

# OFFICER REVIEW

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011  
Volume 50 • Number 6



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# MOWW || CINC's Perspective

BY CINC COL CLIFFORD D. WAY, JR., USAF (RETIRED)



Jackie and I wish you all a successful new year, and one with good health and happiness. The year 2011 will be the start of another five-year strategic plan, which the EXCOM will approve at the end of January. I worked with most of the committee chairmen and staff officers of the Order to put the draft together last year. When finally approved, it will be listed on the website. The plan will outline the goals of the Order for the next five years. However, any plan or goal depends on each of you buying in and helping to achieve it.

I can't emphasize too strongly that membership for the Order needs our attention. We seem to be satisfied with the current chapter membership and we need to work harder to add new members. All organizations are

faced with an aging population and a shrinking band of possible members. We just need to sell our product. It's a good one. Our membership chairman, John Hayes has been trying to give you ideas and help to achieve new membership goals. We must do better.

The Chief of Staff is still concerned about the budget, which he will brief the EXCOM on at the end of January in Dallas. Contributions to the CINC's Solicitation are coming in below last year's level for this period against the \$90,000 target. Please do your best on the solicitation.

Jackie and I had an impressive luncheon visit to the Leigh Wade DC chapter. The current Chapter Commander, COL John Whidden, hosted us and is trying to build the chapter name again in the Capitol community. He honored two medical technicians back from deployment and two JROTC cadets from local high schools. The Senior Vice reported on efforts to be part of the Memorial Day ceremony this year for the first time. (See event photo below left and more later in this issue). John toured us around Washington and updated us on the Civil War battlefields in the area. Just a bit of trivia: The Civil War began 150 years ago this year. Many of the major battlefield sites will have special events planned. Check out [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org) for an itinerary of some 600 battlefield sites.

The next chapter visit had us cross into Maryland to attend the Fort Meade Chapter's formal Christmas dinner. Jackie and I were hosted by LTC Alfred Shehab, COL Bert Rice, and Chapter Commander LTC John Hollywood. I had the opportunity to get an updated report on the status of this chapter's work on hosting the National Convention at Bozeman, Montana. COL Rice chairs the committee. Most of the committee attended an update luncheon. My comments to all you members: Make your reservations soon! You will have time this year at the convention to take a tour of Yellowstone National Park if you want to. Friday, they have a Virginia City evening visit with lots of action. Check out the MOWW website and the Convention web site for current information.

Later that night, we attended an impressive formal dinner at Fort Meade. They are adding new buildings and units to the base. I had the opportunity to address the Fort Meade, Prince George's County, and Leigh Wade Chapter members, and inducted two new members (photo of two new members below right). My main accomplishment was to induct two new members into the chapter—and both are under 50! ★



Leigh Wade-DC Chapter Companions hosted CINC Col Clifford Way at their December luncheon chapter meeting.



CINC Col Clifford Way joins with Ft. Meade Chapter Commander LTC John Hollywood in welcoming two new members to the Maryland chapter.



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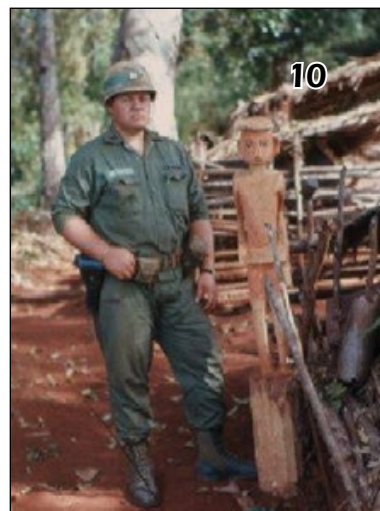
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A US M4A1E-8 Sherman tank on exhibit at the National  
Museum of Military History, Diekirch, Grand-Duché de  
Luxembourg, with dragon's teeth placed as an obstacle  
in front of it.





# Remembering World War II

By 1LT JOHN A. HOWARD, PhD., USA (FORMER)  
HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER

On December 7, 1941, when the Japanese Air Force attacked Pearl Harbor, our huge navy base in Hawaii, and tore up the ship yards and sank many of our warships, it was a thunderbolt that exploded in every living room in America. You can't imagine the terrible shock. The battles and bombing in Europe which we had been reading about for two years were suddenly no longer just tragic news stories, but a real and terrible thing. We, too, were in a war.

At that time, and in the months that followed, many Americans volunteered for military service and millions were drafted by the US Government for military duty, soldiering in whatever armed service to which they were assigned. The American people loved their country, and they were very proud to serve it.

The people in our battalion were farmers, factory workers, accountants, dishwashers, grocers, truck drivers, athletes, couch potatoes, college graduates and high-school drop-outs. They were a whole United Nations of people whose families had come from many different countries.

It was the Army's task to transform this variety of talents, experiences and attitudes into a physically fit and alert fighting force skilled in the use of various weapons, vehicles, and many other areas of critical importance. Just think about that requirement to train millions of Americans to perform in areas



Coat of Arms of the  
745th Tank Battalion

they knew nothing about. Yet, the American military forces carried it out—a modern miracle!

I entered the US Army in August of 1942 and was sent with a couple of hundred men to Camp Grant in Rockford. Until they decided where we were going, they put us through a tough program of training for physical fitness, with exercises, long marches and obstacle courses. They also taught us how to take apart, clean, care for and shoot the basic army rifle.

In October, we boarded trains to take us to Camp Bowie in a desert area of central Texas where we became a tank battalion. We learned how to load, fire and maintain the tank's big cannon, the large machine gun on top of the turret and the small machine gun in the front of the tank. We learned how to drive it and store the ammunition inside. After ten months of training we were sent to New York to board the Queen Elizabeth, one of

the earliest, very large ocean liners. There were fifteen thousand of us! Forty-five soldiers were assigned to every bedroom. There were five banks of three beds, one above another around the walls. We had eight hours for sleeping and then had to get out for the next group and its eight-hour sleep time. The beds were in constant use. When we left the bedroom, we went to the dining rooms, where meals were served continually. We ate twice more before returning to the bedroom, and the rest of the time we



A map of the route that the 745th took from the time they entered England to the stop at Czechoslovakia  
Source: Don Robb

were on the decks or in the lounges.

As the ship left the New York harbor we looked for the Navy ships that would be our escort across the Atlantic to keep us safe from the German navy. There was no escort. Gulp! Then we learned the Queen Elizabeth travelled faster than German submarines and other war ships. After five days of good weather, we arrived in Scotland. We were welcomed with cheers, applause, bagpipe music and hundreds of women serving us tea and cakes, all with tearful thanks to us for joining in the war against Hitler.

From Scotland we took a long train ride to a camp near Swindon in south central England. It was a night trip and the black-out curtains were closed but we could see around the edges that bombs were bursting on the horizon as the German Luftwaffe continued their night time destruction of targets in England which they had been attacking for almost two years. We were already experiencing war.

In England, from our arrival at the end of August until the Normandy invasion ten months later, we had various kinds of special training.

One of the skills we had to learn was map-reading. Just how important that was I suddenly learned when I was assigned to be the lead vehicle in taking the entire battalion from south central England all the way to Land's End at the western tip of the country. When you are leading a column of thirty-six tanks and probably seventy other vehicles, you don't want to take a wrong turn. That would be the worst nightmare.

Well, hour after hour, things went along pretty well and then, suddenly, we came to an impasse. We were going through a small town and the road, which was very narrow, took a sharp right turn. There was no way we could get the tanks around that corner. With the whole column stopped, I radioed headquarters and asked, "What are we to do now?" The colonel said the reconnaissance people who had planned our route said we probably couldn't get through. However, there was no alternate route. Just beyond the town was the only bridge over a river that could stand the weight of a tank. We had to get to Land's End to take special training in recognizing enemy aircraft. I was told I would simply have to use my tank to take out the corner of the house. Our tanks weighed thirty-two tons--sixty-four thousand pounds--so it could go through the walls of a house. When the Colonel told me that, I exclaimed "You've got to be kidding!"

"I am not!" said the Colonel. "Go do it."

So I knocked on the door of the house and an old man opened it. He was terrified at the size, the noise and the number of the tanks. I explained why we had to get through and what we had to do. He said "You can't do that! This house was built in 1686!" I told him the United States Government would pay him well for the trouble we caused and he had ten minutes to clear the furniture. Guess what? Three weeks later when we returned, he was just finishing the house repairs. I was sure that man, and his family through the generations, would hate America forever.

The last few months we were in England, we became a training center for new recruits fresh from the United States to teach them how to be tankers. We graduated three thousand students in this program who would be sent as replacements for war casualties. When American officers were killed or wounded, the army sometimes selected able and combat-experienced soldiers and commissioned them as officers. I received one of those battlefield commissions during the war.

Our battalion landed in Normandy on D-Day. It involved more than 4,000 invasion ships, 600 warships, 10,000 airplanes and 176,000 allied troops. More than 2,400 US soldiers were killed on Omaha Beach where our battalion and others landed.

God was looking out for me on D-Day. Our platoon had never received the large Sherman tanks equipped with assault guns that we had been promised. We had been operating with light tanks for the nine months we had been in England. We got word that our real tanks had finally arrived, so I took our three drivers down to the railroad station to get them. Shortly after we left, the invasion camp where we had assembled was closed for the D-Day assault and nobody could get in or out. As a result the three drivers and I landed in France with our new tanks three days after D-Day when the fighting on the beaches was over.

After the invasion we were under enemy fire much of the time for the eleven months until the German surrender in May, 1945. Each of our companies, mostly with about fifty men, had its own travelling kitchen and cooking staff. When possible they would set up a buffet. When we were scattered as fighters, we had waterproof meals in our vehicles and drinking water. We were fortunate in that we could sleep under the tanks and other vehicles. As shelters from snow and rain, tanks were pretty good and they offered protection from incoming German shells. We had waterproof sleeping bags and used our steel helmets as wash basins when we had time for a shave or a sponge bath.



**Headquarters Company Officers, 745th Tank BN  
(L-R) (The author, 1LT Howard), LT Hernandez,  
CPT Altschuler, LT Thompson, LT Raddatz**  
Source Signal Corps Photo



**The author,  
1LT John A.  
Howard**  
Source: Author's  
Collection



In September, the Allied forces had reached the Rhine River, a very large river, almost as wide as the Mississippi. It was the border between Germany and France. The Germans had blown up the Rhine River bridges to stall the Allies' advance. However, most of the dynamite charges placed under the Remagen Bridge had failed to explode but the ones that did go off had weakened the bridge and the Allied commanders wanted to rush as many troops as possible across while it was still standing.

Our battalion was one of the first to cross but only after I had received our battle instructions at a temporary headquarters in a lovely house on the French side of the Rhine. When I entered the house, I had to wait. There was a very large, beautiful piano in the living room and I started to play it. A woman came down the elegant stairway and said, "Madame does not allow the Americans to play her piano."

I said, "Oh!"

Very soon a majestic lady, very beautifully dressed, came down the stairs and said, "I must apologize for the rudeness of my companion. It is a joy we forget about in war time that all people share a love of good music. That Chopin waltz you were playing is one of my favorites." I asked her if she would play it for me. She smiled and sat down and did. It turned out she was Madame Hilda Gommersbach, a retired and famous opera singer.

We crossed the bridge and immediately encountered the Siegfried Line, an imposing military fortification the Germans had built along the Rhine River. It included very large concrete triangular blocks which they called Dragon's Teeth. They were placed close enough together so that tanks couldn't get between them. If a tank tried to go over them, it would get hung up on them. During the war, Americans invented new ways to deal with new problems. They had welded bulldozer blades on the front of some tanks



**Aerial view of the Siegfried Line**  
Source Signal Corps Photo

and bulldozers were available to move the dragon's teeth. We started up the steep hill along the river and suddenly a swarm of Germans came down the hill in a major attack. I had to make a quick decision. We couldn't use our big cannons against them even though we had ammunition that would explode in the air covering a large area, because our shells would go over their heads and past them.

However, the shells for our assault gun cannons had two-parts, the explosive part on the front and a removable back chamber containing five powder

bags to propel the explosive missile toward the target. The more bags you used the farther the round went. We had instructions not to use less than two bags. I thought we were goners anyway, so I radioed the three tank commanders to start firing with just one powder bag. That decision worked. The shells exploded where the enemy was and ended the attack. I received a Silver Star for that success, but my gamble could have been a disaster if the shells had exploded while still in the cannons.

In December, Hitler's troops mounted a large and very powerful attack in an effort to try to break through the Allied front and capture the ammunition dumps and supply depots of the harbor cities north of us. These supply dumps provided all our food, gasoline, replacement vehicles and ammunition to carry on the war. That attack became known as the Battle of the Bulge. If it had

been successful, Hitler might have won the war. For some days a heavy fog had prevented any American aircraft support. The Americans had no idea of the very large build-up in preparation for this breakthrough. The Germans spearheaded their attack with two divisions of the huge, heavily-armored Tiger and Panther tanks, which had bigger and more powerful cannons than ours. They overwhelmed the Americans on the front line. During the five weeks of that fiercely-fought struggle, there were 77,000 American casualties killed, wounded or captured.



**Close-up view of dragonsteeth comprising Siegfried Line**  
Source Signal Corps Photo

On Christmas day, our outfit was in position on the north flank of the German advance. Up in the turret of our tank, the gunner and I were standing trying to see through the fog when the gunner jabbed me in the ribs with his elbow and said, "Look at that." I whirled around. A girl, nine or ten-years-old, was walking toward our tank. She told us that

when the fighting came back toward her town, all the people left. But her grandfather was an invalid and couldn't travel. She had stayed behind to take care of him. She said they had no food left and wondered if we had any to spare. We immediately gave her all the rations we had in the tank. She made sort of a basket out of her apron to put them in.

She looked up at us, as she turned to leave, and said, "Oh! It's a wonderful, wonderful Christmas after all!" The marvelous thing is that all of us in the tank agreed with her. It had become a wonderful Christmas for us, too. Providing help to that girl was a happy thing for us.

When Germany surrendered, there was no wild rejoicing—just a stunned shock. I said I was going over to a nearby barn to offer a prayer of thanks to God and invited anyone who wished to, to join me. The whole platoon did. This is that prayer.

*Dear God, we pause to offer up our simple thanks that this day, for which the world has waited, is at hand. God help our leaders and statesmen to build a world of harmony and brotherhood so that these last years of cruelty and agony may not be repeated. God help our leaders, and God, help us too, to be worthy of the fact that we were chosen to survive the war. Let us not forget our friends who gave their lives that we might see this day. In their memory may we be better men, may we have the courage to stand for what we know to be right, and, if necessary, may we have the courage to carry out whatever tasks are assigned to us if we are sent to the Japanese war. God, keep our loved ones safe until we return to them. Amen.*

After the war ended, a German Army surrendered to our



**Camouflaged with evergreen boughs, tanks of the 1st Infantry Division (745th Tank Battalion), US First Army, roll through former German block in Gladbach, Germany, and move into attack position. 3/1/45**

Source: [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil), photographer: T/5 Murray Shub

First Infantry Division. Our platoon happened to be at the crossroads where they came by for three days and nights on their way to temporary prison camps—an unending parade of military and civilian vehicles, horse-drawn carts and, of course, hundreds and hundreds on foot. A large number of the German soldiers were old men and boys who had been

casualty replacements.

All the officers in our battalion were assigned to take the Germans back to their home towns. I led a group of trucks taking men back to Nuremburg, a beautiful old city that had been the center of the German Renaissance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. I went to the trucks and asked for a German soldier who spoke English. I took the volunteer to the lead jeep with me. I asked him if he knew where the City Hall was, the place where I was to bring the convoy of trucks. He said, "Of course."

As we approached the city, there were more and more buildings that had been demolished by airplane bombs. In the midst of this rubble, with tears streaming down his cheeks he said, "This was the City Hall."

After the war, the United States undertook the Marshall Plan, a massive program to help European nations rebuild their buildings and economies and address the needs of their societies. It is a fitting conclusion to this report on the death and destruction of World War II to remind ourselves that our nation is in a class by itself as the kindest and most generous and helpful country the world has ever seen. ★



**1LT John A. Howard, PhD., USA (Former)** is a Senior Fellow with the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society. During WWII, he served in the US Army in the European Theater of Operations. There he earned a battlefield commission, and was awarded two Silver Star Medals and two Purple Heart Medals, among other awards and decorations.



# EXIT VIETNAM

By BG Raymond E. Bell Jr., PhD, AUS (Ret)  
Headquarters Chapter



**MACV Patch**

Source: helicopter.org

The United States military withdrawal from the Republic of Vietnam began in June of 1969 when President Richard Nixon ordered the incremental withdrawal of Marines and Soldiers from the country. The 25,000 men designated to leave South Vietnam were to depart from units scattered throughout the country's various regions. The methodology employed, however, ran counter to the desires of General Creighton W. Abrams, COMUSMACV (Commander, United States Military Assistance

General Abrams wanted to bring the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> US Marine Division off the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Vietnam all at the same time. His aim was to challenge the North Vietnamese and dare them to come charging across the DMZ. If they took no action, we could, in effect, declare victory and leave Vietnam at our own discretion.

A major part of his reasoning was that if such an invasion was made he could deftly respond by quickly bringing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines back from Okinawa while moving the 101st Airborne Division into the void on the DMZ. A combined arms brigade of the 5th US Mechanized Infantry Division was already in place. He also knew that the South Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division with its four infantry regiments, and led by the very capable then-Major General Ngô Quang Trưởng, was that country's best division. It was stationed just below the DMZ and could be relied on to fight well when called upon.

With a .45 caliber pistol and General Abrams' plan in my brief case, I traveled to Hawaii and CINCPAC's (Commander-in-Chief, Pacific) headquarters on Oahu in the first week of June 1969. After delivering the plan I took a ten day leave with my family before returning to South Vietnam. One day during that leisurely time I picked up a *Stars and Stripes* newspaper and read to my dismay that what General Abrams had personally planned, with some input from the tiny planning cell led by then-Colonel Donn A. Starry, had been completely disregarded by the government hierarchy in Washington, DC.



**Col Donn A. Starry, USA**

Source: 3rdhowitzerbattery11-acr.com



**General Creighton W. Abrams, USA**

Source: FreeRepublic.com

Command Vietnam). His plan was much more daring. I know because I was right in the middle of the planning process.



**Lieutenant General  
Ngô Quang Trưởng**

Source: United States Army  
Center of Military History



Upon returning to South Vietnam, I was told that when General Abrams' plan had reached the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Acting Chairman, General William C. Westmoreland, had determined that it should not go forward to the Secretary of Defense and thence to the President as the plan was too bold.

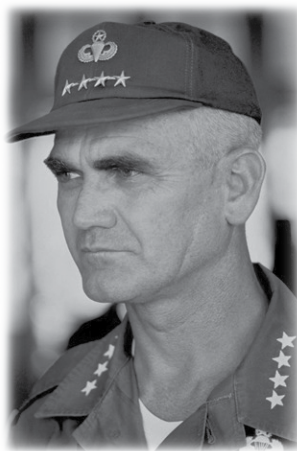
Instead of challenging the North Vietnamese it was decided that the United States would discretely withdraw while continuing to shift the military burden to the South Vietnamese government.

To me and others who had worked on developing the various withdrawal options, it appeared we were to put our military tail between our legs and slink home, virtually admitting defeat instead of challenging North Vietnam by *de facto* announcing victory and marching home with our heads held high. Whatever the outcome of the conflict in Southeast Asia, my participation in the withdrawal planning process was the major highlight of my service in South Vietnam.

My involvement began in February 1969 when I rotated out of my assignment as Executive Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and reported to the J-3 Operations Section's Current Operations Division of the MACV staff. As a major I was the junior officer in a staff section consisting of a dozen lieutenant colonels led by a Marine Corps colonel, all of whom were soon due to rotate back to the United States.

About the time I arrived in the section, General Abrams ordered a ten percent reduction in the size of the MACV staff. After the down-sizing took place, I found myself the only individual in the section who could type since all of our stenographers with security clearances had been reassigned. My top secret clearance and my typing ability gave me the unusual opportunity of being assigned to a select planning cell of one lieutenant colonel and the current plans section leader. The cell, reporting directly to General Abrams, was to develop several withdrawal options for US and Allied forces from Vietnam. Simultaneously, but unknown to us, General Abrams was also working on his own options and plan.

While the overall operational planning was important, it was apparently most important that rotation plans for individual soldiers not be altered. In March, our lieutenant colonel delivered a preliminary plan to Washington when he rotated out of the theater. He was not replaced. Then the section chief returned to the United States and for a brief period I alone represented the planning cell's institutional memory. In a short time, however, two other majors were assigned to the cell and more importantly, Colonel Starry became the cell's chief. (Colonel Starry was awaiting command of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored



**Gen William C. Westmoreland, USA**  
Source: dotphoto.com

Cavalry Regiment and so was available to General Abrams under whom he had previously served and who the general held in high regard.)

Work on a set of options and plans went forward with many options being considered. The cell did a great deal of thinking "outside the box" and some innovative plans were developed. The basis of our planning was the withdrawal of brigade bites taken out of different divisions and other large organizations while leaving certain capabilities such as rapid deployment of air assets in place. We envisioned leaving Vietnam as victors.

General Abrams apparently shared our visions, but he did not share our plans because he came up with his own. When briefed within the MACV staff, however, General Abrams' views were not shared by all his principal staff members. I briefed the chief of the J-5 [Long Range] Plans Section, an Air Force major general, on the plan and I went down in flames. I was also placing acetate slides on the viewgraph behind a screen when General



**Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN**  
Source: history.navy.mil

Abrams and Vice Admiral Elmo Zumwalt went at it over what I remember as how the Seabees and the Mekong Delta Riverine Force were to be redeployed. Nevertheless, General Abrams prevailed and I carried the plans to Hawaii where I delivered them to one of my former West Point Department of Mechanics instructors. That was the last I ever heard of the Abrams concept.

My tour in MACV headquarters lasted several more weeks but after the disappointing outcome of our withdrawal of forces effort, it was now more a matter of just "treading water" than anything else. Looking back on the months spent developing the different options, however, it was a great opportunity few officers in my pay grade ever got in those days. To work for officers of the caliber of General Abrams and then-Colonel Starry (who later became a full general), and to have one's contributions seriously considered and even accepted, was more than just an honor. It was a special once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—even if the final outcome ended in an undesired fashion. The way the United States finally exited Vietnam, of course, is history. For me, the exit's method of execution was a very personal disappointment. ★



**BG Raymond E. Bell, Jr., AUS (Ret)**, commanded the 220<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade before retiring in 1989. A Vietnam veteran, he is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, and attended both the Army and National War Colleges.



**CPT (Dr.) Bob Mallin (Vietnam, 1966)**  
Source: Author's Collection

At Pleiku I met my sergeant, SSG “Big O”, who greeted me by saying simply, “Finally, a heavy-duty doctor.” Big O did a superb job of ruling “my” medical platoon, along with 1LT George Murphy.

# Heavy-Duty Doctor

*By CPT (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Former)  
Phoenix Chapter (092), Arizona*

Having been drafted during the 1966 Vietnam build up, and being a sizable person even then, my trip through New York’s Whitehall Street induction center was filled with, “Just keep moving Doc, we’ll do the paper work.”

During my Army training, I almost learned how to salute, and I left pieces of flesh at Fort Sam’s Camp Bullis obstacle course. After completing my training I embarked on 36-hour C-130 trip to Cahm Ran Bay, South Vietnam. I eventually got to Pleiku and the 1/10th Cavalry.

At Pleiku I met my sergeant, SSG “Big O,” who greeted me by saying simply, “Finally, a heavy-duty doctor.” Big O did a superb job of ruling “my” medical platoon, along with 1LT George Murphy. (In those days, the Army gave every newly-minted captain doctor a 1LT Medical Service Corps (MSC) officer who knew US Army rules and regulations.)

Early on, Big O let me know his requirement—if I agreed—of an Army blanket and private table on pay day. Unrelated to this, I’m sure, was his desire to sell 10 Military Payment Certificates (MPC) for each greenback he could “launder” and get home.

On the other hand, George always envied my Purple Heart, Combat Medic Badge and Air Medal. Considering George was my “link to the Army,” he deserved much more than that. His skills included teaching baseball to Montagnards and inspecting “bread safes.” (Bread safes are boxes covered in fine mesh to allow air circulation and keep bugs out—similar to a “pie safe.”) After Vietnam, he stayed in the Army, retiring as a LTC.

He never called me by my first name until he was promoted to major in the Army National Guard 30 years later.

Being “the Doc” had its perquisites. I could have breakfast anytime from the “up all night” cooks. Occasionally, I got a steak dinner after someone said something like, “Doc I’d like you to meet Col \_\_\_\_\_. He’s visiting and has a small problem, and his medics are in Saigon. Would you check him out?”

I remember a raging, rogue tiger was killed with 12 rockets and 500 machine gun rounds from a command Huey gunship ...so we could watch one million fleas desert his cooling body. I was also privileged to monitor the radio traffic that detailed finding and actually losing a small herd of elephants. (These reports were called a “descriptive” variant of “Sit-Reps”).

Tony Karpus, my scrounge, “located” some Pierced Steel Plank (PSP) to keep our feet out of the mud, found numerous “puzzle palace”-bound treats (both culinary and entertaining), and discovered a “deuce and a half” full of dented soda cans free for the hauling in Cahm Ran Bay. We sold this “trash” for 10¢ a



**SSG “Big O”**  
Source: Author's Collection



can and each of us made \$200 to take on Rest & Recuperation (R&R).

I must say R&R in the Philippines was a treat as all there remembered WWII and treated GIs well. The problem was the full day coming and returning by C-54s used up valuable R&R time. I met my wife there. She was surprised that I took as much time showering (red dirt gets ingrained) as “cohabitating.”

Not to be completely light-hearted about war, I did see a tall trooper decapitated by the tail rotor of a mud sunken Huey slick ship. One of my medics on loan to a southern division lost his life when his tracked vehicle turned over in a river and he drowned...going on an ice cream run. This was my only KIA over a year's time. Oh yes—I was once denied entrance to my Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) by the buttoned-down medics during a mortar attack. The positive end of this story was a free Purple Heart license plate in the state of New Mexico.

Shot records up to date in the field, swallowing Dapsone (used to prevent Malaria), tea plantations with female French



**Armored line travelling on the red dirt roads of Vietnam**

Source: Author's Collection

journalists, power landings and the 10-minute warning to catch the ghost flight to Seattle were all part of the most influential year of my life.

I learned the song “Gary Owen,” saw muddy changes of command and wondered at visiting Australian armor officers who stenciled kangaroos on our tracked monsters. I also remember two early pieces of advice from our G2, Major Getz, who said to the “new kid” (me):

1. *Take care of your men (though if you build them a “disorderly house,” they will complain about the shortage of red heads).*
2. *Remember: most of your war stories should be mostly true.*

Certainly there were attacks, combat episodes, sheer panic and a sense of immediate, impending death. Like many, I saw things a young man should never have to see, made decisions one should never have to make, and accumulated memories just as you all have. All of these things and more filled my year “in country.”

We all lost contact after Vinny's Mom cooked an all-day, Italian dinner in her South Bronx apartment for those of us New Yorkers returning that September. Since then, we've drifted apart, though I have seen my lieutenant several times. During one visit to his California home for reminiscences I had the distinct pleasure of having my son think I was interesting for once in my life.

I end this journey down the muddy memory lane with my love and respect for the officers and men with whom I have had the honor to serve. Truly...most of my stories are (mostly) true. ★



**M577 APC (Command Variant)**

Source: Author's Collection



**“The Shot Line”**

Source: Author's Collection



*Captain (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Former) is a graduate of Adelphi University and New York Medical College. He is certified with the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In private practice from 1975-94, he was the Alaskan State Physician of the Year. While in the US Army (1966-1968) he earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal, and a Combat Medical Badge.*





# Israel Today

BY PAST CINC R. M. "ROLLIE" STEVENS

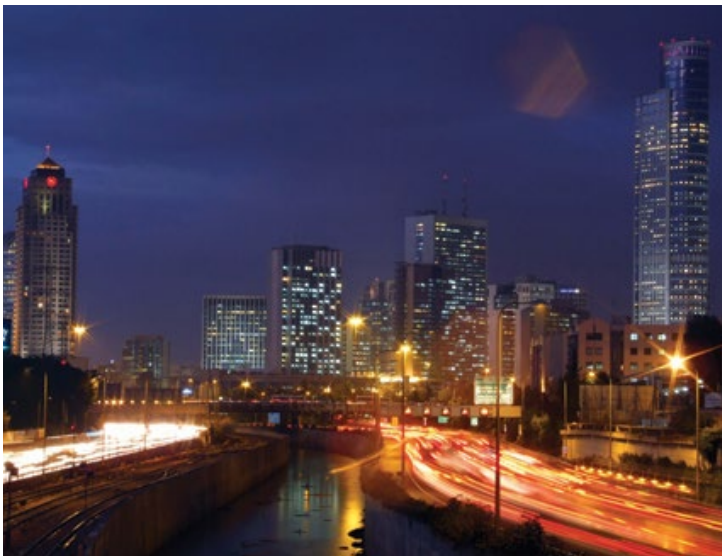
DALLAS CHAPTER (069), TEXAS

The nation of Israel is alive and well! Following a ten-day visit to that nation, my wife and I returned with a renewed appreciation for the state of Israel.

This all started about two years ago when one of the chaplains in the MOWW North Texas Chapter, COL (Rabbi) Murray Burger, PhD, asked me if I was interested in going to Israel on a ten-day trip. After considering what he said, I followed up at the next meeting of the chapter to elaborate on what he had previously stated. That started the whole selection process by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV). In June, the TALO (Texas-Arkansas-Louisiana-Oklahoma) region of the JWV selected me to visit Israel for ten days. My wife chose to accompany me and thus began an outstanding trip.

We departed on 7 October from Newark, NJ, via El Al Airlines. The Boeing 747 was packed to the gills and included over one hundred students from a Jewish School from the New York area. The mid-afternoon flight arrived early the next morning in Tel Aviv. We were tired but eager to see as much as possible; our tour began at noon.

I will not give a travelogue in this article but just give a brief overview and my impressions of the country. It appeared from most outward appearances that life was somewhat normal in this mostly homogeneous culture. We saw many Arabs, Muslims, Christians and of course Jews. Our tour guide was a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Israel Defense Force (IDF) who had been retired twenty-three years. She was very



Tel Aviv at Night

Source: [www.israelity.com](http://www.israelity.com)



Terra Santa Convent, Tiberias (Lower Galilee, Israel)

Source: Friaries of the Custody





**Israel Defense Force (IDF) Insignia**

Source: historama.com

knowledgeable of history and how the nation of Israel evolved.

Ronit Nachman, our tour guide, was a friend of Yitzhak Rabin following her time in the IDF. To say the least, she was a big fan of the martyred Prime Minister and had stories to tell of her personal involvement with both he and his wife.

During one of our stops at the Ayalon Kibbutz, we met Ronit's father and sister.<sup>1</sup> Her father fought with the British during WW II, and then with Israel in their War of Independence. He was 92-years-old, but very spry and full of energy.

Life is somewhat normal in all of Israel, particularly Tel Aviv, where a bustling business economy was in evidence. Much building of skyscrapers and other projects was underway, and wherever we went, the building crane was much in evidence.

The countryside appeared serene with tremendous agriculture throughout the northern part of the country. We saw rows and rows of olive trees and mangos. Fresh fruit was served at each meal and I was surprised to learn of their thriving beef industry. Of course, we saw many goats and sheep also.

Jerusalem was another story, with its racial mixture and centuries of so much history. On the plane home, I stated I would like to spend much more time in Jerusalem to see so very much more. We only scratched the surface.

We spent three nights in Tel Aviv, two in the ancient city of Tiberias and four in Jerusalem. Each day was packed to the maximum with things to see and do. We ended each day very tired. Following dinner on the last evening, we departed for the airport and took an overnight flight back to Newark, NJ, arriving at 6:00 am.

During the entire trip I had a recorder with me and recorded about 70 hours, mostly of our tour guide giving us information regarding what we were about to see. I am currently reviewing the tape together with other resources to be able to give

presentations to interested groups.

We came home very tired but very appreciative of the opportunity to visit the State of Israel. I watch the latest news every day for important events politically. Jean and I would love to return for a longer visit. ★

**Map of the Nation of Israel**

Source: pbs.org/



<sup>1</sup> The Ayalon Institute is located between Nes Ziona and Rehovot. It is located on Kibbutz Hill and was made to fool the British into thinking it was a kibbutz during the British Mandate. In fact, it was a secret ammunition factory set up by the Jewish underground. Source: jewishvirtuallibrary.com



Past CINC R. M. "Rollie" Stevens was elected MOWW's 72nd Commander-in-Chief in 2002. CAPT Stevens says his proudest accomplishment within MOWW is his work with the youth activities. He organized and conducted the first Southwest Youth Leadership Conference and added a second conference aboard the USS Lexington. CAPT Stevens was also instrumental in establishing the Order's Council of Region Commanders. CAPT Stevens was born in 1934 and graduated from the University of Iowa. He was commissioned in the US Naval Reserve from Officer Candidate School. He served on active duty until 1962, and then continued in the active Reserves until his retirement in 1988. As a civilian, he worked for 29 years in sales and management.



**Jerusalem (Wailing Wall and the Al-Aqsa Mosque)**

Source: [http://mecadserv1.technion.ac.il/public\\_html/ESDA08/images/Jerusalem1.jpg](http://mecadserv1.technion.ac.il/public_html/ESDA08/images/Jerusalem1.jpg)

# Fix the Bloody Thing!

By Lt Col Bruce M. Bailey, USAF (Ret)  
Dallas Chapter (069), Texas

We were assigned temporary duty (TDY) to a Royal Air Force (RAF) base in England, while flying a normal RB-47. Everything we did was so highly classified that no one knew who we were, where we came from, what we were doing or anything else. They only knew that we kept our aircraft hidden most of the time and didn't associate with others on the base. On the rare occasions that they saw our aircraft, they knew they had never seen anything like it.

That secrecy led to base units being uneasy with us; rumors ran wild. Not being trusted by support units and being unable wait for the normal processing time for supplies, we became creative at liberating or borrowing everything we *needed*—or what we *wanted*.

Our reputation (but little else) was well known around the world. As a result, an RAF Wing Commander, equal to a full colonel, was assigned to us to prevent us from stealing, or at least to keep a rough count on what we took so the Air Force could be billed.

The RAF Wing Commander was not allowed to attend mission briefings or debriefings, but he could observe takeoffs and landings. He had seen four missions and was astounded to see us pile out of our aircraft and immediately check the forward main landing gear upon landing. He knew enough to know that on each mission we went out and sparred with Soviet defenses. Sometimes we came back with aircraft damage from those encounters. He surmised the forward landing gear problem must be quite critical to draw such attention when we got back on the ground after being chased and shot at.



**Boeing RB-47H**  
Source:USAF Museum

Russians were unable to do. Our commander laughed and explained to the proper Englishman that the left forward main landing gear tire was divided into six equal segments, each labeled with a crew position. The crew member segment at the bottom when the airplane was parked had to buy that night's drinks.

The RAF-type kept his hand on his wallet as he walked away, knowing that history had to be wrong. There was no way the British could have lost a war to "those colonials!" ★



*Lt Col Bailey was an Air Force Electronic Officer (EWO). After receiving his wings and completing Electronic Warfare School, the young lieutenant learned of a weird outfit flying secretive missions in strange-looking aircraft. It was a perfect match. He was assigned to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and the next 20 years was involved in what is commonly referred to as "Spy Flights." Wherever his group went, they were isolated from all others and were referred to as "Brand X."*

## RB-47E



A typical reconnaissance route from Thule AB to Soviet Union flown by RB-47H crews.

The B-47E was the basis for a number of important long-range reconnaissance variants.

The only B-47s to see anything that resembled combat were these reconnaissance variants. They operated from almost every airfield that gave them access to the USSR, and often probed Soviet airspace.

Boeing-Wichita built 240 RB-47E reconnaissance variants, similar to the B-47E but with a nose stretched by 34 in (0.86 m), had an arguably more elegant appearance than the bomber variants of the B-47.

The long nose was used to stow up to 11 cameras, which could include:

- An O-15 radar camera for low-altitude work.
- A forward oblique camera for low-altitude work.
- A K-17 trimetrogon (three-angle) camera for panoramic shots.
- K-36 telescopic cameras.

The RB-47E could carry photoflash flares for night reconnaissance. Although the RB-47E could be refueled in flight, its fuel capacity was increased, to a total of 18,400 gal (70,000 liters). The navigator controlled the cameras, becoming a "navigator-photographer" instead of a "navigator-bombardier."

Source: Wikipedia





# St. Louis Adopts “Massing of the Colors”

BY MAJ RONALD W. JONES, USA (RETIRED)  
*St. Louis (088), Missouri, Chapter*

A bright sun, a cloudless sky and crisp fall weather ushered in the first-ever incorporation of the MOWW St. Louis Chapter-sponsored “Massing of the Colors” ceremony as the prelude to the 27th Annual Saint Louis Metropolitan Veterans’ Day Observance. This observance was held on 6 November 2010. A lectern placed on the south plinth of the Soldiers’ Memorial served as the rostrum for the service and the reviewing stand for the annual parade.

Curt Copeland (Clear Channel Radio) was the Master of Ceremonies. Colors were posted by a Color Guard of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, and baritone CMSgt Bob Ellison, USAF (Ret) sang the National Anthem. The Honorable Francis Slay, the Mayor of Saint Louis, provided a stirring welcome and salute to veterans.

The Funeral Honor Guard of the American Legion Service Women’s Post #404—the only all female Legion Post in Missouri—conducted a moving Missing Comrades “Empty Table” ceremony, using representative covers of all five of the military Services. It was a stirring ceremony conducted with military precision.

MAJ Ronald W. Jones, USA (Ret), MOWW’s Region XI Commander, presented a brief background and history of the “Massing of the Colors.” He then gave the command, “Mass the Colors.” As the Massed Colors element moved into position to lead the parade, the Master of Ceremonies introduced the Parade Marshals:



Col Leontone Meyer, USMCR (Ret), 91-years-young; William J. Merritt, USMCR, and Charles A. Smith, USA (Ret). CMSgt Ellison closed the formal ceremonies by singing “God Bless the USA” and the parade was underway!

The lead element of the Massed Colors included representatives from: Army JROTC units (Beaumont HS, Jennings HS, Vashon HS); a USMC JROTC unit

(Roosevelt HS); NJROTC units (Cleveland Junior Naval Academy, Riverview Gardens HS), and; AFJROTC units (Gateway Institute of Technology, University City HS, Soldan International Studies HS, Alton HS). Other elements included: USTRANSCOM Joint Services Color Guard (Scott AFB, IL); 13th MO Light Artillery (CSA); American Legion Service Women’s Post #404; AMVETS Post 48, Desoto MO; Missouri National Guard; Vietnam Veterans of America (Bevo Chapter 611, St Louis); Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (Gateway Chapter).

Special thanks go to COL Judith Hanes, USA (Ret), Project Officer for MOWW’s Saint Louis Chapter, and CMSgt Thomas Williams, USAF (Ret), Air Science Instructor, AFJROTC MO-851, Gateway Institute of Technology. COL Hanes was indomitable in securing Parade Committee approval, publicity and support. Chief Williams’ wise counsel, firm grasp of protocol, logistics planning and operating skills were invaluable. They turned a dream into a reality. ★

Top and Bottom Photo: Courtesy of the author  
Middle Photo by Bill Burckhalter, CMDR, AL Post 156



MAJ Ronald W. Jones enlisted in the Regular Army in 1954, was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1955, “bootstrapped” at St. Benedict’s College, Atchison, Kansas, in 1969, and received a Research Master’s in American History in 1974 from Saint Louis University. He served in Korea, Germany, and two tours with MACV in Viet Nam. He retired in 1974 in Saint. Louis, having completed a terminal tour as Advisor to the Missouri Army National Guard. He was inducted into the Order in 1988, has served three years as Chapter Commander, two years as Department Commander, one year as Region GSO, and is currently in his second year as Region XI Commander.

# PATRIOTIC EDUCATION:

## *Now and in the future!*

**After this year's MOWW National Convention in July 2010, attendees came away convinced that patriotic education is the future of our Order.**

BY COL RICHARD E MINOR, USA (RET)  
CHAIR, PATRIOTIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE (PEC)  
PHOENIX CHAPTER (092), ARIZONA

During several patriotic education forums at the 2010 National Convention, attendees discussed in detail how to run patriotic education activities, to include Flag Forums, single-day Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC), multi-day YLCs, Massing of the Colors, etc.

Attendees concluded the Order needs to progress, so a detailed Strategic Plan for 2015 for patriotic education was outlined, thoroughly discussed and approved. Companions from all levels should review the Patriotic Education Plan.

### **Patriotic Education Plan (PE)**

The critical parts of our patriotic education goals are outlined below. Each of us needs to start by evaluating what we each can do with PE-5

below, and work toward achieving those and other goals.

- **PE-1.** Set a theme at the national level for patriotic education throughout the Order. Be one of the 10% that will lead in any crisis, understand the US Constitution is our anchor, understand and support the Free Enterprise System and use our American history to demonstrate the uniqueness of freedom in the United States.
- **PE-2.** Find, adapt or lead in developing a symposium of other organizations to develop stronger patriotic education programs throughout our Nation and begin an International Program. This could include co-sponsorships, e.g., a "National Youth Leadership Conference."

- **PE-3.** Develop a national patriotic education public relations program and then select a national spokesman that can project our program and help develop it.

- **PE-4.** Establish a national patriotic education component to the MOWW web site (the latter is being designed even as I write) and include appropriate links to other MOWW patriotic education web sites, other organizations involving leadership, free enterprise, civics, social studies, etc.

- **PE-5.** All chapters of MOWW support a patriotic education program by providing financial and organizational support to patriotic education programs in their community. Department and Region Commanders need to lead their







organizations and communities in providing veteran forums, flag education, etc., to elementary, middle and secondary schools.

In addition, as an Order we should provide specific patriotic education according to size of chapters as follows:

- Small Chapter (<50): Send a minimum of five (5) high school students to a 3/5-day YLC.
- Medium Chapter (50-99): Organize and support a one-day high school student YLC or a two-day high school student YLC.
- Large Chapter (>99): Organize and support a 4/5-day high school YLC in their Region. The Patriotic Education Committee will assist Regions and Departments in developing and achieving the above goals. (See PE 7 below)

• **PE-6.** YLC core curriculum will continue to be 50% Leadership, 30% Patriotism, and 20% Free Enterprise

at least for all multi-day YLCs.

• **PE-7.** In preparation for patriotic education program growth, we need to approve, fund and train YLC directors so the instructions they provide at all sites are consistent. The Order should also consider establishing mobile training teams that will conduct YLCs at locations not currently supported.

• **PE-8.** The Patriotic Education Committee (PEC) will continue to supervise volunteer and youth protection programs to insure standards are met and to maintain our insurance coverage.

### A Call to Action

The actions above involve more than just YLC Directors. They also require the involvement of all Commanders—from the CINC on down. Vice Commanders, and Region, Department and Chapter Commanders, need to be directly

involved to further the patriotic education of our youth and help this Order recruit new members.

Some of you are doing the above and a lot more. However, each Commander and Companion should be able to say they have done something to further patriotic education in their Chapter! Can you? ★



**COL Richard E. "Dick" Minor, USA (Ret),** served 30 years in the US Army (Artillery) in command, line and staff positions in the US, Korea, Belgium and Vietnam (combat). In MOWW, he has been a Chapter and a Department Commander, and the National Seminar Chair. He is now the Patriotic Education Committee Chair, and has three years on the EXCOM. He holds Gold and Silver Patrick Henry Awards, and the CINC's Award. He is in the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame and is the Director of AZYLC.



\* Mention you're attending the MOWW Convention

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## Gaining New Members

### *A Matter of Chapter Attitude & Commitment*

BY 1LT WESLEY E. GROSS, USA (FORMER)  
DALLAS CHAPTER (069), TEXAS

Speaking only for the Dallas Chapter, we have developed a strong conviction based on experience as to what it takes to build chapter membership. For the year ending 30 June 2010, we gained 30 new members and lost 2 for a net gain of 28.

We emphasize the goal of getting new members at every meeting. We also welcome new members with a photograph in every monthly newsletter.

Due to this emphasis, a growing number of our Companions are catching “*recruiting fever*.” They get guests to come to our meetings and then make “the close” by being persistent. Many prospects need to be asked multiple times.

More of our Companions are increasingly pro-active in approaching any person they know or meet who may be a former officer. Wearing the MOWW membership pin or a patriotic cap or shirt will often encourage a person to ask about the pin or comment that they were in the service. If the person was not an officer, we ask about parents or grandparents who were.

Almost two dozen of our members now carry their personal MOWW business card. Others carry our generic MOWW card which we make available at meetings. Having a supply of cards in a wallet or purse



makes it easy to exchange cards, follow up by phone or e-mail, and invite the prospective member to attend a chapter meeting.

Our chapter pace-setter and inspirational leader is Captain Allen Clark, who brought in 10 new members during the year. Allen’s example inspired our Companions and resulted in a friendly competition for new members.

Frankly, we are selling a *product* (MOWW and our chapter) to



potential members. The tools for making a positive first impression are our *newsletter*, our *meetings* and our *venue*, our *speakers* and an association with our patriot members.

To get prospects interested, we

work hard to ensure the potential member has a good experience at his/her first MOWW meeting. I cannot overemphasize the importance of having outstanding speakers at our ten luncheons, and having good entertainment at our two annual dinners. These things attract potential new members, and they help retain annual members.

Good programs draw attendance and generate enduring interest. They give Companions a point to sell to prospective members. During the past year our speakers have included former CIA and Secret Service officers, an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) officer, authors and heroes from WWII (Pacific and Europe), authors B. G. Burkett (“*Stolen Valor*”) and Joe Galloway (“*We Were Soldiers*”), and a Vice Admiral and a Lieutenant General, among others. Companions actively making speaker recommendations to the Programs Committee



# MOWW || New Troops

also generate chapter enthusiasm for seeking new members. This allows us to book speakers four to six months in advance. Chapters who work hard to get excellent programs will find that those programs are vital to attracting new members.

We try to have a “don’t give up” attitude in pursuing prospective members. Some of our new members have been asked to join in different ways over and over again. Once we obtain the e-mail address of a prospective member, we send them a copy of our newsletter *every month*—with a new personal invitation each month to attend the next chapter meeting.

The Companion who would be the sponsor should be diligent in reminding his/her prospects of our chapter meeting dates, thereby creating excitement in the prospective member to come hear our speaker for the month. We have been successful in getting an increasing number of our Companions to send information about us and copies of our newsletters to their prospects.

The lifeblood of MOWW is new, motivated Companions who want to serve. We are a very “action oriented,” patriotic Order. We need new talent that will take hold and lead us in the years ahead. We particularly need to add “youth members,” defined as those under 50, even as we retain our “regular” members. The proven way is to encourage perpetual membership for new and annual members.

Setting specific, measurable chapter goals are especially critical. The Dallas chapter set membership goals in July 2009, we discussed

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them at the year’s first chapter meeting and we printed them in our chapter’s newsletter. They are:

- ★ Increase chapter membership by a minimum of one new member a month net increase over any dropped and deceased members.
- ★ Increase the chapter’s perpetual members, as a percent of total living members, from 82% to 86%.

With a net increase of 28 new members—including ten new youth members—the goal was “blown out of the water”—and we increased our percentage of

perpetual members!

For retention, we also have to be diligent in staying on top of annual members whose dues are overdue, i.e., Non-Payment of Dues (NPD). A Companion, usually the member’s original sponsor, is assigned to start reminding each NPD to renew their membership with a strong sales pitch on the advantage of converting to a perpetual membership.

We find it appealing to tell the annual member that perpetual membership is a good return-on-investment for him/her. Not only is it something noble to do for the chapter, long after we have passed away the chapter receives yearly funds due to the investment of all past perpetual membership money in a trust fund. The new or annual member can look at this as a good way of giving back, so we stress perpetual membership to new members and annual members.

The job for our chapter is to keep the momentum going. We hope some of these ideas will help you in your chapter. We must increase membership to guarantee the future of MOWW—and we’ll continue doing that in the Dallas Chapter. ★



1LT Wesley E. Gross, USA (Former), was commissioned at Texas A&M as an artillery officer who, after the BOC at Ft Sill, went

to jump school at Ft. Bragg and was assigned to the 319th ABFA BN of the 82nd Airborne. He was honorably discharged in May 1957, and is now a Business Consultant. He is past commander of the Dallas Chapter and is Chair of Publicity & Programs.

# MOWW || Chapters in Action



|| SPACE COAST-INDIAN RIVER (170), FLORIDA

## Florida's Sun City Center and Space Coast Chapters Share YLC Ideas

BY LTC HARRY R. LASCOLA, USA (RET.)

LTC Hank and Kate Adams (right) from the Space Coast Chapter were visitors at Sun City Center Chapter's Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) recognition meeting. They are shown with Sun City Center Companions (L-R) Maj Bob Fowler, Col Roy Conklin, LTC Harry Lascola and Chapter Commander, Lt Col Frank Zahrobsky. All six are, or have been, active in YLCs.



|| SANTA CRUZ VALLEY (193), ARIZONA

## Law and Order Presentations Includes MOWW National Award Winner

BY LTC RICHARD C. LEANDER

The Santa Cruz Valley Chapter presented the MOWW National Law and Order Award for Performance to Border Patrol Agent Colin Parks (R), and an MOWW Certificate of Appreciation to Border Patrol Agent Robert Rousseu (L).

Agent Parks' was recognized for his exceptional performance and heroic actions. His selection was announced at the 2010 National Convention. The presentation was held at the Tucson, Arizona, Border Patrol Sector Headquarters. Past Chapter Commander CW4 Robert R. Ozier, USA (Ret) made the presentations.



|| COLUMBUS (052), GEORGIA

## Old Friends on Veterans Day

BY PAST CINC LTG SAM WETZEL

Columbus, Georgia, Companions (L-R), Past CINC LTG Sam Wetzel and COL Ralph Puckett at Fort Benning's Veterans Day Ceremony on 11 November 2010. Colonel Puckett was the guest speaker.



|| GEN HOYT VANDENBERG (226), CALIFORNIA

## Great Speaker-New Member!

BY MAJ JIM MURPHY

Former LTJG Joe Brocato educated and entertained Companions as he spoke about our Founding Fathers, signers of the Declaration of Independence, and what happened to them as they declared their sacred honor and fortunes in that signing. A very pleasant result is that Joe signed on and is now a member!. Former LTJG Joe Brocato (L) was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Chapter Commander Maj Jim Murphy (R).



# MOWW || Chapters in Action



|| PHOENIX (092), ARIZONA

## Enduring Freedom Memorial Dedication in Phoenix

BY COL RICHARD MINOR

Companion Deborah J. Kerr-Minor, Phoenix Chapter Commander, was joined by two cadets from Deer Valley High School at the dedication ceremony of the Enduring Freedom Memorial. The ceremony was held in Phoenix on 9 October 2010.



|| GREATER KANSAS CITY (087), MISSOURI

## Kansas City Companions Salute Law and Order

BY MRS. PATRICIA SNYDER

Chapter Companions presented an MOWW Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Josh Patterson from the Lee's Summit Police. Josh was also chosen as the Officer of the Year for their department. Joining Josh was the Assistant Chief of Police for Lee's Summit, who gave the chapter a very good description of how the focus of the police has changed since 9/11.



|| COL WILLIAM E. FIELDS (209), NEW MEXICO

## "Taste of Home" Packages—a Great Success

BY COMPANION PAMELA SHRECENGOST

Companions of the Santa Fe Chapter 209 are continuing their "taste of home" packages to units in combat. The care packages, which are sent monthly, include snacks, cereals, jams and coffee.

**Seated:** CDR B. J. Stickle, (Front row, L-R) CAPT Peter Murphy, CAPT Dick Miller, Past CINC MG Franklin E. Miles, Companion Frances Fernandes, Chapter Commander Pamela Shrecengost, GSO Emeritus LTC William G. Shrecengost, Companion Tilly Flood, Fr. Duncan Lanum, (Back row, L-R) MG Frank Schober, COL Charles Anderson, LTC Norman Wilson, Companion Jean Wilson, MOWW Surgeon General CPT Robert Mallin, MAJ Bill Friedman and CDR Harvey Monroe.



|| RICHMOND (031), VIRGINIA

## Chapter Conducts 7th Massing of the Colors

BY CDR J. A. BAUMGARTEN

On Saturday, 2 October 2010, the Chapter hosted its 7th annual Massing of the Colors at the Virginia War Memorial. About 40 color guard units from active-duty and reserve units, JROTC units, veterans' organizations and various police and fire departments participated. This year's event was the first major event hosted in the outdoor amphitheater of the new Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the War Memorial.

# MOWW || Chapters in Action



|| AUGUSTA (168), GEORGIA

## Chapter Officers Sworn In

BY COL DON STEPHENS

New Chapter Officers were sworn into their respective offices by Past CINC LTC David Titus: (L-R) Chaplain Father Bill Williams, Jr. Vice Cmdr LT Richard Herdegen and Sr. Vice Cmdr COL Susy Roper



|| DALLAS (069), TEXAS

## 3 Aggies

BY LTC DON MUNSON

Every year many Dallas Chapter Companions are involved in the planning and execution of the annual event. Three cheers to those who made this year's parade a memorable one. The tribute to our WW II veterans - and their place of prominence in the parade - was inspiring as well as touching.

**Pictured, MOWW Companions join Governor Richard Perry in a thumbs-up to their Alma Mater Texas A & M University.**



|| REGION VI (FLORIDA AND PUERTO RICO)

## Region VI Activities

BY LTC HARRY LASCOLA

Photos from Region VI, all taken by Maj Bob Fowler, (L-R): Region VI staff and spouses visit the Puerto Rico Chapter; CINC Col Clifford Way at the Sun City Center Chapter's Military Ball with Region VI Commander, Lt Col Gordon Bassett; and, the Sun City Center Commanders with CINC: CDR Ed Miller USN, Ret - Past Commander, Lt Col, Frank Zahrobsky, USAF, Ret - Current Commander, CINC Col Clifford Way, USAF, Ret., Lt Col Gordon Bassett, Ret - Region VI and Past Chapter Commander and LTC Harry Lascola, USA, Ret - Region VI Sr. Vice and Past Chapter Commander.





# MOWW || Chapters in Action



GENERAL LEIGH-WADE (020), WASHINGTON, DC

## Washington, DC Chapter Prepares for Memorial Day 2011

BY COL JOHN WHIDDEN

The Leigh Wade Chapter held their annual holiday party and welcomed CINC Col Clifford D. Way, Jr., to the historic Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC, on 9 Dec 10. As stated in the "CINC's Perspective" on page 2 of this issue, "Jackie and I had an impressive luncheon visit to the Leigh Wade chapter." The Chapter Commander, COL John Whidden, hosted Col and Mrs. Way and outlined the Chapter's efforts to build the chapter name again in the Capital community. He honored two US Army medical technicians back from deployment and two JROTC cadets (photo upper right) from local high schools. The Senior Vice reported on efforts to be part of the Memorial Day ceremony this year for the first time. The individuals pictured lower right are the correspondents and the Producer of the G. Gordon Liddy Show, Radio America Network (which sponsored MOWW members on a one-hour nationwide G-Man show), and the American Veterans Center.

**Photo top left (L-R):** CDR. Dennis Hickey, Assistant Treasurer; LTC Chuck Trombetta, Sr. Vice Commander; CINC Col Clifford Way; LTC Mike Duggan, Jr. Vice Commander; COL John Whidden, Chapter Commander; and LTC Tracy Mulligan, Past Chapter Commander.

**Photo lower left (L-R):** Seated, Mrs. T. Hugo and Mrs. Jackie Way. Standing (L-R): Chuck Trombetta; Mrs. Beverly Vowinkel; CINC Cliff Way; Sr. Vice CINC CAPT Russell Vowinkel; and Chief of Staff Brig Gen Art Morrill.

*A message from the General Leigh-Wade, Washington, DC, Chapter Commander:*

*In support of our troops, all Companions are cordially invited to come and march down Pennsylvania Ave in the 2011 National Memorial Day Parade, (televised nationwide and the concert is featured on PBS.)*

For more information and to reserve a limited space, please contact [SWHIDDEN@AOL.COM](mailto:SWHIDDEN@AOL.COM)

# MOWW || Chapters in Action



**CLEARWATER (136), FLORIDA**

## Chapter Meets at the “Officers Club” of the Armed Forces Museum

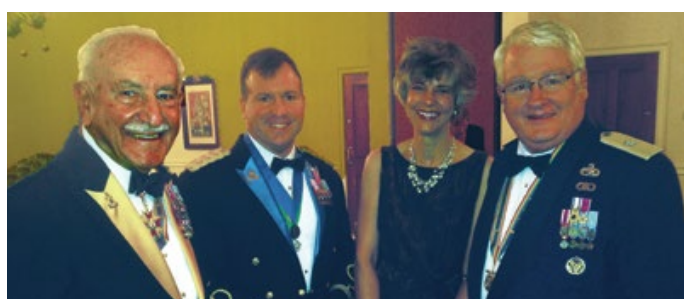
BY LTC GEORGE K. SMITH

The November Chapter meeting was held in the “Officers Club” re-created inside the Armed Forces Museum located in Largo, Florida. The museum is fantastic and has been assembled by the Founder, Mr. John J. Piazza, a former marine enlisted man. They have a web site: [armedforcesmuseum.com](http://armedforcesmuseum.com). Our guest speaker was Col Patrick J. Kanewske, Chief of Staff of the US Marine Corps Forces Central Command, Tampa, FL.

**(Center Row, top to bottom) Armed Forces Museum signage; Chapter Commander 1LT Gerald “Bud” Berry presenting an MOWW Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker Col Patrick J. Kanewske; Col Kanewske and Col Marilyn DiGirol, the Chapter’s Sr. Vice Commander. All other photos are of the interior of the Armed Forces Museum.**



**GEN GEORGE G. MEADE (026), MARYLAND**



## The General George G. Meade Chapter Christmas Ball

BY LTC JOHN H. HOLLYWOOD

The General George G. Meade Chapter celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas Ball at the Fort Meade Club, MD, on Saturday, 11 Dec. 10. Chapter Commander LTC John Hollywood kept the audience laughing with his talent as an emcee, and the Archbishop Spalding High School Choir from Severn, MD, entertained attendees with a terrific selection of popular and Christmas songs. CINC Col Clifford D. Way, Jr., was the much-appreciated keynote speaker, and complimented the Chapter on their terrific programs and selfless service.

**Photo Left (L-R): Treasurer General and Chapter Commander LTC John Hollywood, Companion COL Mike Duggan, and LTC Raymond Kendall. Photo Right (L-R): Past CINC LTC Alfred Shehab, Companion LTC Thomas Boone, Ms Marian Wood and Chief of Staff Brig Gen Art Morrill.**



# Mail || Letters to the Editor

I want to commend Companion Capt. Bruce Woody's article on flying the BUFF during Linebacker II.

I was an active duty Air Force electronics technician from 1966 through 1969, and most of my tour was with the Strategic Air Command. It was very interesting to get a pilot's point of view on B-52 missions.

What is most often overlooked is that these giant aircraft were being maintained, for the most part, by teenagers. I went TDY to Andersen Air Force Base with the 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Wing from Amarillo AFB, Texas.

We enlisted folks lived in chicken coops, hastily thrown together when the B-52s were committed to the war effort. At the height of missions during my time there, we were working three and four days straight, grabbing sleep when we could by crawling up under the workbenches in between mission launches and recoveries. Yes, we were

"just ground support" personnel, but we were the ones keeping those giants in the air, and enabling the flight crews to find their way back home. My specialty was maintaining Nav-Aids, electronic navigation systems that helped the aircrews find the target, find the KC-135 aerial tankers, and then find their way back to Guam.

We all felt a great deal of pride knowing that if it weren't for us, those Big Ugly Flying Fellows would have been falling out of the sky left and right.

Thanks for producing such a top-notch publication.

—Maj Bill Herridge  
Fort Hood (227), Texas, Chapter

Aloha Companions!

I would like to inform the Order of the passing of Chapter Companion LTC Donald H. Graham. Jr., in August

2010. Pictured below is a photo taken of Don, flanked by SAI LTC (R) Bob Takao, and the four JROTC cadets of Punahou School, who received our MOWW Merit awards at their end-of-year Awards Ceremony. The photo below was affixed to a greeting card with a note of thanks for the awards, and signed by LTC Takao and the cadets. Punahou was Don's favorite school. Barring health or work problems, Don managed to do five out of eight annual ceremonies at Punahou. A fitting tribute to a faithful companion

—LTC Archie Y. Loo  
Gaylord Dillingham Memorial (115),  
Hawaii, Chapter





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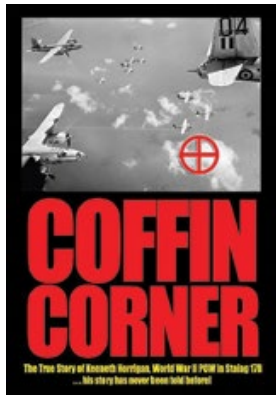
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BOOK RELEASE

## Coffin Corner: The True Story of Kenneth Horrigan, World War II POW in Stalag 17B

A true story, finally told. A unique account of World War II as seen through the eyes of a young American soldier and prisoner of war.

They have been referred to as the “Greatest Generation.” They are the men and women of World War II and their stories need to be told. Kenneth Horrigan was only 19-years-old when he was captured by the enemy.

Written with fluency and eloquence in powerful first person narration, this intense book chronicles the life of a young soldier and his experiences as a POW, not only the suffering he endured, but the ways in which he knew it affected his loved ones. It contains never-before-published historical documents that give proof, honor and respect to this American soldier and how he served his country.

Horrigan recounts his experiences of being interrogated relentlessly by the Germans; suffering unimaginable emotional and physical distress, including persistent hunger and solitary confinement; as well as the sights, sounds and smells of war that no soldier will ever forget.

*COFFIN CORNER* (ISBN: #978-1-60911-011-6) is available for \$26.50 and can be ordered through the publisher's website: <http://www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/title/CoffinCorner.html> or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or <http://search.barnesandnoble.com>



### About the Author

Kenneth Horrigan is a retired civil engineer. He is 86 years old, and lives in Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina. The introduction to the book is by Horrigan's sister, Dorothy LeBlanc-Horrigan, of Houston, and includes her very personal and intense portrait of a family with four brothers fighting a war.

Included in the book are original letters by Bob Horrigan, an officer in the Navy during World War II, and Jack Horrigan, a pilot trainer during World War II. Both men are older brothers to the author, Kenneth Horrigan, POW WWII.



## First Lady Michelle Obama Helps Dedicate First of Three New Fisher Houses at Bethesda Naval Medical Center

BY JODY FISHER  
FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION

Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States of America, joined Ken Fisher, Chairman of Fisher House Foundation, and veterans and their families to officially dedicate the first of three new Fisher Houses—joining two others already in operation—on the campus of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

Each of the 16,000 square-foot, two-story buildings will join the network of 50 Fisher Houses operating in the United States and Germany, and will be gifted to the military. Each house consists of 20 suites, each with a private, handicapped-accessible bathroom and common areas that include a multi-cooking station kitchen, large communal dining and family rooms.

President Obama has supported the Fisher House Foundation on numerous occasions in the past year. In December, it was announced that the after-tax proceeds from the book *"Of Thee I Sing,"* written by the President for his daughters, would be donated to Fisher House Foundation. Earlier this year, President

Obama donated \$250,000 from his Nobel Prize award—the largest single donation to a not-for-profit charity from that prize—to Fisher House Foundation, which was used to construct a Fisher House at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware.

"With the closure of Walter Reed Army Hospital in 2011, we knew the two Fisher Houses located there would cease to serve our military families, and so we put these three new ones on the fast track," said Fisher House Chairman Ken Fisher. "We know this house and the two that will follow will be well used."

Founded in 1990, the Fisher House program builds "comfort homes" for



**Mrs. Obama and Ken Fisher encounter a young member of a family staying in one of the Bethesda Fisher Houses during a tour.**

Source: Joyce Boghosian.

families of wounded service members, and other military or veteran patients, receiving medical treatment at VA and military hospitals around the world. Since its inception, more than 130,000 families have stayed at one or more Fisher Houses—saving more than \$150 million in lodging costs alone. ★



# Get Published!

Send *Officer Review*® submissions to  
the Chief of Staff, MOWW at:  
**[mowwcs@comcast.net](mailto:mowwcs@comcast.net)**

NOTE: Please include your rank, name, service, mailing address, daytime telephone number, E-mail address and your chapter affiliation with any materials submitted.

# MOWW || VA: Have You Heard?

BY KEVIN SECOR  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY SHINSEKI  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## VA Launching New Personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health

Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual Veteran.

"These handbooks will give Veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our Veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy to understand road map to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each Veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments when applicable.

"Enhancing access isn't just about expanding the kinds of services VA provides. It also includes making sure we do everything we can to ensure Veterans have a clear understanding of the benefits available to them so they can make full use of the services they have earned," Shinseki said.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain Veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 across the country.

For additional information, go to [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility) or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

## "Aspire to Quality" Program Continues Public Reporting of VA's Quality and Safety Data



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to honor its commitment to our

Nation's Veterans by adding two new dashboards to its health care quality and safety Web site. The Aspire to Quality data is divided into two sections: LinKS and Aspire. LinKS data is about linking knowledge and systems and includes outcome information for acute care, ICU, outpatient, safety and annual process measures. The Aspire dashboard represents how each of our Medical Centers measure up to quality goals. The new Aspire and LinKS dashboards provide information on how our Medical Centers meet these aspirational goals.

The data posted through the "ASPIRE to Quality Initiative" includes outcome information for acute care, intensive care unit, outpatient, safety and process measures, and how each of our

Medical Centers measures up to quality goals. "VA is committed to public transparency including the sharing of performance and quality data as a way to help Veterans and their families make informed decisions about their medical care," said Dr. Robert A. Petzel, VA Under Secretary for Health.

To access the new ASPIRE data, just go to the VA Hospital Compare Web site at [www.hospitalcompare.va.gov/ASPIRE](http://www.hospitalcompare.va.gov/ASPIRE).

Public transparency is not a new concept at VA. VA Core Hospital Measures have been available on the Joint Commission Web site at [www.qualitycheck.org/consumer/searchQCR.aspx](http://www.qualitycheck.org/consumer/searchQCR.aspx) since 2005.

In 2008, VA began publishing additional performance measures on its Quality of Care Web site at [www.QualityofCare.va.gov](http://www.QualityofCare.va.gov).

In 2009, VA began publically distributing reports of facility performance on [www.Data.gov](http://www.Data.gov). And in March of this year, VA expanded outreach to Veterans and their families by offering direct comparisons of VA facilities with private sector counterparts on [www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov](http://www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov). Additionally, VA is expanding data on its Hospital Compare website to include critical inpatient and outpatient outcome and process measures such as readmission and mortality rates. This data was available to the public starting on November 22. ★



# MOWW || Surgeon's Tent

## Button Up Your Over Coat

BY CPT (DR) ROBERT E. MALLIN, USA (FORMER)

Yes, we have all suffered through the cold and snow of European or Korean winters, the wet and humid winters of far away Asia and the Pacific region, and we've "never turned a hair." Believe it or not, others (not us), are getting older and those earlier days have a way of catching up with us. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) say take a flu shot, especially if you have other health problems. The benefits overwhelmingly outweigh the very slight possible risk! If you are over sixty-five, a pneumonia shot is not recommended. (We old codgers supposedly have built up a lifelong immunity.)

How's the heart going? A major general in my chapter—a WWII veteran—still shovels snow, and sometimes a lot! Assuming his doctor agrees, that's probably OK. However, if you have heart trouble, high blood pressure or are out of shape, such concentrated exertion can kill you! At the very least, dress warmly in layers to avoid "overheating," rest frequently, and take your time. Measure your physical jeopardy against \$10.00 for the kid next door's needs.

Consider staying indoors in storms. Doing so limits falls, car crashes and ice troubles. If you must travel think, "What if?" A blanket, cell phone, flares, C-Rations or Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MREs) and a good old entrenching tool can get you out of tough spots. Keep gas tanks and washer fluid reservoirs full. If nothing else my 21 years in Alaska taught me, emergency preparedness

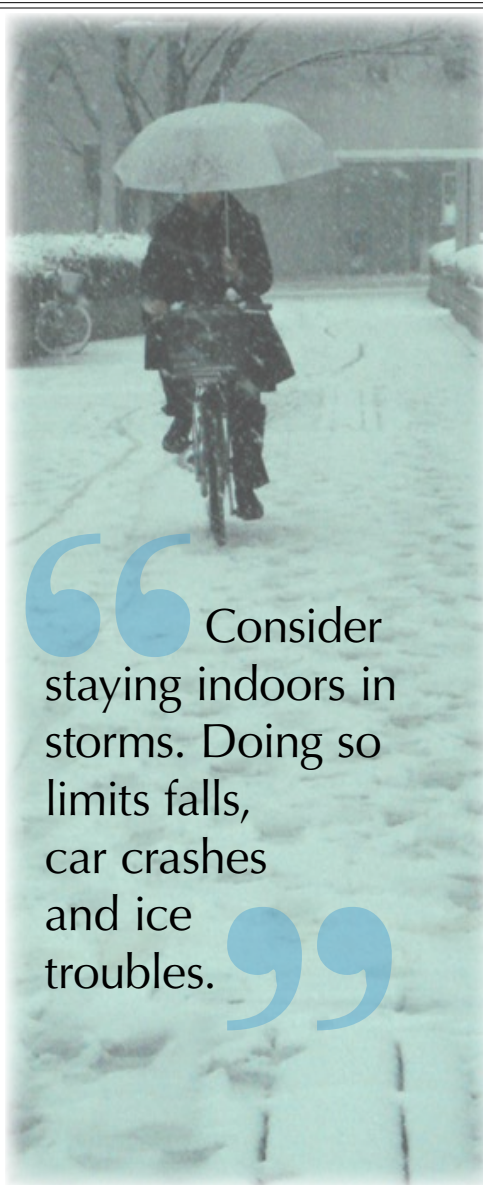
is a must.

While you're at it, check the weatherization and insulation of your house. What will you do to survive if you're alone without electricity? Enough stored water, food and pet supplies will help. In my Alaska days a small outdoor generator kept outdoors for core electrical needs was common.

If the power is off more than two hours it is safest to throw away all food in the fridge with a temperature over 40 degrees. (Get a food thermometer.) When I was in practice, space heaters and indoor fires easily led to carbon monoxide poisoning (it is undetectable under ordinary circumstances.) Old-time miners watched the health of canaries for safety.

Drinking "to stay warm" is counterproductive and a definite winter hazard. In the mid-nineteenth century the common practice was to sew yourself into your winter underwear (not removed until May), carry a "grouch bag" of protective herbs around your neck and stay away from night air or bathing. A patent medicine tonic, (usually narcotics and/or alcohol) put you in a nice frame of mind. Times have changed. We know better.

There are other simple things to know about: cover coughs and avoid crowds (especially school age kids), though it will be hard to avoid all the seasonal pageants! Keep taking your prescribed medicine. Pack enough of it to tide you over if flights



“Consider staying indoors in storms. Doing so limits falls, car crashes and ice troubles.”

are delayed. Move around on long flights to avoid stagnating blood in the legs. Eat sparingly in the air; though be sure to get enough water. Eight ounces an hour will do it. Oh yeah... button up your overcoat!



*Captain (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Former) is a graduate of Adelphi University and New York Medical College. He is certified with the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In private practice from 1975-94, he was the Alaskan State Physician of the Year. While in the US Army (1966-1968) he earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal, and a Combat Medical Badge.*

# 2010 || Membership Update

## Reveille

NEW MEMBER  
(SPONSOR)

### APACHE TRAIL AZ

Gregg G. Goodsell (E)  
(Stephens, B. COL)

CAPT Steven Borden (N)  
(Stephens, B. COL)

Kevin Goodsell (E)  
(Stephens, B. COL)

### BATON ROUGE LA

Capt Jason C. Copeland (MC)  
(St. Amant II, P. COL)

### CATALINA MOUNTAINS AZ

Maj Kirk D. Wallendorf (AF)  
(Nelson, R. Lt Col)

### CENTRAL ARKANSAS

COL David T. Beranek (A)  
(Elmer, J. Col)

### COL BILL SHEETS NC

Capt Erik A. Cobb (AF)  
(Green, G. Lt Col)

### COL WOODS- OKLAHOMA CITY OK

COL James L. Selders (A) \*  
(DeVaughan, Z. COL)

### CPT DILWORTH TX

CPT James B. Stewart, Jr. (A)  
(Yearwood, J. LTC)

### DALLAS TX

CW3 Earl V. Dunnington, Jr (A)  
(Dunnington II, E. LTC)

1LT Jerry M. Prater A)  
(Parker, C. CWO)

Maj Jeffrey G. Degenfelder (MC)  
(Clark, A. CPT)

### FORT CAMPBELL KY

COL Christopher M. Smrt (A) \*  
(Shaw, D. CW3)

### GEN CRITZ OK

Mollie Burton (H)  
(Website)

### GEN GEORGE G. MEADE MD

MAJ Boguslaw A. Augustyn (A)  
(Rice, B. COL)

LTC Bruce W. McPherson (A)  
(Rice, B. COL)

CPT Richard Thompson (A)  
(Rice, B. COL)

2LT Jean S. Friedberg, Jr (A)  
(Shehab, A. LTC)

### GEN RIDGWAY-PITTSBURGH PA

LTC Raymond Sager (A)  
(Reese, R. COL)

### GEN VANDENBERG CA

Mary K. Houston (E)  
(Houston, W. CDR)

LTJg Joseph E. Brocato (N)  
(Money, C. CPT)

### GEORGETOWN TX

LTC Anne H. Buhls (A) \*  
(Chapter)

### GREATER KANSAS CITY

MAJ Jeanne M. Foster (A)  
(Anderson, J. Capt)

### HEADQUARTERS

Cadet Arthur B. Morrill IV (H) \*  
(Morrill III, A. Brig Gen)\*

Robert McDaniel Morrill (H) \*  
(Morrill III, A. Brig Gen)\*

### PUERTO RICO

COL Ricardo Ruiz (A)  
(Alvarez, J. COL)

CPT Agustin Montanez (A)  
(Alvarez, J. COL)

MG Antonio J. Vicens (A)  
(Alvarez, J. COL)

### PUGET SOUND WA

CPT Joseph W. Illes (A) \*  
(Campbell, D. MAJ)

### SAN DIEGO CA

Linda Sturak (E)  
(Vowinkel, R. CAPT)

Richard W. DeRosset (E)  
(Kholos, C. Col)

CAPT Tom Splitgerber (N)  
(Hays, W. CAPT)

### SANTA BARBARA CA

Dennis G. Merenbach (E)  
(Fritz, P. LT)

### SUN CITY CENTER FL

Lt Col James R. Warchol (AF)  
(Zahrobsky, F. Lt Col)

### VIRGINIA PIEDMONT VA

LCDR Paul B. Webb (N)  
(Marks, B. LT)

MG Max Guggenheimer, Jr. (A)  
(MacIntosh, B. COL)

## Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

### CATALINA MOUNTAINS AZ

Maj Porter B Williamson (AF) \*

### COL BILL SHEETS NC

BG Joseph L Nagel (A)

### EL PASO TX

COL Joseph Russo (A) \*

### GEN CRITZ OK

LTC Cecil J Burton (A) \*

### GREATER KANSAS CITY

CAPT George C McCarten (N) \*

### MONTEREY BAY CA

RADM Valdemar G Lambert (N) \*

### SUN CITIES AZ

Capt Sydelle F Lipman (AF) \*

### SUN CITY CENTER FL

Lt Col Eileen R Allen (AF) \*

### WILMINGTON DE

LTJg Owens S Weaver (N)

\*Denotes Perpetual Member



# Manatee County, Florida, Veteran of the Year 2010

BY CAPT ED PARKS

BRADENTON/SARASOTA, CHAPTER

Manatee County announces a "Veteran of the Year" on Veterans Day every year. Jerry Koontz, a MOWW member since 2009, was selected as this year's "Veteran of the Year." The Veterans Council citation, presented to him at the Veterans Day ceremony, reads :



*"Lt Col Gerard (Jerry) Koontz, Sr. is a native of Baltimore Maryland and graduate of Penn State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in production management. Jerry entered the US Air Force in September, 1965, as a Second Lieutenant serving until retirement in 1985 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Most members of the community know Jerry from the United Way of Manatee County where he has been serving as President since 1993. His leadership has been instrumental in their fund raising and distributions to provide human care programs and services to people in need through out Manatee County in collaboration with 43 partner agencies.*

*Jerry is member of: American Legion Post 24, The Air Force Association, Bradenton Military Officers Association (serving as the first vice president) and The Military Order of World Wars. As a military advisor to Manatee Operation Troop Support since 2007 and a founding member of MOTS Board of Directors, he serves OEF & OIF deployed forces and their families. He is one of four military veterans to establish annual veterans recognition events (parades, concerts and the military luncheon) dating back to 2000, resulting in the formation of the Veterans Task Force and the establishment of the annual American Patriotism Celebration. Jerry is also a board member of numerous civic and community organizations. He and his wife Pam have two grown children and two grandsons. It is an honor to present the 2010 Veteran of the Year to Jerry Koontz."*



## Give To Your Order

***Perpetuate MOWW's tradition of serving others!***

*Please donate to your Order via  
the CINC Solicitation...and  
your personal estate planning.*

***"MOWW Charitable Giving Guide" coming soon!***



"IT IS MORE NOBLE TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

*Serving...*

US Army PFC Jerry Cleveland (left) and SPC Brett Mitchell fire a 120mm mortar during combat operations in the Da'udzay Valley in the Zabol Province of Afghanistan. Cleveland and Mitchell are attached to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The operation is a joint Afghan National Army and ISAF mission to clear anti-government elements from the Dawzi area.

Source: DoD photo by SFC Jim Downen, US Army. (Released)