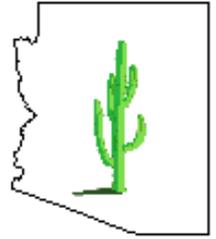




The Military Order of the World Wars

The Association of All Military Officers
Chapter 131, West Valley, Arizona
P. O. Box 7938, Surprise, AZ 85374
WEB SITE-www.mowwestvalleyaz.org



Bulletin No. 3

December 2021



Commander's Message

Buz Isban
Commander

November Breakfast Meeting. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected closure of Chef Peters Bistro in Surprise we had to cancel or locate a facility at the last moment to have our November 2021 breakfast meeting. Like the U.S. Cavalry to the rescue came Ann and Fred Garnett. They invited us into their home that was festively decorated and had sufficient food and drink to accommodate our meeting. On behalf of all of us, I want to offer a sincere thanks for their gracious hospitality. It was gratifying to meet in person after several months of Zoom meetings.

December Breakfast Meeting. Since it has been difficult in determining a new location due to availability and expense, Past Commander Ken Coffman and his wife Laurel, have volunteered to accommodate the meeting at their home. Door will be open at 9:30 a.m. and we will start the meeting at 10:00 a.m. After the

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Army Sniper Course Graduates a Woman for the First Time



Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for December 11, 2021 at 930 at the home of Ken Coffman.

SAVE THE DATE

Massing of the Colors 15 February 2022 at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West. Put it on your calendar!

meeting we will have a continental brunch like last month. The guest speaker will be George Cross, a WWII paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne. He will discuss what it was like parachuting into France during the war.

Please **RSVP** by Tuesday **DECEMBER 7th** to Buz at buzisban@cox.net or call him at 623-512-0765 so we can notify the Coffman's.

It's Our Anniversary

50 years

Happy Anniversary West Valley

Chapter 131

The Sun Cities Chapter of the MOWW was approved in 1971. Our first full chapter meeting was in October 1971. So, let's celebrate.

A dinner party is being planned for January 16th or 18th 2022. All chapter members and their spouses are invited. Stay tuned for details.

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

Again, as a reminder, our dues remain the same as last year; \$15 for a member and spouse and \$10 for a member without a spouse. Make checks payable to “**MOWW Chapter 131**” and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382. You can also pay at the breakfast meeting instead. And finally, thank you to those who have already paid.

Where does this money go? It goes into our General Fund where it is used to help pay for operating expenses. In the past years we have paid for such items as our sound system, the trophy for Fellowship Square, the ad that we had in a neighborhood monthly magazine promoting our Chapter, the Chapter share to support our website and Region XIII’s website and paying for our speakers and guest meals when they attend our meetings. Each year we receive funds from MOWW National based on the number of perpetual members we have. We never know how much the Perpetual and Memorial (P&M) Fund dividend will be. The dividend is based on a varying rate of return, so until we receive it, we dare not plan on it. And it can vary widely from year to year. There is **nothing** in our by-laws that permits the treasurer to use any of these funds for a Hawaiian Getaway.

Looking ahead

- **December 6** – 0730 Apache Trail - Billie Stephens MOC at Marcos de Niza H.S., Tempe.
- **December 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- **December 11 Breakfast Meeting** – Directions to be announced via email.
- **Other Events.**
 - January 8** – Breakfast meeting
 - January 16 or 18** – 50th Anniversary Dinner
 - January 21-22** – MOWW Region XIII meeting
 - February 15, 2022 MOC.**
The Palm Ridge Recreation Center is located at 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive,

Sun City West. On Tuesday the musical prelude will start at 11:15 a.m. with the ceremony starting at 11:45 a.m. The poster advertising the event is included below.

- **50th Anniversary.** The dinner has been postponed until January 2022 due to a paucity of members to attend during the busy holiday season. We anticipate it will be held on the 16th or 18th of January. An email solidifying the date, time and location will be sent in early January 2022.
- **AZYLC 2022.** After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, Arizona State University West will be the location for this operating year’s conference. The conference will be Tuesday through Saturday morning July 5-9, 2022. Details will be worked out in January 2022. AZYL, Inc. is still looking for a new director so anyone interested please contact Colonel Dick Minor, USA (Ret) at danddmior@aol.com.
- **Arizona Tax Credit.** Again, this year, the curriculum goals for the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference will continue to be 50% on Leadership; 30% on Patriotism, US Government (Constitution) and US History; and 20% on Free Enterprise. Last year we supported 18 delegates. This year our goal is at least 20. At a cost of approximately \$400 per delegate, our Arizona Tax Credit contributions are already under way. Information on how to support this goal is on our website (mowwwestvalleyaz.org). Based on the individual High School usage of the AZYLC funds we have provided in the past, I recommend we first target those school who have religiously used these funds for the purpose intended. Those schools would include the following: Apollo, Buckeye, Cactus, Cortez, Glendale, Greenway, Independence, Peoria, Sunnyslope, and Thunderbird.

As you make your tax credit donation, please let me know so I can track the use of the funds in 2022. My contact infor-

mation is buzisban@cox.net or cell phone number 623-512-0765.

Scouting Program. As many of you are aware, the MOWW is dedicated to supporting the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and The Girl Scouts of the USA (GS-USA) as they guide youth with good examples of patriotism and citizenship. MOWW recognizes Boy Scout and Girl Scout excellence by presenting MOWW's Eagle Scout, Venture Summit and Sea Scout Quartermaster Awards (BSA), and Gold Award (GS-USA) Certificates of Recognition, and an accompanying Presentation Folder, at no cost as a part of BSA and GSUSA awards ceremonies. Recently we received an update from the National Scouting Committee Chairman COL Bob Schlegel, USA (Ret). The "final" planned emergence from bankruptcy by the BSA has been filed with the Federal Bankruptcy Court in Delaware. If approved, its Victims Trust Fund (VTF) of approximately \$ 1.6 billion could be divided among some 80,000 claims by victims. As a result of females now in the BSA program, the MOWW Scouting Committee is working on revised certificates to reflect the cloth patch relative to the award. In addition, the COL Roosevelt Chapter of New York has now available colorful patches appropriate to all the Scouting awards. It is my intent to appropriate several of the NY Chapter patches so we can also present them when we present the certificates of recognition annually. The scouts love patches.



As a final note, please stay safe, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

"Gear, flaps and hook down, ready to land."

Buz

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

The Human Immune System: Part I

This has been a stressful twenty months since the outbreak of Covid-19. It has raised the consciousness of the public about their state of health. What protects us from the disease? It is our human immune system. Here is a brief outline of this system.

The human body is a complex and amazing structure from the smallest cells to its largest organs. These cells and organs function to perform the duties programmed by each person's own DNA codes. The body's immune system is its natural protection. This system is not located in a single area of the body but is composed of a complex network molecules, cells, tissues, and organs. The immune system elements all function together to prevent infections and disease. It is a complex and pervasive system in which each cell plays a specific role. They're cell types that either circulate throughout the body or reside in a particular tissue.

Immune Cells

When the immune system recognizes the first sign of an invader it sets off the complex defense system. Each type of cell recognizes, communicates, and performs their specific function to fight infection and disease. *Macrophages* are a form of specialized white blood cells which detect, engulf, and destroy harmful cells. **Dendritic cells are found in tissues like the skin. This cell is a type of phagocyte that can ingest and eliminate particles larger than 0.5 µm in diameter and it boosts immune responses by showing the foreign antigens on its surface to other cells of the immune system.**

Other different body cells work together within the immune system to fight infection and disease. *B cells* make antibodies against the spe-

cific invading harmful cells. The immune cells **CD4 & Helper T cells communicate with the B cells to signal the CD8+ and Killer T are types of immune cells. These responsive cells better direct the signals to the immune system to quickly destroy the foreign cells.**

Regulatory T cells provide the necessary checks and balances to make sure that the immune system does not overreact and turn on healthy body cells.

Immune Tissues and Organs

The tissues and organs of the immune system collaborate with the above cells to fight against infections, harmful cells, and disease. These tissues and organs, including the thymus gland, bone marrow, lymph nodes, and the skin provide the broader framework for the immune system development and operation.

Located under the breastbone in the chest is the small gland called the **thymus gland**. This gland functions as a site where immature immune cells mature (T cells) so that they can fight disease and infection. **Lymph nodes** are located throughout the body to filter out viruses and bacteria. The nodes communicate with each other and activate information about the pathogen. In these glands are the specialized white blood cells which destroy foreign cells. The lymph nodes also B cells mature to destroy harmful invaders within the body. **Bone marrow** found within the bone is immature cells that either divide to form stem or mature into red blood or white blood cells (which include B cells and T cells), and platelets.

An organ located to the left of the stomach is the **spleen** and it filters blood and provides storage for platelets and white blood cells. Here is where key immune cells multiply to fight invasive, foreign invading cells.

The body's largest organ, the **skin**, serves as a protective barrier that defends against pathogens and toxins. The skin also has its own immune cells and lymphatic vessels.

All these systems work together to protect the body from infection and disease. Part 2 will deal with aging and the immune system.

Legislative News

By Phil Hanson

Latest State Legislature News

No breaking news.



Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 28 November 2021

General Fund	\$13,391.12
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$13,441.12
Patriotic Savings Account	\$7,158.49
Endowment Fund	\$15,929.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$36,528.61

This Day in History

December 1, 1918 – WWI: An American army of occupation enters Germany.

December 1, 1921 – The first helium-filled balloon, a U.S. Navy C-7 dirigible, flew from Hampton Roads, VA to Bolling Field, Washington, D.C.

December 1, 1941 – WW2: Emperor Hirohito of Japan gave the final approval to initiate war against the United States.

December 1, 1969 – Vietnam: America's first draft lottery since 1942 is held.

December 3, 1775 – The USS Alfred becomes the first vessel to fly the Grand Union Flag (the precursor to the Stars and Stripes); the flag is hoisted by John Paul Jones.

December 4, 1992 – Somalia: Operation Restore Hope - President George H. W. Bush orders an intervention force of 28,000 U.S. troops

to Somalia in Northeast Africa to try to provide a secure environment for United Nations humanitarian relief operations.

December 5, 1775 – American Revolution: At Fort Ticonderoga, Henry Knox begins his historic 300-mile 50-day transport of 59 pieces of artillery weighing 60 tons to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

December 5, 1943 – WW2: U.S. Army Air Force begins attacking Germany's secret weapons bases in Operation Crossbow.

December 7, 1941 – WW2: The Imperial Japanese Navy attacks the United States Pacific Fleet and its defending Army Air Forces and Marine air forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, causing a declaration of war upon Japan by the United States. Japan also invades Malaya, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies.

December 7, 1942 – WW2: The U.S. Navy launches USS New Jersey, the largest battleship ever built. It displaced 45000 tons, was 887ft long, had a beam of 87 ft, draft of 28.9 ft, speed of 33 knots, and complement of 1,921 officers and men.

December 9, 1835 – The Texan Army captures San Antonio, Texas.

December 9, 1946 – Subsequent Nuremberg Trials: The first of a series of 12 trials begin for war crimes the United States authorities held in their occupation zone in Nuremberg, Germany after 4 the end of World War II. These trials were held before US military courts, not before the International Military Tribunal, but took place in the same rooms at the Palace of Justice.

December 9, 1946 – Subsequent Nuremberg Trials: The "Doctors' Trial" begins for prosecuting physicians and officers alleged to be involved in Nazi human experimentation and mass murder under the guise of euthanasia. The trial lasted until August 20, 1947. Of the 23 defendants, seven were acquitted and seven received death sentences; the remainder received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

December 9, 1950 – Cold War: Harry Gold gets 30 years imprisonment for passing atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union during World War II.

December 10, 1898 – Spanish American War: The U.S. and Spain sign the Treaty of Paris, officially ending the war and ceding Spanish possessions, including the Philippines, to the United States.

December 10, 1941 – WW2: Battle of the Philippines - Imperial Japanese forces, under the command of General Masaharu Homma, land on the Philippine mainland at Luzon.

December 12, 1862 – Civil War: USS Cairo sinks on the Yazoo River, becoming the first armored ship to be sunk by an electrically detonated mine.

December 12, 1941 – WW2: USMC F4F Wildcats sink the first 4 major Japanese ships off Wake Island.

December 12, 1942 – World War II: German troops begin Operation Winter Storm, an attempt to relieve encircled Axis forces during the Battle of Stalingrad.

December 13, 1775 – The Continental Congress authorizes the building of 13 frigates.

December 16, 1773 – American Revolution: Boston Tea Party - Members of the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Mohawk Indians, dump hundreds of crates of tea into Boston harbor as a protest against the Tea Act.

December 16, 1944 – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge begins with the surprise offensive of three German armies through the Ardennes Forest.

December 16, 1965 – Vietnam: General William Westmoreland sends U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara a request for 243,000 more men by the end of 1966.

December 16, 1972 – Vietnam: Henry Kissinger announces that North Vietnam has left private peace negotiations, in Paris, France.

December 17, 1944 – WW2: U.S. approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.

December 17, 1947 – First flight of the Boeing B-47 Stratojet strategic bomber.

December 18, 1972 – Vietnam: The Paris Peace talks temporarily fail and President Nixon orders a resumption of full-scale bombing of targets in North Vietnam (i.e., Operation Linebacker 2). By 21 DEC eight B-52 bombers and several fighter-bombers were lost which included at least 43 flyers captured or killed.

December 19, 1777 – American Revolution: George Washington's Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge PA.

December 22, 1989 – Berlin's Brandenburg Gate re-opens after nearly 30 years, effectively ending the division of East and West Germany.

December 23, 1783 – George Washington resigns as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army at the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland.

December 25, 1991 – Cold War: The USSR is declared officially dissolved marking the end of the Cold War.

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the Jan Bulletin is Dec 16th. If it is possible to get articles earlier, it would be very much appreciated. With all that is going on we will be flexible.

Email articles to cbjerkaas@cox.net

Thank you.

Carlton Bjerkaas, Editor

SPECIAL FEATURE

Army Sniper Course Graduates a Woman for the First Time

9 November 2021

Stars and Stripes | By Chad Garland



Thirty-five students at U.S. Army Sniper School participate in the ghillie wash, which is designed to test the strength and durability of the suits as well as weather them, at Fort Benning, Georgia, Feb. 5, 2021. (Patrick A. Albright/U.S. Army photo)

A Montana Army National Guard soldier has become the first woman to complete the seven-week U.S. Army Sniper Course at Fort Benning, Ga., military officials said.

The service is withholding the identity of the soldier, who graduated Friday. While she's the first woman to complete the intensive Army training, several have completed a shorter Air Force course to qualify as snipers over the past 20 years.

"We are extremely proud of this soldier's achievement and recognize that this is a milestone for not only Montana, but the entire National Guard and Army," said Maj. Gen. J. Peter Hronek, the state's adjutant general.

The soldier, who enlisted last December, was recommended for the sniper course by her training staff and chain of command during Fort Benning's 22-week One Station Unit Training.

Their endorsement was based on her superior performance, including qualifying as an expert shooter, during that initial schooling that combines basic training with advanced instruction in infantry skills.

"We're all incredibly proud of her," said Capt. Joshua O'Neill, her OSUT company commander. "There wasn't a doubt in our minds that she would succeed."

She arrived prepared and "met every standard required to graduate" the course, said Capt. David Wright, battalion commander at the U.S. Army Sniper School.

The intensive program trains and tests students on fieldcraft, camouflage techniques, marksmanship, concealed movement, target detection, intelligence preparation and other tactics and techniques necessary to deliver long-range precision fire and collect battlefield information, according to a course description on the Fort Benning website.

"We wish her luck as she heads back to her unit as a U.S. Army Sniper Course qualified sniper," Wright said.

It's the latest in a series of firsts for women since all combat jobs in the military were opened to them in 2015. But female snipers in particular have a long history of defying traditional stereotypes.

During World War II, Ukrainian-born Soviet Army sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko visited Washington to rally America's support for a "second front" in Europe and was invited by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on a tour of the country to discuss her combat experience, the Smithsonian Magazine said in a 2013 profile.

Called a "girl sniper" in the American press, which obsessed over her appearance and makeup, she was taken more seriously by the Nazis, who purportedly knew her as "Lady Death." By the time she reached Chicago, she had some strong words for the large crowd there.

"Gentlemen, I am 25 years old, and I have killed 309 fascists (occupiers) by now," she said.

But the U.S. military did not graduate its first female sniper until 2001, when an enlisted female security forces airman with the Illinois Air National Guard completed the service's pilot Counter Sniper School at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas.

Jennifer Weitekamp "could put a bullet through an enemy's head from nearly a mile away," the Illinois National Guard said in a statement in 2018, when she was a first lieutenant. "Such is life for the Air Force's first female sniper -- friendly and easy-going on the outside, but with killer skills inside."

She had responded to a call for volunteers ahead of the 2001 course, she said, but was initially denied entry because it wasn't open to women. Officials later changed their minds.

That 19-day training program was later renamed the Close Precision Engagement Course and relocated to Fort Bliss, Texas. As of 2012, at least nine women had graduated.

"The school was not easy and there were days I wanted to go home," Weitekamp said in the 2018 statement. "I was the first woman to go through, it was because of that and the opportunities it would open up for future women that helped me get through the training and kept me motivated."

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West Valley Chapter 131, Arizona
P. O. Box 7938
Surprise, AZ 85374
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