



# 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](http://www.mowwestvalleyaz.org)



Bulletin No. 1

October 2021



## Commander's Message

**Buz Isban**  
Commander

**Welcome back** Companions, family and friends. I trust you took some time off to get out of the Valley of the Sun to travel, visit family and friends and to refresh yourselves for another adventure in the West Valley. I did a little boating on Lake Pleasant and enjoyed Sedona for several days.

## Chapter Summer Events

- **Phoenix MOC.** On Sunday (9/12) Jerry Jenson, Ken Coffman and I attended the Phoenix MOC. Several Arizona Hall of Fame members were there as were our new National Vice Commander in Chief Lt Col Marlon Ruiz USAF (Retired) and Region XIII Commander LTC Pat Stolze USA (Retired). Overall attendance was somewhat smaller than usual due to the COVID-19 situation we have been experiencing for the last several months.

## *SPECIAL FEATURE* (Page 8)

**Last of 17 Retired B-1s Sent to Boneyard as Air Force Preps for B-21s.**



## Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for 9 October 2021 at 1000 at Fellowship Square, if they have opened up again.

## SAVE THE DATE

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

## 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 will be planned for fall, probably in November. All chapter members and their spouses are invited. Look for further announcements as the year goes on.

We had an anniversary celebration on our 25<sup>th</sup>. A memento of that anniversary is shown below.



- **Financial Audit.** Thanks to Ken Coffman and Melvin Lowry our audit is complete, necessary forms have been signed and delivered, and we are financially sound.
- **Historian at work.** As many of you know, Ken Coffman has been working on preserving documents of importance to the life of the Chapter. Below he gives us a taste of what he has found.

## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

As most of you are aware, other than Chapter dues, the only other two sources of revenue are from the 50/50 raffle and MOWW National Headquarters' annual dividend for our perpetual members. Due to the current pandemic, the 50/50 raffle will generate no funds. We need every bit to operate our Chapter and fulfill our financial obligations.

Our dues remain the same as last year; \$15 for a member and spouse and \$10 for a member without a spouse. We hope all of you will see your way clear to help our Chapter remain financially sound. Make checks payable to "MOWW Chapter 131". You can mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

## What's Ahead for 2021-2022.

- **CAP.** As a part of this *Bulletin*, we have included the Chapter Action Plan (CAP) for the operating year. It has ambitious goals that we can achieve with increased participation by our Companions. Many hands make a light load so I ask your support to achieve our goals.
- **October Breakfast Meeting** – We are planning to return to Fellowship Square again this year. When we get the "OK" from the director to return in person, we will email everyone prior to Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>. Doors open no later than 9:30a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:00a.m. Expect Jerry Wojtas to reinstall Dennis Bash who will remain our Senior Vice Commander.

- **Breakfast Meeting Speakers.**  
**October 9** - No speakers assigned since we want to introduce this year's activity plan.  
**November 13** – To be determined.
- **Other Events**  
**TBA** – Chapter 131 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please join Ken Coffman in planning this event.  
**October 30** – Retiree Appreciation Day – NOSC at Luke AFB 9:00 a.m.  
**November 11** – Veterans Day event at Sunland Memorial Park, Sun City.  
**November 13** – Breakfast meeting.  
**November 23** – 32-Armed Forces Career Offices Day (AFCOD) Expo, McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale.  
**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.  
**February 15, 2022** MOC 2022. Jerry Wojtas has secured the Palm Ridge Recreation Center's large facility this year. It 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. We moved the start time up to facilitate the Junior ROTC units that help us each year. We have locked in the Desert Brass Band again for the event. It doesn't get better than this. Our guest speaker is Colonel Thomas Kirk, USAF (Retired). Many of you will remember him from our MOC about six years ago.
- **AZYLC 2022.** The conference is still in the planning stage. Hopefully by next month I will have some good news and will provide a means to support the high school attendees we sponsor.

As a final note, please visit our Chapter 131 website ([mowwwestvalleyaz.org](http://mowwwestvalleyaz.org)). There you will find a plethora of information and links to other MOWW and veterans organizations' material available.

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

## Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

### **ADHS: Booster COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended for 65 and older, certain others** 24 Sep 2021

Federal officials are recommending that Arizonans 65 and older, residents of long-term care facilities, and those ages 50 to 64 with underlying conditions get a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if they are at least six months past their second dose.

In addition, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance says those ages 18 to 64 in high-risk professional and institutional settings and those ages 18 to 49 with underlying medical conditions may get a booster dose of Pfizer at least six months after their second shot, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Today's recommendation involves only those who were vaccinated with the Pfizer /COMIRNATY vaccine. Decisions are pending whether boosters will be recommended for those who received the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines. For those needing guidance on whether they should get a booster dose at this time, ADHS recommends consulting your healthcare provider.

Those seeking Pfizer boosters and first doses of any COVID-19 vaccine should consider getting their flu vaccine at the same time. Having as many people as possible vaccinated against seasonal flu will help reduce the potential for severe illness and reduce strain on Arizona's healthcare system.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, boosters and provider locations, please visit [azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines](http://azdhs.gov/COVID19Vaccines) or call 844-542-8201 and select Option 8.

To learn more about ways to protect yourself from COVID-19, please visit [azdhs.gov/COVID-19](http://azdhs.gov/COVID-19).

Source: [ADHS: Booster COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended for 65 and older, certain others | Arizona Emergency information Network \(az.gov\)](#)

## Legislative News

By Phil Hanson

### **Latest State Legislature News**

No breaking news. Things are moving slowly along in the Legislature.



## Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban  
Treasurer



### **Financial Report**

As of 1 October 2021

<b>General Fund</b>	\$13,261.12
Petty Cash	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,311.12</b>
<b>Patriotic Savings Account</b>	\$7,158.38
Endowment Fund	\$15,868.84
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,338.34</b>

## Chapter History

### **Happy Birthday West Valley AZ Chapter 131.**

As you have probably heard our Military Order of the World Wars Chapter is 50 years old this year. Our original 1971 charter lists us as the Sun City Chapter. Bulletins, Massing of the Colors Programs, and other correspondence mentions us as the Sun City Chapter until 1987.

A report dated 16 May 1987 of new officers installed states we are the Sun City Chapter. Just a couple of months later, a July 1987 article in the Sun City Independent reported "Veterans group elects officers". It went on to say "The Sun City – Sun City West chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars has elected new officers for 1987 – 88." This is the first mention of the dual name Sun City – Sun City West.

A 22 July 1987 Convention Bulletin published by the Chapter states –

## CONVENTION INFORMATION

*“As you probably all know by now the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) is holding its national convention in Tucson 25 August to 29 August inclusive. This presents a marvelous opportunity for the Companions of the SUN CITIES CHAPTER to be a part of the convention process.”*

Our chapter bulletins beginning with Bulletin #1, October 1987, say we are the Sun Cities chapter.

I now digress for a minute. That same October bulletin lists new companions that joined the chapter. LTC Norman Smith, CWO Billie Hopper, LTC Mary O’Neil, MAJ Ella Burkhart. So, these 4 individuals were the first new members of the renamed chapter, the Sun Cities Chapter. It is with this mention of CWO Billie Hopper in this bulletin that I report his passing this year. **Billie Hopper has joined the ages.** Our condolences to his family. He was a member of this chapter for 34 years.

Back to the birthday article. We remained the Sun Cities Chapter until chapter year 2011-12 when BGen David Woellner was Commander. At that time many of our companions were not living in the “Sun Cities” of Sun City and Sun City West but in other parts of the West Valley. So, under the leadership of General Woellner we changed our name to the West Valley AZ Chapter.

Another side note – BGen Woellner passed away in 2020 just after one of his stories of his experiences in WWII where he was shot down over Germany and became a Prisoner of War was published in the April, May, and June bulletins.

Thankfully, we have a broad enough name that we will probably not have to change it again. Our companions come from all over the West Valley.

For 16 years we were the Sun City Chapter, for 24/25 years the Sun Cities Chapter, and for the last 9/10 years the West Valley Chapter. But for 50 years just one MOWW chapter.

More to come on our Chapter History in the bulletins for the rest of the 2021-22 chapter year.

**Don’t forget!** We are planning on having a chapter birthday party in November. So, save the whole month until we come up with a day. You won’t want to miss it.

Ken Coffman  
Chapter Historian

## This Day in History

**October 1, 1951:** The Air Force activates the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron at the Missile Test Center, which is now part of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (Fla.). The squadron was armed with primitive cruise missiles (surface-to-surface) such as the Republic-Ford JB-2 - a copy of Nazi Germany's V-1 buzzbomb - and the B-61 Matador missile, an improved design which could be armed with a 40-kiloton nuclear warhead.

In less than three years, the unit is deployed to West Germany's Bitburg Air Base where it becomes the 1st Tactical Missile squadron - America's first operational missile unit.

**October 2, 1942:** Col. Laurence C. Craigie becomes the U.S. military's first official jet pilot when he takes off from Muroc Dry Lake (present-day Edwards Air Force Base) in the Bell XP-59. The day before, a Bell test pilot accidentally lifted off during a high-speed taxi test. Craigie will go on to command a fighter wing in North Africa, then becomes Vice Commander of the Far East Air Forces during the Korean War.

**October 3, 1794:** President George Washington calls on the governors of Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to mobilize troops to put down the Whiskey Rebellion. Washington himself will lead the army - the only time a sitting president commands troops in the field. Henry "Light Horse" Lee, veteran of the American Revolution and father of Confederate general Robert E. Lee will also lead troops, and also participating in the campaign is Pvt. Meriwether Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

**October 3, 1912:** Four Marine battalions - including one led by Maj. Smedley Butler - converge and assault the fortress atop the 500-ft. Coyotepe Hill. Nicaraguan rebel commander Gen. Benjamin Zeledón is killed during the battle, and the rebellion effectively ends once the Marines capture the city of León in two days. Butler, a veteran of the Boxer Rebellion, Banana Wars, Mexican Revolution, and World War I, is the only Marine in history to be awarded two Medal of Honors and the Marine Corps Brevet Medal.

**October 4, 1821:** Lt. Robert F. Stockton, veteran of the War of 1812 who also fought the Barbary pirates, sets sail from Boston to interdict the African slave trade. Stockton will help establish the country of Liberia, where thousands of former American slaves and free blacks are resettled. He will capture several slave ships on this cruise, of which he writes, "I have great satisfaction in the reflection that I have procrastinated the slavery of some 800 Africans, and have broken off this horrible traffic to the northward of Cape Palmas for at least this season.

**October 7, 1918:** Nearly two weeks into the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I, the U.S. Army's 82nd Division (destined to become the famed 82nd Airborne Division) battles its way toward -- and successfully relieves -- the now famous "Lost Battalion" (combined elements of three battalions of the 77th Infantry Division, which had been surrounded during a German counterattack).

For days without blankets and overcoats, always running short of ammunition and medical supplies (the wounded often patched up with bloody bandages removed from the dead), and with little food and nearly no water; the "Lost Battalion" -- under the command of Maj. (future lieutenant colonel) Charles S. Whittlesey -- had refused to surrender. Responding to a German surrender-demand, Whittlesey allegedly replied, "Go to hell!" Some reports suggest he said, "Come and get us."

Whittlesey and two of his officers -- Captains George McMurtry and Nelson Holderman -- will receive the Medal of Honor.

**October 10, 1845:** Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft founds the Naval School in Annapolis, Md. - later renamed the U.S. Naval Academy. The nation's second-oldest service academy (the U.S. Military Academy was established by Thomas Jefferson in 1802) is built on the grounds of Fort Severn, which traces its roots to the American Revolution.

**October 12, 1944:** U.S. Army Air Force 1st Lt. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager and his 357th Fighter Group surprise a flight of 22 Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters near Hanover, Germany. Yeager's P-51D "Mustang", named *Glamorous Glenn II*, Yeager will score five of the group's eight victories - two without firing a shot - becoming an "ace in a day." Yeager finishes World War II with 11.5 kills, and will go on to fly 127 missions during the Vietnam War. The former Army private will retire a Brigadier General in 1975, but continues flying for the Air Force and NASA.

**October 20, 1922:** Lt. Harold R. Harris (Army Air Service) performs the world's first emergency parachute jump when the wings of his Loening PW-2A come apart during a simulated dogfight 2,500 feet over McCook Field. Harris bails out of his cockpit and after free-falling 2,000 feet, he lands safely in a garden in Dayton, Ohio.

**October 23, 1944:** Three days after 100,000 U.S. troops land in the Philippines, the Battle of Leyte Gulf - the largest naval engagement during World War II - begins. On the first day, the submarines USS *Darter* and USS *Dace* attack Vice Adm. Takeo Kurita's Center Fleet, sinking two heavy cruisers (including Kurita's flagship) and damaging another. During the three-day battle, nearly 400 ships will square off, with Japan suffering crippling losses: four aircraft carriers, four battleships, and 21 cruisers and destroyers are sunk, along with the loss of 12,000 sailors and 300 planes. An increasingly desperate Japanese military uses *kamikaze* tactics for the first time during the battle.

**October 28, 1962:** Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev "blinks," ordering the withdrawal of ballistic missiles from Cuba and putting an end to the Cuban Missile Crisis.



## Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the Nov Bulletin is Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:cbjerkaas@cox.net)

Thank you.

Carlton Bjerkaas, Editor

## WEST VALLEY AZ CHAPTER ACTION PLAN 2021-2022

### STRATEGIC GOAL #1: ANNUALLY GROW CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP BY 4% AND INCREASE COMPANION PARTICIPATION IN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- Increase Chapter Membership by at least 4% or 2 new members, preferably perpetual members. **Current membership is at 34 Companions.**
- Meeting at least every other month. In person or via Zoom. **We meet 8 times/year.**
- Update the Personnel data of all Companions in the MOWW Member Roster.
- Increase Companion participation in Chapter meetings, committees, and events.

### STRATEGIC GOAL #2: PROVIDE COMPANION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- Annual refresher training for the Treasurer.
- Educate Chapter Officers and Outreach Chairpersons on the MOWW Web Page to identify their responsibilities.
- Encourage participation in Region XIII Conferences and MOWW National Convention.

### STRATEGIC GOAL #3: MENTOR AND DEVELOP COMPANIONS

- Establish leadership succession. Identify this early in the operational year to facilitate a seamless transition to a new staff the following year.

### STRATEGIC GOAL #4: CONDUCT CHAPTER ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

- Publish at least eight *Bulletins* during the season.
- Develop news releases for local TV, radio, and written publishers. MOC, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, etc.
- Articles for the *Officer Review (Chapter in Action)* about major events: MOC, etc.

### STRATEGIC GOAL #5: EXPAND AND IMPROVE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- Recruit, fund and send 20-24 delegates to the AZ Youth Leadership Conference.
- Present Awards of Merit to deserving cadets at ERAU ROTCs (6) and JROTC (17) units.

- Identify and present BPH Organization Awards, Law and Order/First Responder Award of Merit Plaques, Award of Merit Plaques to distinguished citizens, community service groups and media professionals. Conduct ROTC/JROTC Patriotic Essay Contest.
- Conduct a Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance involving JROTC units and veterans and civic organizations with a quality guest speaker.
- Conduct a meeting emphasizing Law and Order, Patriotic Education, ROTC, National Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs during the Activity Season.

**STRATEGIC GOAL #6: PROMOTE COMPANION, CHAPTER AND COMMUNITY RECOGNITION**

- Award a Silver Patrick Henry Medal to a deserving Companion annually.
- Award two Outstanding and Outreach Service Medals to deserving Companions annually.
- Recommend one National Citation for a deserving Companion annually.
- Submit Outreach Activities Reports and Recommendations for Chapter Awards annually.
- Award Bronze Patrick Henry Medals to Outstanding JROTC Cadet, Educators. etc.
- Present Certificates of Achievement or Appreciation to deserving Companions, Breakfast Meeting speakers, and other extraordinary supporters of the Chapter and MOWW at large.

## *SPECIAL FEATURE*

# Last of 17 Retired B-1s Sent to Boneyard as Air Force Preps for B-21s

24 Sep 2021

Military.com | By [Stephen Losey](#)



A B-1B Lancer taxis at Edwards Air Force Base, California, Sept. 23, 2021 for its final flight. The aircraft is the last of 17 Lancers previously identified for divestiture by Air Force Global Strike Command. (Air Force photo by Clay Cupit)

The Air Force has sent the last of a batch of 17 of its oldest and most worn-out B-1B Lancer bombers to the boneyard.

The final plane flew out of Edwards Air Force Base, California, on Thursday, to the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, which houses the vast majority of retired Air Force aircraft. The first B-1 to be retired in this batch flew to the boneyard in February.



The divestment of roughly one-quarter of the service's B-1s leaves it with 45 in its inventory -- a major step in the Air Force's effort to prepare to bring the B-21 Raider long-range strike bomber, which is still under development, into service.

The B-1B fleet, which the Air Force started flying in the 1980s, worked particularly hard during the wars of the last two decades, and continued maintenance woes meant it saw some of the greatest issues with availability for operations in the service.

Now-retired Gen. Timothy Ray, when he was serving as head of Air Force Global Strike Command, told reporters in 2019 that the B-1 had been "overextended" in repeated deployments to the Middle East. Later that year, Gen. John Hyten, now the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told lawmakers that just six of the 62 B-1s then in the fleet were fully able to fly missions.

Bringing those 17 B-1s back into a mission-capable status until the new B-21 comes online would cost anywhere from \$10 million to \$30 million per plane, according to the service. Retiring them instead allows Air Force Global Strike Command to concentrate its maintenance resources on keeping the remaining bomber fleet working.

The Air Force plans to retire all its B-1 and B-2 Spirit bombers by the 2030s, leaving it with a bomber fleet consisting of B-21s and rebuilt B-52 Stratofortress's with upgraded engines.

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said Monday that manufacturer Northrop Grumman is now constructing five test B-21s. The first B-21 is expected to have its first test flight next year, and the service could begin fielding it later this decade.

Thirteen of the batch of 17 B-1s are at the Davis-Monthan boneyard, where they will be kept in good enough shape that their parts can be cannibalized to repair other bombers.

The other four retired B-1s were divided between Edwards, where one will be a tester aircraft on the ground; Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where one will serve as a prototype for testing structural repairs; the National Institute for Aviation Research in Wichita, Kansas, where one will be digitally mapped; and the museum at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, where one will be put on display.

The Air Force previously retired 33 B-1s in 2003.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TO:**

