT Dave Bryant, USN (Ret), for his informative briefing on naval aviation. CAPT Bryant was the former Skipper of the USS Teddy Roosevelt, CVN-71.

*Photo right:* Lt Col Keith Snyder, USAF (Ret), was recognized for his innovative technical support to the chapter with the MOWW Outstanding Service Award. Chapter Commander Capt Ed Murphy, USAF (Fmr), presented the award to Lt Col Snyder at the same meeting, which was held at the Steilacoom Washington Town Hall.



Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

## Law and Order Awards Ceremony

BY HPM MR. CHARLES W. BENNETT, JR.

The recipients of the annual MOWW National Law & Order Exceptional Service Awards are announced during the Order's National Convention. These awards are presented later, at local ceremonies by the sponsoring chapters. On 24 October 2023, award recipients Lynchburg Fire Chief Gregory T. Wormser and Lynchburg Police Chief Ryan M. Zuidema were honored at a ceremony held during the Lynchburg, Virginia City Council Meeting at City Hall.

*(L-R):* Chapter Commander LT Peter Bryan, USN (Fmr); Fire Chief Greg Wormser; Police Chief Ryan Zuidema, and Immediate Past Chapter Commander CDR C. Michael Reeves, USN (Ret).



Dallas Chapter, TX

## Honored for Exemplary Performance

BY LTC MARTHA J. CENKCI USA (RET)

The Chapter held its Annual Awards Luncheon on 7 November 2023, where it awarded five JROTC cadets from the Dallas area. These students were recognized for outstanding performance at the JROTC cadet leadership conferences. They were awarded the MOWW JROTC Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion and Ribbon. The keynote speaker, Companion MG Albert C. Zapanta, USA (Ret), spoke about the significance of leadership, education and family in achieving success.

*(L-R):* Chapter Vice Commander and Chair, ROTC and JROTC Program CPT Mark Smits, USA (Fmr); Rodolfo Esquivel (Mesquite Horn High School); Yuleima Batres (Greenville High School); Thomas Whitmore (Wylie High School); Samuel Lebow (Wylie High School), and Breanna Escamilla (Seagoville High School).







Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

### First Place, L&O Outstanding Performance

EDITED FROM EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S NEWS

Despite the risks, off-duty Detention Officer Daniel Cardenas rushed into a burning building on 19 June 2022 in El Paso, TX. He fearlessly entered the building to retrieve valuable religious items and property that the family's mother desperately wanted—and willing to go back in and risk her life. Cardenas saved the items and, more importantly, her life. He was honored by the El Paso Sheriff's Office and the Chapter for his bravery. The Greater El Paso Chapter submitted his name to compete for the National Law & Order Outstanding Performance Award at the 2023 MOWW National Convention. He won First Place.

(L-R): PVCINC CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USA (Ret), CPT David Thackston, USA (Fmr), and Officer Daniel Cardenas



Hampton Roads Chapter, VA

### Col Bill Townsley Awarded GPH By CINC

BY CINC BG VICTOR S. PÉREZ, USA (RET)

On 4 November 2023, at the Region IV Conference held in Lanham, MD, Col Bill Townsley, USAF (Ret), the founder and former Director of the American Independence Youth Leadership Conference, was awarded the MOWW Gold Patrick Henry, with corresponding ribbon and plaque. The award was presented by CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), and Region IV Commander Brig Gen Arthur B. Morrill III, USAF (Ret), on behalf of VCINC CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret).

(L-R): Col Bill Townsley, USAF (Ret), and CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)



MG Miles Chapter, NM

### Dr. McDuff Explains Nuclear Weapons

BY LTC GREGG GIESLER, USA (RET)

MG Miles Chapter Commander LTC Gregg Giesler, USA (Ret), presented Dr. Glenn McDuff with a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation for his informative presentation on Navy nuclear weapons. Dr. McDuff has vast experience in the Weapons Programs office at Los Alamos National Laboratory and is an expert on nuclear weapons in the national stockpile, both past and present. Dr. McDuff teaches this subject at the Interservice Nuclear Weapons School.

(L-R): Dr. Glenn McDuff and LTC Gregg Giesler, USA (Ret), after the presentation.



Northeast Florida Chapter, FL

## Outstanding Service Medals

BY CWO4 DAVID McCUISTION, USN (RET)

The Northeast Florida Chapter awarded Outstanding Service Medals to three Companions for their consistent support and service to the Chapter. With Chapter Commander CWO4 David McCuistion, USN (Ret), (photo left): COL John D. Frketic, USA (Ret), honored for his National Security articles and Meeting “Intel Reports” on various National and Homeland Security matters. In the center is CAPT James P. Ransom, USN (Ret), who serves as the Adjutant and ROTC/JROTC Coordinator. HPM Vicki McCuistion was honored for her service as Treasurer and Adjutant for over two years.



Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

## 70th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice

BY LTC MICHAEL D. BERENDT, USA (RET)

The Chapter celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Councilman Randy Helms read out the city proclamation in honor of the service members who served and sacrificed during the Korean War. Guest speakers included Canadian Consul General Fabi and South Korean Consul General Kang. Rich Peters joined KWVA, Widefield High School NJROTC cadets, and local Korean community representatives to commemorate the armistice.

*(L-R): Canadian Consul General Sylvain Fabi; Companion Lt Col Rich Peters, USAF (Ret); City of Colorado Springs Councilman Companion Col Randy Helms, USAF (Ret); Republic of Korea Consul General Hyun Chul Kang, and KWVA Dutch Nelson Chapter President Jim McGibney in front of Korean War Veterans Memorial.*



BG Holland Chapter, CA

## SGT Nilsen Recognized by Chapter

BY BGEN PAUL K. LEBIDINE, USMCR (RET)

On October 27th, 2023, the BG Holland Chapter recognized Sergeant David Nilsen of the San Diego Police Department for his consistent meritorious service to the community. Sergeant David Nilsen is a combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and he serves as a leadership example to his fellow officers and other veterans as they navigate the challenges of transitioning into new careers.

*(L-R): Captain Mike Holden, Commanding Officer of Northeastern Division; Sergeant David Nilsen, and BGen Paul Lebidine, Chapter Commander of the BG Holland Chapter.*







### SELF-HARM IS UNDERRECOGNIZED IN GULF WAR VETERANS



The initial research team first analyzed data from the Gulf War Research and Individual Testimony (GRIT) study, a national survey designed to understand Gulf War veterans' healthcare concerns. Another Durham VA Medical Center investigator, Dr. Nathan Kimbrel, led the GRIT study. Nearly 1,200 surveys were completed and returned. The results were adjusted to account for the effects of alcohol use disorder, major depressive disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of the veterans who responded, nearly 8% said they had engaged in nonsuicidal self-injury in the past year, yet only half of these veterans said they were receiving mental health services.

According to a separate study by Dr. Molly Gromatsky and colleagues, roughly 16% of veterans engage in nonsuicidal self-injury at some point in their lifetimes, which is approximately three times higher than the rate observed in the general population. Despite being found to be a strong predictor of suicide attempts, this type of self-harm is often overlooked in men—a trend Halverson said they are seeing in VA facilities as well.

Self-harm can be present in people with personality disorders, but it can also co-occur with conditions such as PTSD and common mood or anxiety disorders. Contrary to common belief, the rates of nonsuicidal self-injury are relatively similar between men and women, said Halverson. These types of behaviors may stem from a need to present oneself as strong, fearless, and uncomplaining—a mindset that often continues in veterans of both genders well after their military service.

“One of the reasons we think we may be seeing such high rates of self-harm among veterans is that there is a lot of guilt and shame that can occur with PTSD. There is also emotional numbing, difficulty regulating emotions, and difficulty communicating with others,” said Halverson. “Many veterans may be trying to self-harm as a means of coping with these and other challenges.”

### VA NOW OFFERS ONLINE ORDERING FOR CPAP SUPPLIES



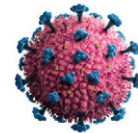
Veterans who rely on CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines to manage sleep-related breathing disorders, including sleep apnea, now have a new streamlined online ordering system for CPAP supplies.

VA has added the CPAP supply ordering feature as part of the online tool that's already in place, same as how veterans order hearing aid supplies on VA.gov.

In the future, VA's Office of Information and Technology will add more ordering supply types to the VA.gov tool.

Should any veteran require assistance during the ordering process, please contact the Denver Logistics Center Customer Service Section at 303-273-6200, or email [dalc.css@va.gov](mailto:dalc.css@va.gov). The dedicated customer service team is ready to provide guidance, support and information.

### LONG COVID



VA defines Long COVID as symptoms or conditions that develop or worsen at least 4 weeks after a person was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This is the virus that causes COVID-19. You may hear these conditions called Long COVID, post-acute COVID, chronic COVID, post-COVID conditions, long haul COVID, or other terms.

Anyone who has been infected with COVID-19 is at risk for developing Long COVID. If you have had COVID-19, you are at risk even if your symptoms were mild or you didn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Access VA's short video: [https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/Resources/VideoLibrary/?e=0#player:165,long\\_covid\\_psa](https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/Resources/VideoLibrary/?e=0#player:165,long_covid_psa)





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DATA FROM 1 OCT 23–30 NOV 23

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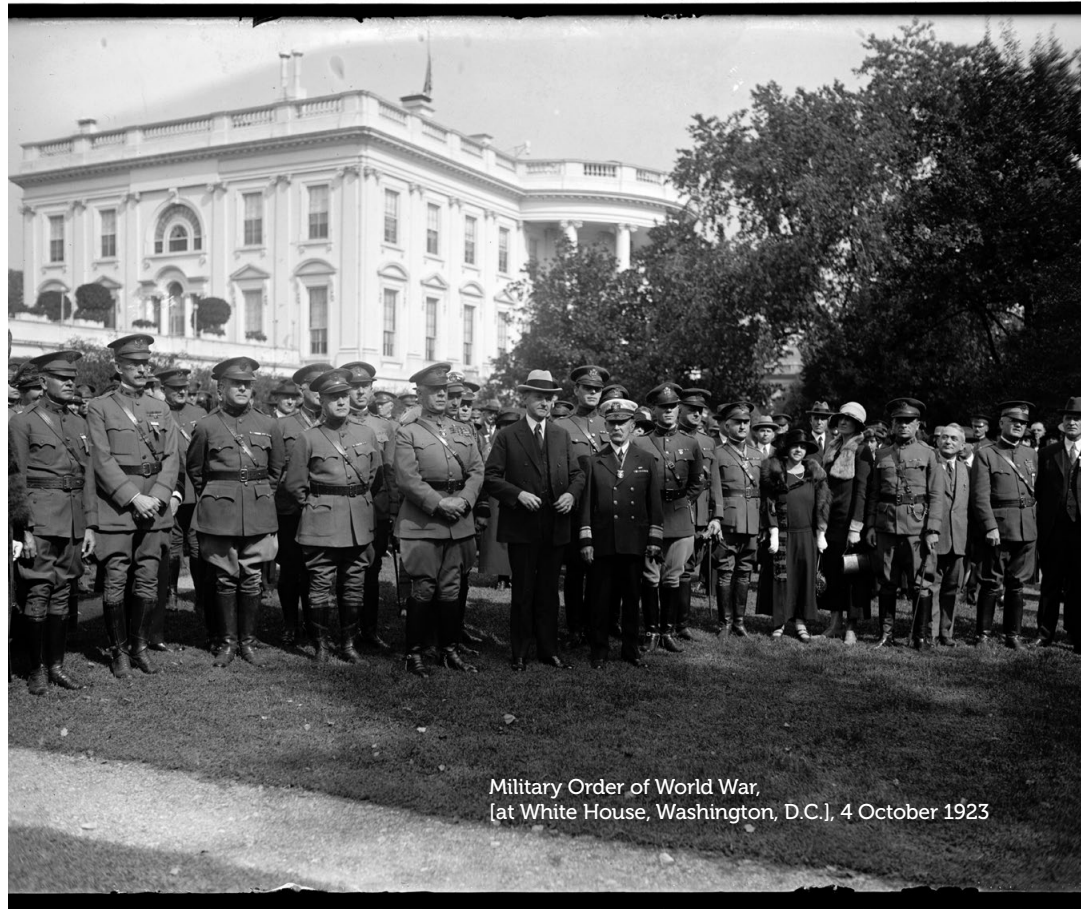
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