

THE
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TROY H. MIDDLETON



“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”—Warren Bennis

Dear Companions,

Warren Bennis was a scholar and pioneer in the field of leadership studies. He identified five characteristics of effective leadership which include vision, inspiration, empathy, consistency, and integrity. Leaders must listen to those they lead, lead by example, learn from their failures, respect the work, efforts and successes of others, and recognize achievement in those with whom they work while accepting responsibility for failures.

In a prior CINC Perspective, I wrote about change (July/August 2022). Change is required if an organization is to grow, adapt, and flourish in contemporary society. For the past 18 months, it has been the goal of senior leadership to be the instrument of change, not for the sake of change, but for the growth and sustainability of the Order.

However, the Order is a decentralized organization. Its strengths derive from the activities of chapters and the leadership of chapter Companions. Chapter leadership needs to be successful for the entire Order to succeed.

Our current Strategic Goal 3 (SG-3) directs chapters to mentor and develop Companions. SG-3 is vitally important because the Order needs leaders to help direct its activities to successfully realize our vision and accomplish our mission. Every chapter has leaders. Current chapter commanders need to identify chapter members who can help their chapters succeed now, and help the Order achieve its vision now and in the future.

Vince Lombardi once said, “Leaders are made, they are not born.” Studies from leadership programs have demonstrated Lombardi to be correct. Are you that Companion that can lead your chapter, national committee or the Order? Can you be that Companion? It’s time to step up.

“The leader is one who, out of clutter, brings simplicity...out of discord, harmony...and out of difficulty, opportunity.” - Albert Einstein.

Sincerely,

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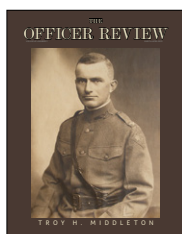
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ON THE COVER

Troy H. Middleton shortly
after the First World War



THE REMARKABLE STORY OF A NON-WEST POINTER WHO
OUTSCHOOLED, OUTTHOUGHT AND OUTFOUGHT ALL THE FAMOUS HEROES OF WWII LORE

America's Greatest 20th Century Combat General?

LTC EDWARD H. McGEHEE, USAR, (RET)
LTG MIDDLETON CHAPTER, LA



PERSHING, McARTHUR, PATTON, EISENHOWER, BRADLEY, MARSHALL, PULLER, RIDGEWAY AND ABRAMS ARE NAMES THAT ECHO OFF THE WALLS OF MILITARY INSTITUTIONS EVERY DAY. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NOT UNREMARKABLE CAREER OF LTG TROY HOUSTON MIDDLETON?

AMONG ALL WWII GENERALS, WHO HAD THE MOST COMBAT EXPERIENCE IN WWI? WHO HAD THE MOST COMBAT EXPERIENCE IN WWII? WHO, IN THE 1920s, TAUGHT C&GS TO EVERY FAMOUS WWII GENERAL EXCEPT GA McARTHUR? WHOSE VIII CORPS FOUGHT SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH LTC PATTON'S VII CORPS AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE?

THE ANSWER: LTG MIDDLETON.

Born in 1889 to an old Mississippi family and home-schooled on a plantation in Copiah County, the 14-year-old was accepted as a "preppie" at Mississippi A&M, a Starkville military school now known as Mississippi State University. Instead of a Summer of Hell, a preppie went through a year-long apprenticeship and then began his four years.

As a freshman heading to baseball practice, a professor asked, "Are you an idiot? Rather than chase a ball, you could learn chemistry every afternoon!" He put up his mitt and attended class, but come Fall, he tried out for the football team and made quarterback. Senior year Cadet SGM helped control 750 cadets and graduated in 1909.

Unable to apply for a commission until age 21, the 19-year-old enlisted at Fort Butler in Buffalo, NY, and was assigned to the 29th Infantry Regiment. He played quarterback and middle linebacker on their football team. He introduced fellow clerks to the typewriter carbon copies so there would be no need to copy rosters in triplicate by hand.

Transferred to Fort Leavenworth, CPL Middleton continued to impress on the gridiron and successfully competed for a commission. In 1913, the new lieutenant joined the 7th Infantry Regiment at Fort Crockett, Galveston. The post, swollen with troops because of the Mexican situation, started boiling over as it provided the handiest embarkation point.

After 14 months soldiering, baseball, football, and dancing "The Boston" with Galveston debutante and future wife Jerusha Collins at the Galvez Hotel, 2LT Middleton and the 7th shipped out to

Above left: Sergeant Major Middleton at Mississippi A&M





*The Second Battle of Marne,
15 July–6 August 1918*

Troy Middleton served as a battalion commander in the Second Battle of the Marne and received a promotion to regimental commander. He then led the attack in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The main significance of the Second Battle of the Marne was that it was a decisive victory for the Allies and marked the end of the German offensive on the Western Front.

*Pictured: Soldiers at Marne wearing gas masks in the trenches.
Source Signal Corps*

the Mexican port city of Veracruz and spent the next year occupying it. At Veracruz, he first tasted action leading patrols to capture Mexican troops. Returning to Galveston, he married Ms. Collins in the spring of 1915 and headed to Ft. Bliss, where GA John Pershing sent the 7th to attack Pancho Villa along the border south of Douglas, AZ. Here 1LT Middleton saw real combat in Agra Prieta.

In early 1917 the regiment moved to Gettysburg, PA, to prep for overseas duty in Europe; he was detached to Fort Myer to train reserve officers. CPT Middleton's next posting was Camp Greene, Charlotte, NC, to command a company with the 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. By April, the division sailed to New York and boarded a transport ship bound for France.

Germany had launched its 1918 Spring Offensive, or Kaiserschlacht, and was trying to push the French and British armies into the Channel. The "Sammys" rode boxcars to Calais to exchange their ammo-poor Springfields and artillery for Enfields and French 75s. Then it was off to the front to fight in the Aisne-Meuse sector near Château-Thierry, where they spent June experiencing the horrors of war, including trench warfare.

The following month MAJ Middleton moved his battalion into position with the 4th Division as they joined their parent unit late in the battle to retake the Ourque River, which was accomplished at a high cost. After licking their wounds, they dislodged the Hun (German forces) at Vesle, again with significant casualties. Soon he was in front of

the charge at the Meuse and Argonne offensives, where his unit was the lead element.

In late September, his battalion again led the attack on a battlefield eight miles from Verdun. They were gassed but stormed the German machine guns and trenches for a resounding victory. On 11 October, he took command of the 47th Infantry Regiment, currently fighting near Bois des Fayes-Bois de Malaumont. Upon arrival, he found his entire staff had just been gassed and motored to the rear. Not only that, he learned he must devise a plan and attack before daylight. As author Raymond Chandler wrote, "Once you've led a unit directly into canister and machine-gun fire, life is never quite the same."

Here his quarterback/middle linebacker play-calling abilities paid big dividends. Leading the assault himself, he ordered marching fire—having his soldiers fire from the hip as they attacked. The strategy made the enemy think the yanks could see them and kept their heads down. It worked. They pushed them back to the Meuse River and captured many Huns. One captured officer told him he had never been under such withering small-arms fire in four years of war.

The next day, a general pinned eagles on 29-year-old COL Middleton, making him the youngest American bird colonel. A week after the Bois de Forêt action, the 4th Infantry Division withdrew from the battle zone after a month of continuous combat, the longest of any American division. During the occupation, he helped extend the



bridgehead over the Rhine River at Remagen and learned much about German towns he would see again 25 years later.

Returning home in 1919, he was reassigned to Camp Benning to help create what would become The Infantry School. After four years of implementing and teaching lessons learned in battle, it was time for MAJ Middleton to attend C&GS at Ft. Leavenworth. His reduction in rank was standard and a longtime tradition.

He and classmate MAJ Patton became close friends. One night, during one of their long walks, "Old Blood & Guts" confided that he would graduate top of the class. Out of 200 students, Patton graduated 14th, and Middleton 8th. When the course ended, he was asked to stay on as an administrator; he was given a two-story home where his family would be comfortable. During the next four years, he would teach C&GS to almost every general to go into combat from 1941-45. The 1925-26 class featured his No.1 student, CPT Eisenhower, who often sat on the corner of his desk after hours and picked his brain.

Next, he attended The War College, where he was commended for "exceptional merit." His thesis was surprisingly forward-thinking: He recommended getting rid of mules, horses, wagons, caissons, rolling kitchens, and bicycles—and replacing them with trucks, cars, all-terrain vehicles, trailer kitchens, and motorcycles.

Selected to become G3 with a large unit, his assignment was flagged because he had not met civilian requirements, and had not spent time with the National Guard, Reserve, or ROTC. He chose ROTC and became Louisiana State University's Commandant of Cadets in 1930. Six years of LSU (and Governor Huey Long) gave LTC Middleton a hankering for overseas duty.

Ordered to the Philippines, he spent two years accompanied by his wife, son, and daughter Beatrice. Near the end of his tour, he received a letter from LSU's president suggesting he retire and become Dean of Administration, which would

mean a hefty raise. Soon he was Dean Middleton and settled in from 1938-42 when he quit to re-enter the Army and fight in the "big one."

Taking command of a regiment in the Texas National Guard's 36th Infantry Division, his unit was passing in review for visiting higher command when he caught the eye of his former student, MG George Marshall. Shocked to see an officer of such high esteem playing nursemaid to M-Day soldiers, he asked, "What are you doing here?!" In two shakes of a duffel bag, he was on a plane to Fort Devens to take charge of 45th Infantry Division, a crackerjack unit.



Then-BG Troy H. Middleton in Salerno.

Mountain and cold-weather training in upstate New York continued into 1943. Patton requested Middleton fly his staff to Morocco to plan the invasion of Sicily, slated for that summer; 45th Infantry Division was now part of Patton's Seventh Army. By July, they had hit the beach near Scoglietti and taken two airfields needed to support Field Marshall Montgomery's British Eighth Army. Despite "Monty" stepping on his toes by blocking his sector at one point and forcing 45ID to waste a

day or two advancing around him, they joined the rugged fray at Messina.

Three weeks later, the 45th Infantry Division wrapped up fighting in Sicily and made a second brutal landing in Salerno, where they took 11,000 prisoners and suffered 1,100 casualties. When generals Eisenhower and Clark visited the Salerno front in mid-September, the battle appeared to be won. The Germans pulled out four days later and a fatigued 45th Infantry Division moved out in pursuit. Heavy fighting continued for seven weeks as they drove the enemy back across the Volturno River.

BG Middleton, slated for higher command, flew to Eisenhower's HQ in North Africa to look over his plans for Anzio. He told Eisenhower two assault divisions were not enough to take the beach and that they would bog down rather than move quickly inland. Eisenhower ignored his advice with predictable results.

Before flying to England to take charge of VIII Corps, severe arthritis and knee injuries from football forced a stopover at Walter Reed Hospital. Marshall phoned Eisenhower and argued his newest corps commander was not fit for duty. He couldn't walk. Eisenhower said, "I don't care. Put him on a plane immediately. Even on a stretcher, Troy is still my best commander."

How did he get his new job? Eisenhower told Patton he had chosen MG Emil "Ducky" Reinhardt, a West Point up-and-comer, to lead VIII Corps. Patton asked, "What's his combat record? Get rid of him. I need a man who knows how to fight. Get me Troy Middleton." Thus, MG Middleton took the reins of a unit with 75 staff officers, five divisions of infantry/armor and 75,000 soldiers.

His men loved him.

Instead of commandeering finer digs, he preferred jeeps to staff cars and slept in a beat-up trailer. Bill Mauldin, famous for his cartoons featuring unkempt grunts Willie & Joe, hung around VIII Corps headquarters because Patton, who hated his depictions of exhausted combat soldiers, forbade him to visit his. Whenever Patton swung by to visit Middleton, his aide had to hide Mauldin.

The corps sat on its thumbs in Southampton from D-Day through 11 June, although HQ was already ashore at Ste. Mere-Eglise. Despite his depleted units (101st Airborne, 79th Infantry Division, and 19th Infantry Division), they took on three German divisions on the Corentin Peninsula, then whipped them at La Haya du Puits, taking tough losses. When the breakout came, they rolled 50 miles through Lessay and Périers to Brest. It was a rough slog. After 99 days in combat, they had captured 10,000 Germans; the Seventh and Ninth armies took 50,000 prisoners.

VIII Corps transferred from Patton's Third Army to LTG William Simpson's Ninth Army. They

cranked through northern France into Belgium and headed for the German border.

By mid-December, the corps had stretched into place along an 88-mile front. Opposite them were 200,000 enemy troops who had traveled by night and were artfully placed.



MG Troy H. Middleton in the Ardennes, late 1944. Source: National Archives

LTG Middleton's HQ was in Bastogne. Another former C&GS student, General Omar Bradley, requested a meeting at his Twelfth Army Group HQ in Luxembourg 40 miles southeast to discuss the plan of attack. They figured the enemy would have to cross the Our River to reach Bastogne, where three highways intersected. Within 24 hours, six German divisions and 2,000 artillery pieces were headed their way...and you know the rest.

Returning home, he served as LSU's president for two decades. The new library he built in 1950 was named in his honor after he passed away at home in Baton Rouge in 1976. A couple of years ago, the university punished him for publicly discouraging the enrollment of Blacks in 1959. They removed the 18-inch copper alloy letters "Middleton Library," but his legacy lives on.

Ten years ago, an old air defense artillery pal showed me a cache he had found put out with the trash by Middleton's heirs. A brass-trimmed WWI trunk with his name stenciled on it contained a 1913 .45 holster, khaki uniforms, a duffel and one sheepskin-lined leather mitten.

That mitten and the iconic photo of him standing in his Jeep wearing the mittens at the Battle of the Bulge are on display at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. ★

Sources:

Troy H. Middleton Papers and Middleton Room Memorabilia, RG #U106,, Louisiana State University Archives, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA



Lincoln's Unconventional Cabinet

COL ROBERT L. REESE, USA (RET)
VICE COMMANDER & ADJUTANT, GEN RIDGWAY CHAPTER, PA



Abraham Lincoln's presidency was filled with challenges from the very beginning when the union of states began to break up. On top of this political upheaval, he had to select a Cabinet that would be sympathetic to his policies and loyal to his presidency. The selection of seven men during his first term in office began in March of 1861 and consisted of a diversified group of opinionated men. There were those who were politically ambitious, self-centered, and in some instances, had difficulty getting along with others. In several cases, they had aspired to be President in their own right. Historians have adequately documented their personalities. The interrelations between Lincoln and his Cabinet members required the President to be quite resourceful in resolving differences and ensuring they understood his directives.

A painting by Francis B. Carpenter, a New York artist, depicts the time when Lincoln first presented his preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation before his Cabinet members in 1862. Carpenter commandeered Lincoln's office, which also served as the Cabinet Room, to paint his fifteen-foot wide painting. When finished, he offered the painting to Congress, which refused to appropriate funds for its purchase. It was not until 1877 that Elizabeth Thompson of New York purchased the painting for \$25,000 and gifted it to Congress, where it now hangs in the US Senate. Pictured are the original Cabinet members, except for Edwin Stanton, who replaced Simon Cameron in January of 1862, in the same positions they occupied four years earlier, as recalled by Lincoln. Seated at the table to Lincoln's left is Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, and seated facing Lincoln is William Seward, Secretary of State. Other members left to right are Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War (seated); standing are Salmon Chase, Secretary of the Treasury; Caleb Smith, Secretary of the

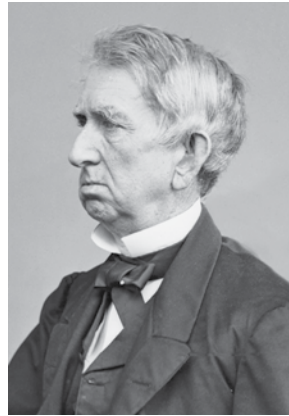
Left: Herline & Hensel. Abraham Lincoln / Herline & Hensel, lithograph 632 Chestnut St., Philadelphia; published by Joseph Hoover, 108 sth. 8th St., between 1860 and 1865 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2006677676/>.



Interior; Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General and, seated on the far right is Edward Bates, Attorney General. Missing from this painting is Hannibal Hamlin, Lincoln's Vice President. When the National Republican Convention met in May of 1860, Lincoln had not met Hamlin, who was a former Democrat and former governor of Maine. Hamlin had a cordial but not close relationship with the President. He exercised a key role in the selection of Lincoln's first Cabinet, arguing unsuccessfully against William Seward's inclusion but was successful in having Gideon Welles named as Secretary of the Navy. Hamlin played a minor role in Lincoln's first term. He did not regularly attend Cabinet meetings, so he seldom visited the White House, perhaps because he and Mary Todd Lincoln did not like each other. In the 1864 election, Hamlin was unexpectedly dropped from the Republican ticket in favor of Andrew Johnson, a Tennessee Senator.

Lincoln's first term began in March of 1861, with South Carolina having seceded from the Union with other states to follow over the issue of states

having the right to maintain slavery. The outbreak of war between the North and the South began one month later, in April of 1861, when the South bombarded Fort Sumter, South Carolina, a Union military post. Thus, Lincoln began his presidency trying to save the Union and end slavery, with a diverse Cabinet whose loyalty and opinions did not always coincide with the President.



WILLIAM SEWARD, Lincoln's Secretary of State, was a Senator from New York who was the leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860. Seward took office with a condescending and skeptical attitude toward Lincoln.

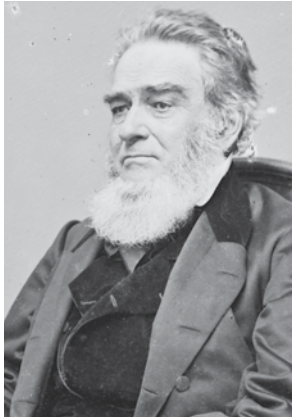
However, he and the president became close personal friends, to the consternation of his enemies. As Lincoln



First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln by Francis Bicknell Carpenter (1864)

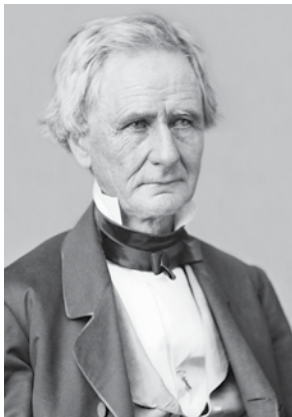


and Seward became more comfortable in their relationship, Seward became a target of the President's wit. One day Seward found the President blackening his boots. When Seward told him that in Washington, "We do not blacken our own boots," the President responded, "Indeed, then whose boots do you blacken, Mr. Secretary?"



EDWARD BATES, Attorney General, was somewhat estranged from the rest of the Cabinet before his resignation in 1864. In 1860 he was promoted as a candidate for President. He never actually joined the Republican Party. Conservative by nature and stuffy by

temperament, he opposed slavery. His judgments tended to be inconsistent. His responsibility was to advise the President and department heads on legal matters, but only when requested. He had no real authority over the United States Attorneys since they were responsible to the President. He was considered the least influential man in the Cabinet. He had a staff of six, including clerks and messengers.



SIMON CAMERON was Secretary of War and perhaps the most controversial. One story about Cameron's reputation is disputed, but it was widely repeated during his lifetime. Lincoln reportedly asked Thaddeus Stevens about Cameron's honesty and was told

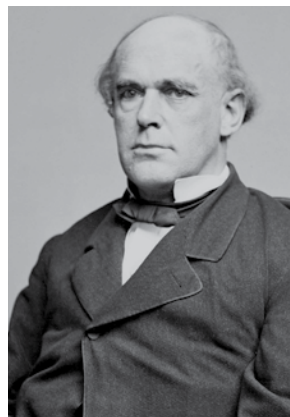
that "I do not believe he would steal a red hot stove." When the President repeated the story, Cameron was offended and demanded a retraction from Stevens. Stevens replied that he could have been wrong and suggested that perhaps Cameron might steal a red hot stove. As the Secretary of War, he proved not very competent at organizing

the logistical support of the army. He was "Selfish and openly discourteous to the President." He was incapable of organizing and executing general plans. Cameron claimed he could go into the street and make all the money he wanted. He told Lincoln if he would give him \$10,000, he would make Lincoln all the money he wanted. Lincoln declined his offer. After nine months in office, Cameron administered the War Department with such favoritism and mismanagement that Lincoln replaced him with Edwin M. Stanton. He was censured by the House of Representatives for his conduct.



EDWIN STANTON, who succeeded Cameron, gave Cameron legal advice, some of which helped get Cameron fired. Stanton was a sharp and abusive critic at the beginning of the war, calling Lincoln "the original gorilla." Only later he became a staunch supporter of

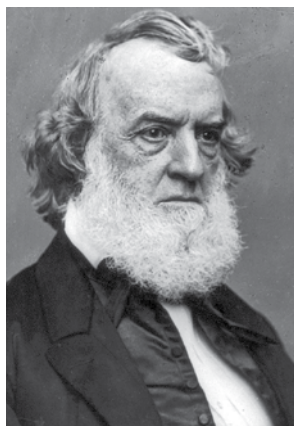
Lincoln. Stanton sometimes disagreed with the President's directions and occasionally refused to obey them. At times, he conspired with Salmon Chase behind the President's back.



SALMON P. CHASE served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1861 to 1864. He previously served as a Senator and as Governor of Ohio. Chase was favored by some delegates to become the 1860 nominee for President and to replace Lincoln in 1864; nevertheless, as a Cabinet member,

he was obliged to support Lincoln. A Chase associate, Hugh McCulloch, later wrote that "personal relations between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Chase were never cordial. They were about as unlike in appearance, in education, manners, in taste, and temperament, as two eminent men

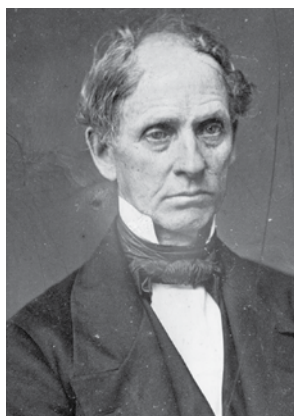
could be.” However, Lincoln did admire Chase, once saying, “Chase is about one and a half times bigger than any other man I ever knew.”



GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, served in that position from 1861 to 1869. A Connecticut Republican leader and the founder of *The Harford Evening Press*.

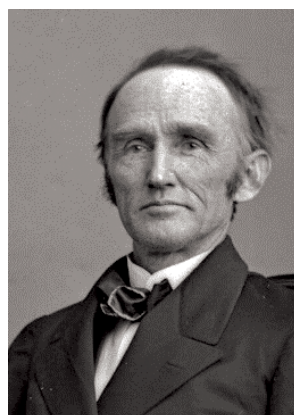
Welles had the nickname “Father Neptune.” He was a jealous Cabinet rival of William Seward, whom

he felt meddled in Naval affairs. Welles’ critical attitude extended to Cabinet meetings about which he repeatedly complained in his diary about their irregular timing and lack of formality. He generally disapproved of how most other Cabinet members behaved.



CALEB SMITH was Secretary of the Interior. He questioned Mary Todd Lincoln’s bills for White House decorations. She prevailed upon Smith to approve the questionable purchases to ease her anxiety. Smith did so by covering up the scandal, but first, he

interviewed several of those involved in Mrs. Lincoln’s fiscal shenanigans, which involved payments for non-existent work and materials. Lincoln paid the bills for the decorations. Smith aspired to be appointed to the US Supreme Court, which never came about. He initially indicated to a subordinate that if Lincoln issued an Emancipation Proclamation, he would resign his post, go home and attack the administration. He later changed his mind in favor of the Proclamation. Several members of Congress felt that Smith was not qualified for his Cabinet position.



MONTGOMERY BLAIR, as Postmaster General, was despised by radical Republicans and most of Lincoln’s Cabinet. He was a staunch supporter of the President in all matters. He stood with the President against the whole Cabinet in favor of reinforcing Fort Sumter in 1861.

Blair became embarrassed by a letter he had sent General Fremont in 1861 in which he blamed the Administration’s problems on Lincoln himself. When the letter was made public in 1862, he offered to resign, but Lincoln told him never to think about the matter again.

Members of the Cabinet threatened to support MG John Fremont to run against Lincoln in the 1864 Presidential election unless Lincoln caused Blair to resign, which he did in September of 1864. Lincoln had relieved Fremont of command of the Western Department in 1862 because of insubordination.

Of the original seven men who served on Lincoln’s Cabinet, only William Seward and Gideon Welles served a full term in office. The remaining Cabinet positions experienced a turnover of six posts, which is a key indicator of the difficulties faced by Lincoln in finding a unified, supportive, and loyal Cabinet. His original Cabinet consisted of all his rivals for the Republican nomination because he was willing to surround himself with opinionated men with credentials which may have exceeded his own, such as former senators, governors, judges, lawyers and former state congressmen. Despite having a problematic Cabinet, Lincoln was able to persevere in gaining their respect and moving on with the affairs of government. ★

Reference: Wikipedia

Cabinet members’ photographs: Series: Mathew Brady Photographs of Civil War-Era Personalities and Scenes, (Record Group 111). Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS-S), National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD, 20740-6001.



Massing of Colors Returns to El Paso After 3-year Absence

SUBMITTED BY CPT ROBERT G. MELSON, USA (FMR)
GREATER EL PASO CHAPTER, TX

*EL PASO, Texas (KTSM) By Dave Burge, Posted: 15 January 2023.
Courtesy KTSM Texas*

For the first time in three years, El Paso veterans groups got together for the Massing of the Colors Saturday at El Paso Community College's Administrative Headquarters.

Veterans groups, JROTC and ROTC programs, police, fire and other color-bearing groups participated to show off their patriotism. In all,

more than 30 groups, organizations, schools and scout troops participated.

The event had not been held in recent years because of the pandemic.

The Fort Bliss 1st Armored Division Band and color guard participated, as well as color guards from El Paso police, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the UTEP Army ROTC program and color



Thirty-nine units participated, including the Fort Bliss Color Guard, the Fort Bliss Army Band, and Holloman Air Force Base Color Guard! We also had County Judge Samaniego and Mayor Leaser. BG Simmering from Fort Bliss was our keynote speaker. Multiple law enforcement units, veterans organizations, scout troops, cub scout packs, JROTC and ROTC units also participated.

guards from several area high schools.

The Holloman Air Force Base “Steel Talon” Color Guard took part for the first time.

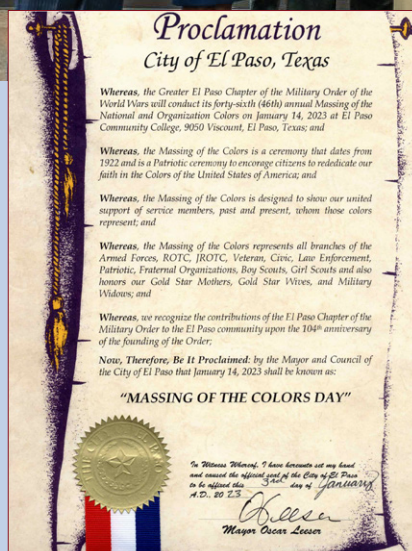
BG Michael Simmering, deputy commander of operations for the 1st Armored Division, was the special guest.

The event is held to bring together veterans and other-like minded organizations for fellowship and to show their patriotic pride.

Both the City of El Paso and the El Paso County Commissioners Court designated Jan. 14 as “Massing of the Colors Day.”

The event was hosted by the Greater El Paso Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars to rededicate our faith in the United States and to present our support to the National Colors and the Servicemen and Servicewomen those Colors represent.

MOWW chapters nationally have conducted “Massing of the Colors” ceremonies since 1927, when the organization “inherited” the ceremony from Society of the Massing of the Colors and, to date, MOWW is the only veterans organization to conduct these ceremonies. ★



El Paso, Texas, City Council, in Council Assembled, proclaim 14 January 2023, Massing of the Colors Day in El Paso

Above center (holding proclamation) CPT Robert G. Melson, USA (Fmr), Greater El Paso Chapter Commander. To his immediate right, LtCol C. F. “Buck” Hamilton, USMC (Ret), Chapter Adjutant/Vice Commander. To CPT Melson’s left and behind, CPT David C. Thackston, USA (Ret), staff officer. Others in photo are Mayor Oscar Leeser (masked) and members of El Paso, Texas, City Council.



Beautiful! Inspiring! Patriotic!

CDR GEORGE T. "TED" PARSONS, USN (RET)
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CA

OLD TOWN, SAN DIEGO. 15 October 2022 dawned in the '60s, overcast, with a real threat of rain. Oh, oh! Prayers continued for a successful Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance.

Indeed, we held a successful 66th Massing of the Colors ceremony for our community sponsored by the San Diego MOWW Chapter. Our team and community supporters presented a remarkably positive and moving message to our youth, community, and nation. We know that without each piece, a puzzle is incomplete. Together, we pieces presented a complete and beautiful picture that provided a short, clear, unmistakable patriotic message!

Marine Band, San Diego, twenty-three musicians strong, entertained the audience with beautiful music, including an emotional rendition of the closing Echo Taps. Conductor GySgt Benjamin Hallquist led brilliantly.

Those on stage included the following. President Brent Top and Sister Wendy Top, our hosts at the Mormon Battalion Historic Site; Ms. Janet Chin, Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army, Coastal South, Keynote Speaker; companion Kathleen Winchester, Chapter Chaplain, and On-Site Coordinator; Mr. Samuel Nehemiah,

our vocalist; Tommy Emerson, Boy Scout Troop 895B; Leader of Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Anaeya Baez, Troop 6116, Leader for "My Name is Old Glory"; and CDR George T. "Ted" Parsons, USN (Ret), Master of Ceremonies and Region XIV Commander.

After opening remarks, color guards entered to the marching tunes of the Marine Band. First came a Marine color guard, and others followed smartly, including three color guards representing the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Of special note is that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has attended every single Massing of the Colors for 66 years!

Ms. Kathleen Winchester, Chaplain, delivered a spiritual Invocation and Service of Remembrance. Mr. Samuel Nehemiah led us in a perfect a Capella rendition of our National Anthem, then performed a quite moving solo of "God Bless America." Ms. Janet Chin, our Keynote Speaker, related well to our youth, veterans, and all community members. Janet thanked the color guard members and all who support our veterans, plus those who have passed away serving our country and flag.

Our 66th Massing of the Colors ceremony ended with white clouds and a blue sky! We already have a site reserved for 14 October 2023! ★



CDR Parsons and Ms. Anaeya Baez, Troop 6116



Air Force ROTC Cadet Color Guard



Leticia Coxe Shelby with DAR Chapter

Veterans Day Ceremony, Naranjito, PR: A Day in Pictures

COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)
PUERTO RICO CHAPTER, PR

The Puerto Rico Chapter was involved in numerous events during the 2022 Veterans Month. Below are but a small fraction of the Veterans Day events depicting the Chapter's Massing of the Colors Ceremony.



Puerto Rico Chapter Commander Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret), addresses the attendees to the Veteran's Day Ceremony, sponsored by the Office of the Veteran's Advocate of Puerto Rico.



Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret), (left) presents the Bronze Patrick Henry Organizational Award to COL Carlos Caceres, 1st MSC Commander, in recognition of the 1st MSC 100th Anniversary.



Col Carlos Quiñones, USAF (Ret), listens to the stories of one of the veterans recognized during the ceremony.



Representatives of the scouting program in Puerto Rico, who participated at the Massing of Colors in the town of Naranjito.



2022 Massing of the Colors Ceremony

LTC PATRICK C. STOLZE, USA (RET)
COL BILLIE L. STEPHENS – APACHE TRAIL CHAPTER, AZ

On 7 December, the COL Billie L Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter conducted its 29th annual Massing of the Colors Ceremonies along with the Tempe Union High School District JROTC Program at Marcos de Niza High School.

We were joined by the school Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Scott Glasser, the Chamber Choir under the direction of Mr. Luke Ottinger, the Tempe Union High School District Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Mendivil, numerous School Principals, including Principal Brent Brown of hosting Marcos de Niza High School. MAJ Robert Fore, USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor, was the Master of Ceremonies. The Adjutant of the Colors was SFC Larnel Norman.

The Chaplain, Deacon Joseph Spadafino, offered the Invocation, Blessing of the Colors, and Benediction. The Bugler was SFC (Ret) Paul Baumgardt. Nine JROTC Color Guards from the East Valley and one from Arizona State University's Air Force ROTC Detachment participated. The nearly 200 guests included MOWW Companions, other Patriotic Organizational members, parents, and the cadets from the hosting school. Our guest speaker, Col Thomas Kirk, USAF (Ret), a former Vietnam War POW of the North Vietnamese for five and a half years, was very inspirational to all. The MOC was a sensational way to begin "The Day of Infamy." ★



Top left: Chapter Cdr, LTC Pat Stolze presented an Award of Merit to Guest Speaker Col Thomas Kirk, USAF (Ret).

Top right: MOWW Companions in attendance (L-R): COL Melvin Howry, USA (Ret); CPT Linda Howry, USA (Ret); COL Jeanne Blaes, USA (Ret); COL Christine Mahon, USAR (Ret); HPM Mr. Chuck Mackey; LTC Pat Stolze, USA (Ret); COL Thomas Kirk, USAF (Ret); CW4 Douglas Gray, USA (Ret); MSG Jeanne Erickson, USA (Ret); LTC Chuck Erickson, USA (Ret), and MOWW VCINC and Region XIII Vice Commander-in-Chief, Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret).
Lower left: Marcos de Niza High School Color Guard.

Phoenician Award Recipients



Winner: Ms. Ella Corinne Babic

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

1st Runner Up: Mr. Matthew Allen

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2nd Runner Up: Mr. Omari Paul Martin

ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2022 MOWW PHOENICIAN ESSAY QUESTION

Essay Question: “Should Voter Laws be established by the federal government or individual states as they are currently?”

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 Officer 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 \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, for the best essay on a specific national issue. Upon selection of the award recipients, they receive several awards:

- The winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The First Runner-Up receives a \$1,000 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.
- The Second Runner-Up receives a \$500 scholarship, a Phoenician Award Certificate, and a congratulatory letter and a Coin from the CINC.



The Need for Checked and Balanced Voting Laws

BY MS. ELLA CORINNE BABIC

2022 MOWW PHOENICIAN AWARD WINNER
TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In the year of British surrender, Samuel Adams remarked that voting is “one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country” (Adams). These words were contained in the Boston Gazette to remind Americans that even though liberation was near, freedom must be continually guarded by the citizen’s deliberation.

At the time of the Constitution’s adoption, a citizen’s voting eligibility was at the state’s discretion. This often resulted in only white, male landowners being privileged with voting (“Voting Rights: A Short History”). The population of the United States has progressively advocated for suffrage. After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment was passed, ensuring that the citizens could not be denied their right to vote by states “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude” (“Amendment XV”). The passing of the 19th Amendment, in 1920, secured the right to vote for women, nationwide.

After these amendments were ratified, the Constitution claimed citizens could not be denied the right to vote on the basis of sex or race. However, this does not mean liberty is secured simply because it has been documented in historical text. Citizens must remain engaged, using their voting rights to elect officials who will continue to protect civil liberties. Individual voting laws ought to be established by the States, but congress must set parameters in national elections, and the Supreme Court must actively ensure laws align with the Constitution in order to protect the rights of citizens.

Because of the Elections Clause in the US Constitution, States have the authority to “enact a complete code for such [congressional]

elections, including rules concerning public notices, voter registration, voter protection, fraud prevention, vote counting, and determination of election results” (Morley). However, these state laws are ultimately subject to the US Congress. The Constitution gives Congress this power because “the Framers of the Constitution were concerned that states might establish unfair election procedures” (Morley). This clause is necessary because it gives states the ability to make laws that will be specified for their state, yet still ensures Congress has the authority to challenge injustices.

The Supreme Court must be vigilant in interpreting the Constitution to evaluate voter laws established by the states and Congress. Frances Bacon states that: “Judges ought to remember that their office is...to interpret law and not to make or give law” (Bacon). The ability of federal judges to interpret law is seen in the 1915 Supreme Court Case *Guinn v. United States*. In this case, Oklahoma established a literacy test that determined voting eligibility. However, this test contained few notable exceptions. This law allowed those who “were entitled to vote in 1866 to register without passing a literacy test” (Brophy).

The Supreme Court found this law to be unconstitutional because it ensured that illiterate blacks, who had been newly liberated in 1866, would not be granted equal voting rights to their white counterparts. *Guinn vs. The United States* is an example of a state having the sovereignty to establish a voting law, yet still the federal government can intercede when the rights of the citizens are in jeopardy.

To ensure fair elections, individual voting



laws ought to be established by the states, but Congress must make laws to set parameters in national elections, and the Supreme Court must actively ensure these laws align with the Constitution, in order to protect the rights of citizens. Samuel Adams could foresee the continued battle for voting equality, reminding the citizens to engage in voting in order to ensure their freedoms. ★

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BIOGRAPHY

My name is Ella Corinne Babic. I am a student living in beautiful Boerne, TX, located northwest of San Antonio.

I attend a small, classical Christian school called Geneva. At my school, I participate in Varsity Volleyball. I also participate in the Chamber Orchestra as the viola section leader. I am the founder and President of the Geneva Art History Club, as well as the Treasurer of the Philosophy Club. In my spare time, I volunteer at the

Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, hike, and read.

This summer, I attended the YLC at Texas Wesleyan University and found it to be an enriching experience. Throughout my week's attendance, I found greater confidence in speaking in front of my peers and a greater appreciation for the men and women who have selflessly served our country.



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Preparing for the Annual Convention

IMPORTANT CHAPTER DEADLINES

NATIONAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE CHIEF OR STAFF NLT 01 JUNE 2023

- Submit all reports in a Word.doc format (3-page limit) as an attachment to an email to chiefstaff@moww.org

CHAPTER PROGRAM AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS NLT 1 JUNE 2023

- Submission requirements are IAW the MOWW Policy Manual, as supplemented by the applicable national committee's guidance.

COMMANDERS' NATIONAL CITATION NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO HQ MOWW NLT 1 JUNE 2023

- Commanders at all levels submit their National Citation recommendations via the online MOWW Form 17, National Citation Nomination.

COMMITTEES SUBMIT PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS TO HQ MOWW BY 15 JUNE 2023

- National committee chairs must email the committee's list of award selectees to membership@moww.org by 15 June annually. The selectees can either be in the body of the email or as a Word.doc attachment.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ARE DUE NLT 15 MARCH 2023

- Submit proposed amendments to the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, SVCINC BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret), via email to perezv56@gmail.com

HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER GRANT REQUESTS ARE DUE NLT 01 JUNE 2023

- Submit the Grant request in a PDF format to the Hann Buswell Chapter Adjutant, LTC William Rapp, USA (Ret), via email to williamrapp@mac.com

Tours



Tour 1: Historic Annapolis and the US Naval Academy (Wednesday, 2 Aug 2023, 0900-1600)

Enjoy the rich stories of historic Annapolis, the Maryland State House, and the US Naval Academy. Stops in Annapolis include the Maryland State House, homes of three signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Naval Academy. At the Academy, you will also see the Visitor Center, gift shop, chapel, John Paul Jones' crypt, and the Preble Museum. Lunch will be provided at the Naval Academy Club.

Cost/person: \$69



Tour 2: Day on the Bay (Thursday, 3 Aug 2023, 1000-1730)

Cruise across the Chesapeake Bay to historic St. Michael's on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This quaint historic village offers fresh seafood, boutique shopping, and historical landmarks all within walking distance during your approximately 3 hours ashore. Highlights include admission to the wonderful Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, amazing views of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and St. Michael's charming main street. Lunch as desired in St. Michael's.

Cost/person: \$89



Tour 3: Homes of the Signers Tour (Friday, 4 Aug 2023, 0930-1500)

Join us on a walking tour of three historic homes in downtown Annapolis: the William Paca House and Garden, the Hammond-Harwood House, and the Chase-Lloyd Home. Each home was once lived in by a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and each has been restored to its original state from the mid-1700s. Lunch will be provided at the Galway Bay Irish Pub.

Cost/person: \$65



Tour 4: Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse & Chesapeake Bay Boat Cruise (Saturday, 5 Aug 2023, 1230-1400)

Built in 1875, the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse is the last screw-pile lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay still in its original location. It is located one-and-a-half miles offshore at the mouth of the South River. Enjoy a 1.5-hour boat ride around the Lighthouse and the amazing views of the Chesapeake Bay!

Cost/person: \$35

The Worst Foods That Taste So Good

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR)

SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese, according to the CDC. Here are some examples and how to tame them.

Burger King's Triple Whopper with Cheese is as unhealthy as its name suggests. It may have lettuce, tomato, and onion, but the three beef patties make up most of the 1,299 calories in this burger. Each Triple Whopper has almost 90 grams of total fat, 26% more than the recommended amount for an entire day. However, you have some burger options. Avoid double- and triple-stacked burgers to keep the calories, fat, and sodium content lower. Save calories, fat, and carbs by loading up with veggies instead of cheese, bacon, or onion rings. For a side, stick with a simple salad instead of fries or mozzarella sticks.

The Colonel's KFC Chicken dishes are mostly deep-fried and use tons of oil. So, consumption of KFC makes you gain weight. The Colonel's fried chicken breast has nearly 400 calories and 22 grams of fat when battered with the skin and all.

Consumption of fast food, chicken, and meat with excess oil and fat leads to heart artery clogging and other issues. A healthier substitute is grilled skinless chicken breasts. Rubbed with a fiery spice rub (try a green chile-lime seasoning) and thrown on the barbecue—great flavor for 189 calories per 4-ounce breast. Seasoned and breaded chicken breasts can be baked to crispy perfection and are healthier and cheaper.

Here are some other offenders and better substitutes.

Chips: One ounce of regular potato chips has 152 calories and 10 grams of fat. Eating three ounces a week throughout one year results in consuming 23,400 calories and an added seven pounds of weight. Healthier Substitutes could be Rice Cakes and Popcorn Cakes, now available in lots of flavors to satisfy your craving without potato chips. Quaker Rice Snacks or Redenbacher's Popcorn Cakes have less than 100 calories per serving. For a more exotic crunch, try dry roasted edamame (a soybean preparation), usually lightly salted and with a satisfying crunch. Thirty grams provides 14 grams of protein

and 20% of your daily iron in only 140 calories.

Doughnuts: Have a couple of doughnuts with your (decaf) coffee, and you've reached your daily fat quota. One glazed Krispy Kreme doughnut has 200 calories and 12 grams of fat, including heart-stopping saturated fat, trans fats, and cholesterol. A cake doughnut is worse: 300 calories, 28 grams of carbohydrates, and 19 grams of fat, including 5 grams of saturated fat and 4 grams of trans fats. A healthier substitute for doughnuts is a whole-grain bagel. Half a Pepperidge Farm whole-wheat bagel has 125 calories, less than a gram of fat, and 3 grams of cholesterol-lowering fiber.

Fettuccine Alfredo: This irresistible pasta dish is drenched with butter, cream, and parmesan cheese—a 3-ounce serving (about the size of your fist) has 543 calories and 33 grams of fat (*19 of which are saturated*). A healthier substitute would be whole wheat fettuccine with a tomato-based marinara sauce containing 197 calories and almost 4 grams of fiber. And half a cup of marinara sauce has just 92 calories. If whole-wheat pasta isn't available, ask for spinach pasta.

Sausages: Whether you fry or boil them in beer, sausages are a health hazard. A World Health Organization finding shows that sausages, bacon, and other red meats are linked to bowel cancer. A single pork link packs 217 calories and 19.5 grams of fat. For a healthier substitute, choose chicken or turkey sausage. Five links of Audell's chicken apple sausage have only 100 calories and 8 grams of fat (2.5 grams saturated). Morningstar Farms sausage links, made from soy protein, contain 80 calories for two links, with 3 grams of fat and 9 grams of protein.

French Fries: One large order (6 ounces) of fast-food fries typically contains roughly 570 calories, half of which are from fat. A simpler and healthier substitute would be ordering kid-size fries, which have only 230 calories and 13 grams of fat. Or a salad.

These are just a few ideas. You can find many more while playing the "substitute" game. Be well. ★



Faith vs. Fear

LCDR DEBRA F. ROGERS, ED.D., USN (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

—EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Many of us may believe that faith and fear are vastly different. However, both are more similar than dissimilar. Each produces results, albeit opposites. They both ask us to believe in something we cannot see. Whichever one we identify with is the one that will come to fruition. Our hearts vacillate between the two. For example, we are afraid to share our faith because of what our neighbors, family members, or co-workers may say, so we keep quiet. We fear failure, so we do not attempt any new pursuits.

Recently, I saw on the local news that a young-at-heart fit gentleman celebrated his 100th on the tennis courts surrounded by friends and family. When asked about his tennis game, he mentioned that he started playing the game at the age of 75. I was astounded! How many of us would pursue a new hobby as rigorous as tennis in our seventies? I venture to say not many due because of fear. Similarly, I saw a great-grandmother recently return to college to complete her undergraduate degree at 93 years old. Could you imagine how daunting learning how to employ technology besides the rigors of an academic curriculum with classmates around the same age as your

grandchildren or great-grandchildren? Each of these individuals in the examples dared to step out on faith rather than live crippled by fear. Faith and fear cannot co-exist. What is fear? On the most elementary level, fear is using your faith in the wrong direction. Fear is unbelief or a weak belief. When unbelief fills out minds, thoughts can lead to doubt, and fear grabs our emotions. Deliverance through faith abolishes unbelief.

Conversely, faith is mentioned in Hebrews 11:1 as “certain about what we do not see.” It is an ABSOLUTE belief that God is always working in the background in every area of our lives, even though we have no tangible evidence to support it. Nonetheless, it is crucial to understand that faith is a gift, and we cannot create it ourselves, as mentioned in Ephesians 2:8-9. How can we learn to develop faith and overcome fear in our daily lives? Simply, we establish a routine of reading, studying, and meditating on the word of God to build faith. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.” (Romans, 10:17). Let us eradicate fear together by becoming a community of faith builders. ★





Delaware Chapter, DE

Sea Cadet Division YLS

BY LTC CARL WITTE, USA (RET)

The Delaware Chapter conducted a Youth Leadership Seminar for the Wm. E. Taylor Sea Cadet Division. In addition to presenters from various military components who spoke on leadership and patriotism, historical interpreters entertained and educated cadets about significant characters and events in history. Pictured, retired NG Sargent Major Willis Phelps tells the story of an Afro-American civil war soldier.



Green Mountain Chapter, VT

Norwich University Professor Recognized

BY MAJ NEIL JULIAN, USA (RET)

In March, Chapter Commander BG Thomas O'Donovan (Left), and NEYLC Director LTC Michael Jarvis, USA (Ret), presented the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion to Professor of Political Science Jason F. Jagemann for his significant contribution to the cause of patriotic education during the Order's New England Youth Leadership Conferences at Norwich University from 2019 to 2022.

Professor Jagemann's subject knowledge, teaching manner, and enthusiastic interaction with young students makes him an ideal YLC instructor. "Serving as an ambassador to students in the YLC around civics and the duties and obligations of civic engagement and leadership is an invaluable experience," he said. "The relationship I have with the students is symbiotic: I learn as much from these high school participants at the YLC about what intrigues and interests them about politics and participation as much as I hope they learn from me about the primacy of civics and being engaged citizens of the communities of which they are a part."

Photo Left (L-R): Chapter Commander BG Thomas O'Donovan, Professor Jason F. Jagemann and NEYLC Director LTC Michael Jarvis, USA (Ret). Photo Right: Professor Jagemann engages with YLC students in discussing the intricate workings of the US Supreme Court to give students an understanding of the application of the civil liberties outlined in the US Constitution.



The COL Elmer Chapter, AR

A Chapter's First YLS

BY LTC JOE VOLPE, USAR

The COL Elmer Chapter held its first Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS), comprising 16 students, two JROTC instructors, and two counselors from ten schools covering nearly the entire state of Arkansas on 4 June 2022. The YLS was held at the Arkansas National Guard Museum, which was the perfect setting to accentuate the importance of patriotism and leadership. Students received training about leadership, team building, ethical decision-making, citizenship and the US

Constitution, and the free enterprise system. They were treated to a visit from Uncle Sam about the history of the United States. Major General Kendall Penn, Adjutant General for the Arkansas National Guard, also spent time with the students as he welcomed them to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Before lunch, students were given a guided tour of the museum by a staff member. The students were fully engaged throughout the day's instruction and showed their competitive nature during the citizenship test competition. *Photo by Paula Volpe Photography*



Fort Worth Chapter, TX

Cadet Leaders Are Guest Speakers at Chapter's September Meeting

BY MAJ ROBERT J. WILLIAMS, USAF (RET)

Youth Leadership was the theme for the Ft. Worth Chapter's September meeting. The speakers just happened to all be JROTC cadets, and their presentations involved participation in this past summer's Youth Leadership Conferences and JROTC Leadership Camps. Two YLC students represented the Granbury ISD MCJROTC.

Cadet SSgt Julia Czernik and Cadet Capt Zach Layland participated in the 2022 Youth Leadership Conferences held at the USS Lexington and Texas A&M University, respectively. Each provided insights into their experiences at these conferences. Cadet Col Hailey Peters, the Ft. Worth ISD JROTC Corp Commander, relayed her experiences leading the annual JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge, Camp Rango, held this past summer. Cadet 2nd Lt Dylan Prince of the Flower Mound ISD AFJROTC was recognized as the "Outstanding Performer" at the Cadet Staff Leadership Course (CSLC) conducted at Hardin-Simmons University. He was presented with the MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Medal. All the students received the Chapter Commander's Challenge Coin presented by Col David Green, USA, Commander of the Ft. Worth Chapter.



(L-R): Maj Padilla, JROTC Instructor; COL David Green, Chapter Commander; Cadet SSgt Julia Czernik; Cadet Capt Zach Layland; Cadet 2nd Lt Dylan Prince; Cadet Col Hailey Peters; and Maj Robert Williams, Chapter Senior Vice Commander.





Dallas Chapter, TX

Xavier Ayala Inducted Into US Naval Academy

BY LT CHUCK DANIELS, USN (FMR)

Xavier Ayala, a young man that many assisted on his trip to Annapolis, was inducted into the US Naval Academy on 30 June.

At the YLC last year, I saw great things in this young man, and helped select him as #1 in his team. He did not get selected as #1 at the YLC, but certainly could have been.

And so, his journey begins...



LTG Middleton Chapter, LA

"Expanding Opportunities Through Leadership" YLS

BY LTC PATRICK L. WIDNER, USA (RET)

On 11 June 2022 the annual 1-day Baton Rouge Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) was conducted at the Louisiana State University

ROTC Headquarters giving access to a college level environment for instruction and small team learning and interaction. The YLS emphasized the importance of goal setting, ethical decision making, team building and leading skills in opening and enhancing career opportunities. The seminar provided the opportunity to meet and interact with high school peers in a team environment while collaborating to accomplish tasks during team exercises. The seminar leveraged peer group interaction to facilitate training through exercises in basic leadership skills, ethical decision making, American heritage and patriotism, and free enterprise.

Leadership is presented and discussed covering its what, why, basics, and processes that improve your chances of excelling in whatever you choose as your life's work and giving back within the community. Practicing what was conveyed, getting acquainted through introductions and selecting team leaders gives students team interaction experience. Four team building activities, "Lost as Sea", "New Planet", "Our Constitution", and "Elements of Free Enterprise" support team decision making followed by a results brief by students that follow each exercise. Focus on ethical decision making and leadership mentoring add to the attendees understanding of leadership responsibilities. Then we proceed to the United States of America and the construct by which it operates --the US Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and obligations of citizenship. We make the above happen using local professors, authors, judges, and business managers, as well as, MOWW Companions. Youth Merit Awards were presented to students excelling in leadership skills and team exercise participation from each team.

LTC Patrick L. Widner, USA (Ret), Region VII Commander presents Youth Merit Award to each outstanding student. (L-R): Caroline Meserve, Walker H.S.; Jacelynn Boudreaux, N.O. Military & Maritime Academy; Jillian Sisson, Liberty Magnet H.S.; Hedlen Marroquin, Woodlawn H.S.





The Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation, Inc. Student Testimonials

[HTTPS://WWW.RMYLF.ORG/](https://www.rmylf.org/)

Thank you so much for allowing me to grow my confidence in speaking and ability to connect and empathize with my peers.

Major strength of the conference is the interaction you have with other students during the conference. The wide array of speakers gave such a thorough overview of patriotism, the free enterprise system and leadership, there is never a complaint.

I had a great time each day while learning more and more about leadership, the free enterprise system and patriotism.

I gained the skills and knowledge needed to be a great leader, be successful, have patriotism and never give up.

I had the time of my life at this conference. The way leadership was approached here will stick with me the rest of my life. This whole place was so positive and helped me open my shell to others.

To be honest, I did not originally want to come to the conference. But, after being here, I am soooo glad I decided to come. It has been a blast and I have truly made amazing friends that I will continue to talk to following the conference.

We have learned not only the value of leadership, but also the value of patriotism, influence, and respect.

I have learned many valuable lessons here and I am excited to go and try them out in the world.

From this conference I learned how to inspire people through leadership, and I can use this in school and in life.

Overall, I feel as if the conference really has changed many of the things I look at. All of the speakers at the conference brought a great message with ideas that are applicable in life. I am excited to test out these new leadership methods back at home.

The heavy emphasis on patriotism and leadership among the senior staff and guest speakers was a major strength and I believe exceeded the stated goals in those areas.





VA offers \$30M in grant funding to assist formerly homeless Veterans



As a part of ongoing efforts to prevent and end veteran homelessness, the VA is announcing \$30 million in grant funding for organizations to help formerly homeless veterans maintain their independence and housing stability.

This funding opportunity will give organizations the funding they need to hire case managers, who will help veterans search for, obtain, and successfully transition to permanent housing; troubleshoot challenges and barriers to maintaining permanent housing; connect with services to address issues such as poor credit history, rent arrears, and legal issues; and more.

VA anticipates awarding 100 Case Management Grants for up to \$300,000 each to support approximately 150 case manager positions nationwide. Awards will fund two years of operations, starting on 1 Oct 2023, and ending 30 Sept 2025. The funds are available through VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. See <https://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>

VA extending eligibility and benefits for Legacy Participants and Legacy Applicants



Good news for veterans and caregivers in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC): VA is extending eligibility and applicable benefits for Legacy Participants and Legacy Applicants through 30 Sept 2025. During this time, VA will not discharge or decrease any support to Legacy Participants, Legacy Applicants and their Family Caregivers, based on reassessment, to include monthly stipends paid to Primary Family Caregivers.

This extends the transition period and timeline to complete reassessments for Legacy Participants, Legacy Applicants and their Family Caregivers for

an additional three years.

VA will continue to complete reassessments of Legacy Participants, Legacy Applicants and their Family Caregivers at the request of the Veteran or Family Caregiver or if evidence of an increased need for personal care services is identified.

Any Primary Family Caregiver eligible for an increase in their monthly stipend will receive it. If you receive a PCAFC decision and disagree with that decision, the options to seek further review or appeal of the decision remain the same. Information about review and appeal options for PCAFC decisions can be found on the VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) website.

Schedule and manage health appointments



How can the VA appointments tool help me manage my care?

This tool offers a secure, online way to schedule, view, and organize

your VA and community care appointments. The appointments you can schedule online depend on your facility, the type of health service, and other factors.

You can use this tool to:

- Schedule some of your VA health appointments online
- Request approved community care appointments online
- Cancel appointments made online
- View appointments on your health calendar
- Find the location of the VA or community care facility for your appointments
- Print a list of your future appointments

Follow this link to get started: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/schedule-view-va-appointments/>



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