



# The Greater El Paso Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars

IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED

"Serving Youth, Community and Nation"

## "The Scuttlebutt"

### Command Staff 2022 - 2023

<b>Commander:</b>	CPT Bob Melson
<b>Sr. Vice/Adjutant:</b>	LtCol Buck Hamilton
<b>Treasurer:</b>	LTC Jesus Beltran
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ms Laura Beltran
<b>Marshall:</b>	Mr Kevin Lassiter
<b>Director at Large:</b>	CPT Paula Mitchell
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	LtCol Buck Hamilton
<b>Webmaster</b>	LtCol Buck Hamilton
<b>Historian</b>	LTC John Hamilton

To Contact a member of the Staff please email them at [gep.moww@gmail.com](mailto:gep.moww@gmail.com)

### MASSING OF THE COLORS

Please pass the word to any group who can participate in the MOC on 14 January 2023. Our registration form can be found on our website [www.elpasomoww.org](http://www.elpasomoww.org). Registration prior to 15 Dec will have the unit listed in the MOC program.

Our guest speaker will be **MG Isenhower USA**, CG of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Div.

After two years we need to invite everyone to participate. Our POC is LTC Jesus Beltran. Use [gep.moww@gmail.com](mailto:gep.moww@gmail.com) to request additional information.

### Veterans' Forums Held at Six El Paso Elementary Schools

Led by Companion CPT David Thackston, El Paso Chapter companions attended or conducted Veterans Week events at El Paso elementary schools. The schools were General Colin Powell, Dr. Green, Frank Macias, Polk, Nixon and Zavala.

At Frank Macias students presented to our Companions and other invited Veterans. At the other schools five schools, companions spoke about being a veteran, the history of the flag, flag care and the history of Veterans Day.

In addition to the photos below, all photos are posted on the Chapter's website: <http://www.elpasomoww.org/gallery/category/2-events/>



**COMMANDER'S COMMENTS****What's in a Name?**

There's been a lot of discussion, to say nothing of cussin', about the Order's name and whether it should be changed. And what it should be changed to. I suspect we all have an opinion on both questions.

Should we change our name? On one hand, the Order's current name recognizes and emphasizes our heritage – MOWW is a child of the Great War and of World War 2. At the same time, though, the name suggests to those who don't know us that we are a backward looking outfit, focused entirely on the past. It also suggests that all the post WW2 conflicts the U. S. has been involved in – Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan – are less important and not worthy of recognition or remembrance. We all know that that's not so, but the sad truth is that, rightly or wrongly, we're judged by our name, and people tend to see us as military fossils – if they see us at all. Personally, I think it's a foregone conclusion that the Order WILL change its name and will do it at the next National Convention. That notwithstanding, what do you think? Change, yes or no, and why?

Assuming the decision is made to change the Order's name, what would you suggest? I tend to favor something simple – like ditching the full name and becoming MOWW, similar to what many corporations have done in the past: IBM, P&G, and the like. Or, perhaps, something a bit more traditional, say something like Military Order of America's Wars. Something whimsical or something forward looking. What would you suggest?

This branding becomes important, I think, when National embarks on a publicity campaign. One of the Order's major problems is that virtually nobody knows we exist, much less what we do. We've traditionally shunned the limelight, preferring to keep a low profile and doing what we do quietly and without major fanfare. That was good for a while, but the hard lesson from that practice is that if people don't know we exist they won't join. We need that public exposure outside our home communities. Chapters can only do so much in terms of publicity; we need a national publicity plan and a new name to get the public's attention.

Once again, I invite you to send your ideas to me or any of the Chapter officers. All will be considered and forwarded to the new Name Change Committee being formed at National.



Bob Melson, CPT, (Fmr) USA  
Chapter Commander



**October 15 Meeting**

The October meeting was poorly attended with only members of the Staff attending in person. Two companions attended via Zoom.

Because the attendance was so low, the meeting was modified to a general discussion of upcoming events and options to be considered for increasing attendance.

The members spent most of the meeting discussing the status of our Massing of the Colors program. Several ideas for keynote speaker were discussed as well as identifying old programs and ops orders for the event. The last MOC conducted by the Chapter was in 2019.

Approved minutes of this meeting and previous meetings can be found in the "Documents" section of the the chapter's website: [www.elpasomoww.org](http://www.elpasomoww.org)

**November 19 Meeting**

The November was well attended with a total attendance of 21 both in person and Zoom. The meeting was primarily a discussion and recognition of all the companions and friends who supported the Veterans' Forums and participated in the two Veterans' Day paraded. A total of 18 Certificates of Appreciation were presented. A total list of the recipients can be found in the meeting minutes posted on the website (7 Dec).

The Chapter also spent much of the meeting finishing the coordination for our upcoming Massing of the Colors on 14 December at the EPCC Administration Bldg.

Of additional note, LtCol Hamilton announced that the new National MOWW website would launch on 29 November.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Alexander Woelper	8 Nov
Keith Dunnington	17 Nov
Elsa Garcia	19 Nov
Stanley Murrell	19 Nov
Gerald Magnum	20 Nov
Jimmy Brown	25 Nov
Peter Peca	28 Nov

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Marisa Scarboro	15 Dec
Catherine Jones	18 Dec
Matthew Acosta	19 Dec
Myles Miller	20 Dec
Daniel Maher	23 Dec
Buck Hamilton	31 Dec

happy  
birthday

**Membership Anniversaries****November**

Marisa Scarboro	1982	James Maloney	1982
Joseph Cancellare	1985	Joseph Cancellare	1985
Thomas Ingle	1994	Teresa Barton	2009
Kenneth Lucius	2009	Lendee Robinson	2020

**December**

Herve Leboeuf	1971	Rafael Garcia	1985
Alexander Woelper	1990	Michael Cummings	1990
Catherine Jones	1990	Melvin Adams	1993
Floyd Draper	1994	Austin Smith	2002
Clara Bezemek	2007	Sandra Gerber	2007
Webster Powell	2008		

Happy Anniversary



## HOMELAND SECURITY MINUTE

I'm writing this as Thanksgiving rolls into leftovers and thoughts turn to Christmas and travel to be with family. Christmas and Christmas shopping is also the time for thieves, cons and burglaries.

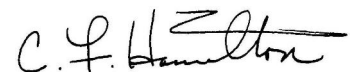
Times and technologies have changed but home security has not really gotten much better. Yes, we have CCTV cameras in our door bells and around the house; but you are probably not the only one viewing those live feeds. Social media and poor "social security" habits give a wide number of folks too much information about what we're doing and where we're going.

Safe travel tips to protect your empty home while you're gone:

1. Don't talk about your trip to visit the grandkids on social media...and remind the grandkids not to talk about your trip.
2. Don't post your Christmas pictures until you've returned from your visit.
3. Have a neighbor watch your house. Give them a key so they can open and close window shades and put the trash out on the curb.
4. Timers for lights can work well for giving that lived-in look.
5. If your visit is longer than a few days, have USPS hold your mail at the post office and have your paper (if you still get home delivery) put on hold until you get back.

During shopping trips to the mall, don't leave packages or expensive items in the back seat. Place items in the trunk. If you have a lot of packages, request an escort from mall security to your car. This is very important if it's late and dark in the parking lot.

Please pay attention to your surroundings, be alert and stay safe this holiday season.



CF "Buck" Hamilton CPP, PSP  
LtCol USMC (Ret)  
Homelands Security Chair

### Honors From Oct & Nov

#### Fund Raiser Donors

Major Rita Moreno USA (Ret)  
Captain Obed Soto USA (Fmr)  
LTC & Mrs Garcia USA (Ret)  
LTC Elsa Baker USAF (Ret)  
CPT Paula Mitchell USA (Fmr)

### 40<sup>th</sup> Year Membership Anniversary

Ms Marisa Scarboro  
MG James Maloney USA (Ret)

### Veterans Notes

Veterans, Gold Star Families get now can receive free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands.

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>

The VA puts out a monthly newsletter which provides up-to-date info on benefits. You can register for this newsletter at:

<https://news.va.gov/>

## HISTORY NOTE 2

The MOWW proceeded to organize after its appearance in 1919. It was a slow process with many obstacles. Notably, the organization and others like it suffered through the pain of the Great Depression. Most people were concerned about where they were going to find a paying job, support families, and put food on the table. The pre-World War II years found the country divided, with many isolationist organizations opposing entry into World War II. And the World War II years were given over to fighting the war.

It wasn't until after the war ended that the Order began to gain members and pick up speed. In El Paso, there was no chapter of the Order until 1960, when several retired officers started a chapter. In a letter to LTC Odis Paul Lance dated March 23, 1960, the commander of Region VIII of the MOWW, Col. Robert E. Joseph (Retired), invite Lance to join the new chapter. Col Joseph said that the El Paso chapter would receive its charter on Saturday, March 26, 1960, at a luncheon in the Fort Bliss Officers' Mess at 1 PM. The letter was typed on the letterhead stationery of the United Services Automobile Association, where Col. Joseph worked. Joseph sent LTC Lance a packet of materials, including information about the order, its purposes and objectives, and an application for membership. Apparently, LTC Lance was not yet a member. Membership dues for one year were \$4.

The Chapter commander-elect was COL (R) Arthur Solem, and the adjutant-elect was LTC Michael Halliday. Both were prominent in the El Paso military retirement community. COL Solem was a West Point graduate, class of 1927. An artillery officer, he had retired on Fort Bliss 1957, where he had served as the deputy director of the Special Weapons Development Office. This was a euphemism for nuclear weapons development. Also, the artillery and air defense artillery were the same branch, having consolidated in 1947.

After retirement Solem became the director of research in the Office of Human Resources on the post, a civilian slot. Solem was well-known on Fort Bliss and in the El Paso community. He organized and was the first president of the Fort Bliss Golf Association. Along with GEN William P. Ennis, Jr., he organized the El Paso Area West Point Association. He was also the president of the Del Norte Polo Association. Solem had been a cavalry officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division on Fort Bliss in 1941. He was the local president of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association chapter and oversaw the association's reunion in El Paso in 1958. One wonders how he found the time to do all he did.

The first roster of members of the El Paso Chapter is notable for the names that appear. Most prominent of its membership in 1962 was retired MG Terry de la Mesa Allen, who had commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions in World War II. COL John Ballantyne was also a member, having served in World War II in the Pacific Theater. His son became a lieutenant general. BG E. W. Heathcote was the deputy commander of Fort Bliss. LTC Lance ran an engineering company in El Paso, handling major water and road projects. His business records are part of the archives of the El Paso County Historical Society. And COL Matthew H. Thomlinson had been called back to active duty in World War II to command the garrison at Fort Bliss. He authored the book, *The Garrison of Fort Bliss, 1849-1916*, published by Hertzog & Resler in El Paso in 1945.

We'll write more about some of these early members of the chapter in a later issue of the newsletter.

LTC John Hamilton USA (Ret)

## Up Coming Chapter Events

November Hybrid Luncheon	1100 -1330	Saturday 19 November
December Virtual Staff Meeting	1900 - 1830	Tuesday 6 December
Chapter Christmas Meeting	1100 - 1330	Saturday 17 December
Jan Staff Mtg via Zoom	1900 - 1830	Tuesday 10 January
Massing of the Colors @ EPCC Auditorium	1300 - 1530	Saturday 14 January
January Hybrid Luncheon	1100 -1330	Saturday 28 January



The Greater El Paso Chapter  
The Military Order of the World Wars  
P.O. Box 640475 - El Paso Texas 79904

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our mission is reflected in our Preamble:**

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;
- 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;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of military, naval, and air science and the adoption of a consistent and and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars;
- And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under god and for our country we unite to establish the **MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS**.

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @EL\_PASO\_MOWW**

**VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE: [WWW.ELPASOMOWW.ORG](http://WWW.ELPASOMOWW.ORG)**

**FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EPPASOMOWW](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EPPASOMOWW)**

**TWITTER: @EL\_PASO\_MOWW**

**VISIT OUR NATIONAL MOWW WEBSITE: [WWW.MOWW.ORG](http://WWW.MOWW.ORG)**

**NATION MOWW FACEBOOK**

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