

# MOV REVI



94TH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

LT COL MARLON RUIZ

United States Air Force (Retired)



## OY2026 Priorities

As we continue our year-long celebration of enduring liberty and freedom, we also prepare to usher in a new operating year (OY) 2026. This is an opportune time to reflect on our very successful OY2025 operational achievements, which continue to define our Order by service, sacrifice, and purpose.

The Order's priorities established during OY2021 to OY2025 have advanced the modernization, financial stability, engagement programs, membership growth, and strategic planning efforts necessary to position our Order for long-term success.

In OY2026, our first priority will be to build upon that foundation. Our second priority will be to further define impactful outreach programs coupled with companion personal growth and enrichment. Our third priority is to:

- Strengthen unity across all operations and teams
- Foster holistic, organization-wide growth
- Increase productivity in everything we do

At the same time, we will preserve our heritage and legacy mission—serving youth, communities, and the nation, while honoring our veterans. We are dedicated to identifying, inspiring, and mentoring the next generation of national leaders for years to come.

MOWW Companions stand as our greatest asset and are indispensable in overcoming the challenges of today and those on the horizon. Accordingly, this year's priorities are devoted to enriching the Companion experience through elevated training, robust education, and clear communication, while also fostering sustainable growth and harnessing technology to further our mission's impact and excellence.

MOWW Companions, along with patriot volunteers and partnered veteran service organization affiliates, are committed to continued service and purpose. This commitment builds a meaningful exchange between those who serve within our Order and the youth, communities, and nation who benefit from our efforts. Our mission motivator, shaped by almost 107 years of committed service to this great nation, combines serving others and paying forward the many blessings we have all experienced and lived through. By serving others and paying forward our blessings, we help ensure that future generations can pursue their own American hopes and dreams. This commitment embodies the enduring values of our nation and reminds us—whenever we hear the national anthem or recall phrases like “Freedom is not free” and “All gave some, while some gave all”—that we remain, truly, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

  
Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Retired)  
Commander in Chief and CEO, MOWW, Inc.

## MOWW OFFICERS

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

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

### Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

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

### Vice Commanders-in-Chief

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

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

CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)  
[davidmcc44@outlook.com](mailto:davidmcc44@outlook.com)

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)  
[vrogilvie@gmail.com](mailto:vrogilvie@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past CINC

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

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

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

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

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

### Judge Advocate General

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

### Surgeon General

MG George A. Alexander, MD, USA Ret  
[george@gaalexander.com](mailto:george@gaalexander.com)

### Chaplain General

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

### Historian General

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

## HQ MOWW

435 North Lee Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-683-4911

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



# MOWW REVIEW

MOWW.ORG



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## ON THE COVER

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret), was elected by the Order to be the 94th Commander-in-Chief.



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Lieutenant Colonel Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)  
was elected as the 94th Commander-in-Chief of MOWW



## Announcement for the 2026 MOWW Phoenixian Essay Contest

The MOWW Phoenixian Essay Contest is an annual patriotic-themed essay contest based on a thought-provoking subject of national interest and requiring a student to take a position and defend it. The contest is open to the top three students of each Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) held in the preceding 12-month period.

The contest details are available in the MOWW Policy Manual (Paragraphs 6.C.4.b and 7.D.5), and the MOWW forms (12-series) posted to [moww.org](http://moww.org).

**The top three essays will receive the following awards: First Place: \$4,000, Second Place: \$2,000 and Third Place: \$1,000. Each awardee receives a scholarship check and certificate.**

The awards are presented at a ceremony arranged by the MOWW chapter in each winner's local community, designed to maximize attendance by the student's family and community.

### 2026 MOWW PHOENICIAN ESSAY QUESTION “?”

**“Should there be term limits for one or both chambers of Congress, and what should the maximum term limit for each chamber be?”**

MOWW Chapter leaders and YLC directors are requested to reach out to all eligible YLC attendees to inform and encourage them to participate in the MOWW 2026 Phoenixian Essay Contest.

FreedomBells.org

## Freedom Bells

### A Nationwide Celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup>

The MOWW Freedom Bells Web App united Americans across the country on July 4, 2026, in a nationwide ringing of bells to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Organizations, individuals, and communities joined together to honor our nation's past and celebrate 250 years of freedom.

### FREEDOM BELLS BY THE NUMBERS

# 1,177

## REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

# ★ 50 ★

## STATES REPRESENTED

*plus Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and Guam*

## 211

### ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED

*Veterans' groups, schools, museums, libraries, municipalities & more.*

## 322

### VETERANS REGISTERED

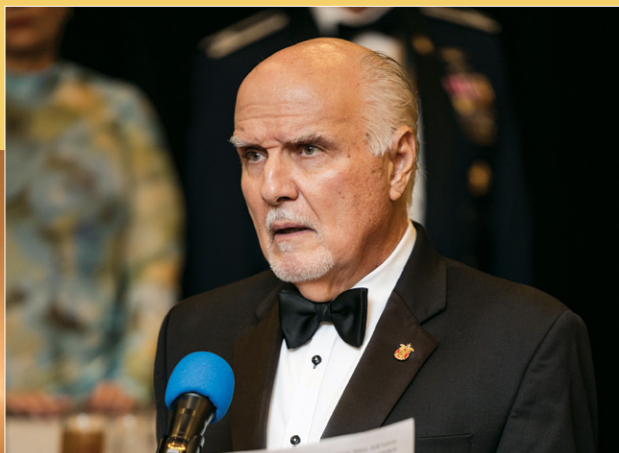
*27% of all registrants were veterans.*

## 12,266

### WEBSITE VISITORS

*People from across the world engaged with the Freedom Bells Web App.*





### LEADERSHIP

Lieutenant Colonel Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret) was elected as the 94th Commander-in-Chief of MOWW.

### THE LEGACY CONTINUES...

Carroll Grevemberg, the grandson of Captain Francis B. Grevemberg, Jr., the author of the MOWW Preamble, continued a 106-year-old legacy by reading the Preamble to the Constitution of the Military Order of the World Wars.

### RYAN HOLIDAY INSPIRES CONVENTION ATTENDEES

Bestselling author and renowned Stoic philosopher Ryan Holiday delivered an insightful and memorable keynote address at the 2026 MOWW National Convention in San Antonio. Holiday brought the principles of ancient Stoic philosophy to life, offering practical lessons on resilience, leadership, self-discipline, and turning obstacles into opportunities. His thought-provoking presentation made a lasting impression on those in attendance and will undoubtedly be a topic of conversation among Companions for a long time to come.

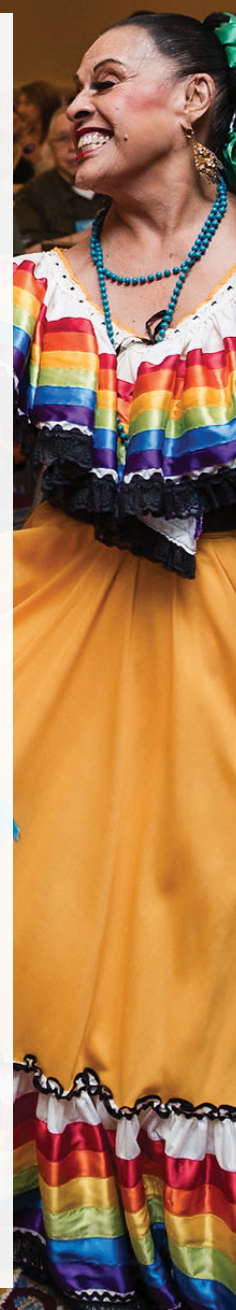
### A POWERFUL STORY OF COURAGE AND RESILIENCE

MOWW was honored to welcome Dr. Joseph E. Milligan, Colonel, USAF (Ret), as the special guest speaker at the Annual Awards Luncheon. A Vietnam War veteran and former prisoner of war, Dr. Milligan spoke vividly about his nearly six years of captivity in North Vietnam, including his imprisonment in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." His deeply personal account of perseverance, courage, and resilience in the face of extraordinary hardship was both sobering and inspiring. His powerful message left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance.

### A TRULY MEMORABLE MOMENT

Corporal Don Graves, a 101-year-old U.S. Marine Corps World War II veteran and survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima, stirred the audience with his rendition of the National Anthem. Later in the evening, Lt Col Worley had the distinct honor of welcoming Corporal Graves into our ranks as a Companion of the Military Order of the World Wars—a fitting tribute to a remarkable American whose courage, patriotism, and lifetime of service embody the very ideals of our Order.

(L-R): HPM Carroll Grevemberg; Dr. Joseph E. Milligan, Colonel, USAF (Ret)





### HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO

Medal of Honor recipient Major General Patrick Henry Brady, USA (Ret), was presented the Military Order of the World Wars' highest honor, the MOWW Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his extraordinary service to our nation and lifetime of leadership and sacrifice. Following the presentation, General Brady delivered powerful and inspirational remarks, sharing lessons drawn from a remarkable life of courage, service, and devotion to country. His presence and message were a memorable highlight of the National Convention.

### CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS APPROVED

The delegates to the 2026 MOWW National Convention approved several amendments to the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws designed to clarify language, ensure consistency with IRS requirements, streamline the governing documents, and modernize MOWW operations.

Key changes include clarifying references to the National Convention; revising membership provisions to eliminate potential conflicts with IRS requirements; aligning related financial provisions in the Bylaws; reorganizing and relocating provisions to group similar subjects and place National Officer selection requirements in the appropriate Bylaws article; and adding a new article formally authorizing electronic and hybrid meetings for MOWW official business. The approved amendments have been incorporated into the updated MOWW Constitution and Bylaws and are available on the [moww.org](http://moww.org) website.

### MOWW POLICY MANUAL CHANGES

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the General Staff approved the following Policy Manual Changes. The Revised Policy Manual is available on the [moww.org](http://moww.org) website.

- Expanded the Patriot Program to include eligible members that have not yet committed to becoming a member.
- MOWW Branding is now required on all MOWW YLC and YLS events.
- Revised the Veterans' Affairs Committee roles and responsibilities.

(L-R): Corporal Don Graves, USMC; Major General Patrick Henry Brady, USA (Ret)



# National Officers

## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF & CEO, MOWW, INC.

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

## SENIOR VICE CMDR-IN-CHIEF

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

## VICE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF

- Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [mowwaugusta@aol.com](mailto:mowwaugusta@aol.com)
- COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [eaglejpk@aol.com](mailto:eaglejpk@aol.com)
- CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)  
EMAIL: [davidmcc44@outlook.com](mailto:davidmcc44@outlook.com)
- COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [vrogilvie@gmail.com](mailto:vrogilvie@gmail.com)

## IMMEDIATE PAST CINC

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

## CHIEF OF STAFF & COO, MOWW, INC.

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

## TREASURER GENERAL & CFO, MOWW, INC.

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

## JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

- JAG CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [harold@hglaw.pro](mailto:harold@hglaw.pro)
- AJAG Col David Bunn, USMC (Ret)  
EMAIL: [dbunn@live.com](mailto:dbunn@live.com)

## SURGEON GENERAL

- SG MG George A. Alexander, MD, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [george@gaalexander.com](mailto:george@gaalexander.com)

## CHAPLAIN GENERAL

- CG LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [vicburnette@aol.com](mailto:vicburnette@aol.com)
- ACG COL Albert E. Franke III, USAR (Ret)  
EMAIL: [almarwol@usa.net](mailto:almarwol@usa.net)

## HISTORIAN GENERAL

- HG HPM Mr. Charles W. Bennett, Jr.  
EMAIL: [lpdchief@aol.com](mailto:lpdchief@aol.com)
- AHG COL William A. Leneweaver, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [andyleneweaver@outlook.com](mailto:andyleneweaver@outlook.com)



## National Officers

(L-R): SENIOR VICE CMDR-IN-CHIEF COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret); VICE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF: Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr); COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret); CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret); Dr. James A. Brady III, USA (Fmr); COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret), followed by Treasurer General CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret); Surgeon General MG George A. Alexander, MD, USA (Ret); Chaplain General LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret); Historian General HPM Mr. Charles W. Bennett, Jr.; Assistant Chaplain General COL Albert E. Franke III, USAR (Ret), and Assistant Historian General COL William A. Leneweaver, USA (Ret).

# Boards, Committees, Working Groups & Councils

## BOARDS

### MOWW, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- CINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)  
EMAIL: [ruizmarlon08@gmail.com](mailto:ruizmarlon08@gmail.com)
- SVCINC COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [colpeck@yahoo.com](mailto:colpeck@yahoo.com)
- VCINC Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [mowwaugusta@aol.com](mailto:mowwaugusta@aol.com)
- VCINC COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [eaglejpk@aol.com](mailto:eaglejpk@aol.com)
- VCINC CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)  
EMAIL: [davidmcc44@outlook.com](mailto:davidmcc44@outlook.com)
- VCINC COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [vrogilvie@gmail.com](mailto:vrogilvie@gmail.com)
- IPCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)  
EMAIL: [worleymoww@mindspring.com](mailto:worleymoww@mindspring.com)
- CS Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)  
EMAIL: [chiefstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefstaff@moww.org)
- TG CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [treasurergeneral@moww.org](mailto:treasurergeneral@moww.org)
- JAG CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [harold@hglaw.pro](mailto:harold@hglaw.pro)
- PCINC LTC Ruth Hamilton, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [ruth12345@aol.com](mailto:ruth12345@aol.com)
- MAJ Michael E. Belcher, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [mikeandvickib@mac.com](mailto:mikeandvickib@mac.com)
- PCINC LTC John H. Hollywood, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [jhhollywood@verizon.net](mailto:jhhollywood@verizon.net)
- BG Hector Lopez, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [hektorlc@me.com](mailto:hektorlc@me.com)

### MOWW, INC., BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- CDR Robert F. Hartman III, USN (Ret)  
EMAIL: [rffh3rd@gmail.com](mailto:rffh3rd@gmail.com)
- BG Welton S. Chase Jr., USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [chasewm@msn.com](mailto:chasewm@msn.com)

## COMMITTEES

### CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

- COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [kmccreedy1954@gmail.com](mailto:kmccreedy1954@gmail.com)

### ETHICS

- COL Robert F. Schlegel, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [rfschlegel45@cox.net](mailto:rfschlegel45@cox.net)

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

- PCINC Capt Deborah A. Kash, USAF (Ret)  
EMAIL: [debbie.kash@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.kash@gmail.com)

### FINANCE COMMITTEE (CO-CHAIRS)

- CS Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)  
EMAIL: [chiefstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefstaff@moww.org)
- TG CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [treasurergeneral@moww.org](mailto:treasurergeneral@moww.org)

### INFORMATION & PUBLICITY

- CW3 Ramon E. Ramos, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [rerramos5420@icloud.com](mailto:rerramos5420@icloud.com)
- GySgt Franklin W. Alger, Jr., USMC (Ret)  
EMAIL: [frankwalger@aol.com](mailto:frankwalger@aol.com)

### LEGISLATIVE & RESOLUTIONS

- LTC King Moss II, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [kingmoss2@gmail.com](mailto:kingmoss2@gmail.com)

### MAGAZINE

- COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [vrogilvie@gmail.com](mailto:vrogilvie@gmail.com)

### MOWW-PERSHING RIFLES GROUP

- LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [pffarin50@hotmail.com](mailto:pffarin50@hotmail.com)
- COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [colpeck@yahoo.com](mailto:colpeck@yahoo.com)

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

- CS Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)  
EMAIL: [chiefstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefstaff@moww.org)

### NATIONAL SECURITY

- PFC Robert G. Epstein, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [macabee1948@gmail.com](mailto:macabee1948@gmail.com)

### NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT

- CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)  
EMAIL: [ed\\_gantt@hotmail.com](mailto:ed_gantt@hotmail.com)

### NOMINATING

- IPCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)  
EMAIL: [worleymoww@mindspring.com](mailto:worleymoww@mindspring.com)

### PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

- Lt Col David L. Dunlap, USAF (Ret)  
EMAIL: [dunlapdl@aol.com](mailto:dunlapdl@aol.com)

### PUBLIC SAFETY / LAW & ORDER

- CPT Paula R. Mitchell, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [paularmitchell1@earthlink.net](mailto:paularmitchell1@earthlink.net)

### RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

- CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret)  
EMAIL: [davidmcc44@outlook.com](mailto:davidmcc44@outlook.com)

### SCOUTING

- COL Robert F. Schlegel, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [rfschlegel45@cox.net](mailto:rfschlegel45@cox.net)

### STRATEGIC GROWTH

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

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

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

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

- COL James M. Fletcher, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [jamesmfletcher@aol.com](mailto:jamesmfletcher@aol.com)

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### MEMBERSHIP

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

### TECHNOLOGY

- BG Hector Lopez, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [hektorlc@me.com](mailto:hektorlc@me.com)

## WORKING GROUPS (WG)

### GAS PERSHING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

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

## ADVISORY COUNCILS (EXCOM SUPPORT)

### COUNCIL OF PAST CINCS

- PCINC LTC Ruth Hamilton, USA (Fmr)  
EMAIL: [ruth12345@aol.com](mailto:ruth12345@aol.com)

### COUNCIL OF AREA COMMANDERS

- MAJ Michael E. Belcher, USA (Ret)  
EMAIL: [mikeandvickib@mac.com](mailto:mikeandvickib@mac.com)





## General of the Armies John J. Pershing CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Chapter of the Year Awards are presented to those chapters who have actively fulfilled the ideals and principles of The Military Order of the World Wars as set forth in the Preamble. They are also awarded to chapters which are a positive patriotic force within their communities, and that have grown in stature by performing good deeds for "The Good of the Order." The First Place recipients are presented a check for \$500 to support chapter programs.

### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** West Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL

### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ

### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

## Gold Medal Patrick Henry Recipients

This esteemed national honor is conferred by the senior leadership of the MOWW upon select Companions in recognition of their exceptional patriotic achievement.

### PRESENTER: CINC LT COL DAVID J. WORLEY, USAF (RET)

**Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret)**  
Conejo Valley Chapter, CA

**LTC Susann Marian Kirlin, USA (Ret)**  
Philadelphia Chapter, PA

**COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)**  
Chicago Chapter, IL

### PRESENTER: IPCINC BG VICTOR S. PEREZ, USA (RET)

**LTC Ramon A. Negron, USA (Ret)**  
Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

### PRESENTER: SVINC LT COL MARLON RUIZ, USAF (RET)

**Ms. Kathleen A. Winchester**  
San Diego Chapter, CA

### PRESENTER: VCINC DR. JAMES A. BRADY III, CPT, USA (FMR)

**LTC Visvaldis Kimenis, USA (Ret)**  
Atlanta Area Chapter, GA

### PRESENTER: VCINC COL MICHAEL P. PECK, USA (RET)

**LTC Richard J. Crossley, Jr., USA (Ret)**  
Fort Worth Chapter, TX

### PRESENTER: VCINC COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

**1LT Thomas D. Hart, USA (Fmr)**  
Sun City Center Chapter, FL

### PRESENTER: VCINC COL JOSEPH P. KIRLIN III, USA (RET)

**Capt Michael P. Golden, USMC**  
Saratoga Chapter, NY

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award of the Military Order of the World Wars was established in 1963. This award is presented at the National Convention to recognize an American citizen who has made extraordinary contributions to the preservation of our constitutional liberties, and who selflessly promotes a strong national defense. It is the most prestigious award of the Order.

### RECIPIENT:

Major General Patrick Henry Brady, USA (Ret)  
(BG Bultman Chapter (At Large))



## NATIONAL COMMANDER AWARD

The Commander-in-Chief is authorized to present the National Commander Award to the individual who, in his or her opinion, has made an outstanding contribution to the Order and has done the most in assisting the Commander-in-Chief in fulfilling their responsibilities.

### RECIPIENT:

SVINC Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)  
(Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ)





## RECRUITING AWARDS

### Chapter Recruiting Excellence Award

The Recruiting Excellence Award is presented to the top three chapters who achieved the most significant net new member increases in living veteran and hereditary Perpetual and Regular member categories. The recipient is awarded a streamer, is listed on the MOWW Recruiting Honor Role on the MOWW website, and is presented a check to be applied to support chapter programs.

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** The recipient is presented a check for \$2,000 to be applied to support chapter programs.

**RECIPIENT:** Saratoga Chapter, NY

- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** The recipient is presented a check for \$1,200 to be applied to support chapter programs.

**RECIPIENT:** Augusta Chapter, GA

- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** The recipient is presented a check for \$750 to be applied to support chapter programs.

**RECIPIENT:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

### Chapter Recruiting Merit Awards

Certificates of Recruiting Merit honor two chapters with strong recruiting programs during the operating year.

- **WINNER:** Presented to the chapter that recruits the most new members.

**RECIPIENT:** Augusta Chapter, GA

- **WINNER:** Presented to the chapter with the greatest net chapter growth

**RECIPIENT:** Saratoga Chapter, NY

### Top Recruiter Award

The MOWW Top Recruiting Citation is presented to the single Companion who personally recruited the greatest number of new members of all membership categories.

**RECIPIENT: 38 NEW MEMBERS**

VCINC Dr. James A. Brady III, CPT, USA (Fmr)  
(Augusta Chapter, GA)

### Individual Recruiting Citations

Individual Recruiting Citations honor Companions who personally recruited at least 4 or more new members.

#### • CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING MERIT:

COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)  
(Philadelphia Chapter, PA)

COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)  
(Sun City Center Chapter, FL)

VCINC COL Michael P. Peck, USA (Ret)  
(Chicago Chapter, IL)

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)  
(Northern Virginia Chapter, VA)

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)  
(Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ)

CPT Paula R. Mitchell, Ed.D., USAR (Fmr)  
(Greater El Paso Chapter, TX)

MAJ Segundo Melendez, USA (Ret)  
(Puerto Rico Chapter, PR)

CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)  
(Dallas Chapter, TX)

LTC Carlton R. Witte, USA (Ret)  
(Delaware Chapter, DE)

LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)  
(COL Roosevelt Chapter, NY)

Brig Gen Daniel H. Pemberton, USAF (Ret)  
(Conejo Valley Chapter, CA)

CPT Mark W. Smits, USA (Fmr)  
(Dallas Chapter, TX)

PCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)  
(COL Woolsey Chapter, CA)

CPT Richard A. Briggs, Jr., USA (Ret)  
(Fort Hood Chapter, TX)

CW3 Ramon E. Ramos, USA (Fmr)  
(Dallas Chapter, TX)

GySgt Erik J. Tjornhom, Jr., USMCR  
(Saratoga Chapter, NY)

BG Charles D. Estes, USA (Ret)  
(Fort Knox Chapter, KY)

CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)  
(Prince George's County Chapter, MD)

LTC James T. Marques, USAR (Ret)  
(Granite State Chapter, NH)

COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret)  
(Colorado Springs Chapter, CO)

CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)  
(Chicago Chapter, IL)

LCDR Coy D. Ritchie, USN (Ret)  
(Denver Chapter, CO)





## PROGRAM AWARDS

### Patriotic Education Program Awards

The Chapter Patriotic Education Program Award is bestowed on the chapter conducting the best patriotic education program for the preceding year. The purpose of this competition is to encourage chapters to develop programs that will provide the youth of our country with a knowledge and appreciation for this nation's institutions and government.

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** MG Wheeler Chapter, AL
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Northwest Florida Chapter, FL

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Conejo Valley Chapter, CA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Fort Worth Chapter, TX

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Philadelphia Chapter, PA

### ROTC and JROTC Awards

The ROTC/JROTC Annual Award recognizes chapters that demonstrate outstanding support for ROTC units..

#### CATEGORY 1: SUPPORTING 1-17 ROTC UNITS

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** MG (Bvt) Chamberlain Chapter, ME
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Worcester Chapter, MA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Clearwater Chapter, FL

#### CATEGORY 2: SUPPORTING 18-20 ROTC UNITS:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** San Diego Chapter, CA

#### CATEGORY 3: SUPPORTING 21-27 ROTC UNITS:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** MajGen Pendleton Chapter, CA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL

#### CATEGORY 4: SUPPORTING 28-34 ROTC UNITS:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter, HI
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Denver Chapter, CO
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** MG Wheeler Chapter, AL

#### CATEGORY 5: SUPPORTING 35-60 ROTC UNITS:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Worth Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

#### CATEGORY 6: SUPPORTING 61+ ROTC UNITS:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Columbia Chapter, SC
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Houston Chapter, TX

### HPM James C. Baird National Scouting Award

This award recognizes the Companion who contributed the most through the year to realize the goals and objectives of the Order's Resolution of Cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

**RECIPIENT:** LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)  
(COL Roosevelt Chapter, NY)

### Scouting Program Award

For excellence in supporting the goals and objectives of the Military Order's Resolutions of Cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Denver Chapter, CO
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** LTC Shehab Chapter, NJ
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** COL Roosevelt Chapter, NY

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Atlanta Area Chapter, GA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Augusta Chapter, GA

### Veterans Affairs Program Award

This award honors excellence in program outreach and community support, in keeping with the MOWW motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served."

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** MG Wheeler Chapter, AL
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** West Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** MG (Bvt) Chamberlain Chapter, ME

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Atlanta Area Chapter, GA

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Chicago Chapter, IL
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Sun City Center, FL





### Public Safety/Law & Order Chapter Program Awards

The Law & Order Award, which has chapter and individual categories, was instituted to honor exceptional chapters supporting the following Preamble tenant: "Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States."

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** LTC Rasbury Chapter FL
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Pinson Memorial Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** MG Miles Chapter, NM

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX

### Individual Public Safety/Law & Order Exceptional Service Award

The National Law & Order Exceptional Service Award was created to recognize the distinguished service of a law enforcement or criminal justice official.

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Officer Brian She  
(Tacoma Police Department, Tacoma, (WA)  
Sponsor: Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Officer Antonio Licero  
(Mission Valley Tactical Unit, Mission Valley, (TX)  
Sponsor: Greater El Paso Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Officer Isreal Hernandez  
(Mundelein Police Department, (IL)  
Sponsor: Chicago Chapter IL

*Note: The award will be presented at a local ceremony by the sponsoring chapter.*

### Individual Public Safety/Law & Order Outstanding Performance Service Award

The Individual Public Safety/Law & Order Outstanding Performance Service Award recognizes outstanding performance for heroic actions.

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Chief Charles Holt  
(Center Point Fire Department, Center Point, TX)  
Sponsor: Hill Country Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Officer Ricardo Ayala  
(California Highway Patrol, CA)  
Sponsor: COL Woolsey Chapter, CA

*Note: These awards are presented at local ceremonies by the sponsoring chapter.*

### National Security Program Awards

The National Security Awards are given annually to the chapters demonstrating the most effective local programs in support of the resolutions pertaining to national security passed by the Order in the National Convention.

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** COL Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puerto Rico Chapter, PR
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA





## PROGRAM AWARDS

### Information & Publicity Awards

The Information & Publicity Award is conferred annually to the chapter with the most effective public relations program for the operating year within the chapter, the community and at a national level. It includes published items (except for items published in the Order's magazine, the Officer Review, renamed the MOWW Review in 2026), as well as electronic media (television, radio and the internet).

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** MG (Bvt) Chamberlain Chapter, ME
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** West Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** MG Miles Chapter, NM

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

### Chapter Newsletter Awards

The Chapter Newsletter Award is presented to the chapter with the most comprehensive newsletter.

#### SMALL CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** CAPT Dilworth Chapter, TX
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Northeast Florida Chapter, FL

#### MEDIUM CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Colorado Springs Chapter, CO
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** MG Miles Chapter, NM
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Fort Worth Chapter, TX

#### LARGE CHAPTER:

- **1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL
- **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE:** Hill Country Chapter, TX

### BG Horace W. Port Award

For being the Region with the highest percentage of its National Staff Officers registered and in attendance at the annual National Convention.

- **WINNER:** Region VI

### Chapter Commanders' & Adjutants' Award

For being the Region with the highest percentage of its chapter commanders and adjutants registered, and in attendance at, the annual National Convention.

- **WINNER:** Region XIII

### VADM Dyer

### Writing Excellence Awards

The Vice Admiral George C. Dyer Awards for Writing Excellence in the Order's magazine, the Officer Review (renamed the MOWW Review in 2026), are made possible by the VADM Dyer Memorial Magazine Trust Fund.

#### WRITING PRIZES

##### • 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE AWARD (\$2,000):

COL Kent D. Menser, USA (Ret), General Meade Chapter, MD, and Mr. Paul C. Goffin, Assistant Director, World Bank (Retired)  
"The General of the Armies" & "The Great Humanitarian"  
(OR, Nov-Dec 2025)  
General Meade Chapter, MD

##### • 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE AWARD (\$1,000):

BG Raymond E. Bell, Jr., Ph.D., USA (Ret)  
"Listen Up, Lieutenant Powell,"  
(OR, Sep-Oct 25)  
BG Bultman Chapter (At Large)

##### • HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

CAPT Thomas Marshall, USN (Ret),  
"The Stamp Act,"  
(OR, Jan-Feb 25)  
San Diego Chapter, CA

##### • HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

LTC Edward McGehee, USA (Ret)  
"The Tall Oklahoman"  
(OR, Mar-Apr 25)  
LTG Middleton Chapter, LA

##### • HONORABLE MENTION (\$500):

Lt Col Sonny Marcombe, USAF (Ret)  
"Phantom Knight"  
(OR, Nov-Dec 25)  
Puerto Rico Chapter, PR





*Together, United in Companionship*



# Surviving the Pentagon on 9/11

LTC VICTOR W. BURNETTE, USA (RET)  
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

## A MORNING THAT DIVIDED A LIFE

There are moments in a soldier's life that carve a permanent dividing line between before and after. For me, that line was drawn on the morning of September 11, 2001. Even now, twenty-five years later, it is difficult to reconcile the man I am today with the man who walked into the Pentagon that Tuesday morning—focused, mission-driven, and surrounded by a team I deeply respected and loved.

I had spent decades preparing for war. I trained for battlefields across the world. Yet nothing in my military career prepared me to be the sole survivor of my own office team.

On 9/11, I was serving as a Lieutenant Colonel assigned to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Manpower & Reserve Affairs (ASA, M&RA). When American Airlines Flight 77, hijacked by terrorists, struck the Pentagon like a missile, it tore directly through the section where my team was working. I was spared. My team was not. I have carried their memory every day since. It is a sacred duty—one I will hold for the rest of my life.

## SUNSHINE BEFORE THE DARKNESS

Just seventy-two hours earlier, our team gathered at Fort Belvoir, VA, for an organizational day picnic. The rigid formality of military life melted away. We were simply human beings—laughing, eating barbecue, watching children run through the grass.

Beside me was Sergeant Major Ivory Lacy, a Godly man, a deacon in his church, and a soldier of 22 years. There was Major Ron Milam, 33 years old with ten years of service and the youngest among us, chasing his two-year-old daughter, Myejoi, while his pregnant wife, Jacquelyn, smiled nearby. Their son, Ron Jr., would be born months later—without ever meeting his father. We talked about retirement, about buying homes, about the next chapters of our lives. None of us knew those conversations would be our last.

## A TUESDAY MORNING LIKE ANY OTHER

September 11th dawned clear and beautiful over Washington, DC. I arrived at the Pentagon after a routine commute, passing a coffee shop where I ran into Major Karen Wagner, a fellow AMEDD Human Resources officer. We paused to catch up, and I made a mental note to stop by her office that day. We parted with smiles.

My team was preparing to brief Lieutenant General Timothy Maude, the Army G-1, on a new personnel system. They were more than capable of briefing him without me, and I remained behind to complete another urgent task. I told them, “Go ahead without me. You’ve got this.”

Minutes later, someone rushed into my office: “A plane hit a building in New York.” We all rushed to the conference room to watch. My first instinct was prayer. I emailed my prayer partners, asking them to intercede for the people in New York. I was still typing when my world exploded.

## IMPACT

The shockwave hit like a physical force. The building convulsed. Lights flickered. Smoke poured into the hallway. A voice shouted: Evacuate the building now! We evacuated through darkened corridors until bursting onto the lawn, where I almost stepped on an aluminum pulley. The scene was surreal as people were injured, burned, dazed. Yet amid the horror, I witnessed extraordinary courage. Soldiers and first responders ran toward the flames, not away. Two ASA (M&RA) colleagues, COL Smith and LTC Horoho, a doctor and a nurse, immediately began treating the wounded.

Later, as the smoke cleared, I saw the exact point of impact. The aircraft's nose had pierced the newly reinforced section of the Pentagon—the conference room where my team had gone to brief LTG Maude.

Everyone inside died instantly: LTG Timothy Maude, SGM Ivory Lacy, MAJ Ron Milam, MAJ



Karen Wagner, and 121 Service members and civilians working that day, and all 92 passengers on the plane.

I should have been in that room.

### THE WEIGHT OF SURVIVAL

When I finally reached home, relief collided with heartbreak. The phone rang. It was SGM Lacy's wife, an Army Lieutenant Colonel, desperate for news. I could not tell her what I feared. Instead, I said, "You know Ivory, he is probably there helping others." I had to hold her hope gently until the Army could speak officially.

In the days that followed, grief blanketed our community. Funeral after funeral. Honor after honor. And one image remains etched in my soul: Jacquelyn Milam walking behind her husband's casket, holding little Myejoi and five months pregnant, carrying Ron Jr. beneath her heart. Ron never met his son. Yet today, Ron Jr. looks exactly like his father—a living legacy of a life cut short.

### A LIFE SPARED FOR PURPOSE

I often reflect on the decision I made that morning—to stay behind and finish my task. I know now it was divine intervention. God spared me. He spared me to love my family. He spared me to raise my three daughters—each of whom grew up to

become commissioned officers in the United States military. He spared me to honor the giants who fell that day.

Every morning when my feet touch the floor, I strive to live a life worthy of being saved.

Whenever the weight becomes heavy, I return to Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

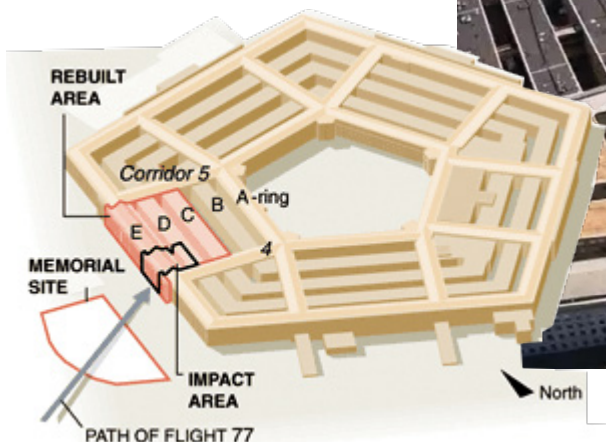
God had a plan for my life—one that includes standing before you today, bearing witness to the lives of my team, and ensuring their stories are never forgotten. My purpose is to honor their memory and keep their stories alive.

As Companions of the Military Order of the World Wars, we are bound by service, sacrifice, and remembrance. The heroes of 9/11—soldiers, federal employees, contractors, and first responders—embody the very ideals our Order upholds. May we honor them not only with our words, but with our lives, and carry that remembrance forward.

God bless you all. God bless our service members. And may we never forget the heroes who died that day. ★

*Right: An aerial photo of the Pentagon taken after hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed into the building. Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Gift of Robert Walker.*

*Below: Pentagon Impact Area, 9/11*



# What So Proudly We Hail . . .

## The Story of the Pentagon's 9/11 Flag

HPM CHARLES BENNETT  
MOWW HISTORIAN GENERAL



Tuesday, September 11, 2001, was one of the darkest days in the history of the United States. American Airlines Flight 77, originating from Washington Dulles International Airport, crashed into the western side of the Pentagon at exactly 9:37 a.m. The hijacked Boeing 757 struck the building's first floor, causing a catastrophic fire and a partial structural collapse. The attack killed 184 people and significantly damaged the building.

*But the light still shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. —John 1.5*

Anyone who saw the American flag unfurled on the Pentagon the next day knows how Francis Scott Key felt exactly 187 years earlier, on September 12, 1814, when he was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The day after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon (Wednesday, September 12, 2001), the scene was still hectic. Smoke hung over the iconic building. Only essential military and civilian personnel were allowed to enter the area. But the business of defending our country went on. Employee parking had been moved to Reagan-National Airport, as all US airspace was still closed. Pentagon employees rode the Metro Yellow Line from the airport to Pentagon Station. As they got off the train, Pentagon police stood with weapons drawn, examining everyone's badge. Those without a Pentagon ID were told to get back on the Metro and leave. No exceptions.

At the impact site in Arlington, Virginia, firefighters were putting out the last fires that were burning on the roof. Then an announcement was made - President George W. Bush was coming to the site to see the damage to the Pentagon for himself. It's lost to history who first came up with the idea of unfurling a flag from the roof near the building's damaged areas, but Army Major General James T. Jackson, then the commander of the Military District of Washington, made it happen. He sent a message to nearby Fort Myer, VA. What was the largest US flag they could find? The US Army

Band at Fort Myers ("Pershing's Own," formed on January 25, 1922 by order of General John J. Pershing) had a "garrison flag"—the largest flag authorized for the military—and they sent it over. During Bush's visit to the impact site, 3rd Infantry Regiment soldiers and Arlington, VA, firefighters unfurled the 20-by-38-foot flag and draped it over the side of the building. They then came to attention and saluted. Those who were there and those who witnessed it on the news were moved to tears. The United States had been suddenly and deliberately attacked; thousands of Americans had been killed in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon, yet the American flag still proudly flew. The Pentagon flag, like the firefighters' flag at Ground Zero in New York, signified the unconquerable spirit of the American people. Those inside the damaged Pentagon were already planning to take the battle to the terrorist attackers and bring them to justice.

The flag flew on the southern side of the building facing Virginia Highway 27 for the next month. Each night workers illuminated it with floodlights. Members of A Company of the 3rd Infantry Regiment -- "The Old Guard" -- took the flag down on Thursday, October 11, 2001. From September 2002 to September 2006, the Pentagon flag was displayed in the Smithsonian's Flag Hall in the space where the original Star-Spangled Banner hangs today. It is now in storage at the US Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Today, the Pentagon 9/11 Flag is soot-stained and ripped at one spot where it rubbed against the building. It is and will always be a treasured symbol of American fortitude and courage. Perhaps one day it will hang again next to the "Star Spangled Banner" in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, inspiring us still. ★

### Ten facts most people don't know about the September 11th terrorist attacks

- After the attack, it took firefighters 100 days to extinguish all the fires around Ground Zero in New York.
- Cleanup for the 1.8 million tons of debris took 3.1 million hours. It was finally finished on May 30, 2002.
- The ages of the nearly 3,000 victims ranged from two (2) to 85 years old. About 75% of the victims were men.
- It is estimated that it cost \$500,000 for the terrorists to carry out the 9/11 attacks.
- Only 12 survivors were pulled from the rubble after the collapse of the towers.
- 9/11 was not the first attack on the World Trade Centers. In 1993, there was a bombing that killed 6 people and injured over 1,000.
- \$100 million worth of art was lost in the collapse of the towers, including a memorial piece for the victims of the '93 bombing and paintings by Pablo Picasso.
- During the attack, a guide dog named Roselle led her blind owner down 78 flights of stairs to safety.
- On a normal day at the towers up to 50,000 employees worked in the buildings and an additional 40,000 passed through them.
- When the National Guard went after Flight 93, which was reported to fly into the Capitol Building, the two military pilots who took to the air didn't have time to properly arm their jets' weapons. The pilots knew that if they intercepted the hijacked plane they would have to fly their jets into the aircraft with no guarantee they could survive

<https://www.aop.com/blog/20-facts-you-may-not-know-about-911>



# The 2026 National Youth Civics Summit Brings American Government to Life



Twenty outstanding high school students from Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Virginia gathered in Washington, D.C., July 12-18, for the third annual Military Order of the World Wars National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS). Selected from a competitive pool of nominees following their participation in MOWW Youth Leadership Conferences and Seminars, the students spent a week experiencing American government, history, and public service far beyond what could have been learned in a classroom.

Throughout the NYCS, students experienced all three branches of the federal government through tours, briefings, and discussions with public

officials. Students visited the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. State Department, the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, and several of D.C.'s historic memorials. A day trip to Philadelphia allowed students to visit Independence Hall, the National Constitution Center, and the Museum of the American Revolution during the America 250 celebrations.

A highlight of the week was Capitol Hill Day, where students toured the U.S. Capitol, met inside the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee Conference Room, and met with Members of Congress and congressional staff from both political parties, including those from the offices of Representatives Rob Wittman, Jeff Crank, Young Kim, George Whitesides, Herb Conaway,

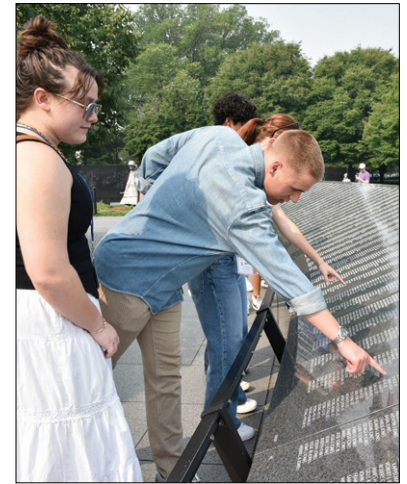


Donald Norcross, Keith Self, and Nikema Williams; Resident Commissioner Pablo José Hernández; and Senators Tim Kaine, Tommy Tuberville, John Hickenlooper, and Ashley Moody. One of the day's most memorable moments came when an arranged staff meeting unexpectedly became a 30-minute conversation with Senator Tommy Tuberville.

In addition to their visits, students participated in discussions with leaders from government, the military, higher education, and the public service sector, gaining firsthand perspectives on leadership, citizenship, and service. These conversations gave students a better understanding of public service and the opportunities available to them to make a meaningful impact in their communities and nation.

The students' reflections at the end of the week spoke for themselves. One participant wrote, "The Summit has absolutely strengthened my resolve to provide service to my country and my local community." Others shared that the experience broadened their understanding of government and inspired them to pursue careers in service to our nation.

The success of the 2026 National Youth Civics Summit is something every MOWW Companion can speak of with pride. It would not have been possible without the many NYCS committee



members, Chaperones, and the platoon of MOWW volunteers who greeted the students upon arrival and transported them to the campus. Our Region Commanders and YLC Directors conducted the screening and selected America's best future leaders.

We are so appreciative of the generosity of our donors and partners who helped to make this possible. With their support, MOWW provided these young leaders with an experience few students have—the opportunity to engage directly with our nation's institutions and return home with a deeper understanding of citizenship, leadership, and service. ★



Learn more about the NYCS at [moww.org/nycs](https://moww.org/nycs)





## The Sun Can Be Your Friend—or Your Foe

MG GEORGE A. ALEXANDER, MD, USA (RET)  
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, affecting millions of Americans each year. Fortunately, most cases can be prevented through simple protective measures and early detection. Public education remains one of the most effective tools for reducing the burden of this highly preventable disease.

The three major types of skin cancer are basal cell cancer (basal cell carcinoma), squamous cell cancer (squamous cell carcinoma), and melanoma. Basal cell cancer is the most common skin cancer and usually grows slowly. Squamous cell cancer is the second most common skin cancer and is more likely to spread if left untreated. Melanoma, although less common, is the most dangerous because it can spread rapidly to other organs and become life-threatening.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 5 million cases of skin cancers are treated annually in the United States, and an estimated 104,960 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in 2025. Nearly 8,430 Americans are expected to die from melanoma this year.

Most skin cancers result from excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or indoor tanning devices. UV radiation penetrates the skin and damages the DNA within skin cells. Over time, repeated DNA injury can overwhelm the body's natural repair mechanisms, leading

to abnormal cell growth and the development of cancer. Sunburns, particularly during childhood and adolescence, significantly increase the lifetime risk of melanoma.

Americans can substantially reduce their risk by adopting sun-safe behaviors. These include limiting exposure to the sun between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., seeking shade whenever possible, wearing wide-brimmed hats, UV-blocking sunglasses, and tightly woven protective clothing, as well as applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30. Sunscreen should be applied generously and reapplied every two hours or after swimming or heavy perspiration. Avoiding indoor tanning beds and performing regular skin self-examinations are also important preventive measures. Individuals should promptly seek medical evaluation for any changing or suspicious skin lesion.

Several national organizations promote skin cancer prevention and early detection. The National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide educational materials, prevention campaigns, and screening resources.

By practicing lifelong sun protection and recognizing suspicious skin changes early, Americans can greatly reduce their risk of skin cancer and enjoy healthier lives. ★



*"True heroism...is not the urge to surpass others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."*

—ARTHUR ASHE

## Service as Heroism

COL ALBERT E. FRANKE III, USAR (RET)  
ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

"It is nobler to serve than to be served" is our organization's motto, one that MOWW members have lived by since 1919. Those of us who have served in the military understand the importance and sacrifice that service demands.

A question sometimes asked is, "Why did you serve?" The reasons for doing so are varied. If one is mandated to serve, not out of free will, is it truly service or merely servitude? Many freely serve, have served, or will serve out of gratitude for those who came before us and demonstrated an almost undefinable love.

A well-known Bible scripture tells us that "no one has greater love—no one has shown stronger affection—than to lay down his own life for his friends" (John 15:13). The verse immediately preceding this one tells the source of that love. Real love comes from the loving heart of a loving God, "...love one another [just] as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Service comes out of love...of God, of Family and our Country, and often without first counting the cost.

We sometimes fail to recognize the real heroes in our lives, and often we don't thank those who have diligently and quietly served us. We need to consider the sacrifices others make on our behalf. The quiet sacrifices offered up by the women and men who have freely volunteered need to be thought about and remembered.

One way to recognize the "servants" around us is to offer to treat those in uniform to a meal they might be taking at a local restaurant, but especially by showing our appreciation by simply remembering to say THANK YOU. We also need to offer them opportunities to learn about and, perhaps, join our organization, which echoes the challenge to nobler service to others. Don't forget to allow them to also be served by our companions in the MOWW.

I often wear hats that reflect where I have served in the military, and one day I was overwhelmed by the gratitude of an older man I didn't know, who thanked me for my service. He said he was



unable to serve but appreciated those of us who have served. I was deeply moved as he freely and tearfully expressed his thankfulness. We need more citizens like him.

As military and public servants, both we and our families have made sacrifices that are often immeasurable, invisible, or difficult for others to fully comprehend. But for most of us, it was and is founded on the pride and love we have for our nation, and it has been worth our efforts. We must remain mindful of our roots and pass on to our children the values and motivations that inspired our commitment to serve our country and fellow citizens.

As our country honors the sacrifices of those who, for the last 250 years, have served us by providing a living freedom found in the greatest country on this earth, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the One we call Father, for being a Friend to these United States of America.

The new United States Army Hymn by Chaplain MAJ James Linzey, USA (Ret), offers this prayer:

Eternal Father, hear our prayer today,  
And lead us onward, gently by Thy hand;  
In troubled times, devoted to Thy way,  
May we secure Thy blessing in our land  
In love divine, may we abide in peace;  
Should we e'er make the final sacrifice,  
"Shine forth Thy light upon us," is our plea;

With love so fervent, we await Thy call;  
Let us hear Thee say,  
"Well done, My Servant," as we bow in awe;  
Eternal Father, hear our prayer today. Amen ★





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MG Miles Chapter, NM

## Girl Scouts Gold Award Celebration

BY LTC GREGG C. GIESLER, USA (RET)

Recently at the annual Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Council Celebration of Service and Success, the MG Franklin E. Miles Chapter presented a MOWW Gold Award Certificate of Recognition to five Scouts who had earned the Girl Scouts Gold Award.

*LTC Gregg Giesler, USA (Ret), (center) presented MOWW Gold Award Certificates to (L-R): Alison Valdez (not present), Cora Mandell, Ximena Serna, Naomi Brundage and Claire McDaniel.*



BG Holland Chapter, CA

## Honoring Community and Patriotism

BY BGEN PAUL K. LEBIDINE, USMCR (RET)

San Diego Police Department Captain Corissa Daugherty-Edwards briefed the BG Holland Chapter on the Rancho Bernardo area and key issues facing SDPD. The Chapter then honored Detective Michael Akins, a retired Navy veteran, for his dedicated service to the community and presented Howard and Vivian Lewis with the MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award for Patriotism for their instrumental support of veteran events across Southern California.

*(L-R): SDPD Captain Corissa Daugherty-Edwards, BGen Paul K. Lebidine and Detective Michael Akins.*



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

## Mobile Youth Leadership Seminars

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

CDR Ronald E. Kirkland, USN (Ret), and his wife Faye of the Puget Sound Chapter have expanded Youth Leadership Seminars beyond their local area. They organized events in Yakima, WA, and Bend, OR, in collaboration with JROTC cadets and instructors. Seminars included guest speakers, training, and meals for students. These off-site programs spread the MOWW brand, offer leadership opportunities, and build connections in communities without MOWW chapters.

*(Photo courtesy of the Kirklands)*





Knoxville Chapter, TN

## AFJROTC Cadet Honored with MOWW Award

BY MAJ TRENT D. LAVIANO, USA (RET)

CPT Craig T. Brown, USA (Ret), proudly presents the prestigious MOWW JROTC Award of Merit Certificate to outstanding AFJROTC Cadet Brett Hall, recognizing his exemplary leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Cadet Hall is a commander in the William Blount High School Air Force JROTC (AFJROTC) program in Maryville, TN.



NW Florida Chapter, FL

## NW Florida's Freedom Bells Celebration

BY CDR RALPH D. LEWIS, USCG (RET)

The Freedom Bells Celebration was held at Latitude Margaritaville Watersound during its July 4th pool party in commemoration of America's 250. Chapter Commander CAPT Deborah A. Dombeck, USCG (Ret), led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by John Lemon, who gave a rousing acapella rendition of our National Anthem. Although more than 300 people were splashing and frolicking at the pool party, virtually everyone paused, stood respectfully, recited the pledge, and sang the national anthem. Chapter Adjutant CDR Ralph Lewis USCG (Ret) then read passages from the Declaration of Independence. Companion Sgt Frank E. Damewood, USMC, assisted his granddaughter Nova Lefever in ringing the Freedom Bell.



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

## Women's Military Service Anniversary

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

At a ceremony held on 12 June, Puerto Rico Secretary of State Honorable Rosachely Rivera Santana recognized several women from different organizations on Women Veterans Day. The event commemorated the 1948 signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. MOWW Companion Maj Isabel P. Vazquez, USAF (Ret), was among the women honored at this event. President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law on 12 June 1948, allowing women to serve as regular members of the US military.

(L-R): Maj Isabel P. Vazquez, USAF (Ret), shares one of her experiences in the military with PR Secretary of State Rosachely Rivera Santana. (Photo courtesy of the PR State Department).





Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

## COS MOWW Recognizes Eagle Scouts

BY COL KERMIT D. NEAL, USAF (RET)

Colorado Springs Chapter Commander COL Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), and Rocky Mountain Department Commander and Colorado Springs Chapter Scouting Coordinator Col Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret), presented MOWW Eagle Scout Certificates and Scouting Patches to 26 deserving new Eagle Scouts at the Pathway to the Rockies Council Annual Recognition Dinner. The Chapter also heightened the Order's visibility through the presentations, with part of the script dedicated to MOWW and our ideals, vision, and motto. This provided an excellent opportunity to highlight MOWW's positive work at the local level and was very well received by the Scouts, parents, and supporters of the Scouting program.

## 2026 MOWW National Convention Photos Now Available

Link to download the convention photos:

<https://limelightsanantonio.pixieset.com/mowwconference2026/>

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- MICHAEL FARRELL, Colonel, USMC (Ret) August 28, 2026  
Chief of Staff, & COO, MOWW, Inc.







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## Welcome to the Order



## SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

Sun City Center Chapter closes out the operating year by inducting its 21st new member and reaching 210% of its chapter goal. SCPO Arthur R. Jorgensen, USN (Ret), is a retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer with a 30-year career. He is a Vietnam veteran who served in two aircraft squadrons, on one destroyer tender and two submarine tenders; he deployed on three aircraft carriers and had one temporary additional duty on a submarine. After retiring from the Navy, he worked as a contractor at Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) New London, CT and Newport, RI, where he helped upgrade existing submarine imaging systems and explored applying emerging imaging technologies to submarine surveillance. After retiring from his contractor position, he volunteered for 11 years with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office as a team leader for the Volunteer Citizen Patrol Program. He was inducted as a Perpetual Member.

(L-R): Chapter Commander COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret); sponsor Capt Vernon A. Elarth, USAF (Fmr); inductee SCPO Arthur R. Jorgensen, USN (Ret), and Region VI Commander Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret).





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