

MOWWW REVIEW



Mesothelioma & Military Veterans

While serving this country, many veterans were exposed to asbestos – a dangerous mineral that can cause the rare cancer mesothelioma.

\$30B in court-ordered asbestos trust funds has been established to help victims and their families

4 Facts You Need to Know About Asbestos Exposure

1 – HISTORY

Widely used across every military branch

Asbestos-containing products were used in every branch from the 1930s through the late 1970s.

2 – IMPACT

Nearly 44% of clients are U.S. veterans

Veterans are disproportionately affected, representing clients from states across the country.

3 – TIMELINE

Symptoms can take 20-50 years to appear

Mesothelioma symptoms often develop decades after initial asbestos exposure.

4 – BENEFITS

Filing a claim does not affect VA benefits

Claims are filed against manufacturers – not the government. VA benefits and pensions are unaffected.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with mesothelioma or another asbestos-related cancer, you may be eligible for financial compensation. Many claims are resolved without filing a lawsuit or ever going to court.

Our team is available 24/7, every day.

Don't wait – give us a call now.

Call 800-958-1950

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ★ 2026 MOWW CONVENTION

Ryan Holiday

“Where the head goes, the body follows. Perception precedes action. Right action follows the right perspective.”

—THE OBSTACLE IS THE WAY: THE TIMELESS ART OF TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPH.

**Thursday, 13 August 2026
1000-1130**

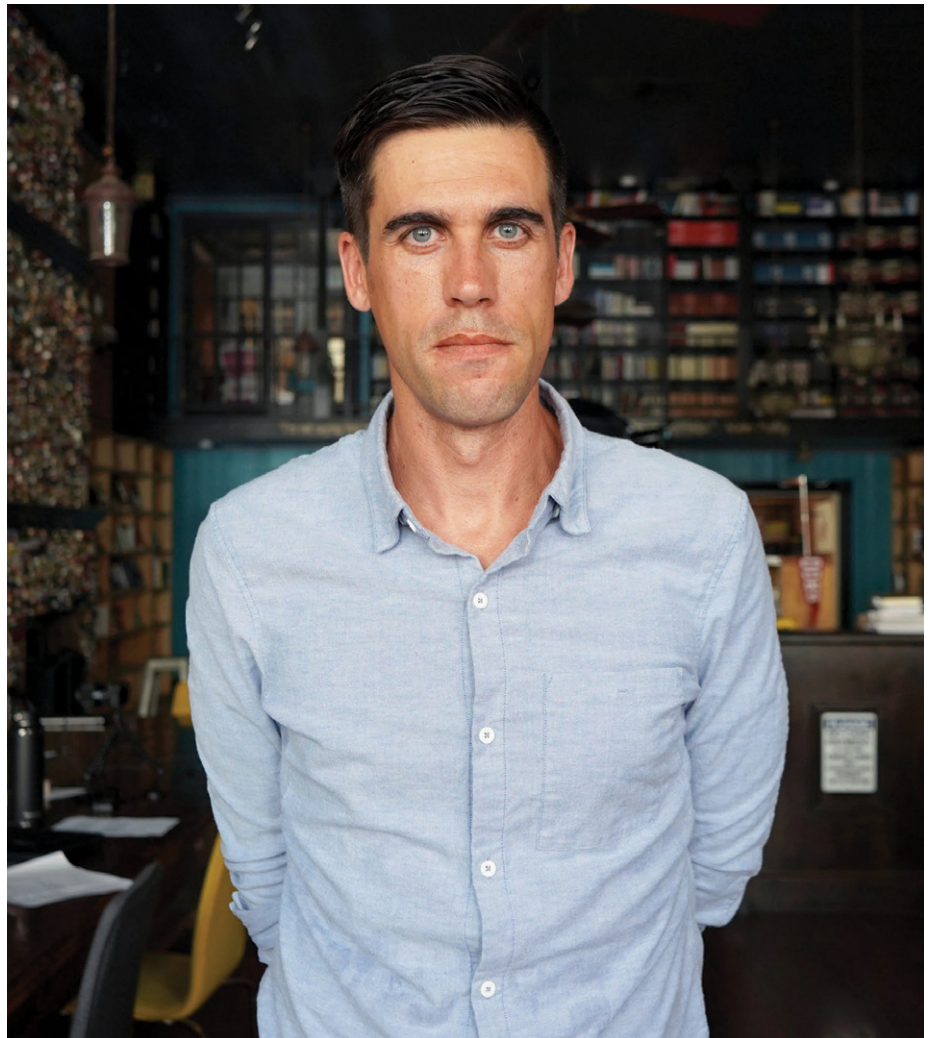
**The Westin Riverwalk,
420 W Market Street,
San Antonio, TX**

Few writers have done more to bring ancient, timeless wisdom and cutting-edge marketing strategies together than Ryan Holiday. His philosophically driven bestselling books have sold over 10 million copies and spent more than 200 weeks on bestseller lists. His books are taught in colleges and marketing programs around the world, including *Trust Me I'm Lying*, which revealed the massive vulnerabilities (and opportunities) in the global media system in 2012. He has directly influenced Super Bowl-winning teams like the New England Patriots, NBA Champions like the San Antonio Spurs, and Olympic Gold Medalists, as well as sitting Senators, military leaders and some of the biggest and most important companies in the world like Google, Twitter and Microsoft.

At the core of Ryan's teachings is Stoicism, popularized through his *New York Times* bestselling books, including *Right Thing, Right Now*, *The Obstacle Is the Way*, *Stillness Is the Key*, *Ego Is the Enemy*, *Discipline Is Destiny*, and his latest book, *Wisdom Takes Work*.

What is Stoicism? The idea that while we don't always control what happens to us in life, we always control how we respond. Illustrated vividly with stories from the greats of history, Ryan provides a framework for overcoming obstacles, scaling new challenges and battling both the ups and downs and life. Profiled by the *New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated* and ESPN, Ryan counts among his clients and followers some of the biggest names in business, tech, culture and professional athletics.

Ryan lives just outside of Austin, Texas, where writes in between running his bookstore The Painted Porch, raising two boys, and taking care of his donkeys.



★ MOWW ★

MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS

<https://moww.org/convention/>



MOWW's Youth Character Development Program



Character development of our youth is front and center amongst our Order's outreach programs. Numerous veterans organizations offer youth character development and recognition programs, including the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the VFW, and the American Legion. Service Academies and ROTC programs emphasize developing leaders of character. Similarly, programs such as JROTC, Scouting, Police Explorers, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air Patrol (just to name a few) are each centered on building citizens of character. Embedded in the concept of character development are a variety of elements such as officership, leadership, team-building, ethics, civics education, entrepreneurship, patriotism, and service, with each aforementioned program emphasizing various combinations of these elements.

MOWW's Youth Character Development Program (CDP) includes internal initiatives such as our curriculum-based Youth Leadership Conferences and Seminars, Massing of the Colors, and the National Youth Civic Summit. These programs are developed and implemented by dedicated Companions. Companions also engage with youth through various forums, including schools and youth organizations. Our CDP further supports external programs such as ROTC, JROTC, and Scouting, and serves as an advocate for Service Academies. Merit awards, certificates, and competitive scholarships recognize youth leadership and service excellence across both internal and external programs. Ultimately, MOWW's CDP is grounded in the core values outlined in our Order's Preamble.

Attracting today's younger generation of veterans to become a part of MOWW can and should be centered around our flagship comprehensive CDP program and emphasized as one of the programs rooted in our Order's proud heritage (please see CINC's Perspective, March-April 2026 *MOWW Review*). Mentoring and recognizing today's youth remains one of the most significant avenues of service for today's veterans; considering the broad scope of our Order's investment in today's youth, MOWW is an attractive organization that veterans will want to become a part of – we must engage veterans and the community by heavily promoting these programs, and let our veterans know they are welcome at each of our youth events. In short, Chapters must open their doors to veterans who want to become involved in our youth activities and events, even if they are not members of the Order. Our MOWW Patriot Program provides our Chapters with an avenue to involve non-members; as a result, lasting relationships will evolve, and eventually, eligible veterans are likely to become members.

MOWW's Youth Character Development Program sets us apart from other Veterans Service Organizations, thus providing a pathway for extensive Chapter growth and ensuring the Order's viability for generations to come ...


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

MOWW CINC congratulates a student attending the Sun City Center Chapter's YLS

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MOWW REVIEW

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Correction: In the March-April 2026 issue of the MOWW Review, the authorship of "Why We Serve" was incorrectly attributed. The correct author is CPT Ramón A. Martínez Medina, USA (Ret), Puerto Rico Chapter. We regret this error and extend our apologies for any resulting confusion.

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ON THE COVER

Gunners aboard a US Navy vessel train their 20mm and 40mm antiaircraft cannon skyward as Japanese planes prepare to make runs against the supply ships stationed off Saipan.
 Source: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6504170>





MOWW National Youth Civics Summit

WASHINGTON, DC



The third annual MOWW National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) is well into the final planning stage. We are preparing to host twenty exceptional high school students for one week in Washington, DC.

After extensive screening and deliberation, each finalist has accepted our invitation. They will travel to Washington for MOWW's Premier Outreach Program, the National Youth Civics Summit, scheduled for Sunday, July 12, through Saturday, July 18.

This year's students will travel from across the country, representing communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Texas, California, Alabama, Colorado, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Florida, and Georgia. As the notification and parental approval process is ongoing, we will not publish student names in this edition. More details about the students will be shared in the MOWW Review before our Annual Convention.

This year, our nation will be celebrating 250 years since the young Americans gathered in Philadelphia and pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the far-fetched and, at the time, quite novel possibility that people could govern themselves. During the National Youth Civics Summit, we will include a one-day field trip to Philadelphia to walk through some of the places where those visionary, and perhaps prescient, young Americans gathered to create our Declaration of Independence. We will escort the next generation of America's leaders through some of the paths and places where America's leaders lived and worked 250 years ago.

MOWW Companions are welcome to join us in Philadelphia that day. If you can meet us early on July 15 at the American University campus in Washington, DC, we will ride together on the coach bus to Philadelphia. This is a rare and meaningful opportunity to inspire a future leader as you spend the day with the group — and we are confident that in doing so, you will find yourself equally inspired.

The other days of the summit will be spent in Washington, on Capitol Hill, and around the Nation's Capital, visiting many of the sites and memorials we consider so critical to defining who we have been over the last 250 years.

Thank you, MOWW Region Commanders, YLC Directors, Chapter Commanders, and Companions for supporting the National Youth Civics Summit. Your continued support through donations and by spreading the word to other potential donors will help us keep delivering an extraordinary learning experience to students. As you know, the MOWW Foundation was established in 2024 as a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible entity to support the National Youth Civics Summit. Please take action now—share this with anyone who values investing in the next generation of leaders, and encourage them to make a tax-deductible donation today via the MOWW website: <http://moww.org/foundation/>

Feel free to contact me with your questions or suggestions.

CAPT Ed Gantt, USN (Ret)

NYCS Committee Chair

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Splash Two

BG RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., PH.D., USA (RET)
BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

The destroyer USS Lewis Hancock (DD-675) was a Fletcher Class ship that, when commissioned in 1943, was a state-of-the-art combat vessel. Its primary roles in naval warfare were to attack enemy submarines and to destroy hostile aircraft, thus screening and protecting larger ships such as cruisers, battleships, and aircraft carriers. A secondary role was to provide naval gunfire support in shore bombardments during amphibious operations.

The Hancock was named for US Navy Lieutenant Lewis Hancock, who died in the 3 September 1925 crash of dirigible Shenandoah (ZR-1). Hancock was the airship's executive officer when it went down in Ohio. He had graduated from the US Naval Academy in the Class of 1910 and had been detailed to the naval air service but was not an aircraft pilot.

Uniquely, the destroyer, constructed in Kearney, New Jersey, was christened at its launch by Hancock's widow, Lieutenant Joy Hancock US Naval Reserve, on 1 August 1943. She was the first WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) or female naval officer to



*USS Lewis Hancock (DD-675)
The ship's sponsor, Lieutenant Joy Hancock, USNR, prepares for the christening, 1 August 1943. The ship was named in honor of Lieutenant Hancock's late husband, Lieutenant Commander Lewis Hancock, USN. Official US Navy Photograph at the National Archives.*



The US Navy destroyer USS Lewis Hancock (DD-675) underway in 1944. Source: National Archives, NAID Identifier 7330315.





The USS Hancock (DD-75) jacket patch of the ship's insignia. Courtesy of Captain G.F. Swainson, USN, 1970. US Naval History and Heritage Command.

perform such a traditional ship launching ceremony. No doubt her smashing the bottle on the Hancock's prow was accompanied with a large portion of nostalgia.

The USS Hancock was a 2,100-ton ship with a crew of 329 officers and men, one of whom was Lieutenant Junior Grade William S. Webber, the ship's radar officer. The

ship's optimum or flank speed was 35 knots, and it was well armed with a combination of 5-inch guns, 20- and 40-mm anti-aircraft guns (12 twenty and 14 forty each), torpedo tubes, and depth-charge launchers.

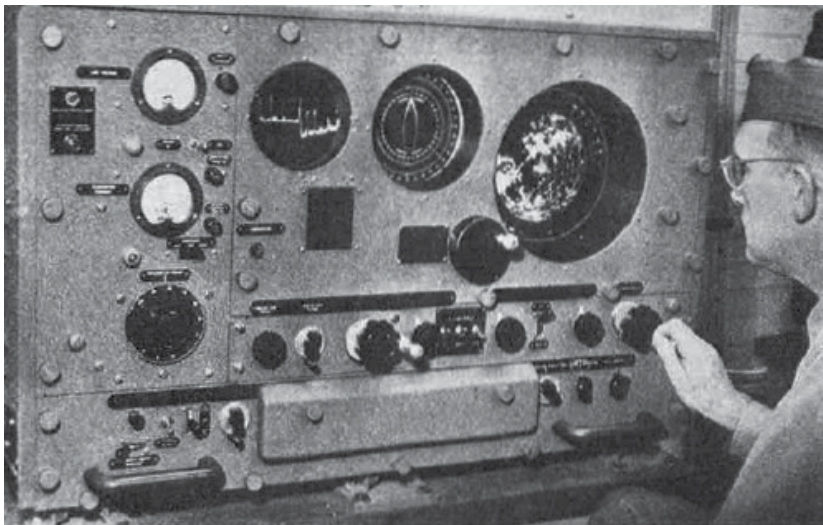
After the ship's commissioning and shake-down cruise in the Atlantic Ocean, the Hancock was dispatched to the Pacific, where it was to see sixteen months of combat duty. It saw its first battle action on 29 January 1944 as an element of Task Group 58.2 (TG 58.2), which was part of the US Fifth Fleet—the first digit of the designation—"5" indicating the number of the fleet. The portion of the fleet, known as Task Force 58 (TF 58), was a fast, large aircraft carrier armada commanded by then Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher. Mitscher was called "the Ferocious Gnome" for his studied aggressiveness and rustic appearance.

When the Hancock joined the task force as a picket, or screening, destroyer TF 58 was preparing to provide shore bombardment support to the assault landing on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. For Webber, it was his first taste of battle when the Hancock participated in the plastering of the atoll's islands. As the ship's radar officer, he assisted in coordinating the ranging on a variety of targets ashore. However, it was going to be some time before he was to employ his newly acquired radar assignment for defeating Japanese aircraft attacking US Navy ships.

Webber had come aboard the Hancock as a newly minted naval reserve ensign. A 1942 graduate of Yale University, he was the 1938-39 Ivy League's boxing featherweight champion. Coached by future US president Gerald Ford, a student at Yale Law School, Webber went undefeated until losing a bout with a West Point cadet.

With that background, he set his sights on becoming a Marine, but he was instead commissioned into the Navy. He then attended radar school in expectation of being assigned to a combatant ship's complement.

On board and soon promoted to lieutenant junior grade, he assumed duties directing the activities of the sailors operating the ship's radar. This required expert knowledge of the capabilities of the device and exercising appropriate supervision over the enlisted radar operators under his command. It also meant making key decisions based on the images operators saw on their oscilloscopes. He thus



Operator using a type SG radar indicator to obtain the range and bearing of target. The relative bearing of operator's ship may be seen in center, just to the left of scope. Equipment of this nature is also used for plotting position of ship.

had to exercise special judgment in interpreting information from what the operators reported and then passing it along to the proper action officer in the correct format. Swift and accuracy became especially important when hostile aircraft approached the ship at high speed. Time lost in engagement with such airplanes was sure to have serious implications in engaging the attackers.

Fortunately, his first action dealing with the Japanese aircraft attacking task force shipping was not to test the status of his newly acquired competence. Significantly, informing Webber's radar officer position was the then-state of the Imperial Japanese naval air arm.

Since the Central Pacific battle of Midway, which began on 4 June 1942, the quality and experience of Japanese airmanship had started to decline. In that contest, the Japanese in their duels with American pilots suffered the heavy loss of aviators capable of flying off aircraft carriers, in addition to the disabling and sinking of four of the participating Japanese carriers.

In August, the naval battle shifted to the Southwest Pacific when the Marines landed on Guadalcanal. On 24 August, in an aerial duel, aircraft from American carriers shot down 90 Japanese planes in the Battle of the Eastern Solomon Islands. It was a small but significant further stage in the decline of Japanese air capability.

The decline was to accelerate as American naval, land, and aerial forces wound their way west in the

Pacific and increased in size and lethality. In 1943, incremental steps were taken to diminish Japanese aerial effectiveness with the invasion of New Guinea and the opening of a ground campaign there. An important thrust by sea in the Solomons was made when the Japanese naval base at Rabaul, on the northern tip of New Britain Island, was bypassed, effectively neutralizing the enemy's ability to oppose the American advance. In the meantime, as the year 1944 approached, while General MacArthur advanced along the northern coast of New Guinea, the Navy was assembling a large force of new ships for a naval campaign in the Central Pacific. It was this fleet that the Hancock joined.

Up to the time that the ship entered the Pacific Ocean battle arena in early 1944, Webber's radar operators had little chance to exercise their observation skills in dealing with highly capable hostile aerial targets. Nevertheless, Webber, recognizing himself as a junior and inexperienced radar officer, sought opportunities for himself and his men to improve their ability to identify and track attacking enemy planes.

After participating in the bombardment of Kwajalein on 16 February 1944, the Hancock took part in the TF 58 raid on the Japanese bases on the island of Truk. The enemy had been using the bases from which reinforcements were sent for the battle at Guadalcanal and from whose airfields aerial operations were conducted throughout the area.

Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. Ships of the US Pacific fleet anchored at Majuro, 25 April 1944, shortly before leaving to attack Truk. USS ENTERPRISE (CV-6) is at right, with four "Essex" class carriers beyond her. Battleships at left include USS IOWA (BB-61) and NEW JERSEY (BB-62). There are three other "fast" battleships and three light carriers (CVL) present, as well as several old battleships, cruisers and auxiliaries.



While American carrier aircraft pounded the island, Hancock, as part of a battleship and cruiser task group, made the first fire support strike against Truk ground targets. The combined air and seaborne force destroyed 15 naval vessels, including 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers, along with numerous cargo ships and tankers. Importantly, the raid cost the Japanese 200 aircraft, which represented another incremental step in the loss of not only planes but experienced pilots as well. The degradation in Japanese air power, along with other losses, continued. For Webber and crew, however, they were yet to engage and through their efforts to bring down, which is “splash,” any hostile airplanes.

After the Truk raid, the Hancock sailed to the Hawaiian Islands, where it resupplied and addressed maintenance issues arising from its shakedown and initial employment. On 15 March, the destroyer was underway again, this time for five months of anti-aircraft and anti-submarine duties. It was headed for the Japanese island of Saipan, which was scheduled to be invaded on 15 June. Its particular mission was to participate in the preliminary bombardment of the island.

While the invasion kicked off as planned, other events were about to take place which were going to later impact on Webber’s men, “splashing” two Japanese torpedo bombers. As TF 58 and the Fifth Amphibious Force of some 535 ships approached Saipan, the Japanese sallied to respond to the American assault. The enemy force dispatched to contest the landing consisted of two groups, including not only large aircraft carriers but also two massive battleships.

The Battle of the Philippine Sea, also known as the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot, lasted for eighteen hours. It resulted in a decisive defeat of Japanese air power and, because of the loss, the paralysis of the entire Japanese fleet. A total of 346 hostile aircraft were shot down, having flown in four waves against the airplanes of TF 58. Of the 430 enemy aircraft, only 35 of the original airplanes remained serviceable.

The Japanese aircraft losses can be attributed to superior American aircraftmanship, with some 130 American airplanes and 76 airmen being lost. Of those, only 22 aircraft were lost in aerial combat or to Guam-based anti-aircraft fire. But another

salient reason for the American victory was the incompetence of the inexperienced and poorly trained Japanese aviators, largely explained by the losses of skilled pilots in earlier operations. Replacements for the lost experienced aviators just could not compensate for the attrition. The impact on Webber and the radar operators of the Japanese air arm’s denigration was not yet to be felt, but its time was soon to come.

The Hancock’s participation in the invasion of Saipan was followed by another visit to the Hawaiian Islands for another refit and preparation for taking part in the next major American operation in the Pacific Theater of Operations, the invasion and liberation of the Philippines.

After the victory in the Philippine Sea, there was a change of command of the American naval forces in the Pacific Ocean. Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. had taken command of TF 58, which was redesignated TF 38 to reflect its being composed of ships of the Third Fleet.

TF 38 was given the mission, as a prelude to the invasion of the Philippines, to capture several islands and atolls whose Japanese occupation was considered to have an impact on the success of the operation. The Hancock, upon joining the task force, sailed into the Western Pacific and began participating in a number of preliminary operations. These included bombardment and picket duties off the Philippines, Okinawa, and Formosa. The objective was to isolate the planned battlefield from outside Japanese interference during the invasion.

It was on one of these cruises that on 13 September 1944, the Hancock’s anti-aircraft gunners downed their first hostile enemy plane. The “splashing” was to be one of six during the war that the gunners were to score. But for Webber, that victory was not of the special significance that two splashes on 19 November had for him and his radar crew. That was because of the introduction of a new Japanese aerial tactic, which replaced its conduct of air combat, the bombing of ships by suicide pilots.

On 25 October, during the Battle for Leyte Gulf, six bomb laden Japanese Zero aircraft dived almost vertically on American four escort carriers. Four airplanes were shot down, but the other two deliberately crashed into two of the carriers. The two were the first of the Japanese kamikaze or





USS SANGAMON (CVE-26) is attacked by a Japanese "Tony" kamikaze plane off Okinawa, 4 May 1945. This plane missed the ship by 25 feet or less.

Catalog #: 80-G-334505, National Archives

“divine wind” suicide airplanes, which became a major and potent enemy aerial weapon for the rest of the war. The dearth of competent and experienced Japanese pilots had finally caused the Japanese air arm to catch up with its major deficiency in conducting effective airborne warfare.

The inexperienced Japanese pilots were also now flying off easily accessible airfields located on the Philippine islands rather than on the more complicated aircraft carriers, most of which were carrying few competent pilots of airplanes.

It was not until 19 November that Webber distinguished himself in leading his radar crew in splashing two enemy torpedo bombers under stressful conditions. By then, the purely naval war and Japanese carrier operations had ended, but land-based kamikaze activity was putting American ships supporting ground forces at great risk. Those ships were easily accessible to those suicide pilots who merely had to point their aircraft at a target and fly directly into it.

On that day, TF 38 came under aerial attack, and Webber and the radar crew soon had to deal with multiple threats. Suddenly, blips popped up on the radar screens. Were the blips one or two possible aircraft, or were they some other potential target? The operators carefully monitored the moving images, deciphering their direction and position. At the same time, they gauged the speed of the possible attackers. What if the aircraft were carrying torpedoes? Until the hostile airplanes released them, it could not be determined if

they were two or four torpedo bombers or just two bombers releasing their bombs. Webber, closely observing and evaluating what the radar men announced and what he saw on the scopes, passed the critical data on to the group fighter fire director officer. He then decided how to engage the attackers, which could be done by the Hancock’s anti-aircraft guns or friendly aircraft.

The results of Webber’s and the radar operators’ efforts soon became apparent as the word came down from the ship’s chain of command that two Japanese torpedo bombers had been splashed. Webber’s determinations had been accurate.

The experience and proficiency of Webber and his radar men had paid off, and the Hancock had survived the attack through effective countermeasures.

But the successful splashing left a significant question unanswered. Were the two hostile aircraft the suicidal kamikazis? It was a question that may have been answered had the pilot of one of the Japanese airplanes who survived the splash been successfully recovered, having floundered about in the water. Instead, he cut the tow rope as he was being brought aboard, possibly preferring an honorable drowning to an ignominious and dishonorable capture.

In the event, the Hancock’s crew and Webber’s performance and the circumstances under which the attack occurred were deemed so special that Webber received a letter of commendation from Admiral Halsey. He was also authorized the US Navy’s Commendation Ribbon, a symbol of recognition for what was considered a notable achievement.

The Hancock went on to serve off Iwo Jima and Okinawa returning to the United States on 10 May 1945 after arduous service and having gone on to splash two additional Japanese aircraft on 19 March 1945. It was preparing to return to action when the war ended, and it was temporarily decommissioned while Webber went on to pursue a civilian career. The Hancock was recommissioned for the Korean conflict and ended its service in the Brazilian Navy in the 1960s.

For radar officer Webber the performance award became a very special memory of his World War II service on board the USS Lewis Hancock. ★





2025 PHOENICIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS



WINNER MR. MADDEN J. H. McNATT

AUGUSTA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
YLC DIRECTOR: PCINCLTC GARY O. ENGEN, USA (RET)

2025 MOWW PHOENICIAN ESSAY QUESTION

"In light of the perceived divisiveness in the United States, give two ways we can become "a more perfect Union" as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution."

1ST RUNNER UP MR. ADRIAN JIHAN SO

SAN DIEGO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
YLC DIRECTOR: MR. CHARLES R. DARE

2ND RUNNER UP MR. GRADY L. WYSE

TEXAS A&M YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
YLC DIRECTOR: CPT MARK W. SMITS, USA (FMR)

ESSAYIST RECOGNITION

MOWW's Phoenician Awards provide national recognition to three Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) students who are judged as the "The Military Order of the World Wars Outstanding Student of the Year." Candidates are chosen from among students who were selected by their multi-day Youth Leadership Conference. The national recipients are determined by the outcome of the essay contest, including a review of comments by the Conference Director.

All award recipients receive their awards during local MOWW ceremonies attended by family, fellow students, friends and local media. In addition, MOWW features the winning essay in the Order's *MOWW Review* magazine, and in its annual MOWW Convention Book.

ESSAYIST AWARDS

MOWW presents the Phoenician Award Winner, and First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up award recipients, with scholarships of \$4,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively, for the best essay on a specific national issue. Upon selection of the award recipients, they receive several awards:

- The winner receives a \$4,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The First Runner Up receives a \$2,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The Second Runner Up receives a \$1,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.



Knowledge, Service, and the Renewal of the Republic

BY MR. MADDEN McNATT

2025 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD WINNER

AUGUSTA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | YLC DIRECTOR: PCINC LTC GARY O. ENGEN, USA (RET)

“The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension...is itself a frightful despotism,” George Washington warned in his Farewell Address. America’s first president understood that when partisanship becomes identity, liberty begins to erode. The Founders had seen how faction once threatened independence and how private loyalties nearly destroyed the unity of the Revolution. Today, though our Republic faces no external conqueror, it risks a quieter downfall—the corrosion of civic unity in an age of comfort. The remedy for creating a more perfect union lies in reviving the twin disciplines of civic knowledge and service that transform private individuals into public citizens.

Our current problems remind one of the decline of the late Roman Republic, when prosperity dulled virtue and politics descended into rivalry and spectacle. Without an external threat to unite them, Romans turned inward, and the *res publica*—“the public thing”—lost moral, institutional, and cultural coherence. The same pattern shadows our own era. We enjoy material prosperity, but we are dividing ourselves more and more into factions. We also seem to mistake comfort for cohesion. Our civic life, once driven by a sense of duty and shared purpose, increasingly rewards outrage and self-isolation. To preserve freedom within this Republic, we must renew our purpose and recover the habits that bind liberty to responsibility, rather than waiting for a crisis to compel them.

First, the most enduring foundation of renewal is civic education. A republic cannot endure when its citizens are ignorant of the principles that sustain it. As James Madison wrote, “A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.” Education in the Constitution, law, and moral

responsibility strengthens both reason and respect—the twin pillars of self-government. When citizens understand not only their rights but their duties, they develop the discipline to disagree without destroying trust. True civic literacy is not simply knowledge of institutions but an internalized respect for justice, restraint, and the dignity of others.

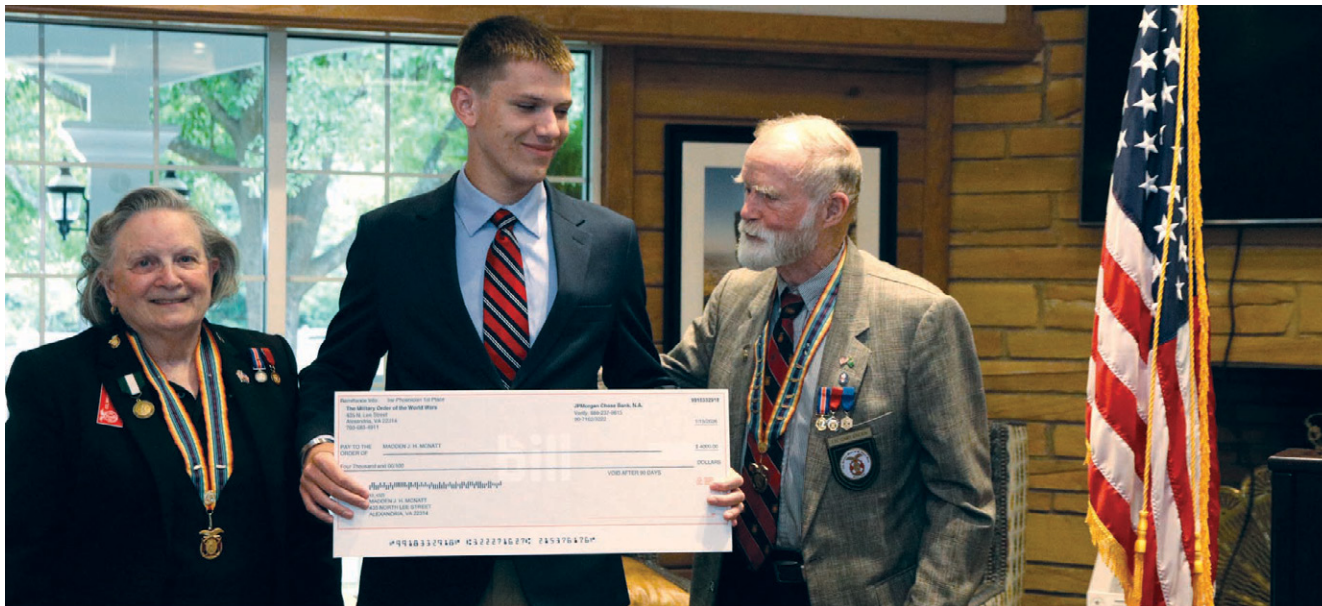
Second, when citizens serve together, they recover the unity that comfort and complacency have eroded. Whether through the military, public works, or community engagement, shared labour and common experience bridge the divides of class and creed. Service reforges people into teammates pursuing a common goal, and whether that goal is big or small, the journey teaches that unity, like citizenship, is less a possession than a practice; more a habit renewed through service. Service reminds us that freedom is preserved not by words but by deeds, and that comfort without contribution corrodes the soul of a nation. In every era of collective effort—from the Revolution to the Second World War—Americans have rediscovered that unity forged in shared purpose is not liberty’s rival but its guardian.

Our task, then, is not to wait for a catastrophe to drive us together, but to renew conviction now. Through civic learning and shared service, we can transform the impacts of a complacent peace into a durable unity that sustains this nation not by fear or force, but by the steady virtue of an enlightened and serving people. The future of unity within this Republic must rest not on wealth or power, but on the wisdom and will of its citizens to live as free men and women who know why they are free and, importantly, how to maintain that freedom. ★





2025 PHOENICIAN AWARD PRESENTATION



On 19 April, the Augusta Chapter, GA, celebrated Madden McNatt as the winner of the Phoenician Contest with awards—and a cake to sweeten the victory!

(L-R) Augusta Chapter CDR COL Maryetta Beck, USA (Ret); Mr. Madden McNatt, and PCINCLTC Gary Engen, USA (Ret).



BIOGRAPHY My name is Madden McNatt. I am a homeschool senior who also attends JROTC at Grovetown High School. I am a passionate and committed student seeking opportunities to help teammates reach their full potential. I am focused on developing my ability to lead small teams to relevant outcomes, gaining entrance to either West Point or a senior military college, and commissioning as an officer in the United States Army.

As a member of JROTC, I have held numerous positions, including my current role as Deputy Commanding Officer. Along with JROTC, I have been an active member of Scouting America since 2012, earning the Arrow of Light Award (Cub Scouts) and the rank of Eagle Scout. I continue to serve as an active Brotherhood member in Scouting's national honor society, the Order of the Arrow.

Building on my Scouting experience, I discovered a passion for competitive swimming after completing the BSA Mile Swim in 2018 at age 10. This milestone underscored the value of hard work and grit, prompting me to pursue both club and high school swimming opportunities. ★



Proposed Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

COL KENNETH O. McCREEDY, USA (RET)
CHAIR, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

In keeping with the MOWW Constitution (Article VIII, Section 3) and MOWW Bylaws (Article 8, Section 3), the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendments for consideration by all Companions of the Order. The Committee recommends their adoption and expressly presents them for consideration by, and the vote of, the Delegates to the MOWW Convention to be held in San Antonio, TX, in August 2026.

Due to the length of the Proposed Amendments submitted this year only a list of the proposed amendments is published here. The full text of all amendments submitted to the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee is available online at the following website link:

<https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CBL-Committee-Recommendations-Combined-7-April-2026.pdf>

The full text of all amendments will also be published in the 2026 MOWW Almanac.

PROPOSED MOWW BYLAWS AMENDMENTS.

1. Proposed Amendment to the MOWW Constitution, Article III, Section 2 and Section 3.

This amendment replaces the term “in convention” with “National Convention,” ensuring that the meaning is clear and consistent throughout the document.

2. Proposed Amendment to the MOWW Constitution, Article II, Section 1. Membership.

This amendment revises the current Membership description section of the Constitution to alleviate confusion, correct contradictions and eliminate conflicts with IRS code.

3. Recommended Amendment to MOWW Bylaws Article 1 Finances.

This amendment aligns language in the MOWW Bylaws with the proposed amendment to the MOWW Constitution Article II Section 1. Membership.

4. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Constitution and Bylaws—Eliminate Article IV to the Constitution Revises Bylaws Article 7 and adds Article 8 (new) to the Bylaws.

This amendment aligns language in the MOWW Bylaws with the proposed amendment to the MOWW Constitution Article II Section 1. Membership.

5. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Constitution Article V, Section 2 and MOWW Bylaws Article 7, Section 1

This amendment relocates specific provisions from the Constitution to the Bylaws, where they more appropriately align with the subject of selecting National Officers.

6. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Bylaws to add: Article 9, Electronic and Hybrid Meetings.

This new Bylaws article formally authorizes the use of electronic and hybrid formats for all MOWW official meetings.

AMENDMENTS CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED

7. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Bylaws, Article 6 (Committees and Councils), Section 1.

This amendment realigns the Order’s current Patriotic Education, Scouting, and ROTC/JROTC Programs under one umbrella; the MOWW Youth Character Development (YCD) Program.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has provided a detailed rationale for not recommending this amendment. Please visit the moww.org website to view and download the full text of all proposed amendments submitted to the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee. ★





MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

AUGUST 11-16, 2026 | THE WESTIN RIVERWALK | SAN ANTONIO, TX

Fiesta San Antonio – Promoting Our Community Outreach Mission



LEADERSHIP.
SERVICE.
FELLOWSHIP.
ALL COME
TOGETHER HERE.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER & SPECIAL GUEST

Ryan Holiday

*#1 New York Times Bestselling Author
& Founder of The Daily Stoic*

AUGUST 13, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NAVARRO BALLROOM | WESTIN RIVERWALK

Join us for a week of fellowship, professional development, and leadership engagement as we conduct the important business of our Order.



FEATURED TOURS

TOUR 1: FREDRICKSBURG

Explore historic downtown Fredericksburg in the heart of Texas Wine Country. Visit the National Museum of the Pacific War, LBJ State Park, and enjoy shopping, wineries, distilleries, and farm-to-table dining.



TOUR 2: TOUR OF SAN ANTONIO

Discover the rich culture and history of downtown San Antonio —from The Pearl and Market Square to the Texas Ranger Museum, Japanese Tea Garden, and the iconic Alamo, on a guided Old Town Trolley.



DINNER & RIVERWALK CRUISE

Friday evening offers a memorable River Walk experience, featuring dinner at Boudro's Texas Bistro followed by a scenic Go Rio boat cruise through downtown San Antonio.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PANEL

MOWW's veteran-led panel will share best practices and insights from our youth leadership conferences and seminars, highlighting the program's impact on developing the next generation of leaders.

AUGUST 13, 2026 | 1:00 PM | NAVARRO BALLROOM | WESTIN RIVERWALK



MOWW.ORG/CONVENTION





2026 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION

“FIESTA SAN ANTONIO - PROMOTING OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH MISSION”



Tuesday, 11 August 2026 Dress: Casual				
TIME	EVENT	SET-UP	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
0800-1600	GOLF OUTING & LUNCH	<i>Fort Sam Houston Golf Club</i>		<i>ALL Golfers</i>
Wednesday, 12 August 2026 Dress: Casual				
0800-1000	Pre-Convention EXCOM Meeting	(Conference, 15)	Villa	EXCOM Members
0800-1530	TOUR 1: Hill Country Tour – Fredericksburg, TX			ALL AVAILABLE
1200-1330	LUNCH AS DESIRED			
1600-1730	Hann-Buswell Chapter Meeting	(Classroom, 60)	Navarro B	H-B Chap Members
1800-2100	CINC Welcome Buffet	(Banquet, 175)	Navarro A	All Attendees
Thursday, 13 August 2026 Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress)				
0700-0830	Breakfast Buffet	Rounds, 125	Olivares	All Attendees
0800-0845	CINC Opening Remarks	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
0900-0945	“Why are we Here” – MOWW Programs Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
0900-1530	Tour 2: Downtown San Antonio			ALL AVAILABLE
1000-1130	Keynote Speaker: Ryan Holiday	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1130-1300	Council of Past CINC’s Luncheon	(Conference, 15)	TBD	CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED			
1300-1415	YLC, YLS Panel Discussion	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1430-1545	ROTC/JROTC, Scouting Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1600-1730	Recruiting & Retention Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1800-2100	Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner	(Banquet, 60)	Olivares	H-B Chap Members
	DINNER AS DESIRED			
Friday, 14 August 2026 Business Casual				
0700-0830	Breakfast Buffet	Rounds, 125	Olivares	All Attendees
0800-0900	Nominating Committee Meeting	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	Committee Mbrs
0800-0900	Teller Meeting	(Box Square, 10)	TBD	Tellers
0915-1000	NYCS Program Update	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Available
1015-1100	National Security Program Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Available
1130-1330	MOWW Awards Luncheon	(Banquet, 175)	Navarro A	All Attendees
1400-1630	Convention Business Session I	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Available
1645-1730	Veteran Affairs Program Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	All Available
1800-2100	TOUR 3: Dinner Followed by Riverboat Cruise			ALL AVAILABLE
	DINNER AS DESIRED			
Saturday, 15 August 2026 Business Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress/Tuxedo)				
0700-0830	Breakfast Buffet	Rounds, 125	Olivares	All Attendees
0800-0900	MOWW Memorial Service	(Banquet, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
0930-1130	Convention Business Session II	(Banquet, 140)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED			
1200-1300	YEF Board Meeting	(U-shape, 10)	Latania	Board Members
1300-1430	Council of Area Commanders (CAC)	(Classroom, 60)	Navarro B	CAC Members
1445-1530	PS/L&O Seminar	(Classroom, 140)	Navarro B	
1545-1630	Non-Denominational Worship Service	(Classroom, 50)	Navarro B	All Attendees
1730-1800	National Officer Photos		Pre-Function	CPC/CINC/VCINC/CS
1800-1850	CINC Reception	(Reception, 175)	Pre-Function	All Attendees
1900-2100	CINC Banquet	(Banquet, 175)	Navarro A	All Attendees
Sunday, 16 August 2026 Dress Casual				
0800-1000	Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	(Conference 15)	Villa	EXCOM Members
0800-1000	EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast	(Oval 15)	Zapata	Spouses/Partners



MOWW Digital Museum

CPT MARK WILLIAM SMITS, USA (FMR)
DALLAS CHAPTER, TX

Upon receiving an invitation from MOWW's National Headquarters to participate in the America 250 Project, the Dallas Chapter promptly identified a sustainable initiative. In alignment with our ongoing efforts to enhance the Dallas Chapter website, we chose to use this digital platform in a novel way. This initiative was designed to achieve meaningful impact within a reasonable timeframe and with allocated resources.

The chapter benefited substantially from Mr. Ryan N. Sisak's involvement, a new companion who volunteered his expertise. Mr. Sisak, founder and historian of For Gallantry and Service—a digital veterans museum—collaborated closely with the Dallas Chapter to create tailored content for the MOWW.

To date, our partnership has yielded impressive results. In addition to original material detailing the origins of the US Army and Navy, Mr. Sisak has contributed engaging pieces on the Navy SEALs and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Furthermore, he has dedicated attention to chronicling the personal histories of Dallas Chapter Past Commanders and flag officers. All developed content is available at DallasMOWW.org.



Ryan Sisak is a museum leader and an emergent military/aerospace historian. He currently serves as Medal of Honor & Veterans Liaison for the Irving Archives & Museum in Irving, TX. He was inducted as a member of the Dallas Chapter, September 2025..

Past Commander CPT Allen B. Clark, USA (Ret), who is also featured in the virtual museum, shared the following remarks: "I have received numerous compliments and feedback on the professionalism of the interview and quality of the virtual museum."

Our collaborative efforts are ongoing. Mr. Sisak will continue to enrich our website with distinctive historical content, particularly focusing on Medal of Honor recipients—an area where he possesses both interest and experience, so much so that his digital museum has been named an official Summit Partner of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS). On 25-26 March 2026, in Washington, DC, he gave a presentation to the

CMOHS and other distinguished organizations, discussing his work directly supporting MOH recipients and their legacies. During his remarks, he also highlighted his partnership with the Dallas Chapter of the MOWW. Concurrently, he will further develop personal narratives highlighting notable members of our chapter.

The Dallas Chapter values its partnership with For Gallantry and Service and looks forward to a meaningful observance of America's 250th anniversary. ★

THE FOLLOWING LINK PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE MUSEUM:

<https://www.forgallantryservice.org/dallas-chapter-moww-gallantry-service-museum>

COS MOWW Highlights our Commitment to Scouting

LTC MICHAEL D. BERENDT, USA (RET)
 COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER, CO

[Adapted from a "Chapter In Action" submission]

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW was honored to welcome the Rocky Mountain Division Commander and our Chapter Scouting Coordinator, Col Kerm D. Neal, USAF (Ret), at our monthly Companions Luncheon on 21 March 2026.

Col Neal provided a report on the Chapter's preparation of MOWW Eagle Scout Awards to be presented at the upcoming Pathway to the Rockies Council Recognition Ceremony on 21 April 2026.

Additionally, he updated Companions on the changes to the Memorandum of Agreement between Scouting America and the Department of War.

Key updates include the following:

- Scouting America National Office is waiving registration fees for children of active-duty, Guard and Reserve families, effective 1 June 2026.



COL Steve Shambach, COS MOWW Commander, thanks Col Kerm Neal, Past COS Commander for his clear comprehensive overview of the new guidelines

- Scouting America is introducing a new "Military Service" merit badge.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee at the national level will be dissolved into the "People and Culture Committee," which will oversee all outreach-related matters
- The Citizenship in Society Merit Badge has been discontinued.

He emphasized that the relationship between Scouting America and the Department of War is important to both parties and the military families they serve. Tens of thousands of Scouts participate in scouting units that meet on or near military installations

throughout the world, and this partnership provides the opportunity to continue serving the military families who depend on Scouting America to mentor and nurture their children. We thank Col Neal for his continued leadership as our Chapter's MOWW Scouting Chair, as well as his leadership in the Pathways to the Rockies Scouting Council. ★



**Region V
America 250
Colonial Ball**

**20 FEBRUARY 2026
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA**



Region V Companions
hosted an **America 250 Colonial Ball**,
a celebration of American history
and fundraiser supporting the **MOWW**
Annual Youth Leadership Conference
in Washington, DC.

Page Opposite, Top-Bottom:

Top Row, (L-R): Gary Hassan, newest member of the Augusta Chapter, began the evening by playing the US and British National Anthems on the bagpipes. The evening not only celebrated America's 250th anniversary, but also marked the 700th Anniversary of the Order of St. George and over 200 years of strong American-British friendship.

Center: Dr. Dawn Langley-Brady, and a coach from the Atlanta Historic Dance Company.

Right: Tom Parker, Dr. Kim Farinella Parker, and 9-year-old Quinn Parker.

Center Row, (L-R): The Atlanta Historic Dance Company team, did a marvelous job demonstrating, teaching, and coaching colonial dance to guests and made the evening a truly authentic and spectacular celebration.

Bottom Row: (Left): HPM Robert Soderstrom, Region V Commander and President of the Royal Society of Saint George, Atlanta Branch, and America 250 Colonial Ball Coordinator.

Bottom Right (L to R): HPM Robert Soderstrom, Commander, Region V, IPCINC BG Victor Perez, U.S. Army (Ret), and CPT James Brady, U.S. Army (Fmr), display a rare 1863 Amoskeag .58 caliber Union Civil War musket, recovered from Gettysburg. Profits from the sale of the musket will support MOWW's National Youth Civic Summit.



Augusta and Atlanta guests mingle near the Silent Auction table.



LTC Louis P. Ariff, USA (Ret), Atlanta Chapter Commander, and Mrs. Linda Ebert Ariff, greeted each guest as they arrived and provided non-Companion guests with MOWW literature and application material resulting in four new members.



LT Rich Herdegen, USN (Fmr) and Mrs. Debra Lembo Herdegen, Augusta Chapter, attended in costume as General George Washington and Martha Washington.



CAPT Edward Gantt, USN (Ret), Chair of the National Youth Civic Summit (NYCS), spoke about the exciting opportunities available to top Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) participants selected to attend NYCS in Washington, DC.



Group shot of the more than sixty Colonial Ball guests in various costumes and formal wear from historic U.S. Colonial, to British, French, Scottish, and so many others. Attendees traveled to Atlanta from as far away as the United Kingdom, Russia, and Turkey for this incredible multi-national celebration.

A Nation in Trial: Seeking God First in a Time of Crisis

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

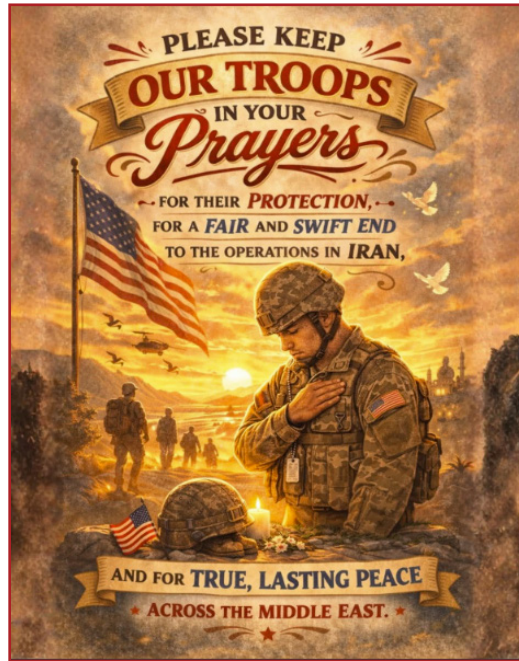
“GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.”

— PSALM 46:1

The sobering reality of Epic Fury has once again reminded our nation that freedom is never without cost. Several of our servicemembers have given the ultimate sacrifice, and the possibility of reprisals—both at home and abroad—has ushered us into a season of uncertainty. Such moments demand courage, clarity, and spiritual grounding. For Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars, they also call us to reflect on our heritage of service and on the God who has guided our nation through every trial.

In the May-June 2025 issue of this magazine, I authored the article, “Spiritual Support in Times of Crisis,” urging us to reach out to the Lord in moments of despair and uncertainty. Our faith in Him strengthens us to navigate life’s challenges and rise again. That message remains vital today—not only for our personal and family struggles, but for our chapters, our communities, and our nation.

Throughout the Old Testament, God assured His people that He was with them when they followed His leadership and trusted His promises. The Exodus story stands as a powerful reminder. As the Jews left Egypt, they did not rely on their own strength or strategy. They worshipped, sought God, and followed His guidance through the wilderness. Even when some complained or grew discontent, God responded as a loving Father—guiding, correcting, and sustaining them. Their deliverance was not merely political or military;



it was spiritual, rooted in obedience and faith.

Today, we pray that our nation’s spiritual leaders will echo that same call: to seek God first in all we do, especially in moments of national crisis. Our strength as a people has never rested solely in military might, but in our moral and spiritual foundation.

We each have a duty as prayer warriors—in our homes, our churches and synagogues, our small groups, and our chapter meetings. Companions, let us continue to petition God to watch over our nation,

protect our servicemembers, and grant wisdom to our leaders. As we face political tensions at home, potential conflict at our embassies and duty stations abroad, and the ongoing spiritual battles that never cease, may we stand firm, united in faith and purpose.

“IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE... THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN.”

— 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

As Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars, we remain committed to the values that define us: patriotism, leadership, faith, and service to our nation under God. May we continue to uphold these principles as we pray for our country and support those who defend it.

“THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU, AND GIVE YOU PEACE.”

—NUMBERS 6:24-26 ★



Region VI

Region VI Spring Conference

BY COL ADOLFO MENENDEZ, USAF (RET)

MOWW Leadership and Companions from throughout the MOWW community gathered in Sun City, FL, on 20 February 2026 for the Region VI Conference. Region VI consists of chapters from Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. MOWW CINC Lt Col David Worley, SVCINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, and VCINC Col Adalberto Rivera were in attendance. State of the Region was discussed: financial health, patriotic education, America 250, MOWW National Convention, National Youth Civics Summit, Youth Leadership Conferences and Seminars, Policy Manual changes, recruiting, awards, and chapter updates. In addition to the above, the conference included presentations by members of National Staff: Chief of Staff COL Mike Farrell, Membership Manager Justin Hiller, and Chaplain General LTC Victor Burnette. All for the good of the Order.



One of the most notable moments of the 2026 Region VI Conference was the presentation of the MOWW Merit Plaque for Distinguished Service to Lt Col Charlie Conover, USA (Ret.).

This prestigious award was given in recognition of Lt Col Conover's exemplary leadership and lasting contributions to the Order.



Standing, from (L-R): North Central FL Chapter Commander, COL Robert Schlegel, USA (Ret); Companion LTC Robert Russell, USA (Ret); MOWW Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, COL James Fletcher, USA (Ret); Region VI Commander Col Adolfo Menéndez, USAF (Ret); Companion Capt Vern Elarth, USAF (Fmr); Companion BG Hector López, USA (Ret); MOWW Vice CINC, Col Adalberto Rivera, USAF (Ret); Companion LTC Charlie Conover, USA (Ret); Sun City Center Commander, COL Dale Vona, USA (Ret); Region VI Vice Commander, LTC Steve Hodges, USA (Ret); Sun City Center Chapter Sr. Vice Commander MAJ Robert Smith, USA (Ret); Region VI Treasurer, Vicki McCuiston; Region VI Dept. Commander CWO4 David McCuiston, USN (Ret), and MOWW Chaplain General, LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret).
Seated, (L-R): Puerto Rico Chapter Jr. Vice Commander Maj Isabel Vázquez, USAF (Ret); MOWW CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), and MOWW SVCINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret).

Dallas Chapter, TX

Navy Cross Hero Speaks at National Vietnam Veterans Day

BY MICHELLE METZGER
MICHELLE@BRIGHTERCOMMS.COM

Dallas Chapter Companion VADM David B. Robinson, USN (Ret) (USNA 1963), is greeted and congratulated by Dallas Chapter Companion CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret) (USMA 1963), for his outstanding and well-received speech at the National Vietnam Veterans Day program held in Allen, TX, on 29 March 2026. Admiral Robinson recounted the occasion on 11 Aug 1970, when he commanded the patrol gunboat USS Canon, which was ambushed by an estimated 40-man enemy force in the Mekong Delta Region of South Vietnam. LCDR Robinson sustained numerous shrapnel wounds, a broken leg, and loss of blood, but requested to be strapped to a stretcher to continue directing defensive fire until the ambush was suppressed. For his heroic action during this combat action, Commander Robinson was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's second highest military award for extraordinary heroism.



(L-R): VADM David B. Robinson, USN (Ret), CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)



Sun City Center Chapter, FL

Youth Leadership Seminar Draws 90 Students in Sun City

BY COL LONNIE D. VONA, USA (RET)

On 21 February 2026, ninety high school students from 16 high schools gathered in Sun City for the annual MOWW SCCC 226 Youth Leadership Seminar. I know! Ninety high schoolers meet at 0800 on a Saturday! Four dynamic speakers and facilitators guided them through leadership principles, preparing them to take on greater roles next year—most of whom will be seniors. Topics included Symbols of Freedom; Tap, Tap Are You Ready; Why Character Matters, and Ten Commandments of Leadership. In attendance and participating in the training were National MOWW Leaders CINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), SVCINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), VCINC Col Adalberto Rivera, USAF (Ret), and Region Commander Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret). Thanks to Mission BBQ for providing lunch and to the SCC Methodist Church for use of their facility.





Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

Puerto Rico Oratory Victory

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

On 25 March 2026, the Chapter collaborated with the American Legion Department of Puerto Rico to serve as judges at the TESIS High School Oratory Contest in Dorado. Student Jorge Torres was selected as the winner and will advance to the national competition, representing Puerto Rico for the first time in five years. We congratulate Jorge on this outstanding achievement. This event strengthened ties with one of the Chapter's key strategic partners on the island.

The following Chapter Companions served as judges: IPCINC BG Victor Perez, USA (Ret); CSM Segundo J. Ferro, USAR; CPT Carmen I. Rosario-Diaz, USA (Ret), and SSG Elizabeth Martinez-Gonzalez, USA (Ret).



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

Honoring Young Patriots: Puget Sound BPH Medal Ceremony

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

The Puget Sound Chapter was proud to award 37 MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry (BPH) Medals to young people in our region, 14 of which attended on 8 March, 2026 at Steilacoom, WA Town Hall. One hundred people attended the BPH meeting in a rousing gathering of Companions, guests, and students, all in support of our patriotic education outreach.



Northwest Florida Chapter FL

Supporting Deployed Troops

BY CDR RALPH D. LEWIS, USCG (RET)

The Military Welcome Center at the Panama City, FL, airport requested "care package" materials and letters to "any soldier" to send to Army National Guard troops from the Florida panhandle who recently departed on a 10-month deployment. The NW Florida Chapter stepped up to donate snack supplies. Our newest Companion, CMSgt Dillon L. Johnson, USAF (Ret), is a JROTC instructor at a local high school. He gave his cadets the opportunity to write letters to the deployed troops. Not shown in the photo is a folder containing dozens of letters from the JROTC cadets.

It is nobler to serve than to be served!

West Valley Chapter AZ

Honoring the Fallen

BY MAJ CHRIS W. SCHMIDT, USA (FMR)

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was displayed at Mark Coronado Park in Surprise, AZ, from April 9-12. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the US Armed Forces in the Vietnam War, and like the original in Washington, DC, it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The West Valley Chapter placed a wreath at the wall, and Companions briefly shared memories of fallen comrades.

CPT Linda Howry, USA (Fmr), a past Chapter Commander and designer of the wreath.



MG Critz Chapter, OK

Director Longford Addresses Chapter

BY LTC REGINALD BROWN, USA (RET)

On 19 March, Clint A. Longford, Comanche County-Lawton Emergency Management Director, provided an overview of emergency management coordination and operations to ensure the integration of all activities necessary to mitigate against and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. Director Longford also introduced the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) survey, gathering input from the entire community. He affirmed that county agencies are collaborating together, county-to-county coordination is being reinforced, and the future generation of leaders is indeed an asset for our community.



Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

Honoring the Grayson Legacy: America 250 Ceremony

BY COL VINCENTE C. OGILVIE, USA (RET)

At an America 250 ceremony honoring Colonel William Grayson and Reverend Spence Grayson, NOVA Companion and Chapter Adjutant presented a copy of the MOWW Review featuring Mr. Andrew Mills and Maj Ross Schwalm, USMC (Ret). Colonel William Grayson was a Revolutionary War officer, aide to General Washington, and one of Virginia's first US Senators; Reverend Spence Grayson served as a patriot chaplain during the Revolution.

(L-R): HPM Mrs. Roberta Yourtee; Maj Ross Schwalm, USMC (Ret), and Mr. Andrew Mills, President of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.





ONE VETERAN-ONE RECORD

Great news, veterans! The Department of Veterans Affairs is transitioning to a single, modern electronic health record (EHR) that connects VA and Department of War (DOW) medical records in one system, giving veterans and their care teams seamless access to the same health information from the day they enlist through the rest of their lives. The implementation of VA's Federal EHR will address many challenges by providing an integrated, unified view of Veteran care across several agencies.

On 11 April 2026, VA medical facilities in Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, and Saginaw, Michigan, officially went live with the new Federal EHR. This is a major step toward delivering more consistent, reliable, and coordinated care for veterans. These Michigan facilities are four of the 13 VA medical centers moving to the new system in 2026, and their work is helping set the pace for the nationwide rollout scheduled through 2031.

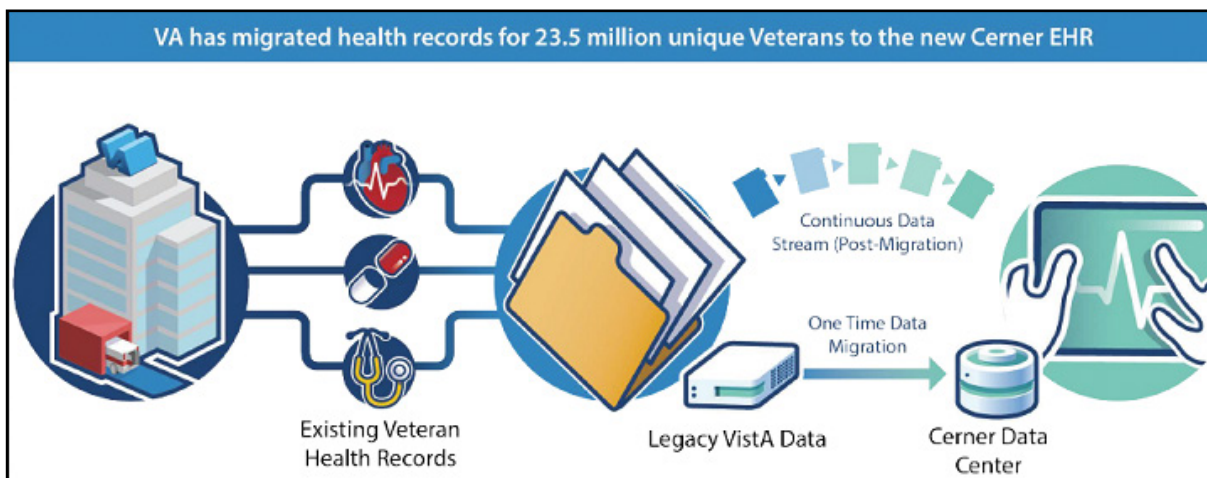
The Federal EHR brings together a veteran's complete health history in one secure record, giving clinicians clearer insight into past treatments, medications, and diagnoses. This improved visibility supports better decision-making, reduces administrative burden, and allows providers to spend more time on direct patient care.

Veterans will also experience smoother transitions between VA, DOW, and community care providers, with fewer repeated tests and more efficient coordination across specialties.

Veteran benefits include:

- Easier transition from military to VA care: veterans do not have to manage the transfer of their own records when they separate from the military because they're already in the system.
- More time talking with providers about current concerns: veterans spend more time talking with providers about current concerns and available treatments and less time repeating their health histories.
- Less time undergoing repeat tests, imaging, and exams: veterans spend less time repeating procedures because their information, such as results and reports from DOW and community providers, is already in the system.
- Improved prevention and innovative treatment options: As the Federal EHR is deployed to more facilities, VA can analyze veteran and service member data more easily. This means deeper insights into veteran health issues, informing innovative treatments.
- Consistent experience from one VA to another: If a veteran is referred to another VA facility, it will operate the same as the referring facility, and staff there can quickly access all the veteran's records, referrals, and orders. Additionally, veterans will use one patient portal no matter which VA they go to.
- The same high-quality care at every VA: A single Federal EHR will better support nationally standardized health care delivery, allowing innovations and best practices to be identified, spread, and adopted more effectively.

For more information about the Federal EHR and when it will go live in your community, visit <https://digital.va.gov/ehr-modernization>





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

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

NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

DATA FROM FEB-MAR 2026

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MRS. CATHERINE F. JINKS*

Ms. Linda Ariff

SN ANTHONY D. SEVER, USN (FMR)**

Ms. Linda Ariff

AUGUSTA CHAPTER GA

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

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

SPC SARA HILLYARD, USA (FMR)**

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

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LTC David R. Titus, USA (Ret)

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COL ROOSEVELT CHAPTER NY

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BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)

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LTJG ROLAND G. BLAKE, USCG (RET)**

LtCol John R. Marcucci, USMC (Ret)

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COL JAMES P. HOGAN, USA (RET)**

CW3 Ramon E. Ramos, USA (Fmr)

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CW3 Ramon E. Ramos, USA (Fmr)

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COL Robert L. Reese, USA (Ret)

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RDML Stephanie T. Keck, USN (Ret)

MSGT JENNIFER QUIRAM, USAF (RET)**

LTC James Quiram, MNANG (Ret)

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER KY

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LTG WRIGHT CHAPTER CA

TSGT RUBEN E. MARTINEZ, USAF (RET)*

CAPT Quinn L. Hawley, USN (Ret)

MG (BVT) CHAMBERLAIN CHAPTER ME

MR. BRADY BRIM-DEFOREST*

CPT Alan D. Johnston, USA (Fmr)

MG MILES CHAPTER NM

PO3 STEVEN A. COLEMAN, USN (FMR)**

LTC Gregg C. Giesler, USA (Ret)

NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER FL

PO3 JOHN A. LEYNES, USNR (FMR)**

CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)

Welcome to the Order

PUERTO RICO CHAPTER

On 28 February 2026, we welcomed three new Companions into the Puerto Rico Chapter.

New Companions and Their Sponsors:

(L-R): SGT Evelyn Diaz Suarez, USA (Ret), Regular Member, sponsored by IPCINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret); LTC Jose O. Olmos, USA (Ret), Regular Member, sponsored by IPCINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret); MAJ Segundo Melendez, USA (Ret); and SGT Jaime I. Figueroa, USA (Ret), Regular Member, sponsored by MAJ Segundo Melendez, USA (Ret).





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

*Denotes PM/HPM **Denotes RM/HRM

NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER VA

SRA SHERRY G. EDWARDS, USAF (FMR)**

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)

CAPT JAY G. KING, USMC (FMR)**

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PA

MSG ROBERT M. CUFF, USA (RET)*

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

CSM JAMISON L. JOHNSON, USA*

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

COL JOEL L. MARTIN, USA (RET)**

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

SCPO KHALIF SCHEXNAYDER, USN (RET)**

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

MSGT CHRISTOPHER J. SIDOLI, USAF (RET)*

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

MAJ MICHAEL F. SMEDLEY, USA (RET)*

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)

PINSON MEMORIAL CHAPTER TX

CPT KENNETH R. ANDERSON, USA (FMR)*

LtCol Michael J. Curtin, USMC (Ret)

PUERTO RICO CHAPTER PR

MAJ RICARDO L. ESPINEL ORTIZ, USA (RET)**

MAJ Felix A. Reyes Velez, USA (Ret)

SGM LUIS A. RIVERA COSME, USA**

MAJ Segundo Melendez, USA (Ret)

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER WA

CW4 DAN A. GREEN, USA (RET)**

Col David B. Gibson, USAF (Ret)

CPL JEREMIAH E. HANSEN, USMC**

CAPT Caroline M. Nielson, USN (Ret)

CSM ANTHONY D. MARTINEZ, USA (RET)**

CDR Alan M. Mandigo, USN (Ret)

CAPT STEVEN VULETA, USMC**

Col David B. Gibson, USAF (Ret)

MS. SYLVIA WILES**

Maj Dorothea J. Hoagland, USAFR (Ret)

CPT BOB H. WILLIAMS, USA (FMR)**

Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER CA

MSGT REBECCA D. PASH, USAF (RET)**

LTC Christian D. Taddeo, USA (Ret)

SARATOGA CADRE NY

SFC RICHARD H. FULLAM, USAR**

Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC

CAPT MARK W. PEDERSEN, USN (RET)**

LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)

LCDR NICHOLAS J. VALHOS, USN (RET)**

CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)

SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER FL

CAPT ROBERT J. MCHENRY, USMC**

COL James M. Fletcher, USA (Ret)

MRS. MARILYN S. WESTROPP**

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)

WEST VALLEY CHAPTER AZ

MRS. SHARON HARRIS**

CPT Linda R. Howry, USA (Fmr)

WORCESTER CHAPTER MA

LTC MARK P. MURRAY, MAARNG**

COL Charles A. Abdella, USA (Ret)

Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

*Denotes PM/HPM **Denotes RM/HRM

NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

DATA FROM FEB-MAR 2026

BRIG GEN SCOTT CHAPTER GA

CAPT RICHARD C. MANWARING, USAF (FMR)**

COL WOODS-OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER OK

BG NORMAN E. DUCKWORTH, USA (RET)*

COLUMBIA CHAPTER SC

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FORT WALTON BEACH CHAPTER FL

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COL ROSS MOEN, USA (RET)*

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MS. GLORIA V. GUTHALS*

MG WHEELER CHAPTER AL

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"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

MOWW REVIEW

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A Nationwide Call to Toll the Bells

RINGING ON JULY 4, 2026 AT 12 NOON LOCAL TIME

In honor of America's 250th Anniversary, MOWW National and the MOWW San Diego Chapter have created **Freedom Bells** – a free bell tolling web app designed to unite Americans in a synchronized moment of reflection and celebration.

On July 4, 2026, FreedomBells.org will count down to 12 noon local time, allowing Chapters, individuals, families, schools, and communities to toll bells together in a shared national moment proclaiming liberty. Whether gathered in a public ceremony, participating from home, or far from home, Freedom Bells makes it possible for everyone to take part in this historic moment.

MOWW's free web app designed to celebrate America 250!

- Synchronized countdown to 12 noon local time
- Digital bell tolling from any device with multiple bell sounds
- Digital 250th Anniversary copy of the Declaration of Independence
- Opening and closing ceremony
- Timer for moments of reflection
- Patriotic music and readings
- History of July 4, 1776
- Registration for individuals and groups
- Printable participation certificates



Register or Learn More
FreedomBells.org

