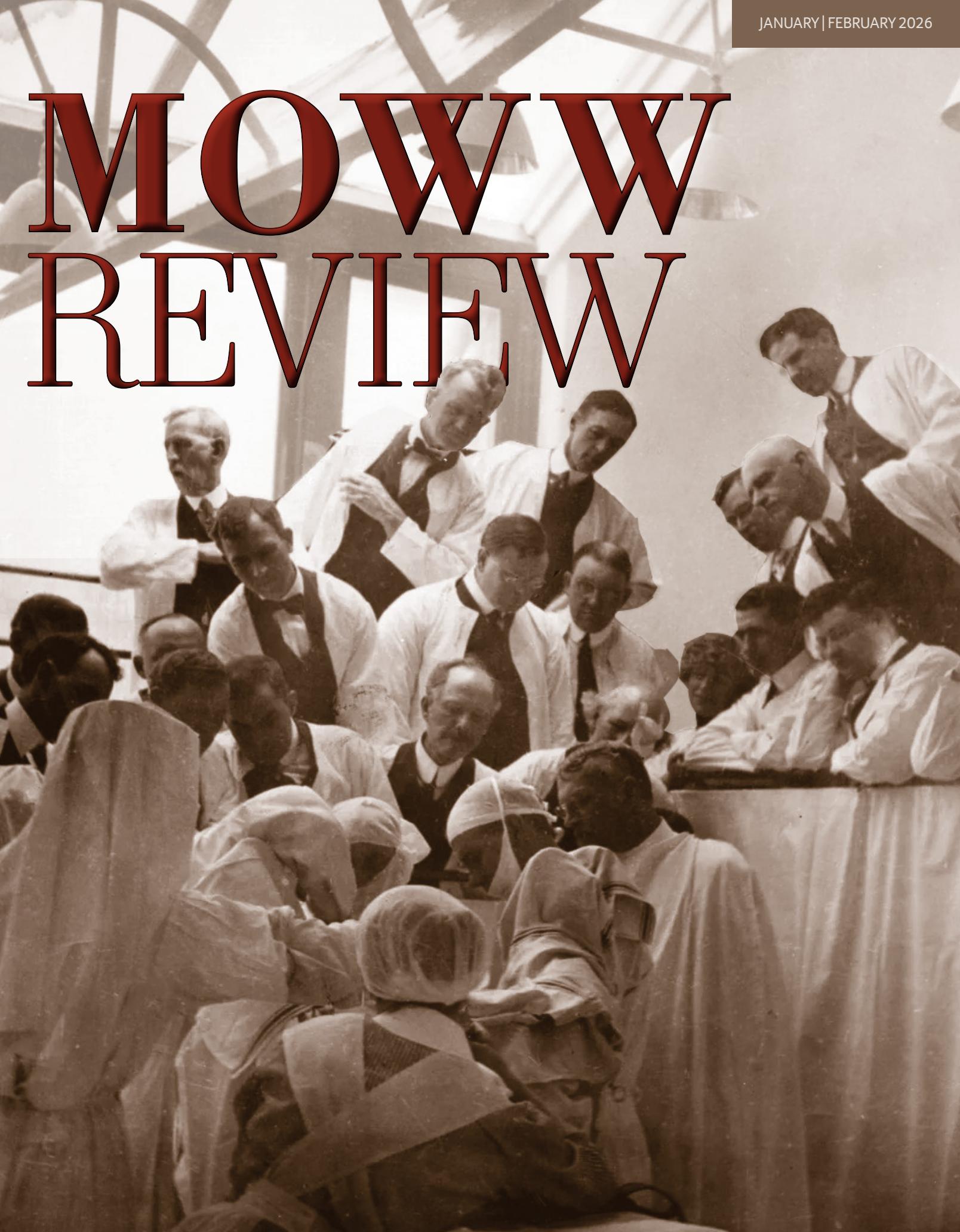


MOWW REVIEW





Arlington National Cemetery

Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) is represented by your Commander in Chief (CINC) during the late-morning national ceremonies held in the cemetery's amphitheater. While Memorial Day ceremonies are organized by the Department of Defense, Veterans Day ceremonies are hosted by the National Veterans Day Observance Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has included MOWW as a Principal Member for many years. In prior years, the MOWW CINC has been a Co-Host for a particular year's event. This honor is awarded each year to one of the over twenty-five member Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) on the committee, ensuring that each organization has the opportunity to be recognized for its valuable contributions. On Veterans Day, the MOWW CINC is seated onstage behind the speaker's podium. Prior to the ceremony, the CINC also has the honor of observing the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, conducted by the President or their designee. Additionally, upon the conclusion of the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies, your CINC and SVCINC participate in a separate wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which includes numerous VSOs and other volunteer groups, such as American Gold Star Mothers, with whom we recently signed a partnership agreement. The IPCINC and each of your VCINCS attend the Veterans Day Ceremonies as well.

On Veterans Day afternoon, our General Meade Chapter hosts a Memorial Service at the Gravesite of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. The annual program includes the United States Army Concert Band of the United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), remarks by a designated honorary speaker, and representatives from World War I Allied nations. Also, during the ceremony, a special presentation is made at the nearby grave of CPL Frank Buckles, who was the "Last Living Doughboy."

These Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies are just examples of the national visibility of our Order. Our presence at Arlington National Cemetery events underscores the importance of MOWW as a VSO, as we "Honor Our Fellow Veterans, Past and Present." For over one hundred years, MOWW has been an integral part of the national VSO scene, including the sponsoring of numerous resolutions that have been placed into the Congressional Record that, in general, emphasize the "adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America" as articulated in our beloved Preamble.

We remain nationally relevant today, just as we have been since 1919. For this reason, the Military Order of the World Wars should be acknowledged at every National Cemetery, State Veterans Cemetery, and each of the fifty State Capitals across the nation. This recognition should be achieved through markers and other appropriate means, similar to our presence on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. We must maintain our National and State relevance just as we do within the communities for which we selflessly serve.

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Commander in Chief and CEO, MOWW, Inc.

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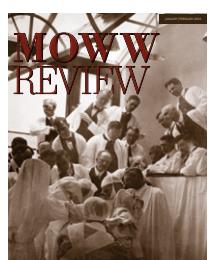
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ON THE COVER

Doctors observed Dr. Charlie Mayo (Charles H. Mayo) performing surgery at St. Mary's Hospital around 1920, showcasing a key element of Mayo Clinic's early educational model. This practice, which fostered the "Mayo Method," established the clinic as a global center for medical learning through hands-on observation and discussion. Source: NIH Library of Learning



William and Charles Mayo

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS BY MILITARY PHYSICIANS #12

SURGEON'S NOTE

MAJ CHRIS W. SCHMIDT, USA (FMR)

WEST VALLEY CHAPTER, AZ

Quick, tell me 5 things you know about the Mayo Brothers:

1. They were brothers. Clever, I gave you that one
2. They were doctors. True
3. They started the Mayo Clinic. Partly true
4. Their clinic is in Minnesota. True
5. You know someone who went to their clinic and received excellent care. Probably true

The story of the Mayo brothers begins with their father. William Worrall Mayo was born on 31 May 1819 in Manchester, England. He studied medicine and migrated to the US in 1845. He continued his medical education in Indiana and Missouri. By 1863, he had established a surgical practice in Rochester, Minnesota. He volunteered for service in the Army as a regimental surgeon, but his application was denied. Instead, he was appointed as an examining surgeon for the Union Army. His skill and integrity prevented draft dodgers from feigning impairment or using a bribe to avoid induction, thus providing a vital service to the Union cause.

His son William James Mayo was born on 29 June 1861, and his son Charles Horace Mayo was born on 19 July 1865. The elder Mayo was a lifelong learner and began teaching his sons chemistry, anatomy, and laboratory techniques at an early age. They often accompanied their father on his patient visits and assisted him in surgical procedures. Both sons followed their father into the medical profession. William received his MD degree from the University of Michigan in 1883, and Charles from Northwestern University in 1888. Likewise, both William and Charles returned to Rochester to join their father in his practice.

St. Mary's Hospital opened in Rochester in 1889. The three Mayos assisted the Sisters of St. Francis in planning the hospital and recruiting additional doctors. The father/son group practice formed a surgical clinic within the hospital. The group continued to recruit skilled physicians to join their practice, and the senior Mayo retired in 1892. The two Mayo brothers and six physician partners renamed their group practice the Mayo Clinic in



"The best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered, and in order that the sick may have the benefit of advancing knowledge, union of forces is necessary."

—William J. Mayo, M.D.

His statement becomes the foundation of the primary value of Mayo Clinic—the needs of the patient come first and a classic declaration of Mayo Clinic's commitment to teamwork.

(L-R): Drs. Charles Horace Mayo and William James Mayo in the first operating room at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester. Source: NIH National Library of Medicine.

1903. Initially solely a surgical clinic, by 1915, it had evolved into a comprehensive medical and surgical referral center.

President Wilson named William and Charles to the Committee of American Physicians for Medical Preparedness in 1916. Their primary responsibility was to source and stockpile medical and surgical supplies and equipment in the event the US was drawn into the war. This was a difficult assignment as Germany was the primary source of the finest medical and surgical equipment. The committee worked tirelessly to identify alternative sources and to urgently upgrade US production.

With the US entry into World War I in 1917, both William and Charles were commissioned as colonels in the medical corps. They shared the role of chief advisor for surgical services to the Army Surgeon General. The two brothers alternated between responsibilities in Washington, DC, and the Mayo Clinic. When one was in Washington, the other was in Rochester. Their administrative experience proved invaluable in the reorganization of the Medical Department on the scale demanded by the war.

Furthermore, the Mayo brothers were instrumental in developing the concept of base hospitals near the front lines. There, trains and motorized ambulances could quickly bring the wounded for triage and care. These hospitals would be staffed with surgeons trained in the latest techniques and equipped with sterile operating rooms and X-ray facilities. They would also be prepared to handle special conditions, such as gas poisoning. In partnership with the University of Minnesota, they provided the funding and training necessary to establish Base Hospital 26. This was the first hospital sent to Europe with the American Expeditionary Force. Based in Allerey, France, it provided care for over 6,000 patients through 1919.

The Mayo Clinic became a major center for the training of inductees into the medical corps. Courses were offered that provided the most up-to-date scientific and surgical knowledge to nurses and physicians bound for the European base hospitals.

The Clinic continued to fully function as a major surgical center. In addition, it served as a physical examination center for draftees. Even expanded



into adjacent buildings to meet the demands of the massive influx of patients during the Spanish flu epidemic.

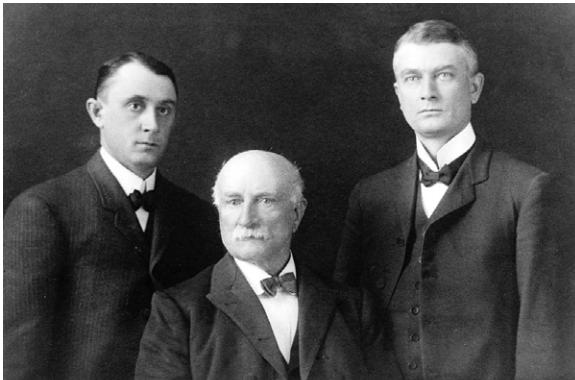
A major change in the clinic occurred in 1918. William became ill with jaundice and was unable to work for nearly two months. This prompted the Mayo Clinic to transition from private practice to a not-for-profit organization, a model it follows today.

Both William and Charles were promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Army Reserve and awarded the Distinguished Service Medal after the War. They are an excellent example of civilian physicians making significant contributions to the military in times of war.

The Mayo Clinic became a major research and referral center for both medicine and surgery in the post-war years. Many of the contacts William and Charles made during their wartime service were instrumental in the clinic's growth and success.

The brothers retired from their practices in the early 1930s and purchased neighboring winter homes in Tucson, AZ. Charles died on 26 May 1939 and William died on 28 July 1939. A few years before his death, William spoke concerning the medical advances during his lifetime. At that time, the life expectancy of a male was fifty-eight years. He predicted that by the turn of the twenty-first century, science would increase life expectancy to seventy years. He was of course wrong—it was seventy-eight. The Mayo brothers and the Mayo Clinic are recognized as major contributors to that advancement. ★





(L-R): The Mayo brothers, Drs. Charles Horace Mayo and William James Mayo, with their father, Dr. William Worrall Mayo.

JUST a Few are listed here:

Developed and implemented the concept of integrated, multispecialty group practice of medicine. This is Mayo Clinic's most enduring and significant contribution to medicine.

- Developed a rapid way to diagnose surgical specimens (frozen section pathology), allowing Mayo Clinic surgeons to explore, diagnose and repair all in one operation
- Created an integrated medical record
- Isolated thyroxin, the principal hormone of the thyroid gland; only the second time a pure hormone had been isolated
- Developed a DNA test to rapidly diagnose anthrax
- Developed a system for grading cancer on a numerical basis, a system adopted worldwide and still used today
- Planned and constructed the first building in the world designed for a multispecialty integrated group practice of medicine
- Recommended preoperative treatment of exophthalmic goiter (Graves' Disease) with iodine, introducing a new era in thyroid treatment
- Developed the bail-out oxygen bottle, the A-14 oxygen mask, the Mayo-1 maneuver and other technologies to allow military pilots to fly higher and to avoid blackouts from excessive G forces generated during steep dives and other maneuvers
- First use of tar and ultraviolet light to successfully treat psoriasis

From Kerry D. Olsen, M.D., Chair, Mayo Clinic Sesquicentennial Committee in 2014, "One of the most frequent questions during the Mayo Clinic Sesquicentennial was, 'What are Mayo's significant accomplishments?' Pursuing this topic, we realized that while there are many timelines related to Mayo's history, a comprehensive compilation of Mayo's distinctive contributions had never been assembled. To meet this need, we studied existing information and surveyed Mayo's departments and work groups. Senior leaders and subject matter specialists reviewed submissions and prepared the following report."

<https://history.mayoclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/150-Contributions-to-medicine5.pdf>

- Pioneered methods for measuring motility of the esophagus, leading to clinical methods now used worldwide
- Recognized giant cell arteritis (temporal arteritis) as a distinct clinical entity now well known for its potential serious complications in the elderly
- Isolated cortisone, a hormone from the adrenal gland, leading to the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases with dramatic results. Two Mayo Clinic staff members – a research scientist and a clinician – shared the 1950 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of cortisone.
- Introduced a new method of anesthesia, the administration of sodium pentothal intravenously
- Isolated a strain of H1N1 swine influenza virus in a human, advancing understanding of the animal-human link in epidemics, mutation and spread of emerging viruses
- Established the first hospital-based blood bank in the United States
- Conducted the first therapeutic application of streptomycin to treat tuberculosis
- Established the first community-wide longitudinal study of child development in the world – the Rochester Child Health Project
- Developed the "ketogenic diet" for control of epilepsy
- Developed the histamine test for diagnosing pheochromocytoma
- Demonstrated the link between insulin and diabetes, one of the first to use insulin in diabetes

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
MOWW & American Gold Star Mothers



On 10 November 2025, CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), and the National President of the American Gold Star Mothers (AGSM), Annette Kirk, signed a partnership agreement at the AGSM Headquarters in Washington, DC.



The signing of this agreement reflects MOWW's dedicated commitment to fostering strategic partnerships with esteemed organizations, such as Wreaths Across America and Operation Gratitude. By collaborating with these organizations, MOWW aims to enhance their collective efforts in honoring and supporting veterans, ensuring that their missions—such as commemorating fallen heroes and providing care packages to deployed service members—are effectively advanced and widely recognized. ★





The Meaning of Five Stars

COL ROBERT L. REESE, USA (RET)

VICE COMMANDER OF REGION III AND THE GEN RIDGWAY CHAPTER, PA

ASSISTED IN RESEARCH BY HIS NEPHEW BRYAN J. REESE

A distinguished group of military men played a pivotal role in WWII, and for their extraordinary contributions, they were honored with promotions to the rank of Five-Star General or Admiral. Prior to leafing through their photographs hereinafter, could you name the officers and recite anything about their backgrounds? This article will provide the reader with some insight into little-known facts about each of these officers and disclose the names of three officers promoted to wear six stars.

To begin with, during World War II, nine officers were promoted to the rank of five-star general or admiral: five Army and four Naval officers. At the time, there were 13 Army and 13 Navy four-star generals/admirals on active duty. There were no five-star generals/admirals during the Civil War, nor have there been any such promotions after WWII. This prestigious rank was established temporarily during WWII with a maximum pay grade of O-10, which called for an annual base pay of \$16,830. This compares to \$12,500 base pay for a four-star general and between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for a CEO or top executive of a civilian corporation.

The procedure for promoting a general officer requires the President to send his nomination to the Senate for confirmation. The Senate Armed Services Committee reviews the nomination and, if necessary, conducts hearings. The Committee then votes on whether to recommend the nominee to the full Senate, where a simple majority is needed to confirm the promotion. If the Senate confirms the nomination, the President officially appoints the officer to the rank of a five-star general. Listed below are the names of nine officers who were elevated to five-star status, together with brief biographical sketches that include little-known facts about their character and accomplishments.



GEORGE C. MARSHALL was born in Uniontown, PA, on 31 December 1880. In 1906, Marshall enrolled in an officer's training school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was the youngest student. He graduated at the top of his class and was hired as an instructor afterward. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901. He was the only Army five-star general not to have attended West Point. At the onset of WWII, he was age 61. He served as Chief of Staff of the US Army under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman from 1939 to 1945, and after WWII, as Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense under Truman. He is best known for the Marshall Plan, which provided economic aid to rebuild Western Europe after the war. In 1953, Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to European recovery and the promotion of peace. He passed away on 16 October 1959, at the age of 78.



DOUGLAS MACARTHUR was born in Little Rock, AK, on 26 January 1880. MacArthur's father, Arthur MacArthur Jr., was a Union general during the Civil War, while his mother was from a prominent Confederate family. MacArthur graduated first in his class at West Point in 1903, with a record only surpassed by Robert E. Lee and one other cadet. MacArthur later became Superintendent of West Point. At the beginning of WWII, he was 61. He commanded the Southwest Pacific Theatre and played a key role in the occupation of Japan after the war. He led the United Nations forces during the first nine months of the Korean War before being relieved for insubordination. MacArthur was nominated for promotion to the rank of six-star general, but the proposal was never acted upon. He passed away on 5 April 1964 at the age of 84.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER was born in Denison, TX, on 14 October 1890. His birth name was David Dwight Eisenhower, but his mother changed it to avoid confusion with his father, David Jacob

Eisenhower. He was a West Point graduate in 1915. Despite his extensive military career, Eisenhower never saw active combat. He spent most of his time in training and administrative roles. Eisenhower served as an aide to General John J. Pershing and later to General Douglas MacArthur. At the onset of WWII, he was 51. During WWII, he served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe and led the D-Day invasion. After the war, he served as President of Columbia University and subsequently two terms as President of the US from 1953 to 1961. Eisenhower was an avid painter and created over 250 artworks, including landscapes and portraits. He passed away on 28 March 1969, at the age of 78.

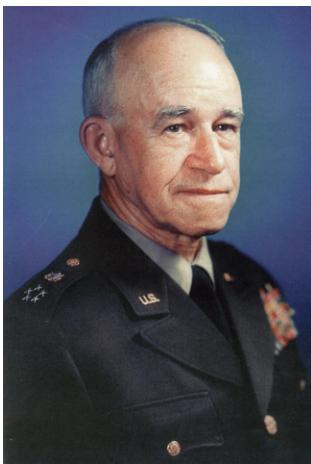


HENRY H. ARNOLD was born in Gladwyne, PA, on 25 June 1886. He was one of the first military pilots, receiving his flying instructions from Orville Wright. During WWI, he rose from captain to colonel and played a significant role in developing the US Army Air Service. Arnold graduated from West Point in 1907, where he was ranked 60th out of 110 cadets. In June 1912, Arnold set a new altitude record by flying a Burgess-Wright airplane to 6,540 feet. Arnold worked as a silent film stunt pilot, which is how he got the nickname "Hap" (short for "Happy"). At the beginning of WWII, he was 55. During WWII, he commanded the US Army Air Forces and was instrumental in expanding and modernizing the Air Force. In December of 1944, he was promoted to General of the Army, and in 1949, he was promoted to General of the Air Force, becoming the only officer to hold a five-star rank in two different military services. He passed away on 15 January 1950, at the age of 63.





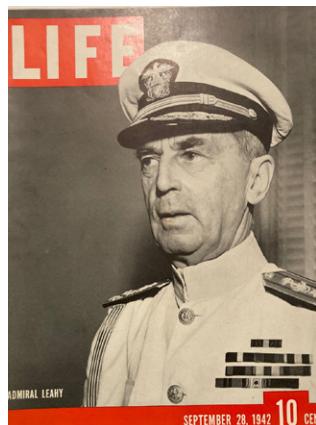
President Harry S. Truman promotes Gen. Omar Bradley to five-star rank, 22 SEP 1950. (DoD photo)



OMAR N. BRADLEY

was born in Clark, MO, on 12 February 1893. He graduated from West Point in 1915 alongside Dwight Eisenhower. Bradley was an excellent athlete and played varsity baseball at West Point. He even played on semi-pro teams without pay to continue representing the Academy. After

World War I, Bradley taught mathematics at West Point for 4 years. Bradley was 48 at the beginning of WWII. He served as an aide to General Pershing and General MacArthur. During WWII, he commanded the US First Army during the Normandy invasion and later led the Twelfth Army Group, the largest force ever placed under an American commander. After the war, Bradley served as Administrator of Veterans Affairs and Chief of Staff of the Army. He was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1949 to 1953. Bradley played a significant role in the Korean War, persuading President Truman to dismiss MacArthur in 1951, as MacArthur advocated aggressive war action contrary to Truman's policy of not escalating the war. He passed away on 8 April 1981, at the age of 88.



WILLIAM D. LEAHY

was born in Hampton, IA, on 6 May 1875. Having graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1897, he served in various roles during the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion. He commanded the navy transport

Princess Matoika during WWI and formed a lasting friendship with Franklin Roosevelt, who was then Assistant Secretary of the Navy. At the onset of WWII, he was 66. During WWII, he served as Chief of Naval Operations, Governor of Puerto Rico and US Ambassador to France. In July of 1942, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief. Leahy was the first flag officer to hold the rank of five-star general in the US Armed Forces. During President Roosevelt's declining health, Leahy assumed many presidential duties, effectively becoming the "second most powerful man in the world" at the time. After the war, he served as Governor of Puerto Rico and Ambassador to France. He passed away on 20 July 1959, at the age of 84.



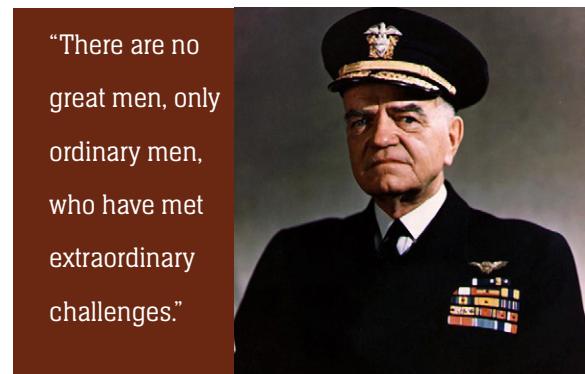
ERNEST J. KING was born in Lorain, OH, on 23 November 1878. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1901, after which he served in various roles during the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Revolution and the Occupation of Veracruz, where he commanded the destroyer USS *Terry*. King designed the dolphin insignia for submarines. He attended submarine school as a captain but never completed his submarine qualification. In 1927, at age 49, he began flight training to learn about airplanes, which he believed were the Navy's future. He earned his wings, but never piloted an aircraft alone. At the onset of WWII, he was 63. During WWII, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, US Fleet, and Chief of Naval Operations in 1942. King played a key role in the Second Battle of the Atlantic and Pacific War. He retired from the Navy in 1945 and passed away on 25 June 1956, at the age of 77.



CHESTER W. NIMITZ was born in Fredericksburg, TX, on 24 February 1885. He attended the Naval Academy at Annapolis and graduated in 1905. In

the early years of his naval career, he commanded both submarines and surface ships. In 1912, while stationed in Boston, Nimitz received a Silver Lifesaving Medal for rescuing a drowning sailor. Nimitz was court-martialed for negligence after running his ship aground on a sandbar. Despite this setback, he went on to have a highly successful naval career. He served as Chief of Staff to the Commander of the US Atlantic Submarine Force. At the beginning of WWII, he was age 56 and was appointed Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas. He played a critical role in major battles such as Midway, Philippine Sea and Okinawa. After the war, he served as Chief of Naval Operations from 1945 to 1947. A nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS *Nimitz*, is named in his honor. Nimitz passed away on 20 February 1966, four days short of his 81st birthday.

“There are no great men, only ordinary men, who have met extraordinary challenges.”



WILLIAM F. "BULL" HALSEY was born in Elizabeth, NJ, on 30 October 1882. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1904. During WWI, he commanded destroyers. He earned his naval aviator wings in 1935 at age 53, becoming one of the oldest officers to qualify as a pilot. Thereafter, he took command of the aircraft carrier, the USS *Saratoga*. During WWII, he played a critical role in the Pacific Theater, leading the South Pacific Area and later the Third Fleet. He played a role in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of the war. After the war, Halsey was promoted to Fleet Admiral in December of 1945 and retired from active service in March of 1947. He passed away on 16 August 1959, at the age of 76.

General Marshall was the first five-star general, having been promoted to General of the Army on 16 December 1944. This promotion was part of a broader effort to ensure US military leaders



had ranks equivalent to those of their Allied counterparts. Allied officers with equivalent five-star rank included: Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery and Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooks of the United Kingdom; Marshal Georgy Zhukov and Marshal Ivan Konev of the Soviet Union; Marshal Philippe Pétain and General Charles de Gaulle of France; General Chiang Kai-shek of China, and General Sir Thomas Blamey of Australia.

In the US military, the rank of six-star general is extremely rare, having been awarded only three times. The distinguished officers awarded this prestigious rank include George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, and John J. Pershing.

George Washington was not considered a five-star general during the Revolutionary War. At the age of 43, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army on 15 June 1775. A little-known fact about Washington's farming skills: Before the Revolutionary War, he recognized the value of mules for farm work. He imported Spanish donkeys to breed with horses, producing strong mules. His success in mule breeding had a lasting impact on American agriculture. After the War, in recognition of his leadership and contributions, he was posthumously promoted to General of the Armies of the US in 1976, the equivalent of a six-star general and the highest possible rank in the Army.

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, OH, on 27 April 1822. He graduated from West Point in 1843. Ulysses Grant, not widely known, was an avid horseman with exceptional horsemanship skills as a young boy. Grant was not given a middle name, so he merely adopted the letter S in lieu of his middle name. He served with distinction in the Mexican-American War (1846 - 1848) and later resigned from the army in 1854. At the age of 39, he rejoined the Union Army at the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861. Grant quickly rose in ranks due to his aggressive leadership. He was promoted to Lieutenant General and appointed the Commanding General of the US Army in 1864. He led the Union Army to victory over the Confederacy in 1865. After the war, Grant became a national hero and was elected the 18th President, serving from 1869 to 1877. Grant struggled financially after his presidency and invested in a brokerage firm that went bankrupt. He spent his final days writing his memoirs, which were published posthumously and became a financial success. Grant passed away on 23 July 1885 at the age of 63. He was posthumously

promoted to General of the Armies of the US in December 2022. This promotion was considered a six-star promotion, having been authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Joseph Biden in 2023.

John J. "Black Jack" Pershing was born in Laclede, MO, on 13 September 1860. He graduated from West Point in 1886, ranking 30th in his class. Early in his career, Pershing taught African-American students at Prairie Mound School in Missouri. Pershing served in various campaigns, including the Apache Wars, the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War. He gained national recognition for his pursuit of Pancho Villa, the Mexican revolutionary, in 1916. During WWI, he led the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. After WWI, Pershing served as Chief of Staff of the US Army from 1921 to 1924. At the age of 59, he was promoted to General of the Armies on 3 September 1919, which is the equivalent of a six-star general. He is the only officer to hold this rank while still alive. Pershing never held the rank of five stars. He mentored many future WWII generals, including Marshall, Eisenhower and Bradley. After the war, Pershing served as Chief of Staff of the US Army from 1921 to 1924. General Pershing passed away on 15 July 1948, at the age of 87.

In all probability, the reader of this article was not able to identify all nine officers and recite personal information about each. When these officers assumed command, they also took on the enormous task of defending our country's independence. Eight decades have passed since the end of WWII, and regrettably, the names of these senior officers have lain dormant in history books. Seldom do we hear our friends and associates mention their names and what they did to protect our freedoms. Their decisions during WWII must have weighed heavily upon their minds, knowing that their directives would affect the lives of thousands of men and women. Winston Churchill put it this way "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Recognizing these exceptional leaders with another star in their insignia of rank elevated their stature when dealing with their allied counterparts and rewarded them for a job well done. Their ability to coordinate and command multinational forces proved successful, highlighting their exceptional military prowess and diplomatic skills. Their promotion to the rank of General of the Army or Fleet Admiral is a testament to their outstanding service. ★



Why I Voted For “All Veterans”

COL VINCE OGILVIE, USA (RET)
COMMANDER, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

First and foremost, extending membership to all who served honorably is simply the right thing to do. We are either a veterans organization—or we are not. The only qualifications should be: Did you serve honorably? And are you serving honorably now?

This change to admit all ranks also opens doors for us to look ahead with renewed energy. Welcoming all veterans allows our Order to grow not only in size but in relevance and vitality, especially as we seek to attract younger Companions who value purpose and connection. It also positions us to strengthen partnerships with other Veteran Service Organizations that already embrace inclusivity, making MOWW a natural ally and collaborator. Most importantly, it allows us to build a larger, more diverse community of Companions who share our values and will carry our mission forward. By taking this step, we are not just correcting the past—we are charting a path to the next level of service and impact.

I am mindful that last year, when the proposal to admit all ranks was brought forward and voted down, several individuals—and even two entire chapters—chose to leave the Order because they believed it was wrong to exclude lower-enlisted Veterans. Their decision was a principled stand,



and I respect it. I am grateful that this error was finally corrected at the National MOWW Convention in Tucson on Friday, 8 August 2025, when the vote to admit Veterans of all ranks was approved. It is my hope that those individuals and chapters who left in protest will now return to the Order, knowing that justice and fairness have at last prevailed.

Extending membership is not about merely increasing our numbers—though welcoming new Companions will certainly strengthen our community. It is, instead, a clear statement of respect and gratitude for all who served, regardless of socioeconomic standing, faith, region, or race. Too often in history, organizations drew artificial boundaries: only Protestant Veterans, only Northern Veterans, only Caucasian Veterans. That is not who we are, nor who we aspire to be.

Our mentor and founder, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, most often addressed an all-white officer corps. Yet it would be wrong to assume Pershing intended to exclude officers of other ethnic backgrounds or religious beliefs. On the contrary, Pershing understood that America’s victories—both in the Great War and beyond—depended on the combined service of every Soldier, Sailor, and Marine. To honor his legacy, we must hold fast to that same principle today. ★

THREE VOICES FROM THE GREAT WAR REMIND US OF THIS ENDURING TRUTH

GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING, COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES:
“No one can fail to appreciate the spirit of the men who fought so splendidly. Their deeds are immortal, and the nation owes them an eternal debt.”

GENERAL PEYTON C. MARCH, U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF (1918):

“It was the individual American soldier who made the difference. He asked no questions, but went where he was sent, and did what he was told—always with courage.”

SERGEANT ALVIN C. YORK, 82ND DIVISION, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT:

“There are lots of them boys out there who done things just as brave as what I did—only they didn’t get the chance.”



The Birth of the Northwest Florida Chapter

CDR RALPH D. LEWIS, USCG (RET)
CAPT DEBORAH A. DOMBECK, USCG (RET)
NORTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER, FL

As longtime members of the Hill Country Chapter in Texas, we wanted to maintain our active involvement in the Order after relocating to northwest Florida. Regrettably, the nearest chapter is approximately sixty miles away and has been somewhat limited in its outreach efforts. As a result, we recognized the opportunity to establish a new chapter in our area, which we believed could greatly benefit our community.

Overall, it was a rewarding learning experience to determine the steps to establish a viable chapter. Consulting with others who recently went through the process, delving into the Policy Manual and other official MOWW documents, and several calls to the Chief of Staff for his support and advice were just the beginning.

We first had to establish a cadre as the initial stage in forming the Chapter, which required submitting a request to the EXCOM via the chain of command for authority to create a cadre. The minimum number of Companions in a cadre is five, and they must be identified before submitting the request. This requirement presented the challenge of recruiting before we even started! How to recruit for something that doesn't exist yet—that was our first challenge.

We were fortunate to meet several veterans in our community and local area who were willing to at least listen to us about what MOWW does and why they should join. As is often the case, youth programs and patriotic education are the most effective hooks in recruiting. We found common



Left: At the National Convention in Tucson, only hours after being chartered as NW Florida Chapter, Chapter Commander CAPT Deborah Dombeck, USCG (Ret), accepts the JROTC/ROTC Category 1 First Place certificate and flag banner from CINC David Worley. Left: CDR Ralph Lewis, USCG (Ret), and CAPT Deborah Dombeck, USCG (Ret), founders of the Northwest Florida Chapter.



CAPT Dombeck inducts the first two Perpetual Members of the prospective NW Florida Cadre: Lewis Motion and Misty Motion.



CAPT Deborah Dombeck presented ROTC medals and certificates at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, on behalf of MOWW and NW Florida Cadre.



At an early meeting of the prospective NW Florida Cadre, MAJ Fran Clader, USA (Ret), was inducted, bringing membership to the five required to request status as a cadre.

ground, shared our service experiences, and, with a bit of good-old arm-twisting persuasion, the five Companions formed a cadre.

In a nutshell, a cadre can do most of anything a chapter can do except vote at the National Convention. We took that ball and ran with it. The most logical and easiest program for our new Companions to get interested in quickly was supporting local JROTC and ROTC units. (Deborah and I were the only experienced Companions among our cadre.) We connected with JROTC instructors and contacted two ROTC units at Florida A&M University and Florida State University in Tallahassee. They were only too happy to have our support. More importantly, it gave us an opportunity to have new Companions accompany us to the award ceremonies and get involved. Once they saw what the Order does and met outstanding young people, they were hooked! The enthusiasm for MOWW activities started to take hold, and we grew.

We held meetings among the cadre to appoint staff positions and discuss organizational issues such as establishing bylaws, where and when we would meet, and myriad other organizational issues. After just a few months, we recruited enough new Companions to reach a total of ten, which is the minimum requirement to request chapter status! We submitted our request to the EXCOM through our chain of command to have it included as an agenda item for the pre-convention EXCOM meeting. It was a great point of pride that

the NW Florida Cadre was conferred the status of "Chapter," and announced at the National Convention in Tucson in August 2025!

While the process of transforming an idea into a formal chapter and ultimately receiving a charter may seem straightforward in this description, there are numerous factors to consider to ensure that the group is fully functional and capable of performing the activities expected of chapters. Sharing information and networking across the Order, especially with other newly formed chapters, is a vital part of our success story. The Region VI staff chain of command had a wealth of knowledge and advice that made our road a little smoother because two of the newest chapters in the Order are in our Region. Submitting the paperwork to the IRS and to the State of Florida were other important steps that weren't that obvious to us when we set out to form the Chapter. Fortunately, one of our newly recruited Companions willingly took on the position of Treasurer and tackled the submission process. Oh, by the way, it takes money to do some of this stuff.

The bottom line is that there are many steps and requirements to establish a new chapter. But those should not be daunting if you seek advice and support from across the Order. We were fortunate to recruit enough Companions to form a chapter, and we are continuing to grow. Please consider reaching out to us when the germ of an idea for a new chapter becomes more than just an idea. ★



Army Officer Challenges Students to Stretch, Grow and Lead

JONATHAN STINSON

ASSISTANT EDITOR THEREDESTONEROCKET.COM

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The last time 1st Lt Alijah Foy, USA, attended the Military Order of the World Wars Youth Leadership Conference he was a student. This year he was the keynote speaker.

Foy told the group of mostly JROTC cadets about leadership and his experience in the Army.

“Leadership is a journey,” Foy said. “It’s not a destination. It is shaped by preparation, participation and performance supported by a spirit of passion.”

LTC Eugene Thurman, USA (Ret), is the commander of the MG Wheeler Chapter of the MOWW. He said many of the cadets in attendance aspired to emulate Foy’s success in the Army.

“Many of these students are the top students from their respective high schools,” Thurman said. “Every student in Alabama has the opportunity to attend the conference if recommended by their school principal, counselor or JROTC instructor.”

Foy defined leadership as more than a title or position and said it is really about influencing, inspiring and guiding others while maintaining one’s humility, and requires active participation.



Lt Alijah Foy

“Leadership is just not a spectator sport,” he said. “It is not enough to stand on the sidelines.”

He emphasized the importance of finding joy and passion in leadership roles, which leads leaders to being prepared.

“Preparation builds confidence,” Foy said. “That fosters clarity. It creates resiliency, and most importantly ensures that when challenges arise, you can respond rather than react.”

Attendees also heard from CSM McKinley Curtis III, a retired command sergeant major and motivational speaker, who told attendees about stretching their abilities and the difference between hard and soft skills.

“You’ve got to be able to stretch yourselves,” he said. “Growth starts where tension begins.”

He also encouraged the students to create a habit of reading, and create a network of good people.

“You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with,” he said.

The conference took place Oct 23-25 at the Jaycee Community Building in John Hunt Park. ★



CSM McKinley Curtis III, (Ret)



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LTG Gregg's Legacy and the Shifting Landscape of Army Base Names

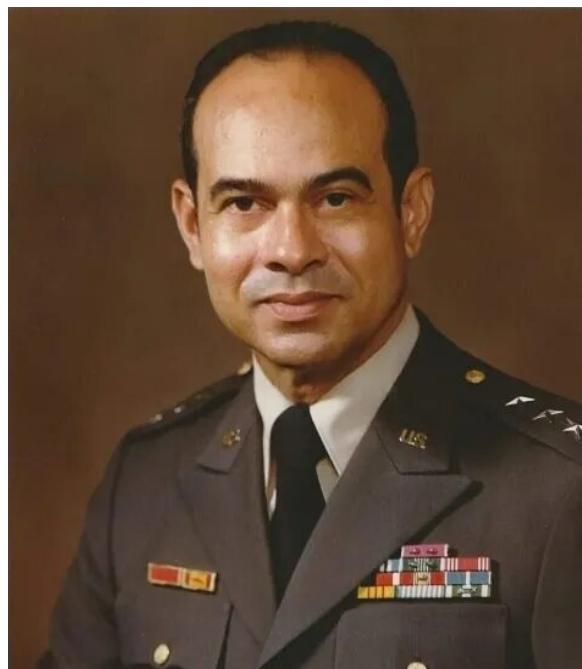
1LT SUSAN OLESAK, USA (FMR)

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

After being formally recognized with the naming of the U.S. Army installation where he forged a long and distinguished military career, Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg—our esteemed neighbor in the Four Seasons at Historic Virginia community—has now had his name removed from that very post. This reversal marks a striking moment in the ongoing national debate over military heritage and commemoration.

In April 2023, Fort Gregg-Adams was rechristened in honor of Arthur Gregg, retired Lieutenant General and the highest-ranking Black general at the time of his retirement in 1981. He is also the only living person in modern history to have a fort named after him. Colonel Charity Adams, commanding officer of the acclaimed 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion during WWII, was also honored. (Kerry Washington played Colonel Adams in the recent movie, *The Six Triple Eight*.)

General Gregg took part in the official renaming



Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg

ceremony in April 2023, delivering remarks to a large audience gathered in his honor. Many of his friends and neighbors were present in person or watched the event live online, celebrating with pride as he received this well-deserved and historic recognition.

General Gregg was the logistics director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and became Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Army before retiring. He was the namesake for the Quartermaster Corps annual logistics award; he was also the award's first recipient in 2016. The Quartermaster Corps is headquartered at the Petersburg, VA, base. General Gregg died on 22 August 2024 and was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

In June of this year, the new administration announced that it would rename the eight bases that had their names changed in 2023 to remove the names of Confederate figures. All the bases have returned to their previous names, but with



Colonel Charity Adams

a twist. In each case, the base is now named for another soldier sharing the same last name. For example, Fort Lee, located near Petersburg, Virginia, originally named for the Commander of the Confederate States Army, General Robert E. Lee, is now honoring Private Fitz Lee, a Buffalo soldier and Medal of Honor recipient during the Spanish-American War.

The other similarly retitled posts include Forts A.P. Hill, Bragg, Pickett, Gordon, Hood, Polk, Benning, and Rucker.

Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, Virginia—originally named after Confederate General Ambrose P. Hill—was renamed Fort Walker in 2023, honoring Mary Edwards Walker, a Civil War surgeon and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor. It has now been renamed again to recognize three individuals: Private Bruce Anderson, First Sergeant Robert Pinn, and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Hill.

Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia—originally named after Confederate General Henry L. Benning—was renamed Fort Moore in 2023 to honor Lieutenant General Hal Moore and his wife, Julia, recognizing both his leadership in the Vietnam War and her advocacy for military families. It has now been renamed again to honor Sgt. Thomas Benning, a World War II combat veteran awarded the Silver Star for valor.

Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, North Carolina - originally named after Confederate General Braxton Bragg—was renamed Fort Liberty to reflect the values and legacy of two storied units stationed there: the 82nd Airborne Division, whose song declares “we are the soldiers of liberty,” and the Special Forces, whose motto *De Oppresso Liber* means “to free the oppressed.” The Latin word *liber* also means “liberty.” It has now been renamed again to honor PFC Roland L. Bragg, a World War II paratrooper.

Fort Gordon, Augusta, Georgia - originally named after Confederate General John Brown Gordon—was renamed Fort Eisenhower in honor of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander during World War II. The name has been changed to pay tribute to SPC Leonard J. Gordon, a communications specialist who was killed in action during the Korean War.

Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas - originally named after Confederate General John Bell Hood—was renamed Fort Cavazos in 2023 in honor of General Richard E. Cavazos, the first Hispanic four-star general in U.S. Army history. The designation has been changed once again to honor Sergeant Leroy Hood, a veteran of the Korean War and a distinguished recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Fort Pickett, Blackstone, Virginia - originally named after Confederate General George Pickett—was renamed Fort Barfoot in 2023 to honor U.S. Army Technical Sergeant Van T. Barfoot, a Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic actions in World War II. It has now been renamed again to honor Sgt. Rodney J. Pickett, a Vietnam War veteran and recipient of the Silver Star.

Fort Polk, Leesville, Louisiana - originally named after Confederate General Leonidas Polk—was renamed Fort Johnson in 2023 to honor Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I hero and Medal of Honor recipient known for his extraordinary bravery as a member of the Harlem Hellfighters. It has been renamed once more to honor Sgt. Ellis Polk, a decorated World War II infantryman.

Fort Rucker, Daleville, Alabama - named initially after Confederate Colonel Edmund Rucker—was renamed Fort Novosel in 2023 in honor of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel, a Medal of Honor recipient for his service as a medevac pilot in Vietnam. The name has been changed again to honor Sgt. William A. Rucker, a World War II infantryman who earned the Bronze Star for valor.

As the nation continues to wrestle with how we commemorate its past, the brief but meaningful naming of Fort Gregg-Adams stands as a powerful moment of recognition—honoring not only General Arthur J. Gregg's extraordinary contributions to the U.S. Army, but also the progress his life represented. While his name may no longer grace the gates of the installation he helped shape, his legacy endures—in the institutions he strengthened, the values he embodied, and the many lives he inspired. In the shifting landscape of base renaming and historical reckoning, General Gregg's story remains a testament to service, perseverance, and the enduring impact of principled leadership. ★





MOWW National Convention 2026



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COS MOWW Supports Honor Flight

LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)
COLORADO CHAPTER, CO

On 4 October 2025, Honor Flight #21 of Southern Colorado returned to Colorado Springs. Almost 100 World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, along with their sponsor escorts, participated in a three-day journey to Washington DC, from 2-4 October to visit the National Memorials for their service in America's wars.

For some, like Sgt T.J. Ramos, a Vietnam War Veteran, found this journey was both cathartic and cleansing, providing camaraderie with his peers as well as the replacement of bad memories with good ones. He returned to the United States in the 1970s from service as a B-52D Tail Gunner in the Air Force and met both dissent and disdain from those opposed to the war. This time, he was welcomed with open arms by hundreds of cheering admirers from local Scouts, Students, Family, Colorado Springs Community Members, and Military Service Groups, including COS MOWW Treasurer, LTC Mike Berendt, USA (Ret).

Honor Flight of Southern Colorado is part of the Honor Flight Network, a national organization with a mission of honoring our nation's veterans by bringing them to Washington DC, to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

Honor Flight of Southern Colorado takes veterans from the World War II, Korea and Vietnam eras on a three-day, all expense paid trip to our nation's capital. These excursions, free to Veterans and funded solely by non-profit Honor Flight Societies,



LTC Mike Berendt, USA (Ret), COS MOWW, meets T.J. Ramos, Vietnam War Veteran, at the conclusion of Southern Colorado Honor Flight #21.

have provided an everlasting "Thank-You" to veterans whose service and sacrifice have been largely unrecognized or forgotten through the passage of time. The Honor Flights and their organizers, sponsors, and escorts truly represent the MOWW motto, that it is Nobler to Serve than to be Served! ★

*The Honor Flight of Southern Colorado returned to Colorado Springs bringing back 58 veterans who visited Washington DC monuments dedicated to their service.
Photo courtesy: FOX21 News
Photojournalist Cora Mitchell*



To Be Balanced in 2026

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

To my fellow Companions, I trust everyone had a blessed and wonderful holiday. Welcoming 2026: A Year of blessings with joy, health, wealth and togetherness.

As we all know, it is nobler to serve than to be served. We will start the year hoping to remind ourselves to keep our Companions, friends, and loved ones strong and spirited in thought. And the future of the United States remains strong and positive.

For us to move forward, we need to be balanced mentally, spiritually, and physically. These are a few of the pillars for 2026. As you know, there are a few more components of health: Nutrients, financial, and medical.

Physical and Well-being

Daily Physical Activity: Participate in moderate exercise (e.g., pickleball, cycling, gardening) for at least 150 minutes per week (not all in one day)

Balanced Meals: Eat a variety of nutrient-rich foods—fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins—to support bodily functions and prevent chronic diseases.

Hydration: Drink plenty of water to support metabolism, energy, and overall health.

Stress Management: Practice relaxation techniques, mindfulness, and downtime to prevent burnout and maintain resilience.

Mental Health

Emotional Well-being: Acknowledge and manage emotions, cope with stress, and maintain a positive outlook. (e.g., journaling, therapy, breathing techniques.)

Social Connections: Build and nurture healthy relationships with family, friends, and community for support and belonging.

Self-care: Prioritize activities that promote relaxation, joy, reading materials, and personal growth (e.g., hobbies, gratitude, mindfulness).

Healthy Lifestyle: Exercise regularly, eat nutritious meals, and get enough sleep to support mental health.

Seeking Support

Reach out for help when needed—therapy, counseling, or support groups can be vital. **Resilience and Coping Skills:** Develop strategies to manage challenges, setbacks, and negative emotions effectively.

Mindfulness and Meditation

Spiritual Practices: Engage in meditation, prayer, reflection, or mindfulness to cultivate inner peace and resilience.

Values Alignment: Live according to your deepest beliefs and principles for fulfillment and harmony.

Compassion and Service: Practice kindness, empathy, and service to others, which strengthens spiritual health and community bonds. As we all know it is nobler to serve than to be served.



Incorporating God/ the higher power into our body and spirit.

Begin your day with mindful breathing, prayer, or meditation. Take a few moments to express gratitude, set intentions, or reflect on your connection to the Divine or a higher power. This centers your mind and spirit before the day. ★

Reflecting God's Light Through Service

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

In every season of life, we are called to reflect the light of God through our actions, our compassion, and our service. Veterans—whether enlisted, NCO, officer, or military spouse—have answered a sacred call. Each role carries its own sacrifice, and each deserves our deepest honor.

Isaiah 58:10 reminds us: "If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness..."

From the soldier's quiet discipline to the spouse's steadfast love, we are bearers of light in a world that longs for hope. Our unity in service is sustained by grace and strengthened by faith.

During Hanukkah, we remember the miracle of light—how God made a small amount of oil last eight days in the rededicated Temple. This enduring flame reminds us that divine provision often exceeds human expectation.

Proverbs 20:27 says: "The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts."

During Christmas, we celebrated the birth of Christ—the Light of the World—who came not in grandeur, but in humility, to dwell among us.

John 1:5 proclaims: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We responded to these miracles not only with celebration, but with action. After the holiday season, let's continue to give our time, kindness,

and resources to those in need. Let our Chapters, communities, and homes become vessels of God's light.

Here are a few ways to serve after this holiday season:

- Restock food banks
- Support worthy causes, such as donating winter essentials: coats, gloves, blankets
- Offer comfort to the lonely by donating to shelters and VA centers
- Invite Companions to reflect on the light they've received and share in chapter newsletters
- Share Stories of Service: Let every chapter become a beacon of generosity and grace

Matthew 5:16 encourages us: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Companions, let us be the light. Let us be the gift. Let us be the witnesses. May we consider our many blessings—and how we can be a blessing.

Prayer: Lord, you are the source of every good and perfect gift. You have given us light in our darkness, hope in our weariness, and love beyond measure. May we reflect your light in every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, and every moment of service. Let us shine—not for our glory, but for yours. Amen. ★





Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

Partners in Patriotism: MOWW and SAR Strengthen Bonds of Liberty

BY COL VINCENTE C. OGILVIE, USA (RET)

8 November 2025 — COL Vince C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret), Commander of the MOWW Northern Virginia Chapter, addressed the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on the topic “From Lafayette to Pershing: The Mutual Bonds of Liberty in Two Wars.”

(L-R): Maj Ross H. Schwalm, USMC (Ret); COL Vince C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret), and Mr. Andrew Mills, President, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, SAR.



Hill Country Chapter, TX

MOWW Honors HVFD Chief

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY JOURNAL

The Hill Country Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars heard a presentation by Hunt Volunteer Fire Department Chief Lee Pool about what he and his department did during and after the destructive and deadly July 4 flood, where at least 135 people were killed.

Chapter Commander Stephanie Keck presents an award to Chief Lee Pool with Jim Bisson reading the citation.



Knoxville Chapter TN

October 2025 Chapter Meeting

BY MAJ TRENT D. LAVIANO, USA (RET)

Companions pose for a group photo during the visit of VCINC COL Mike Peck, USA (Ret), and VCINC CPT James Brady, USA (Fmr), who is also the Region V CDR.

(L-R): LCDR David A. Jones, USN (Ret); MAJ Trent D. Laviano, USA (Ret) (Knoxville Chapter CDR); CPT Craig T. Brown, USA (Ret); COL Mike Bronstein, USAF (Ret) (Memphis Chapter CDR); MSgt Ronald E. Adams, USAF (Ret); VCINC COL Mike Peck, USA (Ret); Lt Col David M. Blair, USAF (Ret) (Tennessee Dept. CDR); CPT James Brady, USA (Fmr) (Region V CDR), and, LTC Bob Curnell, USA (Ret).

North Central Florida Chapter

Honoring LTC Frank Rasbury

BY LTC VICTOR BURNETTE, USA, (RET)

Gratitude is extended to all members of the North Central Florida Chapter for a remarkable inaugural event honoring LTC Frank Rasbury, USA (Ret), during the Wreaths Across America's Family Wreath Laying Day at the Florida National Cemetery on 6 December 2025. The Chapter came together to pay tribute to LTC Rasbury, a veteran of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War who dedicated his life to serving our nation.

(L-R): Chapter Commander COL Robert Schlegel, USA (Ret), and MOWW Chaplain General LTC Victor Burnette, USA, (Ret), placing a wreath at the interment vault.



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

November Chapter Meeting

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

Above (L-R): COL Jack Mason and MG Tom Cole, both in the Puget Sound Chapter, have advanced beyond their middle 90s—are active in MOWW, and are an example to all."

Right, LTG Keith Dayton, Puget Sound Chapter, briefs on the Ukraine situation on 9 November at the Steilacoom Town Hall. General Dayton is the recognized expert on the subject, having been selected as the Ukraine ambassador by the president in 2020, but was unable to assume the position due to change of administration.





Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

2025 Massing of the Colors

BY CPT PAULA R. MITCHELL, ED.D., USAR (FMR)

The Greater El Paso Chapter's Massing of the Colors was held on 27 September 2025 at the El Paso Community College Administrative Services Center. This year, Eagle Scouts and JROTC Cadets played a significant role in our program. We also had First Responders, Veteran Service Organizations, governmental representatives, and civic organizations in attendance. There were 45 Honor and Color Guard Units participating this year.



Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

COS MOWW Participates in 2025 Veteran's Day Parade

BY LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)

The Colorado Springs (COS) Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) proudly participated in the "In Their Honor" Veterans Day Parade on November 8, 2025. Led by Colonel Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret), and Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Watanabe, USA (Ret), the team joined the Colorado Military Historical Group in three vintage Army vehicles: a 1942 Ford GPW "Jeep," a 1941 Dodge WC-2 1/4 Ton Truck, and a 1968 2-1/2 Ton "Deuce and a Half" Vietnam-era Gun Truck. With over 100,000 military retirees and their families in the Colorado Springs area, the parade was the highlight of a week-long celebration honoring our veterans.

(L to R) Front Row: Lt Col Ulysses Swift, Col Kerm Neal, Lt Cols Kirk Brown and Rich Peters, LTC Mike Berendt and wife Joani, COL Mark Ellis, Col Jim Borders, and Dave and Jeanne Egan. Back Row: LTC Nathan Watanabe and "Living Historians" from CMHG.

Puerto Rico Chapter

JROTC "Present" for Beach Cleanup

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF, (RET)

Companions from the Puerto Rico Chapter supported a coordinated effort to clean several beaches around the island. Several JROTC units and Scouting Troops participated on this public service event which took place on 20 September 2025.

JROTC cadets belonging to the Dra. Maria Cadilla High School, from Arecibo, said "present" at the coordinated effort to clean beaches around the island, as part of their community work. Companion CPT Ramon Martínez, USA (Ret), (far right) was present at the event helping out and motivating the cadets.



Hampton Roads Chapter, VA

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

BY COL RONALD L. ADOLPHI, PH.D., USA (RET)

The Hampton Roads Chapter recognized several Eagle Scouts on Sunday afternoon, 19 October 2025. Troop 414, part of the Colonial Virginia Council, is chartered to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Norge, Virginia.

(L-R): COL Ron Adolphi, USAR (Ret), presented each new Eagle Scout with a MOWW Certificate of Recognition and a congratulatory letter from the chapter commander. The Eagle Scouts honored during the ceremony are Gavin Asbell, Luke Bascom, Bryce Charleton, Erik Dereix, Christopher Lampitt, and Ryan Kline.





UPDATE TO LIFE INSURANCE



VA has announced an amendment to the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI), and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Accelerated Benefit Option (ABO) regulation.

This update allows an alternate applicant to apply for an ABO on a member's behalf, such as when a member is medically incapacitated. With accelerated benefits, you can get up to 50% of the face value of your coverage in increments of \$5,000—paid to you before death.

It will ensure that stepchildren and children, who are 18-22 and in school, are included in FSGLI dependent child coverage.

This change comes as an update to the ABO that's been in effect since 1998 when only the member could apply. Visit VA benefits for more information, or to apply.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Experiencing a natural disaster is stressful, but Veterans can prepare in advance by developing and practicing evacuation plans. Build an emergency supply kit to last several days. Veterans should prepare a 2-week supply of prescription medications stored in a waterproof bag, as pharmacies may be closed after a natural disaster. Remember to include pets in your family's emergency plan.

Financial impact

Financial struggles can create stressful situations like trouble sleeping, debt, housing insecurity and it may leave Veterans and their loved ones more

susceptible to fraud.

VA encourages veterans to plan and prepare for financial impacts by changing to direct deposit from paper checks, learning about mortgage payment options, and safeguarding personal and financial account information. If a veteran has a VA home loan and their home was affected by a natural disaster, VA encourages veterans to take steps to receive VA assistance.

VA's Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) can help. If you are a veteran, beneficiary, caregiver or survivor, you can utilize VBBP to meet with an accredited financial counselor who can help you can back on your feet. Visit VBBP today to learn more about this free service.

Disaster scams

Whether impacted by a natural disaster or donating to a charity to assist those impacted, Veterans may see an increase in instances of disaster-related fraud, such as contractor scams, charity scams or government impersonation. Scammers rely on vulnerability resulting from natural disasters and often exploit the chaos and desperation of homeowners in disaster-stricken areas. VA wants Veterans to be aware of disaster fraud and scams to protect personally identifiable information (PII) and bank information. If a Veteran is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments or finds suspicious activity with their direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000 or visit visiting www.vsafe.gov or calling 833-38V-SAFE.

Health impact

If you need help determining where to go for care or have questions about VA resources, you may call 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) and press 0 to immediately speak to a VA representative. In the aftermath of a natural disaster where a Veteran is without VA benefits, payments, medical assistance and/or necessities, they can seek support by contacting VA for assistance and remedies.

Resources

Other Recovery Help | disasterassistance.gov.

Tribal Affairs | FEMA.gov.

American Red Cross.





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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

DATA FROM 1 OCT - 30 NOV 2025

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SGT JHERI GREGORY, USA (FMR)**

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GRANITE STATE CHAPTER NH

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LTC James T. Marques, USAR (Ret)

SSG THOMAS H. KELLEY, SR., USAR (FMR)**

LTC James T. Marques, USAR (Ret)

Welcome to the Order



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER, TN

(L-R): Knoxville Chapter CDR MAJ Trent D. Laviano, USA (Ret), welcomes new Companion CPT Craig T. Brown, USA (Ret), inducted 11 June 2025.





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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DATA FROM 1 OCT - 30 NOV 2025

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AMN DIANE M. VEGA-LOPEZ, USAF (FMR)**

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER FL

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MAJ Segundo Melendez, USA (Ret)

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SANTA CRUZ VALLEY CHAPTER AZ

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Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

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Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

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Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC

Welcome to the Order



PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA

(L-R): Sponsor Col Andy Leneweaver, USA (Ret), welcomes new Companion CWO4 Monte L. Simpson, USCG (Ret), inducted 9 November at the Puget Sound Chapter meeting.





Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

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"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

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72ND ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

(L-R): Commander in Chief and CEO, MOWW, Inc. Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), support a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.