



# Catalina Mountains Patriot

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Interim Editor  
Marlon Ruiz

## PREAMBLE

*"To maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our national government and the Constitution of the United States;"*



### Commander:

Jean Nelson, HPM



### Adjutant:

Lt Col Richard Nelson



### Treasurer:

CWO4 Robert Ozier



### Asst. Treasurer:

COL Pedro Najera



### Chaplain:

Jean Nelson, HPM



### Judge Advocate:

COL Pedro Najera

## Commander's Comments:

Greetings to all:

We are beginning month twelve of a very long year of isolation and what a year it has been! A year ago I had never heard of Zoom and now it is part of everyday vocabulary. "I zoomed my family yesterday." My optimism about in person meetings was smacked up against the wall of reality, so we are stuck in zoom for the foreseeable future. I am grateful for the technology that permits us to get together. I am even more grateful for Ann Hollis who facilitates our meetings. I hope all of you have either been vaccinated or are well on your way. That will be our goal for being able to meet in person.

I represented our chapter at the Region XIII Fall Convention Multi Business Meeting on January 23, 2021. I was privileged to meet our CINC, who was the VIP and guest speaker. I stayed for the regular Apache Trails Chapter Meeting where General Lopez gave a very interesting talk. It was the third regional chapter meeting I attended as a guest. It is very interesting and informative to visit other chapters and see what they are doing.

It is with sadness I report the passing of a dear companion, Edward W. Marsh LTC USA (Ret) PM. He will be missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Chela.

Our next zoom meeting will be on March 6 at 1:00 PM. I hope to see many of you there.

Commander Jean



## Chaplain's Corner

Psalm 40:1-3

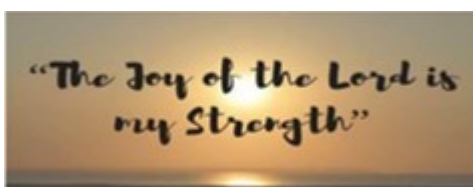
*I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

*He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

How wonderful that we are in God's care, sheltered under the wings of his love. We can be thankful we have a vaccine and can look forward to a more normal future. No matter what comes our way, we can trust that God is with us and will be an ever present help.

We can be confident that God hears our prayers and will bless us with his peace. Let us always give thanks and praise to our God.

Chaplain Jean



## OBSERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



March is **Women's History Month** – commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of **women** in American history.

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons Day on October 18.

Commander Jean



Why is Women's History Month in March? 5 things to know

Below is a brief explanation why we celebrate Women's History Month in March: The Education Task Force ...

[TO VIEW ONLINE CONTENT PRESS PHOTO](#)

News 12 New Jersey - 6h

### 1. LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, in California, initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978.

The week of March 8, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point of the observance. The local Women's History Week activities were met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week.

### 2. MOVEMENT

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by noted historian, Gerda Lerner and attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When the participants learned about the success of the Sonoma County's Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations, communities, and school districts. They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National Women's History Week."

### 3. PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

The first steps toward success came in February 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. In the same year, Rep. Barbara Mikulski and Sen. Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week in 1981. This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the achievements of American women.

### 4. LOBBYING EFFORT

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

### 5. NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special presidential proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.



## **CHAPTER FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES REPORT**

### **General Summary:**

An MOWW Tiger Team Initiative Program online visit video conference call meeting with our Chapter was requested and hosted by the Region XIII commander Pat Stolze on 30 Jan 2021 and we received a follow-up debrief at our Chapter FEB 2021 online meeting. Tiger Teams are an MOWW organizational Chapter evaluation process (introduced by the former CINC during the last operating year) to help assess local Chapter operational and administrative health. Visits are planned by the Region XIII commander to help determine how chapters are doing and as a timely way to provide assistance to chapters before it reaches a critical point of having to cease operations. Tiger Team discussion topics are also documented on the website.

### **Minutes Summary:**

Key discussion topics centered on the following administrative and operational discussion items; *“How does the Chapter plan to address its new membership recruitment challenges?”* – the Chapter has a 2020-2021 Chapter Action Plan SG-1 goal of gaining at least 1 newly recruited Chapter member during the current operating year; *“What is the Chapter plan to address critical annual administrative and operational refresher training?”* The Chapter is focusing its near-term SG-2 annual Chapter training efforts on providing initial and refresher training relating to MOWW IRS Reporting and Treasurer Officer established corporate practices (to help comply with national MOWW Education & Training Program expectations and certification guidelines. Fellow companions Bob Ozier and Pedro Najera will participate in offered training program activities, leading up to the annual online MOWW IRS Reporting window that begins in July 2021. Other Chapter Finance-related issues include; changing the longstanding Chapter Chase Banking account over to US Bank for better customer service. Bob Ozier (the chapter treasurer) and Pedro Najera (the chapter assistant treasurer) and I will decide on a time to go to US Bank and open the necessary accounts.

Newsletter Publication – thanks again to Marlon Ruiz (the current interim Chapter Newsletter Editor until our Chapter identifies our own in-house editor) for his continued assistance in producing our monthly Chapter Newsletter publication. There are current Chapter plans to train yours truly on how to create a newsletter publication in the works.

Chapter Action Plan – our 2020-2021 Chapter Action Plan will provide a working document depicting our specific SG support goals (in support of each of the MOWW stated six strategic goals).

Other Planning Considerations— our Chapter is looking for an invited speaker for the March meeting. We are very optimistic that we may be returning soon to traditional “face-to-face” meetings by May, if the COVID numbers look good. The idea is to meet at my house outdoors. The proposed Chapter Slate of Officer for the upcoming 2021-2022 Operating Year (that will begin on 1 July 2021) are as follows; I will stay on as the Chapter Commander for another year, Rich Nelson as adjutant, and Bob Ozier as treasurer. Chapter officers will require completion of critical administrative and operational leadership training – under the new MOWW corporate Education & Training Certification Program. Region XIII Education & Training Program guidelines and particulars will be forthcoming. Our Chapter will also continue updating the MOWW membership roster database. One idea is to use the newsletter to ask people to provide updated contact information and to develop the chapter action plan which was already mentioned.

Other Comments—Joy spoke with Ann Divine, she said John would love to talk with people Pedro asked about Ted’s ability to attend meetings. Jean reported that Ted’s hearing deficiencies prevent him from participating in our online ZOOM meetings. It’s frustrating for them to try to attend on Zoom. Ed’s service probably won’t be until sometime in March. Bob Ozier has contacted all JROTC. There are no definite plans for the awards presentations. He has not heard from any of the UofA ROTC. The Region XIII Spring Convention Multi-Business Meeting is currently scheduled for Saturday, the 19th of June 2021. Early planning efforts are taking both a return to traditional “face-to-face meeting format and a hybrid online video conference call format portion add-on (to provide those fellow companions who are unable to attend in person the opportunity to participate in the meeting activities as well). We may also be looking at the possibility of smaller youth conferences run by chapters, but the coordination process is difficult due to the remote learning situations. Pedro said if we are going to do a Massing of the Colors in 2021, he has a contact. Marlon said a viable option (to acquire Massing of the Colors event credit) is to look at using a photo gallery presentation (back up online option to host a virtual event). He also offered to assist with creating the online product using Region XIII photo archive stored materials.

# Smoke Jumpers

by

Joe Harris

Catalina Mountains Chapter

The Advisory Committee on Troop Policies recommended to the Army Chief of Staff that an all black parachute battalion be organized. General George Marshall felt that the unit should start off with a company and then develop into a battalion. On February 25, 1943 the 555th Parachute Infantry Company was constituted.

Soldier volunteers were selected from personnel of the 92nd Infantry Division stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. On December 30, 1943 an all-black company was officially activated at Fort Benning, Georgia. After several months of training, the 555th moved to Camp Mackall — just west of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The airborne company never obtained the strength of a full-size battalion and did not serve overseas in Europe during WWII. Instead, the airborne unit was deployed to the west coast on a secret mission. Quoting Sergeant Walter Morris, “We thought we were going overseas to General Douglas MacArthur’s theater.” In late April of 1945, the battalion received new orders — a permanent change of station to Pendleton Air Base, Oregon for duty with the US Ninth Service Command. It wasn’t until they arrived in Oregon, that they learned they would be fighting Japanese launched fire balloons in the forests of the great northwest.



On May 6th while the battalion was still en route to Oregon, a young and pregnant Elsie Mitchell and five children were on a fishing trip near Bly, Oregon. They discovered a strange object. As they gathered to investigate the find, it suddenly exploded killing everyone. That object had been a Japanese bomb that had traveled across the Pacific on a hydrogen-filled balloon. Though it remained a tightly-guarded secret for a time, the Mitchell’s had been the victims of the first intercontinental air attack on our nation. The Japanese had been launching “balloon bombs” into the jet stream for six months.



The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was nicknamed the “Triple Nickles” because of its numerical designation and the selection of 17 of the original 20-member “colored test platoon” from the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division. Three buffalo nickels joined in a triangle became the unit’s identifying symbol.

The “Triple Nickles” — 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion — acquired a new nickname, the “Smoke Jumpers,” and that it would be part of the highly secret project known as “Operation Firefly.” The mission of the operation was clear. Working in teams, the “Smoke Jumpers” rushed to, even parachuted in, forest fires in any of several western states and join with the US Forest Service in suppressing blazes. Additionally, they located Japanese bombs and disposed of them.



From mid July to early October of 1945, “Smoke Jumpers” participated in thirty-six fire missions. There were casualties. In six months, more than thirty paratroopers suffered injuries from cuts and bruises to broken limbs and crushed chests.

Tragically, one trooper lost his life. He landed in the top of a tree. In attempting to climb out of his harness and lower himself with a rope that each man carried, he apparently slipped or lost his grip and crashed into a rocky bed at the tree’s base.



For the first time in the annals of military history of any nation, a military organization of paratroopers was selected to become “Airborne Firefighters.” The “Triple Nickles” became not only the first military fire fighting unit in the world, but pioneered methods of combating forest fires that are still in use today.

Although there were no significant wildfires, small ones nonetheless developed from some of the “balloon bombs” being detonated after landing on undisturbed forests. The all-black “Smoke Jumpers” was the first and last airborne unit of its type to be deployed during a segregated army.

Upon war’s end, the “Smoke Jumpers” returned to Camp Mackall, North Carolina in October of 1945. Not long after settling in, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was transferred to Fort Bragg where it was attached to the 13th Airborne Division. A few months later the battalion was relieved from the 13th and attached to the 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg.

Soon afterward, black paratroopers were transferred to airborne units throughout the 82nd Airborne Division, making it the first integrated division in the US Army. On August 22, 1950, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was disbanded.

JH/12.10.'20



## "Duty, Honor and Country"

The MOWW suggested theme for February is "...love of our country and the flag..." Perhaps nobody has expressed this feeling more eloquently than General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. A few months back we looked at his farewell address to Congress (old soldiers never die...). A few weeks later he also gave a farewell speech at West Point, entitled "Duty, Honor and Country." Some have rated this speech as equivalent to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Below are some of the excerpts from his remarks:

*"Duty, Honor, Country—those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you want to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn. Unhappily, I possess neither that eloquence of diction, that poetry of imagination, nor that brilliance of metaphor to tell you all that they mean. ....*

*And what sort of soldiers are those you are to lead? Are they reliable? Are they brave? Are they capable of victory?*

*Their story is known to all of you. It is the story of the American man at arms. My estimate of him was formed on the battlefields many, many years ago, and has never changed.*

*I regarded him then, as I regard him now, as one of the world's noblest figures; not only as one of the finest military characters, but also as one of the most stainless.*

*I do not know the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death. They died unquestioning, uncomplaining, with faith in their hearts, and on their lips the hope that we would go on to victory."*

## "Duty..." Continued



*"Always for them Duty, Honor, Country. Always their blood and sweat and tears as we sought the way and the truth and the light. ....*

*The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished—tone and tints. They have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty, watered by tears and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. I listen vainly, but with thirsty ear, for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating the long roll.*

*In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: Duty, Honor, Country.*

*Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, ... and the Corps, ... and the Corps."*

General Douglas MacArthur—May 12, 1962



## March Is Self-Harm Awareness Month

by Santa Clarita Magazine | Feb 24, 2021 | Business News

The Month of March is Self-Harm Awareness Month and to address such extreme measures in youth, the SRD Straightening Reins Foundation has created extensive learning tools allowing children to find healthy alternatives when their sense of loss, depression, anxiety or other challenges become overwhelming. A report from the ABC News: Mental Health in America 2021 Mental Health in America Report stated that during COVID-19, 8 out of 10 people showed moderate to severe anxiety symptoms, there was an 8000% increase in calls to help and suicide hotlines in Los Angeles, a 62% increase in depression screenings in 2020 vs 2019 and a 93% increase in anxiety screenings in 2020 vs 2019.

As we know, children do not understand or express their stresses as outwardly or proficiently as adults do, so they may not reach out for support. Self-harm can occur in various forms such as cut-ting, scratching, carving, branding or marking the body, picking at scabs so that they don't heal, pulling hair, burning or grazing oneself, and biting, bruising or hitting oneself. These may be hidden by the child or excuses may occur due to embarrassment in admitting the true cause of the injury or injuries.

Signs that your child is involved in self-harm behavior can be, changes in sleeping or eating habits or loss of interest in activities or contact with friends. Your child may avoid activities such as swimming where body parts are visible or they may hide objects such as razor blades, stencil knives, lighters and matches. This is a traumatic time for the family as well since a feeling of helplessness may occur when discovering your child has been using self-harm as a method for masking their feelings. It's important to contact a professional to begin receiving the needed support. Please contact SRD Straightening Reins either at (661) 803-1641 or via website: <https://srdstraighteningreins.org>. Other resources can be accessed through the website: <https://bethedifferencescv.org>

Remember this is a unique time for everyone and there are professionals available to render support for both your child and your family.



PLACE THE MOUSE POINTER ON THE GRAPHIC OR LINK BELOW AND LEFT CLICK FOR MORE ONLINE CONTENT

# [BeTheDifferenceSCV.org](https://bethedifferencescv.org)



PLACE THE MOUSE POINTER ON THE GRAPHIC AND LEFT CLICK FOR MORE ONLINE CONTENT

girl scouts  
of the commonwealth  
of virginia

## Girl Scout Week is March 7-13, 2021.

This is our week, so let's have some fun and share our Girl Scout spirit! During Girl Scout Week, girls can choose activities from this page and track their points. Girls who achieve the points goal for their Girl Scout level by March 14 earn the Celebrate Girl Scout Week patch:

Daisies 12 points	Juniors 15 points	Seniors 20 points
Brownies 12 points	Cadettes 15 points	Ambassadors 20 points

### 2 points each

- ☐ Show your Girl Scout pride! Make a yard sign or use chalk or sidewalk paint to decorate your driveway or sidewalk.
- ☐ Invite a friend to our virtual **Girl Scouts Past and Present event** at 6:30 p.m. March 11.
- ☐ Invite a friend to a **future GSCV virtual event**.
- ☐ Explore the **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts website** and learn about Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Create a piece of art (picture, poem, song, etc.) inspired by something you learn and share with your friends and family.

### 3 points each

- ☐ Hold a Girl Scout birthday celebration with your sister Girl Scouts.
- ☐ Enjoy an activity from the Girl Scouts at Home pages of **Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia** or **Girl Scouts of the USA**.
- ☐ Check out **G-Team TV**, which is a new GSUSA show by girls for girls.
- ☐ Make SWAPS (also known as Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) to share with other Girl Scouts.
- ☐ Share a photo of you in your Girl Scout uniform on social media.
- ☐ Attend the **Pax Lodge birthday virtual campfire** on March 14.

### 5 points each

- ☐ Attend our virtual **Girl Scouts Past and Present** event at 6:30 p.m. March 11.
- ☐ Attend our virtual Cook-In for Girl Scout Week at 6:30 p.m. March 13. **Register on COMAR.**
- ☐ Plan a service project on your own or with your troop.
- ☐ Create a short video to share with friends and family about why you love Girl Scouts.
- ☐ Attend a **GSUSA virtual event**.
- ☐ Do a good turn every day of Girl Scout Week.
- ☐ Head to the **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts website** to learn about YUNGA Challenge Badges. Try an activity from the badge of your choice.

### 10 points each

- ☐ Hold a virtual Girl Scout Cookie booth on your own or with your troop.
- ☐ Earn the Girl Scout Way badge.
- ☐ Earn the **My Promise. My Faith pin.**
- ☐ Help younger Girl Scouts celebrate Girl Scout Week.
- ☐ Learn about a successful woman in a career that interests you and create a presentation or video about her to share with your friends and family. Earn a bonus point if she was a Girl Scout!
- ☐ Complete a service project in your community.
- ☐ Find the oldest Girl Scout alum in your community and interview her to learn about what Girl Scouts was like when she was a girl.

### 1-point bonus!

Earn a 1-point bonus each time you post one of your Girl Scout Week activities on social media, use hashtags #GirlScoutWeek, #GSCV and #StrongerTogether and tag Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia: **@comgirlscouts on Facebook**, **@GSCofVa on Twitter**, **@girlscoutsofva on Instagram**

### Questions?

Contact Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia at [gshelper@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:gshelper@comgirlscouts.org) or 804-746-0590. Celebrate Girl Scout Week patch is available for \$1.75 in [GSCV shop](https://bethedifferencescv.org).



# Ted's Page

## *Three AT-11s*



One thousand one, one thousand two... This was in March, 1947. On a New England day with weather clearing behind a just-passed cold front, the temperature was pleasantly about 50 F. We stood on the ramp at Westover Field, Massachusetts, beside an AT-11. While talking to me as an older brother would to a naïve and much younger sibling, the lieutenant, a pilot, adjusted the straps on my parachute. He wanted to implant assurance that even if his AT-11 failed I'd have that life-saving piece of cloth in the parachute strapped to my back. I don't want to raise expectations. Even though wearing a



*AT-11 in Pima Air & Space Museum*

parachute was common and required, in this article I won't bail out of that AT-11. "Don't pull the rip cord until you count to 10," he smilingly said as he intoned the count. I reached for the rip cord handle. It was there.

Four of us were on the flight, in addition to the pilot, another lieutenant, the co-pilot, a staff sergeant, the flight engineer and I, a corporal with a little more than a year as a weatherman in the Regular AAF who had lucked into finding a hop home. It would be my first time in any airplane. I tried to

appear as if flying was merely routine for me.

The crew were New Englanders from Windsor Locks, Connecticut. They were reservists. In that time, reservists were called "weekend warriors." Now, they are correctly known as the national defense backbone. Following the pilot's lead, I climbed into the AT-11. As I looked into the cabin, I wondered how many pilots, bombardiers, and navigators who began training at our many WWII flying fields knew as little about the plane when they first climbed into an AT-11. The flight engineer, as friendly as the pilot, led me farther into the fuselage toward a canvas seat attached to ribbing on the AT-11's skin, saying, "don't stumble on the bomb bay door." I stepped around the door. It was closed but I did wonder how securely.

Less than one half hour out of CEE (Westover Field's call letters for the closest town, Chicopee Falls) the flight engineer went forward to the cockpit for a talk with the pilots. Upon returning, he said there was a little trouble with one of the engines. The pilots wanted to turn back. They were unfamiliar with this plane, he said, but he knew the plane very well. The engine, in his view, was not a big concern. I concentrated on relaxing and tightened the chute straps.

Hope had his weekly broadcast.

Our farmhouse was quite tall, a full two stories. On its roof, at the ridgeline, Dad had anchored angle-iron legs of a 10-foot-tall device called a "Windcharger" (power lines had not yet been extended to our farm). Producing electricity by wind is not new. The Windcharger's propeller, as efficient as that nicely curved Monocoupe propeller, powered a generator that injected DC current into a car-type battery (6-volt as most then were) housed and hidden from view within a console radio in our living room. We were proud of the technology, but wind was unreliable. The battery often ran down just when Bob Hope had his weekly broadcast.

We were now behind the cold front. Much colder air rushed in to overwhelm the air mass in which we flew. Far below, snow clung to evergreen trees. Like other aircraft of that time, the AT-11 had no cabin heat. Probably to keep me from thinking of that engine and knowing I was a weatherman, he began a conversation about weather, the noise from the two engines requiring it be conducted in tones at about the level of a shout. I described the weather maps we made in Base Weather, noting: we were then flying above the zero-degree-Centigrade isotherm (a line along which the temperature didn't change) on our upper air charts. A chilling wind whistled up through cracks around the bomb bay door.

Several times, our conversation was broken as he left to further consult with the pilots. At one of his returns, in a matter-of-fact comment, he said, "If we have to shut the engine down, we'll feather the prop"; sensing how much I wanted to get to Selfridge Field, Michigan, (call letters: MTC for nearby Mt. Clemens) he added, "In any case, we'll soon be at the point of no return." It was comforting to know we might still go on, but also disquieting to think that past that point of no return



we might be forced down, plowing unsmoothly through picture-postcard evergreens. We flew over Canada, circumventing Lake Erie. It was the shallowest of the Great Lakes and would have a lot of ice though perhaps not completely ice-covered; in a ditching, its water would be too cold for human survival of any extended time.

I was wearing the winter uniform with olive drab like jacket. It was a warm uniform but the draught coming up from the cracks around the bomb bay made one feel extremely cold, almost unbearably so, and the thought of bailing out made it seem even colder. And yet, the parachute, strapped to my back, was comforting – a thick insulator, it kept my back warm. We had talked long enough to become quite

friendly. I hoped his sensing that I wanted the flight to not return to Westover but to go on to Selfridge wasn't influencing his appraisal of the engine.

At that time, Marie was staying with her parents, Martha and Walter Nordstrom, who lived 15 miles from Selfridge Field. Walt had been an artilleryman at Camp Custer, Michigan, in 1918 and was hospitalized at Battle Creek with the Spanish Flu as that pandemic was called. Martha, proud of his service, was active in the American Legion Auxiliary and had arranged to have a photo studio enlarge his Army postcard photo which she fitted into an oval frame of beautifully grained wood. That portrait hung on a wall beside the dining-room table.

The flight engineer made a number of other trips to the cockpit. After one of them he said, "There are more problems with the engine, but we have passed the point of no return and will have to head for Selfridge." He believed we'd be at Selfridge two or three days while the engine was worked on. I said I would head home when we landed there. (Marie and I hadn't seen each other for several months.) I invited him to then go with me, saying my mother-in-law would prepare a great Midwesterner's dinner for us; he declined, saying he would be intruding.

In what seemed a long time but was only a couple of hours, we were over frozen Lake St. Clair, a small-sister lake of the Great Lakes, bordering Selfridge Field. The pilots informed Selfridge tower of the AT-11's problem. Like a hawk avoiding notice, we glided straight-in. A crash truck and ambulance kept pace as the AT-11 rolled down the runway, the escort a shocking spectacle and also, since the landing was perfect, no crash, amusing. I dropped onto Selfridge's runway, hoping its crew wouldn't see that as I stepped through the AT-11's doorway I patted its side as one would pat a prized horse, told that expert crew it was a great flight, and immediately left for home. Back at Selfridge on the next morning, the flight engineer said the AT-11 would be there at least another day. I again offered that he should be our dinner guest. This time, he agreed. He had been having mess-hall meals, nutritious, but from my description completely incomparable.

Martha's dinner, prepared with Marie's unneeded assistance, belittled an epicure. No surprise, but a



big one from Walt lay awaiting. He repeated what he did at one of my earlier visits. From my February 2016 Ted's Page: *I walked into the house wearing the short World War II Army battle jacket, the "Ike" jacket, which had just replaced the coat-length tunic, on my first visit in uniform. I meant to tell him (Walt) what the Army Air Force was like when he cut me off: 'I need something from the attic.'* For this man, that was a long talk. And



*what was so important up in the attic .... As I wondered what he thought of the Army now, he came down the stairs — wearing his Army, World War I style, tunic.* For the second time now since Camp Custer, Walt wore his uniform. The staff sergeant, wearing, like me, the Ike jacket, much enjoyed Martha's dinner and Walt's WWI uniform.

Lately, I wondered if I could find a model of an AT-11. Except to bombardiers or navigators who trained in one, it was not a storied plane of WWII such as the B-17 or P-51. Unbelievably, I did find an AT-11 model kit. The photo on the preceding page of a flying AT-11 is from the box the kit came in. It had, however, been 81 years since I built a model airplane. I emailed the family, noting I needed someone to build that AT-11. My youngest brother, Larry, who carried on family model-airplane skills, was the first to respond. He built it, emailed its photo (above), carefully wrapped and cushioned it in a Christmas-cookie tin, and mailed it from his Virginia home. It arrived safely, perfect in every detail, even to its freely turning tiny props. But Larry didn't end the project there. Thinking, probably, that it might be lost or damaged in the combined Christmas and pandemic mailing problems, he had made another and also mailed that one. An AT-11 and its backup are now proudly on display in our home.

# NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**YOU CAN EITHER CALL IN BY PHONE OR LOGIN USING YOUR COMPUTER BY JUST PLACING YOUR COMPUTER MOUSE POINTER OVER THE BLUE LINK PROVIDED BELOW AND “LEFT CLICK” ONCE**

Jean Nelson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MOWW Mar 2021 Meeting

Time: Mar 6, 2021 01:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85156346902?pwd=OHJ4WUFzWFFb3ZCNEJSbStdHdFZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 5634 6902

Passcode: 594917

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85156346902#,,,,\*594917# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85156346902#,,,,\*594917# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 851 5634 6902

Passcode: 594917

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcLIHiiPUw>