

OFFICER VIEW

ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

DECEMBER 2011
Volume 51 Number 5



11.11.11

A MOMENT IN HISTORY



MOWW || CINC's Perspective

BY CINC CAPT RUSSELL C. VOWINKEL, USN (RETIRED)



CAPT RUSSELL C. VOWINKEL, USN (RET)

In December our thoughts turn to family, whether they are close or far away. This year I ask that all chapters select a holiday service project dedicated to remembering veterans. Visiting local military hospitals is one form of service I encourage. I have a friend, a former Coast Guardsman, who visits Balboa Naval Hospital weekly to teach woodworking to wounded Marines and Sailors. Others invite active duty service members to the holiday celebration in their homes. If you select a holiday project—and I hope you do—please send a narrative summary and pictures to Brig Gen Art Morrill, the editor of *Officer Review*, so he can include them in the magazine to inspire other Companions to do the same.

It does not seem possible that 2011 is nearly over. I have visited many chapters since my election, and there is still so much to do. Please let me know if I can visit your chapter or region. Additionally, if you recognize a Companion, honor a committee's work, attend a YLC, present awards to scouts, etc., again, please email a submission to *Officer Review*. If I can attend the recognition ceremony, I will. If I can't, I will send a personal congratulatory note.

To "pre-flight" the last six months of my tenure as CINC, I will continue focusing on the Action Plan. Together, we'll continue supporting chapters needing assistance. Recruiting and retention will continue as primary focused areas. Committee work, as well other functions, will reflect the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan 2015.

These activities include ensuring that diversity of membership and opportunities are robust in MOWW. As members of the Armed Forces, we served knowing the defense of our Nation requires a well-trained volunteer force. Thus, we were naturally charged with ensuring that each of us and all of us provided opportunities for all people to rise to as high a level of responsibility as their abilities allowed, and to maximize the human fulfillment and productive capacity represented in diversity. As Companions, we still serve under that charge.



Vernice Armour is a former USMC Captain who was the first African-American female naval aviator in the Marine Corps and America's first African-American female combat pilot in the US military. She flew the AH-1W Super-Cobra attack helicopter in the 2003 invasion of Iraq and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Let me conclude with a word on leadership. A recent article illustrated what former USMC Captain Armour did to become the nation's first black female combat pilot. She said the one thing in life that you must have is a "breakthrough mentality." Her definition of the "breakthrough mentality" is refusing to settle, even in the smallest of moments. Step one, have the breakthrough mentality. Step two, create the flight plan. Step three, execute the mission. MOWW's flight plan is the Strategic Plan. Now we must achieve the destination.

If you think you cannot contribute, you are mistaken. Edward Everett Hale said it well:

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

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OFFICER REVIEW

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

CONTENTS
NOVEMBER 2011
Volume 51 • Number 4



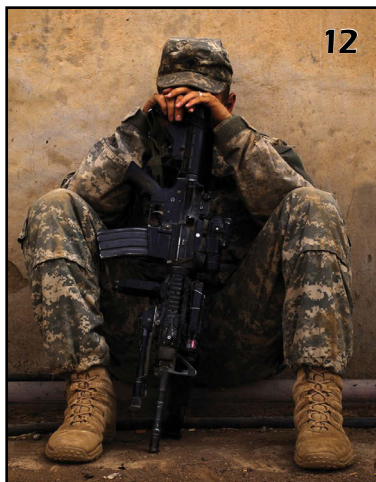
<http://www.militaryorder.net>

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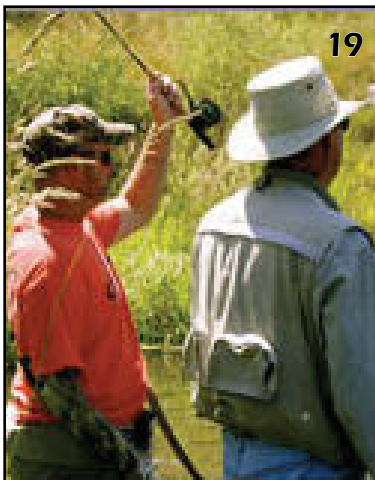
<http://www.facebook.com/militaryorder>



4



12



19

FEATURES

4 11.11.11
A Moment in History

8 G/A Pershing Memorial
Ceremony: Honoring
Him Among His
Soldiers

10 A Quiet, Dignified Man:
Remembering a
Founding Companion

12 Psychological Trauma
and the Combat Veteran

14 Biological and Chemical
Threat Response

19 My First
Twelve

DEPARTMENTS

18 2012 National Convention

20 Chapter Membership:
Get Involved!

22 Surgeon's Tent

23 Chief's Notes:
Chapter Planning Guide

24 Chapters in Action

Philadelphia (017), PA
Sun City Center (226), FL
Puerto Rico (121)
MG George G. Meade (026), MD

Greater Kansas City (087), MO
General Hoyt S. Vandenberg (226), CA
Col George C. Woolsey (113), CA
Matthew B. Ridgway-Pittsburgh (018), PA
Virginia Piedmont (030), VA
Phoenix (092), AZ
Greater Boston (004) MA
Prince George's County (163), MD

28 Companion Update

29 Remembering

30 VA: Have You Heard?

31 MOWW Merchandise

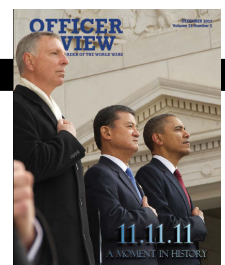
ON THE COVER

(L-R): MOWW CINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Erik K. Shinseki, and the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama, at the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day, 2011.

Source: whitehouse.gov

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

The *Officer Review* (ISSN 0736-7317) is published monthly (except February and August) by The Military Order of the World Wars, 435 N. Lee Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2301. Periodicals Postage paid at Alexandria, VA, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Officer Review*, 435 North Lee Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2301





11.11.11

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW

PHOTOS: HPM CADET ARTHUR B. MORRILL IV (VMI '12)

NOVEMBER 11, 2011, was a historic day for several reasons. Foremost, it is Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, which is the annual United States holiday honoring the service of all United States military veterans. It is also a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other nations to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice between the Allies and Germany that ended World War I. The Armistice marked the end of World War I hostilities as of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the year 1918.

To provide a bit of history on how this national holiday came to be, the United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution several years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue a proclamation to observe November 11th with ceremonies appropriate to the holiday's purpose. A Congressional Act made November 11th of each year a legal holiday, i.e., a day known as Armistice Day and dedicated to the world peace. In 1953, an effort began to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans—not just those who died in World War I. On May 26, 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the bill establishing the holiday, and a few days later Congress amended this act by replacing the word “Armistice” with the word “Veterans.” Since then, Armistice Day has been known as Veterans Day—a day celebrating the service of all veterans of the US Armed Forces.

This year, Veterans Day was also notable for MOWW's leadership role in the National Veterans Day Observances in Washington, District of Columbia. In addition to being on the VA National Veterans Day Organizing Committee, for the first time in its 92-year history, MOWW was the host Veteran Service Organization (VSO).

Events this year were many and significant. The day's events began with CINC CAPT and Mrs. Russell C. Vowinkel, and other national VSO leaders, traveling to the White House for a breakfast with President and Mrs. Obama, and other senior members of the Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, etc. After breakfast, this group of senior national leaders traveled to Arlington National Cemetery where they assembled and met the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces and Mrs. Obama to attend the President's wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



President Barack Obama observes Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery to honor those who chose to pursue a higher cause by serving their country.



L-R: MOWW CINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Erik K. Shinseki and the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama.



The Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.



MOWW VCINC LTC Gary O. Engen and Capt John M. Hayes were the lead element of the Veterans Day flag procession.



A member of "The Old Guard" at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.



MOWW VCINC Capt John M. Hayes marching to his position at the lower stage of the amphitheater.

Within the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery, other events began with the audience arriving and taking their seats on the benches and in the box seats. Once assembled, VCINC Gary O. Engen, USA (Ret) and VCINC John M. Hayes, USAF (Former) led the procession of American and VSO flags with VCINC Engen carrying the national colors and VCINC Hayes carrying the MOWW flag. These two VCINC took their positions on the lower stage, flanking the upper stage, where they remained for the duration of the ceremony. From that point to the point at which the President and VSO national leaders arrived, the US Army Band and Chorus played and sang.

Following the Presidential wreath-laying, the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama, the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Erik K. Shinseki, the Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of World Wars, CINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel, and other national VSO leaders, took the stage in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. After an introduction of all distinguished attendees on stage, our own CINC Vowinkel led all attending in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. CINC Vowinkel, representing all VSO nation-wide, later presented the following remarks:

Mr. President, Secretary Shinseki, fellow veterans, distinguished guests and Americans everywhere, on behalf of the Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars, thank you for celebrating the service of America's veterans.

Secretary Shinseki rightfully reminds us that November 11th is a day to celebrate the selfless service of our veterans. It is a day to rejoice that we have Americans willing to accept significant hardships to preserve and protect our nation. Likewise, America is blessed to have Veterans Service Organizations that continue this tradition after the active military service of their members ends.

The Military Order of the World Wars is just one of many Veterans Service Organizations contributing to America. In the 92 years since our founding, our Order has served America by sponsoring Youth Leadership Conferences—accredited by the National Association of Secondary School Principals—throughout the United States.

Our Order also serves America's youth by sponsoring awards programs for Junior and Senior ROTC programs, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Girl Scouts of the USA. Additionally, we recognize those who excel in the national security, homeland security and law enforcement arenas. Finally, we serve America by sponsoring "Massing of the Colors" ceremonies in conjunction with Flag Day,

the Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

We are not unique. Veterans, and the Veterans Service Organizations to which they belong, support America every day, in every way. We are grateful for the veterans' abiding devotion to duty. We are humbled by their eternal sacrifices. Their selfless service underwrites the freedom of thought, choice and action we all must have to pursue our respective dreams and aspirations. For that, and for so much more, we are in their eternal debt.

Following CINC Vowinkel remarks, Secretary Shinseki outlined the Department of Veterans Affairs' accomplishments on behalf of US military veterans everywhere. President Obama next spoke, praising the manifold contributions of American veterans, citing their dedication to their nation while under arms, but also extolling their virtues after their active service ended. At the conclusion of the ceremony, VCINCs Engen and Hayes led the procession of American and VSO flags out of the amphitheater. Following the departure of President and Mrs. Obama, CINC Vowinkel (and VCINCs Engen and Hayes) in a leading role and other national VSO leaders, placed commemorative wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Every aspect of the several ceremonies was a moving experience.

After leaving Arlington National Cemetery, the CINC, other Companions, VSO representatives, and civil and military representatives, adjourned to the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington (VA) for the MOWW-hosted National Veterans Day Reception. The three-hour National Reception was attended by over 300 people—notably, members of the nation's VSOs, but also including those from Congress, the various Federal Executive Departments, Wounded Warriors and even a British Veterans organization. Multiple MOWW storyboards were featured throughout the large reception hall, each highlighting one of MOWW's signature programs, e.g., Patriotic Education, ROTC, Scouting, National Security, etc. Secretary Shinseki presented heartfelt remarks, praising all veterans and VSOs for their many contributions, and their service both in uniform and in civilian life. In doing so, he highlighted the point that Veterans Day is a day to celebrate the comparatively small group of Americans who have served or who are still serving the United States while wearing their nation's uniform. After his remarks, he stayed for an extended period, talking with all present and graciously having his photograph taken with attendees.

In summary, it was a momentous day for the Order. It was a day celebrating the abiding service of all US military veterans, and it was a day during which the Military Order of the World Wars was featured prominently, to include nationally on CSPAN and other media. ★



Historical uniforms—Korean War to present day.



L-R: Margot and PCINC COL Brion V. Chabot with current SVCINC COL M. Hall Worthington at Memorial Amphitheater.



L-R: HPM Robert M. Morrill, (Adjutant, BG Bultman Chapter, VA), and HPM Cadet Arthur B. Morrill IV (VMI '12).



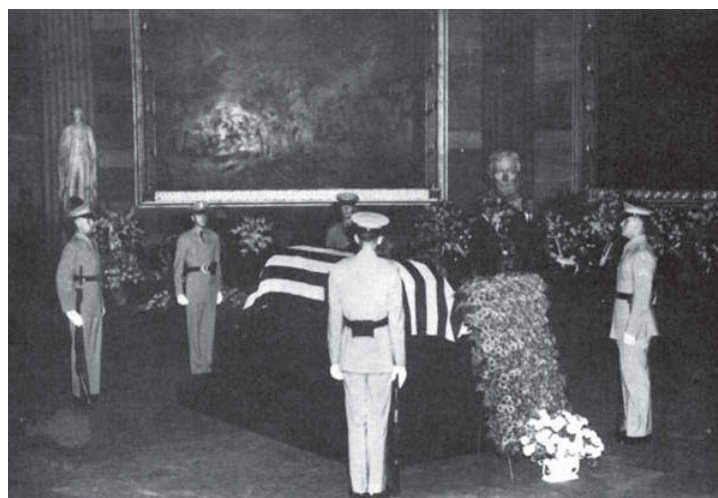
MOWW CINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel with VCINCs LTC Gary O. Engen and Capt John M. Hayes place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



G/A Pershing Memorial Ceremony: Honoring Him Among His Soldiers

BY GSO LTC RUTH L. HAMILTON, USA (RET)
MG MEADE (026) CHAPTER, MD

the soldiers he commanded in Europe. Two of General Pershing's grandsons are buried within about 20 feet of the General gravesite. Honored guests, largely comprised of military attaches of the 18 Allied Nations that fought with the United States in World War I, laid wreaths at General Pershing's grave site as a part of this impressive ceremony.



Honor guard keeps vigil in the rotunda of the US Capitol.
Source: www.history.army.mil

On a windswept rise on a cold, Virginia day in Arlington National Cemetery on the afternoon of Friday, November 11, 2011, Companions of Region IV and the MG George G. Meade Chapter participated in a time-honored memorial service at the grave site of General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, AUSA (Ret). General Pershing was an Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief of The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). After a state funeral held 15-19 July 1948, General Pershing was buried near the grave sites of

Region IV and the MG Meade Chapter assumed responsibility for the ceremony that was started by World War I veterans to pay their respects to General Pershing. This year's Pershing Memorial Ceremony began with a musical prelude by "Pershing's Own," the US Army Band. MG Meade Chapter Companion COL Kenneth McCreedy served as Master of Ceremonies. The Pershing Memorial Service began with an invocation, presentation of the colors, the singing of the National Anthem, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, retirement of the colors, and the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Order. COL McCreedy then introduced MG Michael S. Linnington, USA, Commander of the Military District of Washington (MDW), who gave a warm welcome to everyone in attendance—despite the cool autumn afternoon.

Representing CINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel, USN (Ret), SVCINC COL M. Hall Worthington, USA (Ret), heartily welcomed attendees to this annual memorial ceremony on behalf of the Order. PCINC LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, USA (Ret), then introduced guest speaker Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. VADM Brice-O'Hara assumed her current position on May 24, 2010. As second in command and Chief Operating Officer, VADM Brice-O'Hara executes the Commandant's strategic intent, manages internal organizational governance and serves as the Component Acquisition Executive.

PCINC Shehab first met VADM Brice-O'Hara when she was a Captain serving as the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard



From page 8, L-R: G/A John Joseph Pershing, AUSA (Ret), General Headquarters, Chaumont France, 19 October 1918; “The Old Guard” (Source: VCINC HPM Jennie F. McIntosh); SVCINC M. Hall Worthington, USA (Ret); VADM Sally Brice-O’Hara, USCG (Source: PCINC COL Bert L. Rice, USA (Ret)); MOWW Companions represented the MG Meade Chapter, MD; G/A John Joseph Pershing’s gravesite Source: MOWW File Photo

Training Base at Cape May, NJ. He recruited her into the Order. Subsequently, he was reacquainted with her at the funeral of Corporal Frank W. Buckles in March 2011 (the last surviving US military veteran of WWI) and asked if she would be willing to serve as guest speaker for the Pershing Ceremony, which she happily agreed to do.

VADM Brice-O’Hara presented thoughtful remarks titled “The General’s Cross,” that included information about General Pershing which was unknown to many attendees. In 1922, when Pershing served as the Army Chief of Staff, he heard that he was to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions in the Philippines. He didn’t like that.

The highly-principled officer turned down the honor claiming that he did not deserve it. He explained that he turned down many recommendations for the same award for actions of Soldiers who were more deserving. The war concluded nearly three years earlier and, perhaps, Pershing “...always the war soldier, was not quite used to being the war veteran.” He also turned down an opportunity to run for President, and an offer to have a special memorial built in his honor at Arlington National Cemetery. Instead, he preferred to be buried “under a simple government-issued marker...among the soldiers he led on the battlefields.”

She added that General Pershing was again offered the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Philippines on his 80th birthday in 1940. He didn’t refuse it this time. We will never know his reasons, but perhaps he ultimately became comfortable with accepting it on behalf of the Soldiers he led. President Roosevelt personally presented the Distinguished Service Cross to him at the White House this time.

Vice Admiral Brice-O’Hara commended MOWW’s Companions for honoring General Pershing. She said, “In a way, you are the living, breathing Pershing memorial...you’re the very worthy substitute for the monument Pershing would

not allow to be built for himself.” Following Vice Admiral Brice-O’Hara’s presentation, a beautiful rendition of Pershing’s favorite song “My Buddy” was sung by Sergeant First Class Robert P. Burner, USA, from “Pershing’s Own.”

As a special addition at this year’s ceremony, Susannah Buckles Flanagan also laid a wreath in remembrance of her father, Corporal Frank Buckles, “The Last American Doughboy,” at his grave, which is within about 35 yards of General Pershing’s gravesite.

The traditional wreath laying ceremony at General Pershing’s was conducted with the assistance of Soldiers from “The Old Guard,” the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, MDW, providing assistance. SVCINC Worthington led the way with the presentation of an MOWW wreath. He was followed by representatives of many veteran organizations and the Embassies of several Allied Nations who also laid wreaths and rendered their respects to General Pershing.

Following the wreath laying ceremony, Taps was played by Sergeant First Class Troy McKay of “Pershing’s Own” with “Pershing’s Own” concluding the ceremony with some lovely postlude music.

All attending thought the memorial ceremony to General Pershing was very dignified and mindful of General Pershing wishes to “...rest here under a simple government-issued marker...not on a lofty hill, but among the soldiers he led on the battlefields.” ★



LTC Ruth L. Hamilton, USA (Ret), was commissioned as an Adjutant General’s Corps officer in February 1985. She served in a variety of positions in US Army and NATO assignments worldwide. GSO LTC Hamilton currently serves the Order as an EXCOM Member (Appointed), as a General Staff Officer (Elected), as the Chair, Legislative and Resolutions Committee, and as the Vice Chair, Magazine Committee.

A Quiet, Dignified Man

Remembering a Founding Companion

2LT JASON A. SOKOLOV, USA (FORMER)
ADJUTANT, GREATER BOSTON (004) CHAPTER, MA



A few years ago, a lady, a lady named Loiuise Johnson, then in her nineties, mentioned to one of our Companions that her father had been an original member of the chapter. She declared, “He idolized General Pershing and had to join as soon as the chapter was formed.” Sure enough, her father, Major Edwin L. Weiscopf, is on the chapter’s roll of perpetual members. It took little encouragement for Mrs. Johnson to tell her father’s story which, augmented by some research, we thought we would memorialize for our chapter and the Order.

In 1898, when the Spanish-American War was declared, Ed Weiscopf was a restless teenager and a high school student in Boston. Anxious for adventure and in the spirit of patriotism, he convinced his parents to cooperate with their silence, and although records are unavailable, we believe that he joined the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, the predecessor to the Massachusetts National Guard. Being very tall for his age, and with the excuse that he was born in the Mid-West and had no copy of his birth certificate available, he was enlisted. Of course, the war lasted only a few months and he was ultimately discovered to be underage and sent back home to tend to high school and all the other tasks of adolescence.

But as soon as age and opportunity allowed, Ed was back in service, enlisting in November 1901 as a private in the 46th Coast Artillery Regiment. He was honorably discharged at the end of 1902 with the comment that his character was excellent. During this tour he did not serve outside of the continental United

States, but records also note that he served in the Philippine Insurrection, but without any details as to his service.

Ultimately Ed returned to civilian life to work his way through the rest of his education, eventually graduating in the second class of the Suffolk University Law School, located in Boston. By that time he had begun his life-long habit of so-

cializing in various groups. He was an early member of the United Spanish War Veterans and its now-forgotten “fun” group, the Military Order of the Serpent. In 1905, he joined the Germania Lodge of Freemasons and the following year the Masonic Scottish Rite in St. Andrews Lodge, also in Boston.

While all of this was happening, he worked in his parents retail business, which was selling china, crystal and silverware—essen-

tially wedding gifts and luxury goods. There seems to be no record that he ever practiced law as a civilian, but he went on to establish his own business, which was the sale of restaurant equipment and supplies. During this period he married Minnie, and his daughter Louise was born in 1915, followed by her sister in 1917.

By 1916, with war raging in Europe, Corporal Weiscopf participated in advanced infantry and artillery training in the Federal Military Training Camp at Plattsburgh, NY, where he was promoted to sergeant. Massachusetts archives have no record of this service and any immediately preceding service, but a series of surviving photographs produced by the US



Newly-promoted Sergeant Weiscopf (seated center with mustache) and his squad during Federal training in Plattsburg, NY (summer, 1916).

Source: Author's Collection