

OFFICER REVIEW

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

MAY 2016
Volume 55 • Number 9



Memorial Day

IN THIS ISSUE:

- The Battle of Midway
- Comanche Code Talkers
- New Scouting Recognition

www.moww.org



Memorializing The Fallen

Dear Companions,

Memorial Day is a special day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to America. This remembrance began as a desire to honor those who died during the Civil War. This day of remembrance was originally called "Decoration Day," a name established on 5 May 1868 by Major General John A. Logan, the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic—a veterans service organization of the time. Then, as now, Americans placed flags and flowers on graves of service members.

Most states observe Memorial Day on the last Monday in May in accordance with the National Holiday Act of 1971, but several states also have a separate day for honoring Confederate war dead. At ceremonies across the nation, many will take a moment to respectfully pause and remember our fallen comrades with a moment of silence or by listening to "Taps." Unfortunately, today some celebrate the first picnic or the opening of the community pool without taking time to think about the true meaning of the day. We should conduct patriotic ceremonies to help all Americans remember sacrifices made on their behalf.

Another Memorial Day tradition, the tradition of wearing red poppies, was initiated by Moina Michael. She was inspired by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrea's 1915 poem, "In Flanders Fields," which he wrote while on the battlefield in Ypres, Belgium. Ms. Michael was the first to wear a poppy to honor those who died in war. She sold poppies to coworkers and friends to raise money for servicemen in need.

Sometime later, a French woman, Madam Guerin, was visiting the United States and she took the idea back to France where she made and sold artificial poppies to honor the war dead, and raise money for orphaned children and widowed women. The tradition spread to other countries as well. Before Memorial Day in 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars began selling artificial "Buddy Poppies" made by disabled veterans nationwide. In 1948, the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for founding the National Poppy movement on a postage stamp.

For us, let us remember and honor the millions of service men and women who came before us, and who gave their last full measure of devotion on Memorial Day.

Ruth L. Hamilton

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ON THE COVER

The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served during the three-year period in one of the most hard fought wars in our history.

Source: <http://www.koreanwarvetsememorial.org/>



The Battle of Midway

CAPT THOMAS J. MARSHALL, JR., MC, USN (RET)
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER (100), CA

During the month of June, one of the pivotal naval battles in history occurred at Midway. It took place from 3-5 June 1942 and was a major turning point of World War II. Prior to the Battle of Midway, Japan was on the offensive and dictating the course of the Pacific war. After the Battle of Midway, the United States took the strategic offensive and dictated the course of the remainder of the Pacific conflict. Most of you know the general outline of the battle and the US Navy contribution to the American victory that came from the code breaking operation based in "Station Hypo," HI. This article will discuss that role in the Battle of Midway that was affected by three other factors: the Battle of the Coral Sea (7-8 May 1942), command decisions and luck.

Under overcast skies, an A6M Zero fighter leads the air group launch off the deck of *Shōkaku* the morning of 8 May.

Source: The photo was found and placed in a scrapbook assembled by CDR William H. Balden, USNR, documenting his World War II service - US Navy National Museum of Naval Aviation



The Battle of the Coral Sea had a major impact upon the Battle of Midway. It resulted in significant damage to His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Ship (HIJMS) *Shōkaku*—the carrier required two months of shipyard repair—and the nearly complete destruction of the carrier *HIJMS Zuikaku*'s air group, which was not replaced until 12 June 1942. This removed two large carriers and their battle-hardened crews from the Japanese order of battle, and significantly decreased the striking power of the Japanese during the battle. Alternatively, the US suffered the loss of the USS *Lexington* (CV-2) and experienced significant damage to the USS *Yorktown* (CV-5) at Coral Sea. The USS *Yorktown*'s repair at Pearl Harbor within 72 hours made a significant contribution to the US victory at Midway.

Japanese command decisions made before and during the battle had a significant impact on the battle's outcome. The first decision involved the Japanese battle plan. It was based upon the erroneous assumption that the attack on Midway would come as

a surprise to the United States, and that the US would then have to respond by sending the US fleet from Pearl Harbor to Midway where the Japanese carriers would be waiting for them. To confuse the Americans, the plan included a diversionary attack upon the Aleutian Islands that removed *HIJMS Jun'yō*, an ocean liner converted to a carrier, and the light carrier *HIJMS Ryūjō* from the Midway strike force.

While neither of these was a major fleet carrier, their diversion to the Aleutian attack removed approximately 50 aircraft from the Japanese order of battle. In addition to this diversion of air power to Alaska, the Japanese plan suffered from the usual Japanese tendency toward complexity, with the Midway attack force divided into three major groups separated by hundreds of miles. This made these forces unable to support each other, and squandered the Japanese superiority in ships and aircraft. This meant that despite the Japanese having over 200 ships committed to this battle and the US only 26, the carrier strike groups would decide the battle. Here the Japanese had

The Japanese aircraft carrier *HIJMS Shōkaku* under attack by planes from USS *Yorktown*, during the morning of 8 May 1942. Splashes from dive-bombers' near misses are visible off the ship's starboard side as she makes a sharp turn to the right.

USN - Official U.S. Navy photo 80-G-17027 from the U.S. Navy Naval History and Heritage Command



A Zero fighter launches off the Japanese carrier *HIJMS Shōkaku* at the Battle of Coral Sea.

Inset left: Damage to the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carrier *Shōkaku* sustained on 8 May 1942 during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Source: The Maru Special, Japanese Naval Vessels No. 6 (April 1976)



Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo, Imperial Japanese Navy



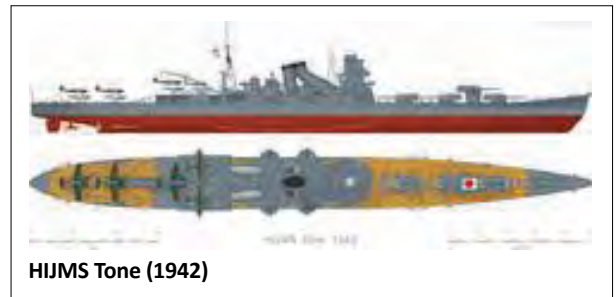
four carriers and 227 aircraft; the US had three carriers and 233 aircraft. This made the battle a much more even contest.

After the battle was joined, the Japanese strike force commander, Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo, later

posthumously promoted to full admiral, made a decision significantly contributing to his fleet's destruction. He began the battle in the standard fashion by launching a series of scout planes at dawn to search for any nearby US forces. He then launched a strike on Midway to destroy the airfield and supporting facilities. This force did not include all of his bombers. He kept about half of his bomber force behind on his carriers, loaded with torpedoes in case any US ships were identified in the area. After the initial strike on Midway, Admiral Nagumo learned by radio that not all of Midway's facilities were destroyed, and that another strike was needed. Since none of his scout planes had reported any enemy units in the area, he ordered that the planes carrying torpedoes be rearmed with bombs to strike Midway.

It was at this point that luck made the first of her several interventions into the battle. Several hours earlier, during the launch of the scout planes, a scout plane from the heavy cruiser *HIJMS Tone* developed engine trouble or had a catapult malfunction (the historical record is unclear as to which it was), resulting in a delay of its launch by 30 minutes. It was to search the area northeast of Nagumo's task force. After approximately half of the torpedo planes had been

rearmed with bombs, the *HIJMS Tone's* scout plane reported sighting an American carrier approximately 240 miles northeast of Midway, i.e., 180 miles from the Japanese task force. This report reached Admiral Nagumo approximately 30 minutes later than it should have. Had it arrived on time, it is unlikely that Admiral Nagumo would have rearmed his bombers and the outcome of the battle would have been different.



HIJMS Tone (1942)

Upon receipt of this information, Admiral Nagumo ordered the immediate rearming of all of his bombers with torpedoes. At this time, the first of the American attacks carried out by torpedo bombers from Midway and Torpedo Squadron 8 from the USS Hornet (CV-12) began. These attacks added a level of urgency to the rearming of the torpedo planes. Consequently, the Japanese ordnance men did not return the bombs that they removed to the magazines, but instead merely stacked them out of the way in the hangar bay while they rearmed the planes with torpedoes. During the attacks by the Midway-based aircraft and the Hornet's torpedo aircraft, all Japanese fighters were brought down to low level to deal with the attackers. These attacks, which were uniformly unsuccessful

Below, L-R: Admiral Raymond Ames Spruance, USN (Ret); Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz, USN (Ret); Admiral Raymond Ames Spruance, USN (Ret); Torpedo Squadron 8 (VT-8), USS Hornet. Standing (L-R): Owens, Ensign Fayle (transferred); Waldron, R.A. Moore, J. M. Moore, Evans, Teats, Cambell. Kneeling (L-R): Ellison, Kenyon, Gray, sole survivor Gay, Woodson, Creamer, Miles.



and bloody, served a decisive purpose in that they left the Japanese fleet temporarily without high-level fighter cover.

Luck intervened a second time at this point. The dive bombing squadrons from the USS Yorktown (CV-5) and the USS Enterprise (CV-6) simultaneously appeared over Admiral Nagumo's fleet. The squadron from the Enterprise had found the fleet by following a destroyer, which was returning to the fleet after unsuccessfully chasing a submarine. Both squadrons immediately attacked without interference from Japanese fighters, which had not yet returned to their normal patrol levels after dealing with the torpedo planes. Both squadrons dropped several bombs on the decks of three of the Japanese carriers, which penetrated the decks into the hangar bays and exploded among the stacked bombs, and fully fueled and armed torpedo planes awaiting transport up to the flight deck for launch. Within ten minutes, the *HIJMS Akagi*, the *HIJMS Kaga* and the *HIJMS Sōryū* were flaming wrecks and the battle of Midway was essentially over. The *HIJMS Hiryū*, which was shielded from the attacking American aircraft by a rainsquall, continued the battle by counterattacking and seriously damaging the Yorktown twice before she was sunk by dive-bombers from the Enterprise later in the day.

In closing, clearly the excellent intelligence from code breakers, the fine leadership of US Admirals Nimitz and Spruance, and the heroism of American aviators greatly affected the battle. However, the outcome of the pivotal Battle of Midway was also greatly influenced by the effects of a battle occurring a month earlier, poor Japanese decisions and, simply, "good luck." ★



Captain Marshall retired in 2011 after serving 24 years on active duty. He commanded a combat medical unit during the assault phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Naval Medical Center San Diego (2006-

2008) and served aboard ten ships—including four aircraft carriers, five amphibious assault ships and a submarine. In addition to his Medical Degree, he also has a Masters Degree in Military History. Since retiring, he was the San Diego Chapter's Senior Vice-Commander, and is presently the Chapter Historian.



***HIJMS Sōryū* was sunk on 4 June 1942, during the Battle of Midway, after SBD "Dauntless" aircraft from USS Yorktown (CV-5) hit her with several bombs.**



***HIJMS Sōryū Hiryū* was an aircraft carrier built for the Imperial Japanese Navy during the 1930s. The only ship of her class, she was built to a modified Sōryū design.**



***HIJMS Kaga* was originally laid down in 1920 as a battleship of 39,900 tons, *HIJMS Kaga* was converted into an aircraft carrier as the result of the Washington Treaty. Smoke is discharged through huge trunks on both sides, extending for nearly half the length of the ship and turning outboard towards the stern. There is accommodation for 60 planes.**



HIJMS Akagi



Comanche Code Talkers

PVCINC LTC WAYMAN J. JOHNSON, USA (RET)

AUGUSTA CHAPTER (168), GA

House - Kah-nee

Hospital - Nat-soo Kah-nee

Railroad - Hoo-nah-wye-kin

RR Station -
Hoo-nah-wye-kin Kah-nee

Telephone - Pee-ee-whee-tay-knop

Telephone Exchange
Pee-ee-whee-tay-knop Kah-nee

Road Overpass
Pee-ee-poo-ee Uba-ike Ah-vee

Road Underpass
Pee-ee-poo-ee ^{the} Too-ike Ah-vee



Supply Point - utz-soh

During the two great wars of America, i.e., World War I and World War II, Native Americans had a place in ensuring the security of our homeland. Some became famous, passing into popular culture thanks to a major motion picture about the Navajo code talkers' World War II service with the Marines (John Woo's 2002 movie, "Windtalkers"). However, while the Marines' Navajo code talkers might have been the largest group, they were far from being the only Native American tribe to turn their language into a code.

While Navajo code talkers were honored with Congressional Gold Medals in 2001, code talkers from other tribes were largely forgotten until recently. I learned about one of the others, the Comanche code talkers, from Bessie Ruth "Becky" Wahnee, the widow of Ralph Wahnee. Becky lives in Aiken, SC, and is a member of an auxiliary veterans group and serves as chaplain of the Aiken Veteran's Council. Becky told me she never asked her late husband Ralph what he did in World War II, and he never talked to her about it.



Bessie Ruth "Becky" Wahnee and the author.

However, since Ralph's death in 1987, Becky learned that Ralph played an important role while serving as a Comanche code talker. President George W. Bush signed The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-420) into law, which recognizes every Native American code talker who served in the United States military during WWI or WWII with a Congressional Gold Medal (with the exception of the already awarded Navajo). Each tribe's medal had a distinct design. Together with 32 other tribes, the Comanche were honored for their service as code talkers during a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, 20 November 2013, at the US Capitol's Emancipation Hall in Washington, DC. Becky accepted a Congressional Gold Medal on Ralph's behalf. The Gold Medal is one of the country's highest civilian awards. I also presented her a MOWW Coin of Excellence at an Aiken Veterans Council meeting.

By way of background, the Comanche were a forceful tribe, often encroaching on other tribes and forcibly taking their territory. They were experts at weapon making and first-rate fighters on horseback.

Ralph's ancestors regularly fought other tribes and the settlers. They were enemies of many, as their history of brutal battles demonstrates. As children, Comanche had to enter into missionary-run boarding schools, one goal of which was



to eliminate their culture and language. All but one of the Comanche code talkers had attended Fort Sill Indian School in Lawton, OK. The boarding school taught them to march and fundamental military skills which would serve them well in the future.

Then, America had to fight in World Wars I and II, and the government asked them for help. The question was, “Would the Native Americans use the same languages the government had tried to destroy to help the same Army that had been their enemy only a generation or two before?”

The Native Americans answered the call to serve. It was still their country and it was their land—and they wanted to fight for both. In short, they were happy to serve. Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi, Executive Director of the Comanche National Museum and Center, said, “It was the warrior spirit that we continue to have. We just billed it as an honor. We were always warriors and we carried this tradition on in the United States military.”

The Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center (www.comanchemuseum.com) tells us the government handpicked twenty-one Comanche men to participate in the World War II Code Talker program. Seventeen went on to enlist in the Army. They received training as radio operators and line technicians with the 4th Infantry Division.

Assigned to the Fourth Infantry Division’s Fourth Signal Company, they received phone, radio, Morse code, and semaphore training. The Army gave them free reign to develop secret Comanche code words that no one outside the group would be able to understand, including other Comanche. The Comanche code talkers eventually encoded many military terms, and to further confuse the Germans, later created their own alphabet to spell out names and places.

Thirteen Comanche code talkers landed at Utah Beach during the Normandy invasion in France. Maintaining wire telephone lines and sending secure messages via field telephone and radio, they served in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. Their service included important battles at Cherbourg, St. Lo, Paris, the Siegfried Line, the Hürtgen Forest, and Bastogne. Although several were wounded in action, none were killed. Because of the *ad hoc* nature of many code talkers’ service, there is no way to know every campaign in which they fought. One fact is significant: the Comanche code was never broken.

Utah Beach was the code name for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the

Normandy landings on 6 June 1944 during World War II. The westernmost of the five landing beaches, Utah, is on the Cotentin Peninsula, west of the mouths of the Dourve and Vire rivers.

The objective at Utah was to secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula, the location of important port facilities at Cherbourg. The amphibious assault, primarily accomplished by the US 4th Infantry Division and the 70th Tank Battalion, was supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. The intention was to rapidly seal off the Cotentin Peninsula, prevent the Germans from reinforcing Cherbourg, and capture the port as quickly as possible. Allied forces attacking Utah Beach faced two German battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, which were part of the 709th Static Infantry Division.

While improvements to fortifications were made under the leadership of Germany’s *Generalfeldmarschall* Erwin Rommel, the troops assigned to defend the area were mostly poorly equipped, non-German conscripts. On the beach itself, infantry and tanks landed in four waves and quickly secured the immediate area with minimal casualties. Meanwhile, engineers, including MOWW’s late Chaplain General, Major Charles Beasley, set to work clearing the area of obstacles and mines as additional waves of reinforcements continued arriving. After landing and while under heavy fire, the Comanche, as signal soldiers, then had to string wires on the beachhead. Two Comanche code talkers were assigned to each regiment; the rest were assigned to the Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division.

Nine of the original seventeen 4th Signal Company Comanche code talkers. Front row, from left: Forrest Kassanavoid, Charles Chibitty, Larry Saupitty and Roderick Red Elk. Rear row, from left: Edward Nahquaddy, Haddon Codynah, Ralph Wahnee, Willis Yackeshi and Perry Noyobad.

Photo Credit:
William Meadows



Shortly after landing on Utah Beach on 6 June 1944, the Comanche began transmitting messages. According to the 4th Infantry Division history, the division landed 21,000 troops on Utah at the cost of only 197 casualties. Airborne troops arriving by parachute and glider numbered an additional 14,000 men, with 2,500 casualties. Around 750 men were lost in engineering units, the 70th Tank Battalion, and seaborne vessels sunk by the enemy. German losses are unknown. Cherbourg was captured on 26 June, but by this time the Germans had destroyed





the port facilities. I believe that such low number of 4th Infantry Division casualties can be credited in part due to the Germans inability to decipher the Comanche code.

Indecisiveness, and an overly complicated command structure on the part of the German high command, was also a factor in the Allied success at Utah and throughout the Normandy campaign. Again, in my opinion, this can be credited in part to the Germans inability to decipher the Comanche code. The Comanche code prevented thousands of Allied soldiers from dying. In 1989, the French government awarded the Comanche code talkers the Chevalier of the National Order of Merit.



Bessie Wahnee, 83, the widow of PFC Ralph Wahnee, standing in front of her husband's picture on the bus honoring the Comanche Code Talkers at the left, said her husband never once mentioned the war. She related that she and her husband remained in touch on and off throughout World War II. They

finally were married in 1945, years after they met at a dance hall in North Augusta, SC, near the then-named Camp Gordon, now known as Fort Gordon, (Augusta, GA).

She knew most of his friends from the war, but none of them ever talked about their service either. If they did, it was not in English. They always just had a good time." We could run around together—dance, fish, and go to pow-wows together," Becky said. "They were wonderful guys. I am so proud that they were able to do something for their country—and this was their country—that saved a lot of lives and got the war over within a bigger hurry." Her husband did not even open up when he got a letter from the French government that said it wanted to honor the code talkers. "I did not know what code talkers were or anything like that," Wahnee confessed. "I guess I must have made a comment like, 'That would be wonderful if they deserved it,' or something like that, and just let it go. It never even dawned on me what the implications were or what it would become."

Wahnee finally heard the full story in the early 2000s, decades after her husband had passed away. She heard the US Army had sworn the men to secrecy in case it ever needed the code again. "I was just really mouth wide open, amazed," she said. "It just has to soak in. It still is trying to soak in," she concluded. There are no Comanche code talkers alive today, but Becky knew the men who served with her husband well. She and Ralph frequently socialized with them following the war. Two years after Ralph passed away, Becky moved to Aiken for

a while. Then she went back to Oklahoma. In 2004, Becky returned to Aiken and stayed.

"When I was back in Oklahoma, I heard people talking about a powwow for code talkers, and I started asking around, trying to find out more about them," she said. Only then did Becky understand Ralph's full contribution to the war effort. Instead of being upset he had not told her, Becky was proud of her husband's self-control. "The code talkers took an oath back then not to say anything because the military might have to use what they did again," she said. "They kept a secret, and I'm fine with it. That shows restraint."

The Comanche code talkers of the 4th Signal Company, 4th Infantry Division, posed for a photo during World War II, wearing Army uniforms and traditional regalia. A code they created



based on their native language saved countless lives during World War II. The young men who were drafted served in integrated units. For the first time, they got to know Americans of diverse backgrounds and were given technical training in many of the skills needed by the military. Their fellow soldiers often held them in high esteem, in part since the marvel of the tough Native American warrior had become a part of American historical legend. ★

Portions of this article were reproduced from: comanchemuseum.com/ and Wikipedia



PVCINC LTC Wayman J. Johnson has served the Order over 30 years, is a charter member of the Augusta Chapter, and served as Chapter, Department and Region Commander. He served as Chairman of the Augusta Chapter Law and Order and Publicity Committees. He received his BS and commission from South Carolina State University, MA from the University of Oklahoma and AAS from Grayson College (TX). His 23 year military career involved serving on active duty and reserve components including two tours in Vietnam; one with the 4th Infantry and another with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. After 33 years of various supervisory and oversight positions at a DOE nuclear facility, he retired as a Principal Quality Engineer. He is currently a VAVS Executive Committee member at the VA Medical Center in Augusta, GA.



Please Donate to Your Order!

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CO-CHAIR, MOWW FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP



Thanks to those who have donated to the current CINC Solicitation—we appreciate your generosity.

For those who have not yet donated, we hope you will do so as you are able. Of course, we still have a ways to go to achieve the General Staff-approved goal of \$90,000. That is why we are asking all commanders at all levels to make this a topic in all chapter meetings, staff meetings, chapter newsletters, in region/department conferences, etc., and lead the charge to achieve the goal!

Just to remind, here are some examples of what CINC Solicitation donations fund in the area of chapter- and community-focused programs and outreach:

- *Materials for new chapters, such as MOWW flags (e.g., BG Ryder Chapter, BG Hoisington Chapter)*
- *Additional printings of the Officer Review™ YLC issue for each YLC Director to use in advertising*
- *ROTC and JROTC Awards of Merit (HQ funded over 1,000 awards annually)*
- *BSA Eagle Awards and GS-USA Gold Awards (HQ funds ~35% of Eagle awards and ~75% of Gold Awards given)*
- *MOWW Membership Tri-fold Brochures—multiple printings*
- *Service Academy (e.g., USMA, USN, USAF, USCG) and military college awards, e.g., Army War College, National Intelligence University*





Convention 2016 Preflight

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

REGISTER FOR THE 2016 MOWW CONVENTION | BATON ROUGE, LA

We are getting ever closer to the time when we will actually convene in Baton Rouge, LA, for MOWW's 2016 National Convention (9–13 Aug 16). You can read about the comprehensive agenda and terrific tours on the MOWW website (www.moww.org), and in the *Officer Review*™ magazine. The Convention Agenda, Convention Tours and the Convention Registration Form are elsewhere in this issue.



The LTG Middleton Chapter—the host chapter—is doing a wonderful job putting together a great experience for you all. Remember, CINC LTC Hamilton hopes that Delegates from every chapter in our Military Order attend. CINC LTC Hamilton also asks that all

commanders at all levels make this a topic in all chapter meetings, staff meetings, chapter newsletters, in region and department conferences—and more! We look forward to seeing all of you there! ★

CHAPTER AWARD SUBMISSIONS DUE TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES BY 1 JUN 16

Submission requirements are IAW the MOWW Policy Manual, as supplemented by the applicable national committee's guidance. To view the MOWW National Directory (and contact the applicable national committee) and view the MOWW Policy Manual, go to the MOWW website at www.moww.org, then click on "Companions Only," log in, then click on "Publications," and then "National Directory." ★

COMMITTEE AWARD RECIPIENTS DUE TO MEMBERSHIP@MOWW.ORG BY 15 JUN 16

National committee chairs should email your committee's list of award selectees to Angela Miskimens at membership@moww.org by 15 June

2016. The selectees can be either in the body of the email or in a Word.doc attachment. Remember, award results are not releasable in whole or in part until the MOWW Awards Luncheon at the annual MOWW Convention, when we announce award recipients. ★

NATIONAL CITATIONS ARE DUE TO MEMBERSHIP@MOWW.ORG BY 1 JUN 16

Commanders at all levels should email their National Citation recommendations to Angela Miskimens at membership@moww.org by 15 June 2016. The list can be in the body of the email or in a Word.doc attachment.

Please include the selectees' full rank, name, service and status, e.g., ADM John P. Jones, USN (Ret). Next, indicate the name of the recommending commander and their command, e.g., ADM John P. Jones, USN (Ret); Commander, Annapolis Chapter, or Region XXV, etc.

Last, the justification narrative is 6-10 sentences—no special format required. Submitting commanders will receive an approved National Citation, etc., for presentation locally to the recipient. In addition, we list recipients in the MOWW Convention Book. ★

NATIONAL OFFICER REPORTS DUE TO CHIEFOFSTAFF@MOWW.ORG BY 1 JUN 16

In preparing for the 2016 MOWW Convention, one thing National Officers do is write their annual report that we publish in the MOWW Convention Book. These National Officers include, but are not limited to, the CINC, CS, SVCINC, VCINC, Region Commanders, the Chairman of the MOWW Board of Trustees, the Treasurer General, the JAG, the Surgeon General, the Chaplain General, the Historian General, Elected and Appointed General Staff Officers, and chairs of national committees (including ad hoc committees).

Please submit all reports in Word.doc format as an attachment to an email. Email Brig Gen Morrill at chiefstaff@moww.org, and limit your report to 3-4 pages. ★



MOWW Constitution & Bylaws: Proposed Amendments

PCINC RUSSELL C. VOWINKEL, USN (RET)
CHAIR, MOWW NOMINATING COMMITTEE



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

In keeping with the MOWW Constitution (Article VIII, Section 3) and the MOWW Bylaws (Article IX, Section 3), the MOWW Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents seven proposed amendments to MOWW's Constitution and Bylaws for consideration by all Companions of the Order. In particular, the Committee expressly presents them for consideration by, and the vote of, the Delegates to the 2016 MOWW Convention, in Baton Rouge, LA, in August 2016.

1. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: RENAME THE "POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE" AS THE "STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE."

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

- b. Author. PCINC Capt Deborah A. Kash, USAF (Ret)
- c. Current language. "Policy Planning Committee. [MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph S.]
- d. Proposed Language. Amend the MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph S, to read, "Strategic Planning Committee."
- e. Rationale. For a decade or more, the Policy Planning Committee's role was developing the Order's Strategic Plan, a role that continues today. This role has not included making policy recommendations since day-to-day management recommendations are beyond the Committee's scope. Given that strategy is the Committee's focus, the adoption of this amendment will align the name of the Committee with its actual role.

2. PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS: RENAME THE "COUNCIL OF REGION COMMANDERS" AS THE "COUNCIL OF AREA COMMANDERS."

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

- b. Author. LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, USA (Ret); Chair, Council of Region Commanders
- a. Current language.
 - 1) "Chair of the Council of Region Commanders." [REF: MOWW Constitution, Article VI, Section 3, Paragraph A.8]
 - 2) "Council of Region Commanders." [REF: MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B.]
- b. Proposed Language. Amend the MOWW Constitution, Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B, to read, "Chair of the Council of Area Commanders," and the MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B, to "Council of Area Commanders."
- c. Rationale. This proposal supports the desires of the Council to better identify the composition of the Council.



3. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: ESTABLISH A STANDING, NATIONAL “EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE.”

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

b. Author. VCINC LTC John H. Hollywood, USA (Ret); Chair, Education & Training Committee (*Ad Hoc*)

a. Current language. None.

b. Proposed Language. Add “Education & Training Committee” to the list of standing national committees. [REF: MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1]

c. Rationale. PCINC Capt John Hayes established this ad hoc committee in 2014 to develop needed training for chapter commanders. The committee accomplished that mission by exporting training modules to chapters, and by providing training during region conferences. As our Order evolves and guidance changes, education and training will always be needed to provide information to new commanders and refresher training to those who have served or are serving as commanders. MOWW should promote other training to ensure new Companions are aware of their roles as Companions and can best contribute to MOWW’s success. Because this need for education and training is enduring, the Order should retain this committee as a standing, national committee.

4. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: ESTABLISH A STANDING, NATIONAL “MOWW & PERSHING RIFLES GROUP COMMITTEE.”

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

b. Author. VCINC MG Donald L. Jacka, Jr., USA (Ret); Chair, MOWW-Pershing Rifles Group Committee (*Ad Hoc*)

a. Current language. None.

b. Proposed Language. Add “MOWW-Pershing Rifles Group Committee” to the list of standing national committees. [REF: MOWW Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1]

c. Rationale. This proposed amendment supports

the “Memorandum of Mutual Support between MOWW and the Pershing Rifles Group (PRG)” co-signed by the MOWW CINC and the Chairman of the Pershing Rifles Group at the 2015 MOWW Convention. Establishing a standing, national committee to develop and implement mutually supportive actions to the benefit of both organizations will provide mutual support for recognition, increased membership, and leadership development and mentoring to young leaders.

5. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: CHANGE THE MOWW FISCAL YEAR FROM 1 JULY–30 JUNE TO 1 JAN–31 DEC.

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

b. Author. The Financial Working Group (CS, TG, SVCINC, Trustees)

a. Current language: “The Fiscal Year (FY) of the Order shall begin on the first day of July and end on the last day of the following June, e.g., 1 July 2010 — 30 June 2011.” [REF: MOWW Bylaws, Article I, Section 1.]

b. Proposed language: Amend the MOWW Bylaws, Article I, Section 1, to read, “The MOWW Fiscal Year (FY) will be as reflected in the MOWW Policy Manual.”

c. Rationale. It allows 12 months of full fiscal reporting and completion of all preparatory actions for the annual MOWW Convention and General Staff deliberations. It aligns the MOWW budget cycle to the business/tax cycle of the MOWW Board of Trustees, and parallels the tax year of the investment houses, and our investment and income accounts. It permits the Order’s auditors to complete their annual audit of our financial statements and issue their opinion prior to the Convention. It synchronizes the fiscal management and budget development processes of the Order, i.e., the Finance Working Group, the Budget Committee, the MOWW Board of Trustees, and the MOWW Gist Blair Fund Trustees. It avoids the need for a continuing resolution because currently there is a gap between the end of one year’s approved budget and fiscal authority, and the approval date of the next year’s budget, i.e., historically a financial authority gap of 4-6 weeks in duration.



6. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: CLARIFY GENERAL STAFF AUTHORITY AS REGARDS AMENDING THE MOWW CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS.

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

- b. Author. SVCINC LTC Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret)
- a. Current language. “The General Staff will administer the affairs of the Order between National Conventions.” [REF: MOWW Constitution, Article VI, Section 1]
- b. Proposed Language. Amend the MOWW Constitution, Article VI, Section 1, to read, “The General Staff will administer the affairs of the Order between National Conventions. Administering the affairs of the Order does not constitute authority of the General Staff or Executive Committee of the General Staff to amend the Order’s Constitution or Bylaws since such authority is exclusively vested in the voting delegates of the National Convention as the legislative body of the Order.”
- c. Rationale. “Supreme authority and direction of the Order are vested in the Order in convention, subject only to the Order’s Constitution and Bylaws” [REF: MOWW Constitution, Article III, Section 2]. Further, “The legislative body of the Order will be the National Convention” [REF: MOWW Constitution, Article IV, Section 1]. However, the Constitution also states, “The Executive Committee will have full power and authority to manage the business of the General Staff between the General Staff’s meetings” [REF: MOWW Constitution, Article VI, Section 3, Paragraph B]. These several provisos lead to varying interpretations of roles and responsibilities. To clarify this situation, this amendment reinforces the authority of the Order’s delegates in convention vis-à-vis amending the MOWW Constitution and the MOWW Bylaws. It also clarifies Executive Committee roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the executive vs. legislative processes. In summary, this proposed amendment reinforces the necessary separation of, but complementary relationship of, legislative and executive powers. In providing this clarification, the adoption of this proposed amendment will not restrict or limit in any manner the appropriate

authorities of Convention Delegates or the Executive Committee granted via MOWW’s Constitution or Bylaws.

7. PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: ELIMINATE THE “STATE COMMANDER” TITLE AND USE ONLY “DEPARTMENT COMMANDER,” AND CHANGE THE POLICY MANUAL LANGUAGE TO “DEPARTMENTS MUST HAVE TWO OR MORE CHAPTERS OR COVER AN ENTIRE STATE AREA.”

a. Committee Recommendation. Adopt.

- b. Author. LTC Charles Chamberlin, USA (Ret); Chair, Council of Region Commanders
- a. Current language (in part). “Departments must have two or more chapters.” [REF: MOWW Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Paragraph A]
- b. Proposed Language (in part). Amend the MOWW Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Paragraph A, to read, “Departments must have two or more chapters, or cover an entire state area.”
- c. Rationale. The elimination of the State Commander title (by merging” that role with the role of “Department Commander”) is complemented by removing the need to make a distinction between commanded elements of states with two or more chapters and commanded elements of states with one or no chapters since they will both be performed by Department Commanders. This proposed amendment change makes those adjustments. ★



2016 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Crown Plaza Executive Center | 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 | Phone 225-925-2244

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, 8 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0830-1400	TOUR 1: MOWW GOLF TOURNEY SANTA MARIA G. C. (0900 TEE-OFF)	ALL CONFEREES

TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0800-1050	PRE-CONVENTION EXCOM	EXCOM MEMBERS
1100-1200	BOARD OF TRUSTEES	TRUSTEES/TG/CS
1200-1200	LUNCH AS DESIRED	
1300-1350	BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING	CMTE MEMBERS
1400-1650	COUNCIL OF REGION COMMANDERS	CRC MEMBERS
1500-1650	PATRIOTIC EDUCATION, INC.	PEI MEMBERS

WEDNESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0830-1200	TOUR 2: WWII MUSEUM TOUR	ALL CONFEREES
1630-1720	HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER MEETING	CHAPTER MEMBERS
1800-2100	WELCOME BUFFET (HOST: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF)	ALL CONFEREES

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0845-1330	TOUR 3: HOUMAS HOUSE	ALL CONFEREES
1400-1700	TOUR 4: USS KIDD	SPOUSES/GUESTS
0630-0850	COUNCIL OF PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF	CPC MEMBERS
0800-0930	WORKSHOP NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND SECURITY, LAW & ORDER	ALL CONFEREES
1000-1130	WORKSHOP CHAPTER COMMANDER COURSE	ALL CONFEREES
1200-1200	LUNCH AS DESIRED	
1300-1430	WORKSHOP RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS	ALL CONFEREES
1500-1630	WORKSHOP SCOUTING (BSA & GSUSA)	ALL CONFEREES
1800-1930	COMMANDERS' CALL (HOST: CINC)	CMDRS, PCINCS, EXCOM ONLY

FRIDAY, 12 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0800-0930	WORKSHOP PATRIOTIC EDUCATION	ALL CONFEREES
0930-1100	WORKSHOP MEMBERSHIP	ALL CONFEREES
1130-1320	MOWW AWARDS LUNCHEON	ALL
1430-1500	TELLER ORIENTATION (NOMINATING COMMITTEE)	TELLERS
1430-1510	NATIONAL CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS	ALL CONFEREES
1520-1700	TELLER SUPPORT MEETING (NOMINATING COMMITTEE)	TELLERS
1520-1700	DELEGATE VOTING (NOMINATING COMMITTEE)	NOMINATING COMMITTEE DELEGATES
1800-1900	HANN-BUSWELL CHAPTER COCKTAILS	MEMBERS/GUESTS
1900-2100	HANN-BUSWELL CHAPTER DINNER	MEMBERS/GUESTS

SATURDAY, 13 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0845-1300	TOUR 5: LSU RURAL LIFE MUSEUM	SPOUSES/GUESTS
0730-0830	MEMORIAL SERVICE (HOST: CHAPLAIN GENERAL)	ALL CONFEREES
0900-1150	CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION	ALL CONFEREES
1200-1200	LUNCH AS DESIRED	
1300-1530	CONVENTION GENERAL STAFF MEETING	ALL
1600-1650	NON-DENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE	AS DESIRED
1800-1850	CINC RECEIVING LINE/RECEPTION MESS DRESS/TUXEDO	ALL
1900-2100	CINC BANQUET MESS DRESS/TUXEDO	ALL

POST-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, 14 AUGUST 2016

TIME	EVENT	ATTENDEES
0800-1150	POST-CONVENTION EXCOM	EXCOM MBRS
0800-0950	EXCOM SPOUSE/GUEST BREAKFAST	SPOUSE/GUEST

NOTE 1: CORE ACTIVITIES

NOTE 2: WORKSHOP: ALL ATTEND

NOTE 3: COMMANDERS' CALL: ONLY COMMANDERS, PCINCS AND EXCOM ATTENDS

HOSPITALITY ROOM: ROOM 254





2016 CONVENTION TOURS

Crown Plaza Executive Center | 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 | Phone 225-925-2244



Tour 1 - Golf Game (Mon, 8 Aug 16 | Depart 0830, Tee-Off 0900)

The Santa Maria Golf Course is an 18-hole course built on 150 acres of rolling terrain, featuring 18 lakes and two natural waterways, with sand bunkers, Bermuda fairways and mature oaks. It has received Golf Digest's highest ranking for a municipal course. It is conveniently located 15 minutes from the host hotel, one mile off historic Highland Road near I-10. **Cost/person \$50.00**



Tour 2 - National World War II Museum (Wed, 10 Aug 16 | Depart 0830)

The museum's exhibits (100,000 artifacts) cover the war that changed the world. Housed in four buildings, each arranged around central themes of the war (D-Day, European Operations, Pacific Operations, and Vehicles & Aircraft), exhibits present the war through the eyes of the participants. See "Beyond All Boundaries," a film produced by Tom Hanks. **Cost/person \$50.00 (light lunch included)**



Tour 3 - Houmas House Plantation/Gardens (Thu, 11 Aug 16 | Depart 0845)

Revolutionary War hero, Gen Wade Hampton, purchased the property in 1810 and began constructing the Mansion. His daughter, Caroline, completed it in 1828. The plantation grew to 300,000 acres and by the late 1800s, it was producing 20 million pounds of sugar a year. History is also seen in the Mansion's antiques and art. **Cost/person \$40.00 (Southern buffet lunch included)**



Tour 4 - USS Kidd Museum & Old Capitol (Thu, 11 Aug 16 | Depart 1400)

This Fletcher-class destroyer was named after RADM Isaac C. Kidd, Sr., who was killed aboard his flagship, USS Arizona, at Pearl Harbor. She earned 8 battle stars in WWII and 4 in Korea. Then, go to the adjacent Old Louisiana State Capitol (completed in 1852). Its interior was burned during the Civil War, but was restored in 1882 and remained the statehouse until 1932. **Cost/person \$20.00**



Tour 5 - LSU Rural Life Museum (Sat, 13 Aug 16 | Depart 0845)

In 1966, the Burden Family began donating their Winrush Plantation and Gardens to Louisiana State University to promote Louisiana history. The museum focuses on the life and ways of the working classes of the 18th and 19th rural Louisiana. It has the largest collection of Louisiana Vernacular Architecture from 18th & 19th century Louisiana. **Cost/person \$20.00**





2016 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Crown Plaza Executive Center | 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 | Phone 225-925-2244

ATTENDEE(S)

Attendee Rank, Full Name & Serviceⁱ _____

Chapter Name _____ **Region** _____

Current Office(s) Held _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Home Address _____

Spouse/Guest Full Nameⁱⁱ _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Delegate/Companion NLT 1 Jul 16: \$240.00 **or** After 1 Jul 16: \$270.00/personⁱⁱⁱ \$ _____
 Non-Companion Spouse/Guest NLT 1 Jul 16: \$225.00 **or** After 1 Jul 16: \$255.00/person^{iv} \$ _____
 Awards Luncheon (7 Aug 15) (Crawfish Etouffee | Roast Pork | Cajun Stuffed Chicken) **Meal-Type** _____ (e.g., E-1, P-1, C-1)
 CINC Banquet (8 Aug 15) (Fried Catfish | Beef Fillet | Crab-Stuffed Chicken) **Number-Type** _____ (e.g., F-1, B-1, C-1)
☒ **Special Dietary Requirements** _____

OPTIONAL TOURS

Tour 1: MOWW Golf Tourney | Santa Maria Golf Club (8 Aug) # _____ x \$50.00 x \$ _____
 Tour 2: National WWII Museum | Light lunch included (10 Aug) # _____ x \$50.00 x \$ _____
 Tour 3: Houmas House Plantation | Southern buffet included (11 Aug) # _____ x \$40.00 x \$ _____
 Tour 4: USS Kidd Museum & Old Capitol (11 Aug) # _____ x \$20.00 x \$ _____
 Tour 5: LSU Rural Life Museum (13 Aug) # _____ x \$20.00 x \$ _____

TOTAL

TOTAL \$ _____

REGISTRATION PROCESSING

- Book your Crown Plaza Executive Center hotel room using this website: www.crownebaton.com
 - Click on "Accommodations" to the left; click on "Book Now"; under "Make a Reservation" put in your check-in & check-out dates, and click on "Check Rates & Availability"; click on "More Options," and under Group Code, type in your 3-digit code ("MWW") and press "Book"
 - OR ... call in your reservation to 1-800-678-4065; individual calling must use Group Code "MWW" for special MOWW Convention rate
 - Convention rates are good 3 days before and 3 days after the convention dates
- The Host Chapter will hold a two drawings for free regular registrations (each a \$240 value) at the CINC Banquet
 - For all Companions that registered not later than the Early Registration Cutoff date (postmarked NLT 1 July 2016)
 - For all Companions that registered by the Early Registration Cutoff Date and participated in the World War II Museum Tour
- Make convention registration checks payable to: MOWW NC 16
 - Payment by personal check only (NO credit/debit cards)
 - Mail registration personal check & completed registration form to:
 Clay C. Le Grande | 13421 Ridgeview Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70817-3432 | c.legrande@cox.net | 225-752-9780

ⁱ Delegate/Companion Registration Fee Registration covers: Convention Book (for Delegate), CINC Welcome Buffet, MOWW Awards Luncheon, CINC Banquet

ⁱⁱ Spouse/Guest Registration Fee Registration covers CINC Welcome Buffet, MOWW Awards Luncheon, and CINC Banquet

ⁱⁱⁱ Registration cost at the door for Delegates/Companions is \$280.00

^{iv} Registration cost at the door for Non-Companion Spouses/Guests is \$265.00





Smaller Chapter is a Giant Success

LTCOL TOD A. EIKENBERY, USMC (RET)
WEST VALLEY CHAPTER (131), AZ



MOWW's West Valley Chapter (AZ) held their annual Massing of the Colors on 10 February 2016, in Surprise, AZ. Chapter Commander Col Gerald O. Jenson, USMC (Ret), presided over the ceremony and Charles Musgrave directed the Desert Brass Band, a gifted 38-piece band. The Desert Brass Band provided patriotic music throughout the ceremony, concluding with two buglers playing a beautiful rendition of Echo Taps. A total 330 people attended.

As expected, this MOC ceremony honored the flag of the United States of America, promoted American patriotism, and paused to remember those who have gone before us—some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our liberties and ensure our continued freedom. Thirty-six color guard units representing the Phoenix West Valley area participated in the Massing of Flags ceremony. The ceremony's guest speaker was Col Thomas H. Kirk, Jr., USAF (Ret), a pilot who flew combat mission in Korea and Vietnam. In Vietnam, Col Kirk's aircraft was shot down and he became a prisoner of war for 5½ years in the notorious Hanoi Hilton Prison.

Col Kirk, an inspirational speaker, provided a moving message. Initially he spoke of his experiences during captivity, along with his faith in God and America. Both were instrumental in maintaining mental health and surviving the brutality that he and other prisoners endured while incarcerated. He also addressed the level of American patriotism that he and fellow prisoners felt then and now. Col Kirk concluded his remarks by reminding all of America's exceptionalism, a quality not always recognized in our nation today. He encouraged all attendees to reach out to the children and grandchildren of their families to ensure our national culture preserves this exceptionalism. The West Valley attendees lauded Col Kirk's address and the Massing of Colors for their inspiration and patriotism.

In addition to the annual MOC ceremony, the West Valley Chapter serves Arizona's youth by hosting Youth Leadership programs at no cost to the students who attend. These students receive patriotic education



(Top L-R): Chapter Commander Col G. O. Jenson, USMC (Ret); Guest Speaker Col Thomas H. Kirk, Jr., USAF (Ret), and Chaplain Susan Ramsay.

(Center): Col Thomas H. Kirk, Jr., USAF (Ret) Guest Speaker

Massing of the Colors

Photos courtesy of author

on leadership in a free society, free enterprise system concepts, principles of democracy and the Bill of Rights. The students also develop speaking, writing and leadership skills, which contributes to them being better citizens and future leaders. Notably, the West Valley Chapter also sponsors for ROTC and Junior ROTC cadet awards. ★



Editor's Note: "BRAVO ZULU" is a naval signal, conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio. Meaning, "Well done," it has passed into the spoken and written vocabulary.



New Scouting Recognition

MAJ ROBERT J. WILLIAMS, USAF (RET)
CHAIR, MOWW SCOUTING COMMITTEE



MOWW's Scouting Committee is working to recognize scouts not previously recognized, i.e., the young men and women of the BSA's Venturing and Sea Scouts Programs. The Scouting Committee is pleased to announce that the Chief of Staff is designing Certificates of Recognition for Venture Summit and Sea Scouts Quartermaster Awards. These certificates should be available to order from the MOWW Store in the fall of 2016.



Venturing is a BSA program for young men and women between 14-21 years of age (or 13 if the intended recipient completed 8th grade). It is a youth-lead program, which expands on the leadership requirements demonstrated by Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients. A young man currently registered with a Boy Scout Troop (or who earned at least First Class Rank while a Scout) can continue to work toward his Eagle Scout Award, which he must complete before his 18th birthday.

Likewise, a young lady currently registered as a Girl Scout can continue to work toward her Gold Award, which she must complete before her 18th birthday. Prior to 2015, the top award for Venturing was the Silver Award, but in 2015, BSA significantly changed the Venturing Program by renaming the top award as the Venture Summit Award. Many of the Venturers who receive the Silver/Summit Award have also earned either the Eagle Scout or the Gold Award.

Sea Scouts is BSA's specialized co-ed older youth program for young men and women of ages of 14-21 (or 13 if the intended recipient completed 8th grade). Sea Scouts focus on nautical-related activities. Like Venturing, a young man currently registered with a Boy Scout Troop (or who earned at least First Class Rank while a Scout) can continue to work toward his Eagle Scout Award, which must be completed before his 18th birthday. Also like Venturing, a young lady currently registered as a Girl Scout can continue to work toward her Gold Award, which she must complete before her 18th birthday. The top award for Sea Scouts is the Quartermaster Award. Boy Scouts earn only about 40-50 annually.

Interestingly, it is possible for those involved in the Venturing Program to be involved with the Sea Scouts, and therefore eligible for both of these top awards. In fact, most of the BSA National Officers of both the Venturing and Sea Scout programs have earned their Eagle/Gold Award and either the Venture Silver/Summit or the Sea Scout Quartermaster Awards. Some of have been so highly motivated that they have earned both the Silver/Summit and Quartermaster Awards.

MOWW Chapters can present these two awards in a manner identical to Eagle Scout Certificate presentations, i.e., by participating in the recipient's Court of Honor, or during Council-wide Recognition Banquets. Chapter Coordinators should contact the Venturing and/or Sea Scout Representative at their local BSA Council to discuss additional opportunities for interaction between the chapter and the Venture and/or Sea Scout units. ★



The Power of Convening

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

The annual MOWW Convention is only months away, and we hope that all MOWW National Officers (sidebar) and many other Companions of our Order attend.



"Adopt as your fundamental creed that you will equip yourself for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community."

—General Sir John Monash, GCMG, KCB, VD

It is important that National Officers and the Order's Companions to attend the MOWW Convention to create shared dialogues, catalyze groundbreaking ideas and promote a collective energy of volunteerism.

Dr. Tseen Khoo (La Trobe University, Melbourne) says there are five reasons to attend a convention.

1. REAP THE BENEFITS OF CONNECTION.

Getting involved with a convention committee, e.g., an outreach committee, helps you develop contacts, develop momentum for ideas, contribute to what is discussed, and directly support the Order.

2. PROFESSIONALISM AND "TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS."

Attending and participating allows you to gain excellent experience, learn much, and develop partnerships with fellow Companions.

3. PUBLICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING.

Most quality conferences will produce quality training materials, workshop summaries, etc., and you can participate in the editing of such things, have your work represented in it, and more. Those who were most proactive during the convention end up being the ones who are worth working with.

4. "FEEL GOOD" FACTORS.

Let's take the focus off you for a minute and paraphrase President Kennedy's pivotal question: Ask not what a conference can do for you, but what you can do for a conference? The feeling that you're doing something for a greater cause (i.e. your Order) can be a great driver. There's also a basic level of "making things happen" with a conference that is necessary to our Order.

5. IT IS FUN. You make time to enjoy hanging out with fellow Companions, putting faces to names of delegates you've only emailed, feeling in the centre of all the buzz, and knowing that you're part of something with tradition and longevity. ★

MOWW Constitution, Article V (Officers)

SECTION 1. National Officers. The Officers of the Order constitute the General Staff and consist of the:

- A. Commander-in-Chief
- B. Past Commanders-in-Chief
- C. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- D. Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each)
- E. Treasurer General
- F. Assistant Treasurer General
- G. Judge Advocate General
- H. Assistant Judge Advocate General
- I. Surgeon General
- J. Assistant Surgeon General
- K. Chaplain General
- L. Assistant Chaplain General
- M. Historian General
- N. Assistant Historian General
- O. Members of the MOWW Board of Trustees
- P. Region, State, Department and Chapter Commanders
- Q. General Staff Emeritus members
- R. General Staff Officer Members-at-Large (appointed and elected)
- S. Chairs of all National Committees
- T. Directors of Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) sanctioned by the Order (if not otherwise members of the General Staff)
- U. Chief of Staff (*ex officio* without a vote)



Robots and Da Vinci

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



What do robots, laparoscopes and Leonardo da Vinci have in common? Modern surgery uses these terms. When I was in training, the idea of using a periscope, and removing benign and cancerous lesions from the internal parts of the body through an incision that can often be covered with a band aid, was fanciful at best, and “You gotta be crazy” at worst. However, these concepts and techniques are routine in many institutions because they reduce pain and bleeding, and recovery is quick.

A laparoscope is a sterile, flexible fiber optic tube that goes in from a convenient opening, through a trochar (big hollow needle). Either a viewing lens is connected that plays out on a video set-up connected separately, or a digital set-up is on the end of the scope. A “cold” light source is inserted through another opening (5-10 mm). Carbon dioxide is usually insufflated in the body cavity to create a puffed up viewing space since Co2 is a natural part of us and is easily absorbed after the surgery.

The abdominal cavity, pelvic and chest cavities are fair game. Each procedure has specific instrumentation such as is the case for “regular surgery,” e.g., clamps, forceps and scissors. The most common procedure is gall bladder removal. Ninety six percent of the 1,000,000 removals a year are now done through a laparoscope.

The Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System, on the other hand, uses a console placed away from the surgical site. The surgeon controls the various instruments placed in through various small incisions with robotic hands (grippers), which respond to his movements and relay sensations back to him. The instrument package being

remote can be remote to another hospital or even on occasion across the ocean! The Bonati Spine Procedures includes a process by which the spinal surgical system goes in through one opening. Generally pain is reduced and recovery is quicker—especially in gall bladder surgery.

Kidney surgery is occasionally accompanied by a larger incision to get the organ out or to let an assisting hand be in the field. There are techniques for removal of a kidney lesion just through the scope. In addition, removing only a part of the organ (i.e., the malignant part) can save the rest of the gland.

These techniques are even used on animals as needed, and can reduce “down time” for a racehorse, whose every moment is tightly scheduled. Reduced bleeding, pain, incision size, less scarring, faster discharge times and reduced infection risk are the pluses. The negatives are poor depth perception, limited range of motion, no tactile perception, and use of tools rather than hands. New skills and new complications must be mastered, and there is no substitute for experience—often acquired through additional training for a year or two.

Robotic surgery can be done truly from a remote location. At best, it can allow a military surgeon to treat from a remote distance in safety. A skilled team can “go” to remote parts of the under developed world. The possibilities are seemingly unlimited. There are also “assistance devices” that can act as an assistant at surgery.

Must I really add, “Do not try this at home?” The more skilled and experienced the surgeon, the more you want to see him or her. ★



CPT (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr), 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.

What is Man?

CH (COL) WILLIAM K. BROCK, AUS (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

The Psalmist of the Old Testament, astonished by what he saw in the sky above him and the world around him, wrote these words: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (New Revised Standard Version, Psalm 8:3-4).

Today, armed with telescopes, microscopes, and an immense body of scientific knowledge, we are still amazed by the wonders of the universe and the marvels of nature. If we are thoughtful like the wise writer of Psalms, we also ask the question, "What is man? What is the essence of our humanity and our place in the world?"

Years ago, I heard Dr. Walter Judd, a Congressman from Minnesota, speak to this issue. He related that at the foundational meeting for what was later to be called The United Nations, "We were unable to agree on a definition of 'What is Man?'"

This question was addressed by early philosophers. Thomas Hobbs took a very pessimistic view of man. He said man is a brute, and cannot be trusted. What is the last thing you do at night? You lock the door—which proves you cannot trust him. Hobbes believed that liberty brought chaos, and bad government is better than no government. You give up your liberty for security. Therefore, the people owe their allegiance to the sovereign.

John Locke, another early philosopher, took an almost romantic view of man. He is created, but a little lower than the angels. Explain to him, and he will understand. Therefore, given freedom of choice, you can trust the people to make good choices. He said man has certain natural rights, i.e. life, liberty and property. The purpose of government is to secure these rights.

The writings of those early philosophers influenced the founding fathers of our nation. Alexander Hamilton was more of a disciple of Thomas Hobbes; hence, the purpose of government is to protect property. Thomas Jefferson was more of a disciple of John Locke; as a result, we have the words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident,

that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The pursuit of happiness was substituted in this quote from the original "right to life, liberty, and property."

From the above discussion, I think that we can begin to see that our nation's early documents, e.g., the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, emanate from the same question, "What is Man?"

Our religious faith allows us to formulate a deeper perspective of the nature of man, the essence of humanity, and our role in the world. Our religious practices call us to make affirmations about our nature. We are spiritual beings with the capacity to love and forgive. We can make value judgements. We can be creative and to use our God-given talents in service to all humanity. The list of possibilities is almost endless. ★



CG (COL) Brock retired from the Veterans Administration in 1997 after 20 years of service, and earlier retired from the US Army after 33 Active Duty and Reserve years as a Military Chaplain. He is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis, the United Theological Seminary, the Chaplain's

Basic and Advanced Courses, US Army Command & General Staff College, and the National Security Management Course. He is a past Commander of the Ft. Hood Chapter and is active in the First United Methodist Church in Waco (TX)



AUTHOR'S NOTE: *Man refers to all humankind. Many of the ideas expressed above are from classroom notes from Leo Pfeffer, Long Island University. "This Honorable Court" and "The Liberties of an American" are two of the books authored by Leo Pfeffer. He has argued many cases before the US Supreme Court.*



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DALLAS (069), TEXAS

Ambassador Fisher Reels Them In!

BY LTC DON B. MUNSON, USA (RET))

The keynote speaker at the Chapter's March meeting was the former CEO and President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Ambassador Richard Fisher. Over 140 Companions and guests were privileged to hear the remarks by Amb. Fisher on the topic, "Are Banks Too Large to Fail?"

After the meeting, the Dallas Chapter was flooded with over 20 requests for membership from guests of our Companions!

The banner behind the speaker referred to our success in raising sufficient funds to send 75 students to this year's YLCs.

Top right, L-R: Chapter Commander LTC Ken Boatman, USA (Ret), presented Ambassador Fisher with a plaque honoring him for his dedicated service to our nation.



SUN CITY CENTER (226), FLORIDA

The Celebration of the Chapter's Twenty-third Birthday

BY CAPT FRANK KEPLEY, USN (RET)

The celebration of the chapter's 23rd birthday on 18 February was a complete success. The chapter was honored to host CINC LTC Ruth L. Hamilton, USA (Ret), as the featured speaker. The event was highlighted by a Law and Order award presentation to Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee, who was awarded the MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Award for Patriotic Achievement. The Honorable Michael Scionti, Circuit Court Judge, was also inducted by the CINC as a Companion in the Sun City MOWW chapter. The festivities culminated in cutting the Chapter's ceremonial 23rd birthday cake.

The ceremonial 23rd birthday cake was cut by CINC LTC Hamilton, VCINC COL Brad Beasley, USA (Ret), and several current and past local chapter commanders. (L-R): VCINC and Region V Commander, COL Brad Beasley USA (Ret); Mrs. Sheila Turpin, HPM; Lt Col Frank Zahrobsky, USAF (Ret); CINC LTC Hamilton; Lt Col Jim Warchol, USAF (Ret); Lt Col Gordy Bassett USAF (Ret), and Lt Col Charlie Conover, USA (Ret)..





MG CRITZ (155), OKLAHOMA

Doing the Business of the Order

BY LTC MICHAEL S. GEORGE, USA (RET)

At its February meeting, the General Critz Chapter welcomed MOWW's SVCINC COL Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret). SVCINC COL Le Grande briefed Companions and guests on MOWW's national programs and discussed proposed amendments to the Order's Constitution. The meeting included the induction of the chapter's newest Companion, Lt Col Ed Petersen, USAF (Ret).

Pictured L-R are Chapter Commander LTC Michael George, Lt Col Petersen, and SVCINC COL Le Grande.



FORT KNOX (239), KENTUCKY

Companions are the Resource

BY BG DAVID ESTES, USAR (RET)

The Chapter's Youth Leadership Conference served as the appropriate backdrop to recognize two individuals who have contributed much to the chapter's successful youth programs. On the final day of the YLC, Chapter Commander BG Dave Estes, USAR (Ret), seized the moment to make these presentations.

Above L-R: CPT Samuel Alexander, USA (Fmr), received his Perpetual Member certificate and pin from Chapter Commander, BG Dave Estes.

Below L-R: BG Estes presented Rick Dickerson with a Bronze Patrk Henry for his portrayal as "Sergeant Borntraeger," and for years of supporting our YLCs.



PUERTO RICO (121)

C/Torres—PR YLC's Best

BY LTC JORGE MAS, USA (RET)

Companion BG Victor Perez, USA (Ret), selected Cadet SSgt Osvaldo Torres as the Chapter's YLC Outstanding Student. He was chosen for his dedication, participation and excellent attitude throughout the conference. BG Perez presented Cadet Torres with a personal Coin of Excellence with a one star rank and MOWW Certificate.

(L-R): Squadron Commander Lt Col Carlos Quiñones, USAF; CAP Cadet SSgt Osvaldo Torres and BG Victor Perez, USA (Ret).



HILL COUNTRY (220), TEXAS

Eagle Scout Recognition

BY MAJ PAUL ZOHLEN, USAR (RET)

An important outreach program of MOWW and embraced by the Hill Country Chapter, is recognition of Boy Scouts who achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. On 28 February 2016, Chapter Commander MAJ Paul Zohlen, USAR (Ret), attended the Court of Honor at which Jules Knoulton was awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Scout Knoulton was presented with a MOWW Eagle Scout Certificate.



MG MEADE (026), MARYLAND

Chapter Hosts Veterans Day Appreciation Lunch

BY LT COL SHELDON GOLDBERG, USAF (RET)

Companions of the MG George G. Meade Chapter and their spouses gathered in front of the MOWW display at the Ft. Meade Veterans Day Appreciation Lunch. The Meade Chapter is a proud host of this annual event, sponsored by the Ft. Meade Officer Spouses Club and the Retired Officer's Wives Club. The keynote speaker for this year's event was Mr. George Owings III, Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs.





VA Announces Additional Steps to Reduce Veteran Suicide

The VA announced new steps it is taking to reduce veteran suicide. The steps follow a February Summit, "Preventing Veteran Suicide – A Call to Action," that brought together stakeholders and thought leaders to discuss current research, approaches and best practices to address this important subject.

"We know that every day, approximately 22 veterans take their lives and that is too many," said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David Shulkin. "We take this issue seriously. While no one knows the subject of veteran suicide better than VA, we also realize that caring for our veterans is a shared responsibility. We all have an obligation to help veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of military service that lead them to think suicide is their only option."

Several changes and initiatives are being announced that strengthen VA's approach to suicide prevention. They include:



The Joint Services Support Directorate for the Washington National Guard displays 22 pairs of combat boots to symbolize the estimated 22 veterans a day who commit suicide. The boots were on display during a suicide awareness prevention run on Camp Murray, Wash., Sept. 26, 2014.

- Elevating VA's Suicide Prevention Program with additional resources to manage and strengthen current programs and initiatives;
- Meeting urgent mental health needs by providing Veterans with the goal of same-day evaluations and access by the end of calendar year 2016;

- Establishing a new standard of care by using measures of veteran-reported symptoms to tailor mental health treatments to individual needs;
- Launching a new study, "Coming Home from Afghanistan and Iraq," to look at the impact of deployment and combat as it relates to suicide, mental health and well-being;
- Using predictive modeling to guide early interventions for suicide prevention;
- Using data on suicide attempts and overdoses for surveillance to guide strategies to prevent suicide;
- Increasing the availability of naloxone rescue kits throughout VA to prevent deaths from opioid overdoses;
- Enhancing Veteran Mental Health access by establishing three regional tele-mental health

- Continuing to partner with the DoD on suicide prevention and other efforts for a seamless transition from military service to civilian life.

For more information about VA initiatives to prevent Veteran suicide, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/.

Warrior Care Coordination: The DoD and VA Synchronized Processes Create Interagency Coordination of Complex Care Effort



The DoD and VA recently announced an ongoing effort to ease the transition for service members/veterans (SM/V) who require complex care management when

they transition from the DoD system of health care to VA's, or within each system. "IC3" was devised to be a "one care plan" for a given SM/V which stays with them (rather than each program creating their own). This effort was enacted as policy by both departments in 2015, aligning more than 250 sub-policies to one. The effort is designed to ease the burden for service members and veterans, who have suffered illnesses or injuries so severe as to require the expertise provided by multiple care specialties throughout both Departments.

The hallmark of the effort is the implementation of the role of Lead Coordinator. The Lead Coordinator will be a designated member of a service member's care management team who will serve as the primary coordinator for that individual. Service members, veterans, and their families, working with their Lead Coordinator, will have someone to whom they can turn when they have a question or issue as they actively participate in their care. The first phase of Lead Coordinator Training was completed in November. It is expected that a total of 1,500 DoD staff and 1,200 VA staff will serve as Lead Coordinators.

Coordination efforts are synchronized through the IC3 Community of Practice (CoP), a group representing more than 50 DoD and VA programs that provide specialty care, including rehabilitation services for the visually impaired and polytrauma centers. It will be the job of the Lead Coordinator to guide service members through the system, ensuring that they receive the care, benefits, and services they both require and to which they are entitled. ★



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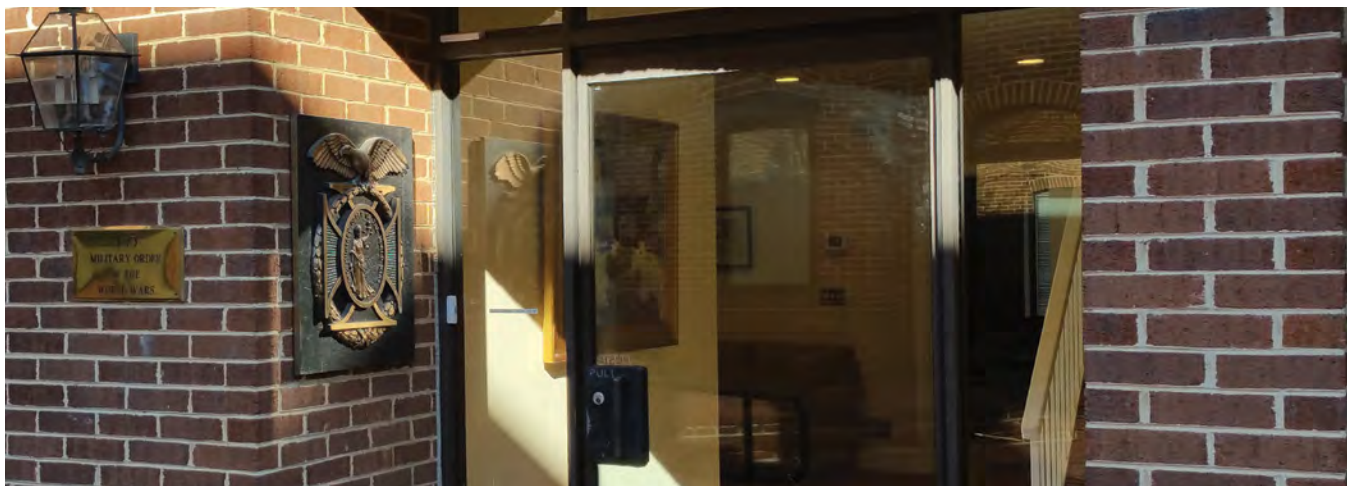
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