

# OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 64 • NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2025





# Our Selfless Service During This Season of Gratitude

As we celebrate 250 years of America's freedom and prosperity, I would like to repeat my message from this time last year: As we reflect upon our rich blessings here in the greatest nation on earth, we must also keep in mind those who have struggled throughout the year, such as our homeless veterans and those in particular who were in the path of fires and floods.

Let us also not forget our fellow comrades who are stationed overseas, and keep in mind their families who remain here at home. If you know of such a family, reach out to them in the MOWW spirit of service, and let them know that they are appreciated, offering them any assistance they may need.

After the "Great War" was over, General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing in a personal letter to his soldiers stated: "In leaving the scenes of your victories, may I ask that you carry home your high ideals and continue to live as you have served—an honor to the principles for which you fought and to the fallen comrades you leave behind." Our continued service is a form of gratitude, gratitude for the blessings and privileges we have in our great nation, and to say "Thank You!" to our country for allowing us the opportunity to protect our precious rights and freedoms. Service is not about ourselves, but about giving back, which in and of itself is one of the highest forms of gratitude.

This time of year is special as we honor our fallen veterans and express our gratitude for their service. Through the Wreaths Across America (WAA) program, Chapter Companions across the country will be placing wreaths at National Cemeteries and local gravesites on Saturday, December 13th. Established in 2007, WAA has become synonymous with its annual wreath-laying ceremonies each December: WAA has participating locations in over 5,200 communities nationwide, at sea, and abroad, engaging volunteers in educational initiatives and sharing veteran stories of service and sacrifice. The Memorandum of Understanding we signed last year with WAA underscores the Order's shared commitment to engage Companions and volunteers in joint community service activities to raise awareness for our respective missions.

I want to "Thank You!" for your selfless service as General Pershing had requested: each and every one of you is truly amazing. Our Order has accomplished so much over the last year, and will continue to soar as we expand and solidify our community outreach through dedicated Companions like you.

I wish each and every one of you and your families the happiest of holidays, and may God Bless America!...

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

## MOWW OFFICERS

### **Commander-in-Chief & CEO, MOWW, Inc.**

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)  
[worleymoww@earthlink.net](mailto:worleymoww@earthlink.net)

### **Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief**

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)  
[ruizmarlon08@gmail.com](mailto:ruizmarlon08@gmail.com)

### **Vice Commanders-in-Chief**

CPT James A. Brady, USA (Fmr)  
[mowwaugusta@aol.com](mailto:mowwaugusta@aol.com)

COL Joseph P. Kirilin III, USA (Ret)  
[eaglejpk@aol.com](mailto:eaglejpk@aol.com)

COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)  
[colpeck@yahoo.com](mailto:colpeck@yahoo.com)

Col Adalberto Rivera, USAF (Ret)  
[adal\\_rivera@yahoo.com](mailto:adal_rivera@yahoo.com)

### **Immediate Past CINC**

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)  
[perezv56@gmail.com](mailto:perezv56@gmail.com)

### **Chief of Staff, & COO, MOWW, Inc.**

Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)  
[chiefofstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefofstaff@moww.org)

### **Treasurer General & CFO, MOWW, Inc.**

CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr. USA (Ret)  
[treasurergeneral@moww.org](mailto:treasurergeneral@moww.org)

### **Judge Advocate General**

CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)  
[harold@hglaw.pro](mailto:harold@hglaw.pro)

### **Surgeon General**

CPT Dan L. Cameron, Jr., USA (Fmr)  
[dancameron789@yahoo.com](mailto:dancameron789@yahoo.com)

### **Chaplain General**

LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)  
[vicburnette@aol.com](mailto:vicburnette@aol.com)

### **Historian General**

HPM Mr. Charles W. Bennett, Jr.  
[lpdchief@aol.com](mailto:lpdchief@aol.com)

## HQ MOWW

435 North Lee Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-683-4911

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





# OFFICER REVIEW

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2025  
VOLUME 64 • NUMBER 6

MOWW.ORG  
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



## Features

- 2** CINC's Perspective  
CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)
- 4** "The General of the Armies" & "The Great Humanitarian"  
Mr. Paul C. Goffin, Assistant Director, World Bank (Retired), and  
Col Kent D. Menser, USA (Ret)
- 13** Announcement:  
American Independence Youth Leadership Conference
- 14** Phantom Knight  
Lt Col Sonny Marcombe, USAF(Ret)
- 16** Folds of Honor  
HPM Roberta L. Yourtee
- 17** Hometown Heroes  
LTC Miles Gilmore, USA (Ret)
- 18** MOWW CINC In Action  
VCINC COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)
- 19** WellCare: Benefits Veterans Deserve

## Departments

- 20** Surgeon's Tent  
The Story of the Kandahar Crud  
CPT Dan L. Cameron, Jr., USA (Fmr)  
Surgeon General, MOWW
- 22** Chaplain's Pulpit  
Let Your Light Shine: A Holiday Reflection for MOWW Companions  
LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)  
Chaplain General, MOWW
- 23** Fall In To MOWW's Membership Drive!
- 24** Coast To Coast: Chapters in Action
- 28** VA: In the News
- 29** Companion Roll Call: Reveille|Taps
- 32** Hawaii MOWW Chapter's Successful MOC  
COL Arthur N. Tulak, USA (Ret)

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT: THE OFFICER REVIEW (ISSN 0736-7317) IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS, 435 N. LEE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2301. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT ALEXANDRIA, VA, AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO OFFICER REVIEW, 435 NORTH LEE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2301

ON THE COVER  
General John J. Pershing and Herbert Hoover pose with volunteers from the European Relief Council at a fund-raising dinner at the Hotel Commodore, 1920. Source Bund Photographs



# “The General of the Armies” & “The Great Humanitarian”

MR. PAUL C. GOFFIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WORLD BANK (RETIRED), AND  
COL KENT D. MENSER, USA (RET)  
GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER MD

*“The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion.  
As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”*

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE 1862 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

## Introduction

World War I compelled the United States, which had maintained a neutral foreign policy, to engage in the European conflict. Its participation turned the tide of events, and, significantly, through the deployment of its natural and human resources, the United States emerged as a potent global power. By the end of World War I, under the leadership of Army General John J. Pershing, the United States' American Expeditionary Forces expanded dramatically to include the service of 4 million men and women, as well as 800,000 more in other military branches. And through the civilian leadership of Herbert Hoover, the United States Food Administration effectively ensured the nation's food needs during the war, including

American civilians as well as US and Allied soldiers in Europe. The collaboration between these men, particularly in the context of post-war food relief operations in Europe, had a profound impact on the development of the United States Army and shaped America's social, economic, and political mindset regarding humanitarian aid.

## A Delicate Balance

At the turn of the twentieth century, Europe maintained a delicate balance among centuries-old empires—the Ottoman, the Russian, and the more recent Austro-Hungarian, as well as emerging alliances, such as the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1894, the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France of 1904, and the Anglo-Russian Entente of



General John J. Pershing



Herbert Hoover



1907. These agreements effectively divided Europe into two camps: the French, British, and Russians on one side and the Central European alliances of the Germans, Austro-Hungarians, and Ottomans on the other. As this political landscape took shape, smaller countries also began to embrace nationalism and strive for greater autonomy.

On 28 June 1914, the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince by Serbian nationalists who sought to break free from Austro-Hungarian rule triggered a crisis. The assassination was not the cause of the war itself, but rather the catalyst that set off a chain reaction in Europe. In response to the assassination, Austro-Hungary invoked its alliance with Germany, while Russia felt obligated to defend the Slavic Serbs. Both sides believed they were fighting a defensive war to ensure their national survival, which only heightened the tensions. Two months after the assassination, Germany took advantage of the situation and invaded France, which was an ally of Russia.

### **The Invasion of Belgium and the Food Crisis**

On 4 August 1914, the Germans invaded Belgium. Their High Command viewed neutral Belgium as an easier route to France, allowing them to bypass

the fortified Franco-German border. The strategic objective was to flank the French through Belgium, cutting them off from Paris and the rest of France.

The invasion of Belgium prompted Great Britain to declare war on the German Empire on the very same day. As part of the Allies' economic warfare, the British Navy proceeded to blockade all continental ports. Unfortunately, this blockade had a severe impact on occupied Belgium, a prosperous, industrialized, and trading nation that was the most densely populated country in Europe. Belgium did not have enough farmland to feed its 7.5 million people and heavily relied on food imports, such as cereals, of which over 70% were imported. With the ports blocked, the Belgian food supply rapidly dwindled, and within months, the threat of starvation became a reality.

Brand Whitlock, appointed minister to Belgium by President Wilson in 1913, brought attention to the dire situation to the Allied nations. However, the Germans refused to take responsibility for supplying food to the Belgians, arguing that the Belgians should continue importing their food as they had always done, and that Britain should lift the blockade. The British remained firm in their blockade, arguing that the Germans should provide



*Belgians from all walks of life wait patiently outside a Brussels soup kitchen. Source: E. E. Hunt, War Bread (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1916).*





Each CRB ship was outfitted with large signs to alert German U-boats that they were neutral vessels participating in humanitarian relief. Source: Hugh Gibson, *A Journal from Our Legation in Belgium* (New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1917).

for the citizens in occupied territories. They also expressed concern that the Germans could seize any imports to Belgium to feed their army.

In Brussels in September 1914, notable figures from the financial and business sectors came together to address the urgent food crisis. This coalition, including Ernest Solvay, Dannie Heinemann, and coalition president Émile Francqui, established the "Comité National de Secours et d'Alimentation" (CNSA), which was funded by voluntary contributions. The CNSA established a relief and food distribution network, initially covering Brussels and its suburbs, and subsequently expanding to the entire occupied territory of Belgium. Francqui recognized that neutral countries would be most effective in negotiating with both sides to facilitate the importation of food supplies into Belgium. Therefore, he approached American businessman Herbert Hoover, with whom he had previously dealt in China.

Hoover, originally from Iowa, graduated from Stanford University in 1895. As a geologist, he worked for a mining company and traveled extensively. By 1908, Hoover had accumulated

substantial wealth through his controlling interests in major mines in Australia, Burma, South Africa, and Russia. Now residing in London, the 40-year-old Herbert Hoover gained national recognition when he coordinated emergency funds and transportation for over 100,000 stranded American travelers in England at the outbreak of the war.

Motivated by a desire to be of service, Hoover positively considered Francqui's request in October 1914. He proposed the establishment of a Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB), which received approval from Walter Page, the United States Ambassador to Great Britain, and the Belgian Government, then exiled in Le Havre, France. This endorsement granted legitimacy to his new organization. With their approval, the CRB began collaborating with the CNSA.

#### **The Commission for Relief in Belgium (1914-1919)**

Operating under the authority of the CRB, a neutral organization granted diplomatic protection, Hoover successfully negotiated the safe delivery of relief supplies into Belgium. This accomplishment



led to international cooperation involving neutral countries such as the United States, the Netherlands, and Spain, as well as belligerent nations like Great Britain, France, and Germany. This collaboration facilitated the transportation of food provisions from the port of Rotterdam, traversing waterways from the Netherlands into Belgium. The Germans allowed for the unhindered distribution of CRB relief supplies to the civilian population. By 1915, the German government also consented to expanding CRB relief operations to reach two million individuals in occupied territories in northern France.

**1915: Ships headed to the Netherlands with relief supplies destined for Belgium were labeled with large letters to alert submarines and warships of the ship's neutrality**

As the war continued, it quickly drew in Japan, the British colonies in the Pacific, and European colonial holdings in Africa. Despite the expanding conflict, the United States maintained its neutrality. Meanwhile, Hoover's efforts at the CRB generated significant awareness and charitable initiatives in America aimed at assisting starving children and mothers in Belgium. Other incidents, however, brought the harsh realities of war more directly to the attention of Americans. On 15 May 1915, the British ocean liner Lusitania was sunk by a German U-boat, resulting in the tragic deaths of 1,195 people, including 128 American citizens. The absence of a warning to the passenger ship led to a dramatic shift in American public opinion. Despite the indiscriminate attack on defenseless civilians, President Wilson resisted becoming entangled in the European carnage. Instead, he engaged in peace efforts with the belligerent nations.

Wilson did not take sides and proposed peace without victory to secure the cooperation of all powers involved. Initially, both the Entente and the Central Powers responded civilly to his proposal. This strategy successfully reduced the U-boat torpedo attacks on ships. However, Clemenceau either failed to understand or did not support the idea of not going for a conclusive victory. The constant indecisiveness of both the Entente and the Central Powers ultimately hindered any agreement and eventually worked in favor of the Entente. Two years later, in February 1917, the Germans resumed unrestricted submarine warfare in British waters, specifically targeting American

shippers supplying Britain. President Wilson's role as a mediator during the war to establish a new world order was undermined. The German policy to resume unrestricted submarine warfare left him no choice but to align with the Entente. On 6 April 1917, he called for a Congressional declaration of war against Germany.

**The United States enters the War (1917-1919)**

With the United States' entry into the war, the peaceful life of isolation vanished overnight. Wheat, which now had equal importance to bullets, became a national priority. The nation faced two enormous and difficult challenges: building an army and providing enough food for both the US population and its Allies, whose food supplies were insufficient. President Wilson and Congress were determined to address both issues.

To organize and lead the armed forces, President Wilson chose General Pershing, a 56-year-old leader who had already proven himself to be strong and resourceful. Originally from Missouri, Pershing graduated from West Point in 1886 and distinguished himself in various ways during the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, and as an observer in the Russo-Japanese War and the Balkan Wars. One of Pershing's main priorities was to expand the army beyond its existing 130,000 personnel by recruiting and training new soldiers and officers before sending them to France. By June 1917, only a small number of soldiers, known as the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), had arrived in France. These troops were initially used to reinforce British and French units defending their positions. By May 1918, the number had risen to over one million, and AEF commanders gradually took control of American forces. By July 1918, the roles were





reversed, and French forces were often assigned to support AEF operations. On 12 September 1918, Pershing commanded seven American divisions, comprising more than 500,000 soldiers, and led the largest offensive ever undertaken by the United States Army during the Battle of St. Mihiel. This successful engagement was followed by the Battle of Meuse-Argonne, which lasted from the end of September until the end of fighting on 11 November 1918. In these two operations, Pershing commanded over one million American and French soldiers.

### **Transition from War to Relief and Reconstruction**

To address the strain that the war effort would place on American food resources, President Wilson created the United States Food Administration (USFA). Well-regarded for his leadership both in assisting American expats and with the CRB, Herbert Hoover was asked by Wilson to return from London to lead this new organization. As head of the USFA, Hoover now faced the task of preventing hoarding, curbing the formation of monopolies, and finding alternative food sources. Part of his strategy was to divide the United States into 15 zones or divisions to gain a better understanding of the country's agricultural resources, as well as to urge every American to ration food portions.

Between 1917 and 1919, during the war, the United States not only supplied food for its own population but also more than doubled its food exports, primarily to the Entente countries.

The three-year pre-war average for wheat and its substitutes, in terms of grain, was 3,320,000 metric tons, while the exports from 1917 to 1919 totaled 6,800,000 metric tons. For meats and fats, which include beef, pork, dairy, poultry, and vegetable oil products, the three-year pre-war average was 645,000 metric tons, with exports during the same period reaching 1,550,000 metric tons. Lastly, the three-year pre-war average for sugar, sourced from the United States and the West Indies, was 618,000 metric tons, compared to 1,520,000 metric tons in exports from 1917 to 1919. *Source: "American Food in the World War and Reconstruction Period" by Frank Surface and Raymond Bland*

On 11 November 1918, Germany and the Allied Powers signed an armistice, bringing an end to four years of combat in World War I and silencing the last artillery exchanges on the Western Front. However, conflicts persisted in other parts of Europe. In Russia, the overthrow of the Tsar in 1917 triggered a civil war that lasted until 1923, ultimately leading to the creation of the USSR. Additionally, Greece and Turkey were engaged in warfare until 1922, when the Ottoman Empire was





Brooklyn NY, Herbert Hoover and Miss Kitty Dalton of the Knights of Columbus inspecting supplies to be sent to starving European children by the European Relief Council. Source: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum

formally divided. The aftermath of the war left Europe's economy in ruins, marked by widespread food shortages and disruptions in transportation and communication. The agricultural sector suffered from a lack of resources, leading to widespread malnutrition and famine.

Even before the armistice, it became evident that famine would plague Europe and many other parts of the world. The USFA conducted a survey on food availability and shortages, identifying around 20 European countries that were experiencing acute famine, affecting over 250 million people. The battle to prevent ongoing famine became the next major challenge after the armistice. The task of supplying and distributing food to not only Allied countries but also former belligerent and neutral nations posed significant logistical obstacles. In response, the United States acted swiftly. Herbert Hoover, with authorization from the War Department, arranged for the shipment of 120,000 metric tons of food from US Army stocks

to Europe between January and March 1919. Most of the goods were stored in Army warehouses and then transferred to the US Grain Corporation, initially known as the Food Administration Grain Corporation.

During the same period, the USFA relocated some of its staff to Paris to initiate relief distribution operations while negotiating support from the British, French, and Italian governments. In February 1919, with congressional approval, President Wilson dissolved the USFA and established the American Relief Administration (ARA). A budget of 100 million dollars, which is equivalent to over 1.7 billion dollars today, was allocated for this purpose. The USFA office in Paris was transformed into ARA headquarters and, with Congressional approval, Hoover was appointed as its first program director.

The Wilson administration and Congress worked together to realign post-war objectives and



meet the requirements of relief operations. This collaboration was made possible by strong public support and the cooperation that developed between the USFA, the Army, and their leaders during the war. In September 1919, Pershing, who had returned from Europe and who had been promoted to “General of the Armies,” continued to serve as US Army chief of staff. With President Wilson’s unwavering support, Pershing worked with Hoover’s ARA to successfully implement food relief operations in war-torn Europe.

For Pershing and Hoover, cooperation in their new roles as Army Chief of Staff and Program Director of ARA was seamless. The two had previously coordinated efforts, as evidenced by correspondence in which Pershing offered his assistance to Hoover for relief operations. In a letter dated 28 November 1918, General Pershing informed Hoover, *“General Harbord, commanding Service and Supply, with headquarters in Tours, has been authorized to confer with you and arrange for shipments of such supplies as we may be able to furnish to such points as you may designate.”* On 12 December 1918, General Pershing expressed appreciation to Mr. Hoover by stating, *“I will always be ready to assist you in any way possible,”* and further added, *“As to the detail of officers for the work of distribution of food, I see*

*no serious obstacle in accepting your suggestion for the present operations.”* The support of the army would be crucial to the newly formed ARA; Hoover’s ability to rely on Pershing’s support would be integral to the successful implementation of the expanded relief operations.

### The American Relief Administration 1919–1923

One of the main challenges in establishing and operating the new organization was the lack of qualified personnel. The Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB), which covered Belgium and northern France, managed to function with a staff of less than 100. However, the ARA had to assist an entire continent after the war, which greatly increased the need for personnel, potentially numbering in the thousands. The armed forces, with their engineers, physicians, railway experts, and communications specialists, were an obvious resource for the relief operations. The Army alone had nearly two million personnel, and the Navy had around 250,000 men in service, many of whom were willing volunteers. President Wilson authorized General Pershing and Admiral William S. Benson to assign members of their forces to join the relief operations. Approximately



1920: Herbert Hoover and General Pershing host a fundraiser in N.Y. with the “invisible guest” seated between them.



4,000 men, ranging from high-ranking officers to regular soldiers, transferred to the ARA. The ARA established offices in New York and Washington D.C., as well as twelve relief missions in various European countries, including the Near East. The technical staff had expertise in a range of areas, including childcare, coal, communications, railways, shipping, and typhus control. The missions varied depending on the specific needs of each country. Army personnel led or assisted ten of these missions, providing technical expertise in all areas except for childcare. Following the CRB model, these missions collaborated with volunteer organizations in each country to successfully implement relief projects.

In the short period of its existence from 1919 to 1923, over 4 million tons of relief supplies, including food, clothing, seed, and medical supplies, were distributed to twenty war-torn countries. A letter dated 27 August 1923, from Colonel William Haskell to Herbert Hoover, reporting after two years of operations in Russia, illustrates the complexity and scale of the ARA's efforts: *"During this period, the ARA purchased just under a million tons of food, seed, clothing, and medical supplies in the United States. This required approximately 250 voyages of American ships to nine different parts of Russia. The supplies amounted to 60,000 carloads on the Russian railways. They were distributed through the organization of 35,000 different stations, at a time when we were feeding nearly 11,000,000 men, women, and children daily... the ARA also organized the inoculation and vaccination of over 7,000,000 individuals... and with imported seed, about 8,000,000 acres of land were sown."*

#### **Herbert Hoover and General Pershing host a fundraiser in N.Y. with the "invisible guest" seated between them.**

In addition to the ARA's own operations, Hoover sought the support and cooperation of private relief organizations such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, and the YWCA, among others. The ARA coordinated their activities in each country to avoid confusion among the organizations. Funds raised from charitable efforts, both in the United States and abroad, were also funneled through the ARA. Both Hoover and Pershing supported and participated in these efforts. One notable initiative was a charity dinner chaired by Hoover and Pershing,

where guests purchased tickets for themselves and an "invisible guest" representing a child in need. This dinner became a model for many other similar events. Through these private charitable contributions, which were estimated to total \$100 million, the ARA's budget was doubled.

#### **Mood and Doubt about Relief in Europe**

Initially, America faced skepticism from the Entente Powers regarding its intentions for providing relief assistance, resulting in a slow start for ARA operations. While Britain and France acknowledged the damages caused by the war, their primary concern was war reparations rather than post-war assistance.

In post-Revolutionary Russia, the focus was on spreading its ideology to neighboring countries, which led to suspicions that the ostensibly benevolent American assistance could be a Trojan Horse to undermine Vladimir Lenin's new regime. Despite a severe famine in Russia, Lenin initially resisted accepting aid until he was compelled to confront the political and human realities of the increasing death toll due to hunger. Though estimates vary, it is generally accepted that up to 5 million Russians died of starvation. Eventually, in August 1921, Lenin agreed to allow ARA operations in Russia. Army Colonel William Haskell headed these operations from 1921 to 1923. Even today, there is a lingering suspicion that Western aid was provided solely to overthrow Soviet Russia.

#### **Conclusion**

America's emergence as a global power was a consequence of its entry into World War I. When the United States declared war, it had just over 300,000 men in the Regular Army and National Guard. As commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, General Pershing accomplished the task of organizing, training and supplying professional and draftee soldiers to lead the Entente to victory. By war's end, the United States had mobilized over 4.7 million military personnel. In 1919, with the approval of Congress, President Wilson bestowed a title that was especially created for General Pershing: "General of the Armies of the United States."

Furthermore, American leadership in foreign relief operations emerged as a consequence of World War I. As head of the Commission for





*President Truman with 71-year-old former President Hoover discussing the problem of feeding Europe.*

Relief in Belgium, Herbert Hoover led the largest international food relief operation ever undertaken. As historian and biographer of Herbert Hoover, George Nash characterized the achievements of the CRB as “an unprecedented undertaking in world history: an organized rescue of an entire nation from starvation.” Both Hoover and the United States again affirmed their commitment to humanitarian relief with the creation of the American Relief Administration post-WWI. For these leadership roles, Hoover was known as “the Great Humanitarian.”

The leadership of both Hoover and Pershing during and after WWI called for resourcefulness and innovative approaches, particularly in dealing with logistical challenges. Their accomplishments had a profound impact on shaping the viewpoints and responsibilities of the American public. Through their collaboration, specifically in post-war food relief efforts in Europe, these individuals influenced the evolution of the United States Army and its involvement in humanitarian aid. Consequently, the armed services of the United States became recognized not only as soldiers but also as providers of humanitarian assistance, solidifying the nation’s commitment to protect and support those affected by global conflicts.

Pershing mentored many future generals, including George Patton, Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, and George Marshall. George Marshall served as Pershing’s aide-de-camp from 1919 to 1924 while Pershing was the Army Chief of Staff. The two men became close friends. Twenty-five years later, in January 1947, Marshall was appointed as Secretary of State under President Truman.

Notably, President Truman enlisted the experienced Herbert Hoover to assess the global postwar famine in early 1946. The 71-year-old Hoover visited 38 nations in three months. In 1947, at the request of Truman, Hoover returned to Germany and Austria to address reconstruction issues. This latter point was not lost on Secretary of State Marshall who proposed the European Recovery Plan. Later known as the Marshall Plan, the objective was to revitalize the economies of Western countries and help maintain stable conditions for the survival of democratic institutions. Perhaps one can attribute the influence of “The General of the Armies” and “The Great Humanitarian” in this post-war philosophy.

- At the International level, American leadership in relief operations has given rise to numerous organizations.
- In 1944, representatives from forty-four nations convened at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to establish a new international monetary, reconstruction, and development system, leading to the creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The concept, championed at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 by the United States delegation, emphasized the importance of combating food shortages and initiating reconstruction.
- In 1945, CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) was founded to provide food aid to Europe after World War II, later transforming into CARE International. Today, it stands as a significant international non-governmental humanitarian agency delivering emergency relief. Lieutenant General William Haskell, former head of the ARA to Russia, led this new organization from 1945 to 1947.
- In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), with Maurice Pate, a former assistant to Herbert Hoover at the CRB, playing a pivotal role. The CRB became the Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) in 1920. The mandate of BAEF is to support the exchange of university students, scientists, and scholars between the United States and Belgium. Three years ago, the BAEF celebrated its hundredth anniversary, benefiting over 5,000 fellows. ★



## Acknowledgments

Paul Goffin and Kent Menser first met through the Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, where Kent served as President and Paul as a trustee. Later, when Kent became a docent at the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir, VA, he invited Paul to visit the Museum. During that visit, Paul raised a question: Why is there no exhibit or story about the Belgian Relief Operations during WWI? Kent responded with a question of his own: Should there be one, and is there a connection between the relief operations and the Army?

Motivated by this conversation, Paul reached out to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in Iowa. With the help of the Library's Supervisory Archivist, Mr. Craig Wright, Paul obtained copies of approximately 60 letters exchanged between Herbert Hoover and General John Pershing from August 1918 to February 1932. These letters inspired us to delve deeper into the critical needs for food, medicine, and clothing that millions of people faced—not only in Belgium but across Allied and neutral nations—during and after the United States' involvement in WWI. Though we consulted an extensive body of literature (listed hereafter), the information remains fragmented and scattered. A comprehensive account of this American effort has yet to be assembled, including the stories of the men who managed the logistics of processing, transporting, and distributing food, how military strategies ensured safe passage in submarine-infested Atlantic waters, and how food policies shaped military strategy. Moreover, the expansion of the US Army and its role in the evolution of humanitarian aid deserve closer attention.

With this context in mind, Paul structured the article around two central figures: Herbert Hoover and General John Pershing. Besides our immense debt of gratitude to Craig Wright, we also want to express our appreciation to Dr. Mason Watson, historian at the Military History Center, and Dr. Nicole Rudolf, Assistant Dean and professor of History and Languages at Adelphi University, N.Y. for being tough readers. Their views on an early draft helped sharpen the focus of the article.

In a later review, Dr. Rudolf commented as follows. "Mr. Goffin and Colonel Menser's work commemorates the humanitarian achievements of General John Pershing and Herbert Hoover. Leveraging the operational capacities of the US Army, Pershing and Hoover were able to mount humanitarian operations of astonishing scale, reach and success during and after World War I. In so doing, this essay revises the association of Hoover with his failures during the great depression, an association that currently dominates in public memory. Further, at a time when many Americans are once again succumbing to the siren song of isolationism, this piece demonstrates that Pershing and Hoover's WWI-era relief efforts were the catalyst for moving the United States away from exclusively threat-based military actions and reorienting the US Army's ethos in terms of its global mission. Readers will discover the significance of the Commission for Relief in Belgium and the crucial role the armed forces played in the United States Food Administration and the American Relief Administration. These organizations helped establish the foundation for the armed forces' important role in today's global relief missions.

Join the American Independence Youth Leadership Conference (AIYLC)! Experience an exciting four-day, three-night leadership conference in the historic heart of Virginia's Colonial Triangle: Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown.

At AIYLC, high school students develop their own leadership style through interactive workshops, team challenges, historical tours, and dynamic lectures built around our three core pillars: Leadership, Patriotism, and Free Enterprise.

The conference is led by accomplished corporate, government, and military professionals, offering unique perspectives on leadership, financial management, and community success. Students are housed at the Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg, with vetted chaperones ensuring a safe and supportive environment.

High school students (or equivalent) are encouraged to apply for this unforgettable opportunity. Scholarships and sponsorships may be available.

Learn more and apply today at [www.AIYLC.org](http://www.AIYLC.org).

## Start Your Journey

February 26-March 1, 2026

April 23-26, 2026



•MOWW•  
MILITARY ORDER  
OF THE WORLD WARS

**aiylc**   
American Independence  
Youth Leadership Conference



# Phantom Knight

LT COL SONNY MARCOMBE, USAF(RET)  
PUERTO RICO CHAPTER



Chuck was a very simple South Louisiana Cajun who grew up on the Bayou and became our nation's leading Ace in Vietnam. In a flash of the night, his journey would start like a missile coming off its rail.

High over the skies of Southeast Asia, the Cajun could see the burner cans of Phantoms ahead light the infinity of the night sky. He was quick on the throttles to follow in a four-ship on a routine active counter air mission. The year was 1972, and tensions were ramping up over Hanoi. The flight of four F4s, callsign Oyster, each carried over 50,000 lbs takeoff weight of weapons, fuel, the phantom beast itself, and two warrior-knights in each.

*Capt Charles B. DeBellevue, Vietnam Ace F-4D Phantom at Udorn AB, Thailand. As a captain, DeBellevue became the first non-pilot ace and the leading ace in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was an F-4 weapon system officer with the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron. Source: US Air Force*

The Pilot and Weapons System Officer could hear the AOR frequency, generally filled with basic comm chatter, now suddenly screamed for attention... "Red Crown, contact 220/40, high aspect, Bandit." Chuck could hear the call from the US Navy radar controller and immediately tuned and scanned his radar display in the back seat of the uncaged F4. "Oyster, Combat Tree ID, Hostile." It was the event he had trained for, and he was confident he could lock the target with his mighty radar. Chuck had Fangs Out! The Phantom strapped to him was alive and invincible, an agile beast of the wild blue yonder.

The growl of the missile filled his helmet, letting Chuck know that he was tracking the threat. In between his heartbeats, he gently pulled back on the trigger. The missile fell off its rail and dropped out of visual for a moment until the motor ignited and hurled itself through the clear dark sky like the javelin of an Olympian. Suddenly, "Fox 2 Kill, single MIG! Egress South Now!" Wow! Chuck, covered in sweat, sinks into his giant seat and thinks of the wife and family back home, "live to fly and fight another day. Yeah, ya right," thought the young Cajun...the Ragin' Cajun!

Many years later, the hero of a lifetime came to life right in front of me. I could not believe that I was talking to the great aviation legend, Col Charles "Chuck" B. Debellvue, one of the five aces of Vietnam. So many stories, articles, books, and military history were snot locked to my eyeballs (refers to pulling such high G-forces) and 180 out.

I met Chuck at my AFROTC Detachment 315 reunion in Lafayette, LA, home of the Ragin' Cajuns. It was also his home, and I was happy







**McDonnell F-4D-29-MC Phantom II 66-0267,  
Madden and DeBellevue, on display at Homestead AFB**

to visit our campus with him and my other detachment brothers and sisters. He was a guest panel member and spoke about his career in the Air Force and about his personal life. He even spent the day walking the campus with us, just as we all had done so many years ago as young kids running across campus not to be late for Calculus. Later on, Chuck jumped in with us on Cajun Field during halftime to get a warm shout-out from all the fans, students, and faculty!

During his talk, I clearly remember him telling us that he would hitch a ride to the university every day, and if he had a dollar at the start of the week, then he was certain to have a dollar by the end of the week. He had always known he wanted to be a pilot, and that desire began when he saw the Thunderbirds air show as a young man, realizing he would fly one day. He jokingly claimed that he chose to study something easy, like Physics at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, to make it happen, and he believes the Vietnam War benefited his case.

At that time, pilot training was serious, as the reality of the time was that pilots would see combat and some would never return. Because of this, Chuck retold that as students in pilot training, they all paid careful attention in training. They studied the book, listened to the instructors, and performed the necessary tasks to operate the weapon system and return to base.

He and his squadron mates believed deeply that attitude kept you alive. Pilots who thought they were going to die would not fly those high-risk missions. Chuck frequently says, "Lucky plus good means you'll be okay."

During his career, he participated in the development of the F-16, a single-engine fighter that remains the workhorse of the USAF in both the Air-to-Air and Air-to-Ground arenas. He held various commands and completed his years of service as an AFROTC Detachment Commander, where I am certain he inspired many new officers.

Chuck says that he didn't mind dying for his country, but being a prisoner was not on his bucket list. "You don't get member points for staying at the Hanoi Hilton." This small Cajun who clocked six kills in Vietnam is a hero for all time, one who should not be forgotten. He and the other Oysters are all pearls of our history. ★

*The McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II [N 1] is an American tandem two-seat, twin-engine, all-weather, long-range supersonic jet interceptor and fighter-bomber that was developed by McDonnell Aircraft for the United States Navy. It entered service with the Navy in 1961, then was adopted by the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Air Force, and within a few years became a major part of their air arms. A total of 5,195 Phantoms were built from 1958 to 1981, making it the most-produced American supersonic military aircraft in history and a signature combat aircraft of the Cold War.*

*The Phantom is a large fighter with a top speed of over Mach 2.2. It can carry more than 18,000 pounds (8,400 kg) of weapons on nine external hardpoints, including air-to-air missiles, air-to-ground missiles, and various bombs. Like other interceptors of its time, the F-4 was initially designed without an internal cannon, but some later models incorporated an internal M61 Vulcan rotary cannon. Beginning in 1959, it set 15 world records for in-flight performance, including an absolute speed record and an absolute altitude record.*

*The F-4 was used extensively during the Vietnam War, first as the principal air superiority fighter for the US Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, and later as a ground-attack and aerial reconnaissance aircraft. During the Vietnam War, all five American servicemen who became aces – one US Air Force pilot and two weapon systems officers (WSOs), one US Navy pilot and one radar intercept officer (RIO) – did so in F-4s.*

**COMBAT TREE** was the codename for a secret US Air Force Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system used during the Vietnam War, particularly on F-4D Phantom II fighters.

*By interrogating the IFF transponders carried by enemy aircraft like the Soviet-made MiG-21s, the system allowed American aircrews to identify and lock onto enemy targets from a distance without using their main radar. This provided an unprecedented "first look, first shot, first kill" capability, allowing F-4s to maintain the element of surprise.*



# Folds of Honor

HPM ROBERTA L. YOURTEE  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The Folds of Honor is a four-day annual golf fundraiser held in Williamsburg, VA, by the remaining members of the West Point Class of 1964. The purpose is simple yet profound: to raise scholarship funds for the children of fallen military service members.

MOWW Companion Mrs. Roberta Yourtee, Adjutant of the Northern Virginia Chapter, faithfully attends each year. For her, the event carries personal significance. Her late husband, COL Leon Yourtee, a proud member of the Class of '64, is remembered and honored alongside his classmates who have passed.

The fundraiser itself is open to all golfers, not just surviving members of the Class of '64, and many local Williamsburg residents join in the cause.

For non-golfers, the event offers guided tours of Colonial Williamsburg, shopping opportunities, and the chance to enjoy the area's celebrated cuisine.

The gathering begins with a cocktail party hosted at the home of a class member, setting a tone of fellowship and remembrance. On the following evening, attendees take part in a special banquet. There, the keynote speaker is often the widow of a fallen service member—her emotional story of loss coupled with gratitude for a Folds of Honor scholarship underscores the event's powerful purpose.

One of the most moving traditions is the Walk of

Remembrance. Along the course, placards line the way, each bearing the names of fallen classmates in chronological order of their passing. Each placard, listing five names, represents a \$50 contribution per each name; those closer to the 16th hole, bearing a single name, reflect a \$250 contribution. Sadly, the number of placards grows with each passing year, a stark reminder of both loss and legacy.

The results of this effort are inspiring. In 2024, the fundraiser raised \$51,000, surpassing the \$50,000 raised the year before. This year, the total grew to \$70,000, with \$23,000 contributed directly by members and families of the Class of '64.

The value of this event goes far beyond the dollars raised. It represents a living legacy of service—

honoring the fallen, supporting the families they left behind, and ensuring that the children of heroes have the opportunity to pursue higher education. For Mrs. Yourtee, her continued participation keeps alive not only the memory of her husband and his classmates but also the spirit of service that defines our Order.

As Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars, we embrace our enduring charge. In the words of General of the Armies John J. Pershing: "It is nobler to serve than to be served." Mrs. Yourtee's example shows how that noble tradition continues today, woven into both remembrance and action. ★



*Companion and Chapter Adjutant, HPM Roberta Yourtee, beside the placard honoring her late husband, COL Leon R. Yourtee, at the Folds of Honor Walk of Remembrance for the West Point Class of 1964.*





# Hometown Heroes

LTC MILES GILMORE, USA (RET)

LTC SHEHAB CHAPTER, NJ

Some of you may be familiar with the Hometown Heroes Program, as several cities and towns have been participating in this project within their communities for several years. This program fosters civic pride among residents who served in the Armed Forces. I am a member of the LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ, and a member of the Hometown Heroes Banners Advisory Committee of Chatham, NJ. We are proud to be involved in such a project, and I wanted to share with you what the experience has been like.

The goal of the program is to highlight local military members who currently live or have lived in Chatham (whether posthumous, retired, veteran, or active duty). Doing so supports the tenet of the Order's Preamble, "To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars." A problem we have faced is that there is so much interest in the project that the organizers needed to determine who would be featured on the banners to celebrate our heroes. The thought among Advisory Board members is that posthumous veterans will be honored first, followed by living honorees, who will be featured on the banners. Recognition ceremonies will take place in November, coinciding with Veterans Day, and in May for Memorial Day.

Carolyn Dempsey, the Mayor of Chatham Borough, NJ, initiated this program. The project coordinator is Tom Salvas, a local Air Force veteran and former Captain. He was recently honored by Morris County, NJ, with a Distinguished Military Service Medal. The Hometown Heroes has an Advisory Board which consists of numerous veterans in Chatham. Chatham Borough already has significant activities to honor veterans, including a recent proclamation on 12 May 2025, officially declaring May as Military Appreciation Month in the Borough. The Veterans Project of the Chathams, created by The Library of the Chathams, documents interviews with veterans



*An example of The Hometown Heroes banner displayed on Veterans Day*

from Chatham and collects items for visual and audio display. The Hometown Heroes project builds upon previous efforts to honor veterans' service publicly.

The first step was to decide on a banner design. The Advisory Board met on 14 May 2025 to review the designs. Tom had conducted some discovery work with the borough's public works staff and the local utility to assess the number of utility poles suitable for displaying banners. Currently, 44 poles have been designated as eligible, which is insufficient to display banners for all qualified candidates. This means we will need to rotate banners in different months and years. We are exploring other options, finalizing the eligibility requirements, and determining additional areas in the Chathams for banner displays.

We are proud to be involved in such an important civic project honoring all veterans, and we will submit updates at a future date to provide more detail as they become available. ★



# CINC Visit to the Chicago Chapter

VCINC COL MICHAEL P. PECK, USA (RET)  
CHICAGO CHAPTER



*CINC meets President, Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions and newest MOWW Companion, LT Andrew Tangen, JD, MBA, MS*



*CINC meets with Medal of Honor recipient MSG Allen J. Lynch, USA (Ret), a Companion of the Chicago Chapter.*



*During the CINC's visit to the Chapter, VCINC COL Michael Peck presented him with a copy of MG James Mukoyama's book, "Faith, Family, and Flag," as a memento. MG Mukoyama is a Companion of the Chicago Chapter. He volunteered to fight in the Vietnam War but was initially sent to Korea instead. After serving in Korea, he was deployed to Vietnam in 1969. In 1986, he became the youngest general in the army at that time. Shortly after, he was promoted to major general and commanded the 70th Training Division during Desert Storm.*

*(L-R): VCINC COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret), and MOWW CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret).*





wellcare®

## More & more of the benefits veterans deserve.


### When The Military Order of the World Wars found a trustworthy Medicare Advantage partner, it was made official.

Wellcare delivers the straight answers you deserve along with the additional benefits you need including dental, vision, and hearing along with strong mental health coverage. And Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans are designed to work right alongside your VA benefits.

Find out for yourself why Wellcare is The Official Medicare Advantage Provider of The Military Order of the World Wars.

**The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period starts October 15 and ends December 7. Representatives are standing by to help you. Call to enroll today.**

### For clear answers, help enrolling & more

 **Call 844-980-0212 (TTY: 711)**  
8 a.m.–8 p.m., 7 days a week

 **Visit us online at**  
**[moww.wellcare.com/magazine/nov25](http://moww.wellcare.com/magazine/nov25)**



**\* MOWW \***  
MILITARY ORDER  
OF THE WORLD WARS

Benefits and allowance amounts vary by plan. Please call for more details.

Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, PFFS, PDP plan with a Medicare contract and is an approved Part D Sponsor. Our D-SNP plans have a contract with the state Medicaid program. Enrollment in our plans depends on contract renewal. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by WellCare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. Louisiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Louisiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid> or <https://www.louisianahealthconnect.com>. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TennCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. Arizona D-SNP plans: Contract services are funded in part under contract with the State of Arizona. TennCare is not responsible for guaranteeing the availability or quality of these benefits. Any benefits above and beyond traditional Medicare benefits are applicable to Wellcare Medicare Advantage only and do not indicate increased Medicaid benefits. Texas D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Texas Medicaid benefits, please visit the Texas Medicaid website at <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/medicaid-chip-members/starplus>. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Wellcare By Allwell (HMO and HMO SNP) includes products that are underwritten by Superior HealthPlan, Inc. Wellcare (HMO, HMO SNP, and PPO) includes products that are underwritten by WellCare of Texas, Inc., WellCare National Health Insurance Company, Superior HealthPlan, Inc., and SelectCare of Texas, Inc.

# The Story of the Kandahar Crud

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



*While “Kandahar crud” is an informal term for acute illnesses, deployment in Kandahar has been linked to a number of severe and long-term health problems for military personnel and local residents. The most significant connections are with (L-R): battlefield smoke, toxic exposure from burn pits, air pollutants, and combat-related injuries.*

For those who served in Afghanistan, you may be aware of the aroma. The nasty smell refers to Kandahar Crud that became more than a nickname—it was a rallying point for improving military occupational health standards.

Kandahar Crud is an informal term coined by US and coalition troops deployed to Kandahar Airfield and surrounding regions in Afghanistan. It got the name because of respiratory symptoms—coughing, congestion, sore throat, and fatigue—that became widespread among service members, especially during the height of military operations in the 2000s.

## Origins and Environmental Exposure

The term gained traction during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), when thousands of troops were stationed in Kandahar. The region's harsh environmental conditions such as dust storms and fine particulate matter from the arid terrain played a significant role. Burn pits, which disposed of waste, released toxic smoke, diesel exhaust, battlefield smoke, and industrial pollutants exposures created a perfect storm for respiratory irritation. Troops also reported similar symptoms in Iraq, where they were dubbed the “Iraqi Crud.”

## Medical Observations and Studies

Military health assessments and environmental monitoring reports from Kandahar Airfield between 2009 and 2014 documented elevated occupational and environmental health risks. Troops frequently reported acute respiratory symptoms shortly after arrival, with some developing chronic conditions like COPD, bronchitis, asthma, constrictive bronchiolitis, eosinophilic pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis. While many cases were self-limiting, others led to long-term respiratory complications, prompting further medical research and policy reviews.

## Diagnostic Challenges

Many of these conditions were difficult to diagnose post-deployment. One of the difficulties in addressing Kandahar Crud was the lack of pre-deployment baseline health data. Without spirometry or lung function tests prior to exposure, it was hard to quantify the full impact. Moreover, the variability in burn pit emissions, individual exposure and dust composition made it difficult to isolate specific causes.

## Environmental Monitoring and Military Health

Between 2002 and 2009, the US Department of Defense conducted extensive environmental assessments at Kandahar Airfield.







These reports, known as POEMS (Periodic Occupational and Environmental Monitoring Summaries), documented elevated health risks associated with airborne particulate matter from dust storms and unpaved roads, burn pit emissions, diesel exhaust, and industrial pollutants from military operations.

These exposures weren't just uncomfortable—they were medically significant. Troops reported symptoms ranging from mild congestion to persistent coughs and even chronic respiratory conditions. Years later, as our soldiers have moved forward from this war, it has had an immense impact on their health. One of their symptoms has been unexpected shortness of breath.

### Policy and Medical Response

The growing concern led to:

- Veterans Affairs (VA) initiatives to track burn pit exposure
- Medical screenings for returning personnel
- Legislative efforts, including the PACT Act, aimed at expanding healthcare access for veterans exposed to toxic environments.

Kandahar Crud became more than a nickname—it was a rallying point for improving military occupational health standards.

To all my Companions, may health, peace, and happiness be with you. Stay safe. ★

### What other long-term health issues are linked to Kandahar?

While a list of associated symptoms is available, these are not diagnostic tools. If you are experiencing concerning symptoms, especially if you have a history of deployment in Kandahar, you should consult a healthcare provider.

While “Kandahar crud” is an informal term for acute respiratory illnesses, deployment in Kandahar has been linked to a number of severe and long-term health problems for military personnel and local residents..

#### Gastrointestinal symptoms and Kidney Problems

Military health reports also identified the potential for gastrointestinal issues caused by contaminated water sources and kidney damage were also reported among nearby villagers.

**Skin rashes:** Reported in villagers living near former US bases.

#### Cancers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established a presumptive service connection for many types of cancer linked to airborne toxic exposure, including:

**Respiratory cancers:** Cancer of the larynx, trachea, and lungs.

**Brain cancer and glioblastoma.**

**Head and neck cancers.**

**Gastrointestinal cancers.**

**Kidney, pancreatic, and reproductive cancers.**

**Lymphomas and multiple myeloma.**

**Melanoma.**

**Leukemias.**

#### Cardiovascular diseases

A 2024 study of veterans deployed to burn pit sites, including those in Kandahar, found increased rates of:

**Hypertension (high blood pressure).**

**Ischemic stroke.**

**Heart disease.**

#### Conditions linked to combat and deployment stressors

Beyond environmental exposures, the combat environment in and around Kandahar is linked to additional long-term health issues.

#### Mental and cognitive health

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).**

**Traumatic brain injury (TBI).**

**Neurotoxicity:** Studies have also found links between toxic sand in Afghanistan and neurological issues, which can cause brain damage and Parkinson's-like symptoms.

#### VA benefits and resources

In 2022, the PACT Act significantly expanded healthcare benefits and presumptive conditions for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances during their service, including those who served in Kandahar.

Veterans who believe their health issues are linked to toxic exposures during their deployment can file a claim with the VA. The VA also maintains a registry for veterans who were exposed to airborne hazards, which can help track health outcomes over time.



# Let Your Light Shine: A Holiday Reflection for MOWW Companions

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

We're all familiar with living under rules—whether on a military installation, in a condo, or governed by HOA regulations. These guidelines are meant to preserve safety and property value.

My youngest daughter, who lives on a military base, recently received an email outlining the start and end dates for holiday decorations. It reminded me of the festive frenzy we see from Halloween to Christmas—think National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation!

But beyond the inflatable Santas and blinking lights, holiday decorating brings to mind two deeper truths for us as men and women of God—and as Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW).

First, our outward appearance, especially during the holidays, speaks volumes. What we wear can reflect our gratitude, our beliefs, and our desire for peace. Whether it's a pin, a red shirt on Deployment Day, or a Santa cap, our garments often invite greetings like "Merry Christmas," "Happy Holidays," or "Happy Chanukkah." They become silent witnesses to what we stand for. Second, and more importantly, we are called to be the light of the world. Scripture reminds us: So, I ask: What light are you shining this season? Does your spirit reflect kindness, thankfulness, and peace? Are your words and deeds a blessing to others, especially strangers?

As MOWW Companions, we are all recruiters now. Our gear—pins, shirts, hats—should spark



conversations with fellow Veterans. This Veterans Day, I'll wear my Army cap and MOWW shirt proudly. I skip Halloween, but I'll don my ugly sweaters and Santa hat every chance I get. Whether your home glows with modest lights or amusement-park brilliance, let it be a beacon of joy.

Starting this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to let God's light shine

through you. Show love and kindness to those you don't know. Be a living ambassador for MOWW—not just in attire, but in spirit.

Let's remember what we represent: The Military Order of the World Wars serves our nation and communities by promoting responsible citizenship, patriotism, youth leadership, military and public service, veteran support, and strong national security.

This season, let your light shine—for God, for country, and for the Order.

*Heavenly Father,  
As we enter this season of thanksgiving and celebration, help us to shine Your light in every conversation, every act of kindness, and every moment of service. May our garments reflect joy, our words offer peace, and our deeds glorify You. Strengthen us as Companions of the Order to be faithful ambassadors—honoring our nation, uplifting our communities, and walking boldly in Your truth. ★*







# FALL IN!

## FOR MEMBERSHIP

**NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

**SPECIAL PRICING  
ON MOWW MEMBERSHIPS!**

- ★ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP ~~\$60~~ **\$48**
- ★ PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP ~~\$500~~ **\$400**



**USE CODE:  
FALL**

**VISIT MOWW.ORG TO BECOME A COMPANION**

Our CINC has tasked us with attracting 500 new members this year,  
so take advantage of this great opportunity.

**Recruit with Purpose. Serve with Pride. Continue the MOWW Legacy!**

This November, let's show our appreciation for veterans and military families by growing our Order and advancing MOWW's mission. Mail-in membership applications must be postmarked between 11/1/25 and 11/30/25 to qualify. The discount will be automatically applied by MOWW staff during application processing. The discount is for new members only, not applicable to current members. Not Valid for Installment Plans, 1st-year commission, or multi-memberships.

- *Announcement:* New Chair for the Council of Area Commanders, COL Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret) [amenendez@yahoo.com](mailto:amenendez@yahoo.com)
- The following corrections pertain to the August/September 2025 issue of *The Officer Review*. We apologize for the errors made and any inconvenience caused.
- *Unintentionally omitted from the list of Gold Patrick Henry Award Recipients:*  
Presenter: VCINC CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)  
Recipient: Maj Clement I. Goodwine, Jr., USA (Ret)
- The correct National Security Committee Chair is PFC Robert G. Epstein, USAR (Fmr) [macabee1948@gmail.com](mailto:macabee1948@gmail.com)
- The following Companions were unintentionally omitted from the list of Individual Recruiting Citations for Recruiting Four New Members:  
LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret) (COL Roosevelt Chapter) and LTC Walleon Bobo, USA (Ret) (Memphis Chapter).





Capt Dillingham Mem Chapter, HI



Companion CPT David Vaughn, USA (Ret),  
Master of Ceremonies.

Ms. Laura Ingenluyff presents Rep Garcia with a copy of the Declaration of Independence to start the process of collecting signatures of all members of the State Legislature to present to Gov. Green on July 4, 2026.

## 2025 Massing of the Colors in Hawaii

BY COL ARTHUR N. TULAK, USA (RET)

On 14 June, the Hawaii MOWW Chapter conducted a successful Massing of the Colors celebrating the 136th Flag Day and the Army's 250th Birthday at the State Capitol Rotunda, as part of the Hawaii Semiquincentennial Commemoration.

The Hawaii Chapter was the sponsoring organization, and was the lead for planning, resourcing and coordinating the event with the Military Committee of the Hawaii Semiquincentennial Commission, member organizations of the Oahu Veterans Council and the US Army. The Army provided a quintet from the 25th Infantry Division Band, and Chaplain (LTC) Daniel Kang, who delivered the invocation. The Hawaii National Guard provided public affairs support. The speakers included Representative Diamond Garcia (R) from the State House and BG Walter Ross Jr. of the Hawaii National Guard.

Chapter Companions filled key roles in planning and execution, and by serving on the Military Committee mentioned above. CPT David Vaughn, USA (Ret), the Chapter's newest Companion, performed as the Master of Ceremonies. LTC Bob Takao, USA (Ret), organized youth organization support and deftly orchestrated the massing of the colors portion of the ceremony with 27 organizational flags. A key flag at the ceremony was the America 250 flag, which made its debut in Hawaii at this event (see back cover of this issue). LTC Curtis Manchester, USA (Ret), had the honor of leading the pledge of allegiance and processing forward with the MOWW Chapter Flag. Chapter adjutant LTC Leslie Bise, USA (Ret), provided the PA System and supported early set-up.

In attendance were members of the Consular Corps from Belgium and the Philippines, Mr. Nestor Garcia (representative of Congressman Ed Case (1st District), Allied Military Officers assigned to HQ, US Indo-Pacific Command, Ms. Molly Schmidt from the Pacific Islands Region, Commissioners appointed by Governor Green to serve on the Semiquincentennial Commission, and the representatives of the many Veteran, Military Professional, Civic, and Lineage organizations, associations, and societies. This event was another demonstration of the power of bandwagoning with other like-minded organizations to work together, with many hands making light work of the complex challenges of planning, coordinating, and carrying out public events. The Chapter was in the lead to start planning and securing facilities, event parking, event insurance, and prepare and submit Dept of Defense Forms for non-aviation military support (DD Form 2536), line-up speakers, prepare the invitations, manage RSVPs, obtain State permits, etc. With these under control, other organizations readily joined in to participate and take on execution tasks. Other organizations need to see that the event has legs and that these preliminary tasks are being taken care of before they will join in.

In his special message for the event, Governor Josh Green, the Honorary Chairman of The Hawaii Semiquincentennial Commission gave a charge to all in attendance to continue to collaborate on such projects for the remainder of the Commemoration period. The Hawaii Chapter is ready to support other organizations in planning, resourcing, and carrying out events in the same manner. Gov. Green's message urged "community members to come alive with celebrations, educational tributes, and acts of civic pride."

The Hawaii MOWW Chapter acknowledges key partners in resourcing this event, namely the Hawaii Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, Elks Lodge 616, the National Society Colonial Dames of America, and the Hawaii Chapter of the Assn. of the US Army. MOWW National provided financial support through the Gist-Blair grant funds allocated for the 250th Commemoration events.





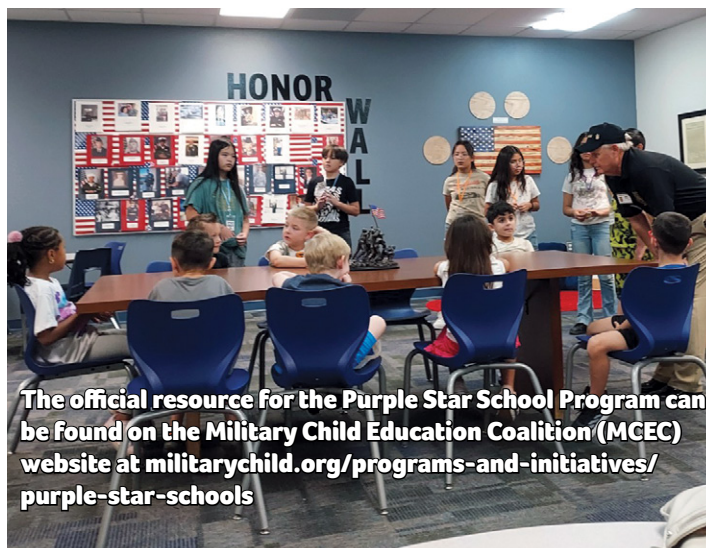
West Valley Chapter, AZ

## The Purple Star School Program

BY MAJ CHRIS W. SCHMIDT, USA (FMR)

The Chapter established a Purple Star School Program at Luke Elementary School in Phoenix. The program supports military-connected children by working with the school Principal and the Department of War's Dependent Children's Representative to address their unique educational and social-emotional needs during transitions. Companions presented a program on 26 September 2025. MAJ Gary Yerks, USA (Ret), shared his experiences growing up as a military dependent and answered questions in small group settings with students in K-8 who have deployed parents. Our next planned activity for the school is a Veterans Day observance in November.

*MAJ Gary Yerks interacts with students.*



Region V

## WW II Hero Companion Charles Richardson

BY VCINC CPT JAMES A. BRADY III, USA (FMR)

Region V, MOWW, was proud to honor, recognize, and induct 102-year-young World War II Army Air Corps Veteran TSGT Charles J. Richardson into the Order on 19 September 2025. TSGT Richardson flew more than 235 successful B-17 combat missions from 1943-1945 and is a shining example of America's "Greatest Generation!" VCINC Dr. James Brady, who inducted Richardson, simultaneously signed a mutual letter of support between Region V, MOWW, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg JROTC leadership, who hosted the ceremony at Butler High School in Matthews, North Carolina.

Many thanks to LTC Timothy Zack, CDR, Region V Charlotte, NC Detachment who coordinated both the event and the mutual support agreement; LTC Shawn W. Cowley, JROTC Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and new Companion, who generously supported the event and mutual support agreement; LTC Ott Siebert and MSG Richard Day for hosting and leading the event; and the Butler High School JROTC and Color Guard for their magnificent performance!"







Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

## First Responder Appreciation

BY CPT PAULA R. MITCHELL, USAR (FMR)

First Responders from the El Paso Fire Department/ Emergency Medical Services were recognized for their actions as members of various rescue teams. Some of them were dispatched to the devastating July Central Texas floods, and they all respond to mountain rescues, river rescues, and desert rescues in the El Paso region.

*Water Rescue: Capt Ryan Dubord & Capt Tim Burns; Comsar-Combined Search & Rescue: Capt Renteria & FST Justin Hernandez; USAR – Urban Search & Rescue: Capt Padilla and Lt Jaime Gonzalez; Hazmat-Hazardous Materials Response: Capt Zapata & Lt Charlie Lujan; IMT-Incident Management Team: FST Ricardo Nava.*



Col Woolsey Chapter, CA

## National Law and Order Award Presentation to Chief of Police Kushner

BY PCINC BGEN FREDERICK R. LOPEZ, USMCR (RET)

At the MOWW 2025 National Convention in Tucson, AZ, on 8 August 2025, Santa Barbara Police Department Assistant Chief of Police Kenneth Kushner was announced as the Military Order of the World Wars First Place Exceptional Public Safety/Law & Order Service Award recipient. The Exceptional Law & Order Service Award recognizes exceptional leadership and management performance of a leader in the public safety field.

The award was presented to Commander Kushner at a special ceremony on the steps of the Santa Barbara Police Department by Chapter Commander PCINC Brigadier General Frederick Lopez, USMCR (Ret), and Chief of Police Kelly Gordon. Commander Kushner was recognized for his dedication to the law enforcement profession and the protection of the Santa Barbara community throughout his 24-years of dedicated service. His commitment to public safety has earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Thomas H. Guerry Award for Valor twice, as well as the Chiefs Meritorious Medal. Within the department, Assistant Chief Kushner has held various roles, including Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant Commander.

*First Row (L-R): PCINC BGen Lopez, USMCR (Ret); Mrs. Bethanee Kushner; Commander Kenneth Kushner; SBPD Chief of Police Kelly Gordon. Second Row: (L-R): MOWW CPT Joe Danely, USA (Fmr); MOWW CPO USCG (Ret)/SBPD Police Chief (Ret) Barney Melekian; Commander Marylinda Arroyo, SBPD. Top Row: MOWW Mr. Tom Parker, FBI (Ret); Commander John Hellmond, SBPD, and MOWW Col David Lopez, USAF (Ret).*





Puget Sound Chapter, WA

## POW/MIA Ceremony

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

Vice Commander COL Andy Leneweaver, Puget Sound Chapter, conducts the POW/MIA Ceremony of Remembrance at the Washington State Capitol on 18 September 2025.



Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

## 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

BY LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)

The Colorado Springs Chapter of MOWW participated in the annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony held at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) on 11 September 2025. MOWW Companions Col Randy Helms, USAF (Ret), former Colorado Springs City Council President, and Lt Col Rich Peters, USAF (Ret), outgoing COS MOWW Adjutant, represented the Chapter at a special ceremony hosted by the Mayor. Col Helms was serving in the Pentagon on 11 September 2021 when the building was attacked. Never forget!

*(L-R): Colorado Springs (COS) Fire Chief Randy Royal, Col Randy Helms, and COS Police Chief Adrian Vasquez.*



Fort Benning, GA

## Rangers Lead The Way!

SUBMITTED BY PCINC CAPT RUSSELL VOWINKEL, USN (RET)

OFFICERS FROM THE 780TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER), PRAETORIANS, RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM THE US ARMY RANGER SCHOOL.

Ranger School is one of the toughest training courses for which a Soldier can volunteer. Army Rangers are experts in leading Soldiers on difficult missions—and to do this, they need rigorous training. For more than two months, Ranger students train to exhaustion, pushing the limits of their minds and bodies.

Perpetual Member of the Meade Chapter, 1 Lt Nathan Vowinkel graduated August 8, 2025 from Ranger School and earned his tab on August 8, 2025. Congratulations!





## VETERANS DAY TEACHERS RESOURCE GUIDE



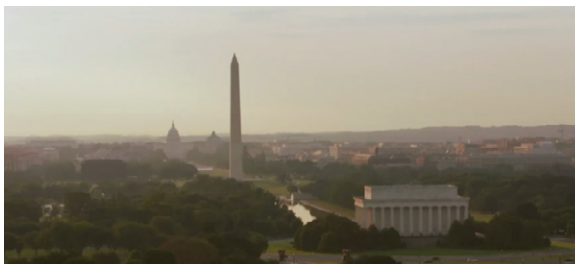
The US Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide you with this easily downloadable Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide (PDF, 30-pages, 3.5MB, see link below).

There are about 18 million veterans living among us, in every state and territory, and from every walk of life. Many students may be the son, daughter, cousin, or other relative of a veteran or current servicemember. Subjects include America's Wars, the flag, POW/MIAs and the Medal of Honor. Students will better appreciate the freedoms we have because of the men and women who have served in defense of the United States. Anyone can download and appreciate its lessons.

Please spread the word! Share this page with other teachers and educational organizations. As Veterans Day approaches, we hope this will help your students connect with veterans, as well as service members now on active duty.

<https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-Veterans-DayTeachersGuide-Sept-5.pdf>

## HONOR A BELOVED VETERAN WITH A SPECIAL TRIBUTE OF 'TAPS' AT THE NATIONAL WWI MEMORIAL



Those beautiful, slow, peaceful bugle notes. Every American knows them as the military's special musical way of saying, "Now it is time to rest." And every member of the US Armed Forces knows that heavenly melody by its proper name: "Taps."

Now all American families are being offered the opportunity to have their own cherished veteran's memory honored, nationwide, in a unique, meaningful way.

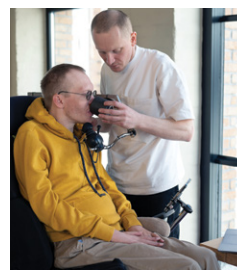
Every day, rain or shine, precisely at 5 pm Eastern, a bugler sounds "Taps" at the National WWI Memorial in Washington, DC. It is a tribute to every individual who has ever served in the US Armed Forces—especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy.

The Daily Taps Program invites you to dedicate "Taps" at the National WWI Memorial in honor of your veteran, in their name, and on a selected day of your choosing.

Your presence in Washington, DC is not required to bestow this honor. The ceremony is streamed live on YouTube, allowing the whole family, no matter where in the world they are, to partake in this moving commemorative experience, with your veteran's service info scrolling across the bottom of the screen. This special moment can be experienced live on the day of tribute and also remains accessible on YouTube indefinitely. Consult the calendar to determine if your preferred date is open for reservation. Dates are available for booking up to one year in advance. Just introduced, your chosen date can be reserved annually for as long as you would like.

To engage with this program, visit <https://doughboy.org/taps>

## WHAT ARE THE THREE NEW VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS?



The most recent three newest presumptive conditions added in 2021 are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism (Parkinson's-like symptoms). These were added as a presumptive service-connection for veterans exposed to Agent

Orange. The VA automatically reviews past claims for these conditions, so veterans may not need to file a new claim. The most approved VA disability is tinnitus, affecting over 2.9 million veterans as of 2023. It is followed by other common conditions like knee and back strain, hearing loss, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).





# Reveille

## RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

### NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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

NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

DATA FROM 1 AUG–30 SEP 25

### AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA

LTC DAVID A. BRADY, USA (RET)\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

GEN DAVID A. BRAMLETT, USA (RET)\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

CW4 MARTIN A. SCHWERZLER, USA\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

PO2 RANDALL D. WILKINSON, USN\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

### BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

SGT DANA S. BRADY, USMC\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

LTC SHAWN W. COWLEY, USA (RET)\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

SGT WILLIAM G. JARRETT, JR., USA (RET)\*\*

*Mr. Robert E. Soderstrom*

SSG ROBERT R. KENNEDY, USAR\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

TSGT CHARLES J. RICHARDSON, USAF (FMR)\*\*

*Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)*

SGTMAJ CARLOS A. RUIZ, USMC\*

*Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)*

### CAPT DILWORTH CHAPTER TX

SFC MICHAEL E. RUSSINO, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Joseph R. Cerami, USA (Ret)*

### CHICAGO CHAPTER IL

LTC JOHN J. AGOSTINI, USA (RET)\*\*

*CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

SP4 NICHOLAS G. KONZ, JR, USA (RET)\*\*

*COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)*

SGT DAVID S. PIATEK, ILARNG\*\*

*CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

TSGT MARK A. RICHARDSON, OHANG\*\*

*Mr. Justin L. Hiller*

SPC6 JAMES SCHULTZ, USA (FMR)\*\*

*COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)*

LCDR ANDREW C. TANGEN, USNR\*\*

*CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

PO2 DOUGLAS A. WALLACE, USN (FMR)\*\*

*COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)*

### COL ROOSEVELT CHAPTER NY

PFC DENNIS J. DUFFY, USAR (FMR)\*\*

*LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)*

TSGT TIMOTHY W. MCCANN, USAF (RET)\*\*

*LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)*

### COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER CO

LT COL KIRK L. BROWN, USAF (RET)\*\*

*COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret)*

### CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER CA

PO3 LELAND E. AUGER, USN (FMR)\*\*

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

### DALLAS CHAPTER TX

SGT DAN EDELMAN, PHD, USA (FMR)\*

*LTC Carl D. Wiley, USA (Ret)*

BG DAVID C. FOLEY, USA (RET)\*\*

*CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)*

CW3 JAMES D. GOODRICH, USA\*\*

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

LTC MARCI D. MILLER, USA (RET)\*\*

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

SCPO DAVID C. OCHELTREE, USN (RET)\*\*

*2LT Natan Ton-That, USA (Fmr)*

### DELAWARE CHAPTER DE

TSGT ROBERT H. ASPINALL, JR., USAFR\*\*

*COL James E. Dickinson, USA (Ret)*

SPC RICHARD CAMPBELL, USAR\*\*

*LTC Carlton R. Witte, USA (Ret)*

SSG ROBERT SEIDLE, DEARNG\*\*

*LTC Carlton R. Witte, USA (Ret)*

### FORT HOOD CHAPTER TX

SSG CHARLES CROW FLIES HIGH, USA\*

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

CW4 LAURA I. GENTRY, USA (RET)\*

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

CPL FRANK A. WESTGATE, USA (RET)\*\*

*MAJ Michael E. Belcher, USA (Ret)*

### GEN RIDGWAY CHAPTER PA

SGM BRIAN P. O'KEEFE, JR., USA (RET)\*

*ADM Paul Becker, USN (Ret)*

## Welcome to the Order



### GREATER EL PASO CHAPTER TX

AT THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 CHAPTER MEETING 4 NEW COMPANIONS WERE INDUCTED BY DEPT. OF RIO GRANDE COMMANDER LTC JESUS BELTRAN, USA (RET). WELCOME TO (L-R): SSG R. LUCILLE SAMUEL, USA (RET); SFC MAUREAN SIMMONS, USA (RET); SPC IVETTE M. CHAMPION, USA (FMR), AND SGT EUGENE A. ROBINSON, USA & USMC (FMR).





# Reveille

## RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

### NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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

NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

DATA FROM 1 AUG-30 SEP 25

### GRANITE STATE CHAPTER NH

MG JOHN J. DEYERMOND, USA (RET)\*\*

LTC James T. Marques, USAR (Ret)

LTC JACQUES D. WALKER, LAARNG (RET)\*\*

LTC James T. Marques, USAR (Ret)

### GREATER EL PASO CHAPTER TX

SPC IVETTE M. CHAMPION, USA (FMR)\*\*

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)

SSG JAMES A. DI NOLA, USA (RET)\*\*

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)

COL LENORE S. ENZEL, USA (RET)\*\*

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)

SGT BONITA JOHNSON, USA (FMR)\*\*

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)

LCDR JOHN A. KIND, USN (RET)\*\*

MAJ William M. Tarpley, USA (Ret)

LTC ADRIAN MUNGUIA, USA (RET)\*\*

LTC Jesus Beltran, USAR (Ret)

SGT EUGENE A. ROBINSON, USA (FMR)\*

Mr. Daniel N. Maher

SSG R. LUCILLE SAMUEL, USA (RET)\*\*

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)

### GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER MO

CW3 MARC L. GARDUNO, SR., USA (RET)\*

COL James M. Tobin, USA (Ret)

### HOUSTON CHAPTER TX

SPC ROBERT C. QUESADA, USA\*\*

Mr. Robert E. Soderstrom

### MAJGEN PENDLETON CHAPTER CA

LTC RONALD M. DEVORE, USA (RET)\*\*

Capt Theodore G. Vallas, USAF (Fmr)

### NARRAGANSETT BAY CHAPTER RI

SPC KEVIN A. THOMPSON, USA (FMR)\*\*

Col Leo H. Fox, USAF (Ret)

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER FL

PO1 DANETTE J. HERNANDEZ, USN (FMR)\*\*

CPO Robert J. Hernandez, USN (Ret)

PO2 ROBERT E. MALONE, JR., USN (FMR)\*\*

CWO4 David A. McCuistion, USN (Ret)

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER VA

SPC JOSHUA P. BATTEN, USA\*\*

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)

CAPT JENNIFER R. GOODALE, USMC\*\*

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)

### NORTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER, FL

SGT FRANK E. DAMEWOOD, USMC\*\*

CDR Ralph D. Lewis, USCG (Ret)

### PHOENIX CHAPTER AZ

GYSGT FRANKLIN W. ALGER, JR., USMC (RET)\*\*

COL Jeanne J. Blaes, USA (Ret)

MAJ CRAIG LIGUORI, USMC\*\*

Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)

### PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR

SMSGT ARAMIS A. FONT, USAF (RET)\*\*

Col Adalberto Rivera, Jr., USAF (Ret)

PFC ADALBERTO HERNANDEZ GONZALEZ, USA (FMR)\*

Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret)

### PUGET SOUND CHAPTER WA

MAJ RONALD L. POOLE, USAF (RET)\*\*

LTC Heinz Haskins, USA (Ret)

COL DEAN A. SMITH, USAF (RET)\*

Col David B. Gibson, USAF (Ret)

### ROANOKE CHAPTER VA

LTC WINFORD C. FOWLKES, USA (RET)\*\*

LTC David R. King, USA (Ret)

### SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER CA

SSGT WILLIAM E. NAY, USMC (RET)\*\*

Mrs. Raquel R. Ramsey

### SANTA CRUZ VALLEY CHAPTER AZ

LCDR NATHAN R. BUTIKOFER, USN (RET)\*\*

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

COL CORY R. CHRISTOFFER, USAF\*\*

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

1SG RAYMOND A. DAKOS, USA (RET)\*\*

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

LT COL OLUF P. DAY, USAF (RET)\*\*

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

MSGT ANDREA JARAMILLO, USAF (RET)\*\*

LTC Ronnie D. St. Clair, USA (Ret)

SMSGT KEVIN D. ROBINSON, USAF (RET)\*\*

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

### SARATOGA CADRE

SGT ANTHONY J. EGAN, USMC\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

SGT LUIS F. GIRALDE III, USMC\*\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

PO3 ZACHARY L. JOHNSON, USCG\*\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

CPL MARKO KEPI, USMCR\*\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

SSGT SANTIAGO A. REYES, USMCR\*\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

SSG JOSEPH M. SHEEHAN, NYARNG\*\*

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR

CPL CHRISTOPHER E. VEGA, USMC\*\*

Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC

### SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER FL

CPO RALPH V. FISHER, USCG (RET)\*\*

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)

PO1 SHELDON D. ICKES, USN (RET)\*\*

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)

MSG DANIEL P. MCGARRAH, USA\*\*

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)

SRA SANDRA J. SIMONS, USAF (FMR)\*\*

MAJ Roberta M. Troxell, USA (Fmr)

### WEST VALLEY CHAPTER AZ

SPC KENNETH R. BLANCHARD, USAF (FMR)\*\*

CPT Linda R. Howry, USA (Fmr)







# Taps

**RANK/NAME (SERVICE)**

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

DATA FROM 1 AUG–30 SEP 25

## AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA

MRS RUTH F. GALLOWAY, USA (FMR)\*

## BG HOLLAND CHAPTER CA

CWO4 JOHN J. CANTOR, USN (RET)\*

## CLEARWATER CHAPTER FL

CDR THOMAS F. ROBERTS, USN (RET)\*\*

## CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER CA

CAPT SIDNEY B. BELLINGER, JR., USN (RET)\*

## FORT HOOD CHAPTER TX

COL THOMAS J. CURTIS, USAF (RET)\*

## FORT KNOX CHAPTER KY

LTC ROSE M. ZOLEZZI, USAR\*

## GEN RIDGWAY CHAPTER PA

CAPT KARL D. LUDWIG, USN (RET)\*

LTC KARL E. VOIGT, USA (RET)\*

## GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER MD

COL BRUCE L. HOPKINS, USA (RET)\*

## GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER MA

LTC FREDERICK J. MAGUIRE, JR., USA (RET)\*

## HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER VA

COL ROBERT I. CHANNON, USA (RET)\*

## HOUSTON CHAPTER TX

LTC GEORGE J. L. WALKER, USA (RET)\*

## MG CRITZ CHAPTER OK

CPT MORTON E. WOLVERTON, USA (FMR)\*

## NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER FL

LTC FRANK M. RASBURY, JR., USA (RET)\*\*

## PHOENIX CHAPTER AZ

MS. SANDRA M. GOINS\*

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER MD

LT COL ANTHONY L. EDLER, USAF (RET)\*

## PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR

COL MANUEL F. SIVERIO, SR., USA (RET)\*





"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

# OFFICER REVIEW®

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

## MOWW HONORARY COMMANDERS IN CHIEF

- ★ GAS John J. Pershing, USA
- ★ ADM William S. Sims, USN
- ★ GA George C. Marshall, Jr., USA
- ★ FADM Ernest J. King, USN
- ★ President Harry S. Truman  
(COL, USAR)
- ★ President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
(GA, USA)
- ★ ADM Arthur W. Radford, USN
- ★ President Herbert C. Hoover
- ★ GA Omar N. Bradley, USA
- ★ President Ronald W. Reagan  
(CPT, USAAF)
- ★ GEN William C. Westmoreland, USA
- ★ President George H. W. Bush  
(LTJG, USN)
- ★ Gen Peter Pace, USMC (Ret)



On 14 June, the Hawaii MOWW Chapter conducted a successful Massing of the Colors celebrating the 136th Flag Day and the Army's 250th Birthday at the State Capitol Rotunda, as part of the Hawaii Semiquincentennial Commemoration. A key flag at the ceremony was the America 250 flag, which made its debut in Hawaii at this event

**WWW.MOWW.ORG**

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)  
[chiefstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefstaff@moww.org)

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Diana M. Beruff  
[officerreview@moww.org](mailto:officerreview@moww.org)

