



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. 6

December 2023

The Preamble

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;
- Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- And to transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our Country, we unite to establish

**THE MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS.**

SPECIAL FEATURE (Page 7)

Gen. Marshall Obtains the Medal of Honor for Gen. Douglas MacArthur



Commander's Message



**Linda Howry
Commander**

I hope that you had a pleasant Veteran's Day and were able to attend one of the many celebrations held throughout the valley. The Chapter 131 MOWW meeting was held on November 18th at Chef Peter's Chuck Wagon Restaurant at Happy Trails.

We welcomed one guest, LTC David Miller, who was recruited from the Sun City Festival group. We have 3 potential members from the Luke Retiree Appreciation Day event who will attend a future meeting. Remember to ask your friends and patriotic friends to come to one of our meetings.

Two awards were given at the November meeting. Carlton Bjerkaas received a certificate of appreciation from Major Robert Williams, National MOWW Chair of Information and Publicity Committee. He received it for his participation in the reviewing and evaluating of 26 newsletters for awards. Kenneth Coffman received a merit award and outstanding Services Medallion

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for December 9th, 2023 at 0930 at **Chef Peter's**

Address: Happy Trails in the old Chuck Wagon restaurant. 17200 W Bell Rd Surprise, AZ 85374

plaque. This award was for the upgrading and improving of the chapter website.

Future events include an essay contest for JROTC and ROTC schools which our chapter supports. The topic this year is “*What Does Leadership Mean to Me?*”? The closing date for the receipt of essays is January 19, 2024. The winning essayist will be presented an award at the winner’s ROTC school awards ceremony. The JROTC winner will receive a \$500 award and the ROTC winner will receive a \$750 award.

The Massing of the Colors will be February 20, 2024 at 11:15 a.m. at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West. The speaker will be Winnie Fritz, CPT (former), USA, MSN, EdD, NEA-BC/CNAA.

AZYLC Inc. is in the process of reviewing the by-laws and planning for the 2024 Youth Conference. Fred Garnett showed a slide presentation of the students at last summer’s conference.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Linda Howry, Commander 2023-2024
Email: lindahowry@aol.com or call 928-252-6340

Surgeon’s Note

Surgeon’s Note
By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians, #3 William Beaumont

Many of us are familiar with the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. But what did Beaumont do that warranted this recognition? **WARNING: This story is controversial.**



William Beaumont was born in Lebanon, Connecticut in 1785. He initially worked as a teacher, but in 1810 he began training to become a physician through apprenticeship with a Vermont physician. He completed his training in 1812 and began service as an assistant surgeon in the Army. He left the Army in 1815 at the conclusion of the War. Beaumont established a medical practice in Plattsburgh, N.Y., but was not financially successful. He rejoined the Army in 1820 as a surgeon and was stationed at Ft. Mackinac, Michigan. There his life and name would become permanently linked to that of Alexis St. Martin.

Due to his situation as the only physician in a very isolated region, Beaumont petitioned the War Department for permission to care for civilian patients. June 6, 1822, a patron of the Fort trading post accidentally discharged his shotgun wounding an innocent bystander less than a yard away. Alexis St. Martin, a 20-year-old, illiterate, French-Canadian trapper suffered an apparently mortal wound to the upper left abdomen. Dr. Beaumont was summoned to attend to St. Martin. The patient was transferred to the post hospital and Beaumont cleaned and dressed the wounds. Initially, only palliative care was given to St. Martin due to his hopeless prognosis, but the patient slowly improved. As his recuperation progressed, Beaumont performed a series of operations to close the gaping wound in the upper abdomen. Over time St. Martin’s recovery was extraordinary; however, a small tube-like channel developed between a hole in his stomach and an opening in his skin. Despite several attempts, Beaumont was unable to surgically close the defect, known as a fistula.

St. Martin was unable to return to work and was without funds. The expense of his chronic care within the hospital setting was mounting and he was discharged. Dr. Beaumont and his family took St. Martin into their home and provided for his care and support.

In 1825, Beaumont was transferred to Ft. Niagara in New York and St. Martin accompanied him. At this point Beaumont noted that open tract into St. Martin's stomach afforded direct observation of the living stomach. Prior to this time, there was no knowledge of how the stomach actually digested food. He began a series of experiments on St. Martin. He syphoned off gastric juices and had them chemically analyzed, establishing the role of hydrochloric acid in the breakdown of protein. He noted that the gastric secretions varied at different times during the day and were influenced by emotions. He introduced food through the opening and withdrew it with a string at different times to determine how quickly different food groups were digested. He established that digestion was primarily a chemical and not mechanical process.

These experiments were conducted over the period between 1825 and 1833. St. Martin followed Beaumont as he was transferred to posts in Wisconsin and Missouri. He complained about the experiments and ran away on several occasions. Beaumont eventually drew up at least four contracts; wherein, he agreed to provide St. Martin with room, board, and a small monthly stipend in exchange for St. Martin performing household chores and allowing Beaumont to continue his experimentation. Interestingly, over the years a flap developed in the skin superior to the opening that formed a natural valve. This allowed St. Martin to engage in relatively normal eating and physical activity. By 1834, St. Martin had returned to Canada and refused to have any further study by Dr. Beaumont.

Throughout his time with St. Martin, Beaumont had kept meticulous notes regarding his treatment and experimentation. Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice, and Physiology of Digestion was published by Dr. Beaumont in 1838. His findings were the first direct

scientific evidence of the process of digestion. He is considered to be the father of gastric physiology.

William Beaumont retired from the Army in 1839 and died in 1852 at age 67. Alexis St. Martin lived out a comfortable life in Canada dying in 1880 at age 78. St. Martin's family reputedly left his body outside to decompose for several days before burying it to prevent any further "experimentation" on the corpse.

His contemporaries viewed William Beaumont's contribution to medical science with near universal acclaim. Many present-day scholars vilify him for ethical breaches in his relationship with St. Martin. This is an important issue. Will at some future time, an outcry arise to cancel Beaumont and rename the medical center at Ft. Bliss? Let's examine the issue from both perspectives.

First, the ethical concerns:

1) The basic complaint is that Beaumont took advantage of an individual who was physically, emotionally, intellectually, and financially unable to defend himself. St. Martin suffered prolonged physical and emotional abuse at Beaumont's hands. This represents clear violation of ethical standards for human subjects as we define them today.

2) Did the benefit of scientific knowledge gained justify the harm to the subject. St. Martin endured 8 years of discomfort and exploitation during active experimentation.

3) Although Beaumont claimed failure to surgically close the fistula (persistent opening to the stomach), some speculate that he deliberately left it open to facilitate experimentation. Thus exposing St. Martin to a lifetime of discomfort and potential complications.

4) The doctor/patient relationship was violated. Beaumont did not obtain permission to initiate experimentation. He did not terminate the experiments when St. Martin complained of discomfort or fled. He engaged in contractual

agreements with an illiterate man that obligated him to become a test subject.

5) As a paid household employee, requiring St. Martin to participate in experimentation against his will is a serious breach of the employer/employee relationship.

The response:

1) The scientific importance and relevance of Beaumont's research remains the cornerstone of our current understanding of gastric physiology.

2) Beaumont was the product of his time. He had little formal education, gaining his medical expertise through an apprenticeship and practical experience. He had limited exposure to scientific method.

3) All surgery in the 1820's and 30's was performed without any anesthesia. Both doctors and patients understood that pain was a significant component of many medical procedures. Beaumont's notes reveal that he did have limited access to Laudanum (a mixture of opium and alcohol), which he used for pain relief.

4) Ethical concerns were not voiced by his contemporaries. Medical ethics much like medical science has evolved from Beaumont's time. What we currently view as clear ethical violations were not red flags in that period. There was a more cavalier attitude toward the risk benefit ratio associated with the advancement of medical science.

5) Any application of current standards for employer/employee relationships to the 1830's is obviously problematic. The relationship between Beaumont and St. Martin would not have been out of the ordinary for that time. It must be understood that indentured servitude and even outright slavery were still legal during that period.

6) Beaumont taking St. Martin into his home and providing for him for at least 2 years prior to performing any experimentation is evidence of compassion rather than exploitation.

You now know the history of William Beaumont, MD and some of the explanation for the Army honoring him as the namesake of a medical center. Opinions regarding his actions will vary, but his accomplishments remain.

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 17 Nov 2023

General Fund	\$9,326.52
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$9,376.52
Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,541.39
Endowment Fund	\$14,756.93
GRAND TOTAL	\$29,674.84

Annual Financial Audit – The annual audit of the operational year (OY) ending on June 30, 2023 was completed by Ken Coffman and Jerry Wojtas. No discrepancies were found. A copy of the report was given to the commander.

Chapter Dues – Due now for OY 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). No change in local dues amount. Checks are to be made out to “**MOWW Chapter 131**” and given to or mailed to Buz Isban. 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.

MOWW National Dues – On January 1, 2024 regular annual dues goes up from \$40 to \$60. Perpetual member dues go up from \$350 to \$500.

Heads Up
MOWW National Convention
5-11 August 2024
Valley Forge, PA

Luke Air Force Retirement Day - October 21, 2023

Col. Jerry Wojtas, Sgt. Ken Blanchard and SGM. Fred Garnett attended the MOWW Recruiting and Information booth for the Retiree Appreciation Day event. We visited with approximately 30-45 active duty and retired Veterans. We all shared many military stories and great memories. We stated our Mission, "It's better to serve than be served" and what we do as a Veteran's Organization. Attendees viewed pictures from AZYLC as an example of how we continue to support the 17 West Valley JROTC Schools.



Swearing in Ken Coffman as Webmaster and Tom Troxell as Chaplain.

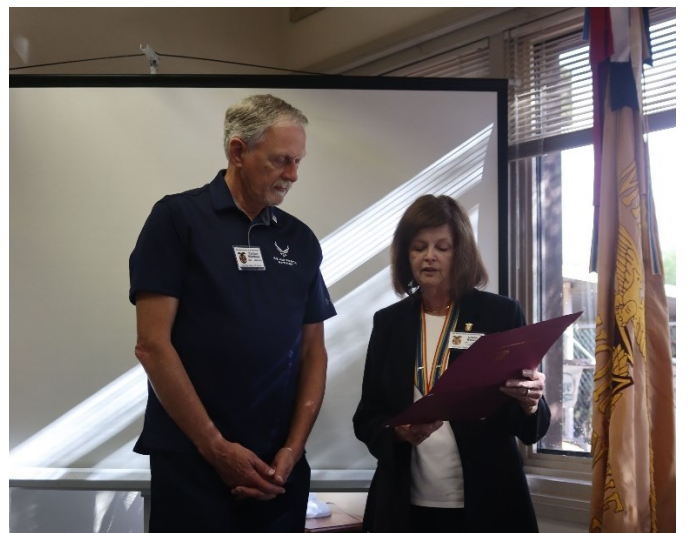


Ken Coffman receiving an Outstanding Service Award from Commander Linda Howry.

November Meeting Highlights



Attendees enjoying the November meeting: Linda Howry, Mel Howry, Mike Messenger, Linda Messenger, and Tom Troxell.



Carlton Bjerkaas receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Commander Linda Howry.

MOWW National Information

MOWW News and Information

Want to Become a MOWW Companion?

MOWW chapters provide opportunities to support veterans of all ranks and service, youth patriotic education, college ROTC and high school JROTC, Scouting, monuments and memorials, public safety/law & order, national and homeland security programs, and stimulate love of our country and flag.

[Click for More Information](#)

"It is nobler to serve than to be served."

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the January 2024 Bulletin is the 21th of December.

Email articles to carltonbjerkas@gmail.com



Fred Garnett spoke on AZYLC 2023, emphasizing the attendee's activities and how they fit into their leadership skill building.

Future Events

- 9 December 2023 – Chapter Meeting
- 13 January 2024 – Chapter Meeting
- 10 February 2024 – Chapter Meeting
- 20 February 2024 – ***Massing of the Colors***
- 9 March 2024 – Chapter Meeting
- 13 April 2024 – Chapter Meeting
- 11 May 2024 – Chapter Meeting

SPECIAL FEATURE

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty: Gen. George Marshall Obtains the Medal of Honor for Gen. Douglas MacArthur

BY **DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN** - DECEMBER 9, 2021



Then-Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Army, Commanding General Far Eastern Army, accepting command of Philippine Army troops in induction ceremonies of the Philippine Army Air Corps, at Zabalan Field, Camp Murphy, Rizal, Philippine Islands, Aug. 15, 1941. National Archives photo

On March 25, 1942, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall sent a memorandum to President Franklin Roosevelt marked "Secret." The subject line read: "Medal of Honor, Gen. Douglas MacArthur."

The memo contained details of MacArthur's recommendation for the Medal of Honor. It was dry and businesslike – and an extraordinary act of magnanimity by Marshall. The two generals hated each other. Despite this, Marshall not only recommended that MacArthur receive the Medal of Honor, he *personally* wrote the citation. In doing so Marshall truly went "above and beyond the call of duty."

Their mutual dislike originated in 1909, when as lieutenants they were stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Their relationship might have remained at that level, the consequence of their extreme differences of personality (MacArthur egotistical and theatrical, Marshall quiet and shy) but for an unfortunate sequence of events occurring during the final week of World War I.

In November 1918, Brig. Gen. MacArthur requested permission to capture the town of Sedan with his 42nd Division. Col. Marshall, a rising star in American Expeditionary Force Commander Gen. John Pershing's staff, composed the order authorizing it. Unfortunately, a poorly worded revision written by a superior turned an orderly attack into a competitive free-for-all between the 42nd and 1st Divisions. A tremendous traffic jam ensued at a strategic crossroads. When MacArthur tried to sort things out, because he was not wearing a regulation uniform, he was arrested by a 1st Division lieutenant who suspected him of being a German spy! MacArthur never forgot the humiliation. From that point on, Marshall was a marked man.

MacArthur's opportunity for revenge came in 1933 when he was Army Chief of Staff and Marshall a colonel. Retired Gen. Pershing wrote a letter to MacArthur asking that Marshall be promoted to brigadier general. Instead, MacArthur issued orders sending Marshall to the [Illinois National Guard](#) as an instructor – a posting suggesting that Marshall's military career was finished.

Fortunately, Marshall's career was only temporarily derailed. On Sept. 1, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland, Marshall was sworn in as Army Chief of Staff.

The opening months of World War II for the United States were among the [darkest](#) in its history. The only bright spot, if it could be called that, was MacArthur's continuing defense of [Bataan](#) and [Corregidor](#) in the Philippines. MacArthur supporters in Congress introduced a bill authorizing that he be awarded the Medal of Honor for his efforts. Marshall could have remained silent, or moved to squash the recommendation. Instead, he chose to pre-empt Congress. In a memorandum to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Marshall wrote that "the honor would mean more if it developed from War Department rather than Congressional recognition."



Gen. Douglas MacArthur (center) with his Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Richard Sutherland, in the headquarters tunnel on Corregidor, Philippines, March 1, 1942. National Archives photo

Marshall decided to compose MacArthur's citation himself. In his cover letter to Secretary of War Stimson he wrote that "while there is no specific act of Gen. MacArthur's to justify the award of the Medal of Honor under a literal interpretation of the statutes, I feel that the services that he has rendered merit some recognition far above that of any other decoration which we now confer. After Col. Lindbergh made his flight to Paris in 1927 he was awarded the Medal of Honor by Congressional action. This in itself would establish a precedent for the proposed action in the case of Gen. MacArthur. "I submit this recommendation to you not only because I feel that General MacArthur is deserving of the honor but also because I am certain that this action will meet with popular approval, both within and without the armed forces, and will have a constructive morale value." The attached citation read: "For conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine Islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula. He mobilized, trained,

and led an army which has received world acclaim for its gallant defense against a tremendous superiority of enemy forces in men and arms. His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people, and confirmed the faith of the American people in their Armed Forces.” Perhaps it’s a coincidence, but it’s tempting to think that someone (not a MacArthur fan) had a sense of humor in arranging the presentation schedule once the general arrived in Australia after fleeing the Philippines. MacArthur’s Medal of Honor ceremony occurred on April 1, 1942 – April Fool’s Day.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO: