



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

November 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 5)

Civil War Naval Hero David G. Farragut Was the Navy's First Admiral



Commander's Message



**Linda Howry
Commander**

The Chapter 131 MOWW meeting was held on October 14th at Fellowship square. It was wonderful seeing all of our returning companions. We also welcomed 3 new companions; Gary Yerks USA MAJ (RET) as a perpetual member and John Kismut TSGT USAF (RET) and his wife Seta. We also had two guests, Steven Sparks USN E-4 (FMR) and his wife Judy.

Fellowship Square was a good place to meet and they treated us very well, however the room only holds 24 people. Chef Peter's at Su Village is closing on October 31. Chef Peter's is moving to Happy Trails in the old Chuck Wagon restaurant. He has room for us to have our meetings there with seating for up to 60 people. We also can have a hot buffet breakfast. The staff unanimously approved the new Chef Peter's site. Our next meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday, November 18th, since the second Saturday of the month is Veterans Day. I will send more information about the site the first week in

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for November 18, 2023 at 0930 at **Chef Peter's (Note New Location)**

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

November. Our speaker for that meeting will be Nell Tinker, who was eight years old when the Nazi's invaded her homeland of Holland.

Fred Garnett presented highlights of the 2023 AZYLC summer session. Work is underway to make improvements and plans for the summer 2024. Information was sent to the 15 JROTC and 2 ROTC schools about the upcoming essay contest. Essays are due back to our chapter on January 19, 2024. MOC plans continue and the MOC is scheduled for February 20, 2024.

Remember November 11th is Veterans Day and all that have served answered our countries call. We especially remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives and those that had injuries of body and soul from combat. Finally, let us never forget the Missing in Action (MIA). Nearly 81,000 US service members are missing in action from World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War as of Sept 11, 2023 according to the Department of Defense.

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

November Meeting Details

Chapter 131 MOWW meeting is Saturday November 18, 2023 due to Veterans Day falling on the 2nd Saturday of the month. This is a one-time change.

The venue is changing because of the small size of the room at Fellowship Square. The new venue is Chef Peter's Chuck Wagon at Happy Trails Resort. He is closing his Bistro at Sun Village in Surprise

Speaker: Nell Tinker, who was 8 years old when the Nazi's invaded her homeland of Holland.

Surgeon's Note

By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians, #2

Elisha Kent Kane

Elisha Kent Kane led an incredible, short life. He was born in Philadelphia in 1820. Initially intent on becoming a civil engineer, he entered the University of Virginia in 1837. During field trips to the Blue Ridge mountains to map geologic formations, he fell ill with endocarditis. Following recovery, family members convinced him that engineering might be too strenuous for his health. He changed his career focus to medicine, but did not abandon his spirit for adventure.

Kane graduated from the University of Pennsylvania College of Medicine in 1842. While there he was involved in research that determined the markers in urine associated with pregnancy. The foundation of a test that is still utilized throughout the world to this day.

He joined the U.S. Navy as an Assistant Surgeon in 1843. Sea duty included travel to Bombay, Ceylon, Macao, Madeira, and Rio de Janeiro. He was a member of the China Commercial Treaty mission. While on that deployment he explored the island of Luzon in the Philippines, descending into Taal Volcano to obtain water samples.

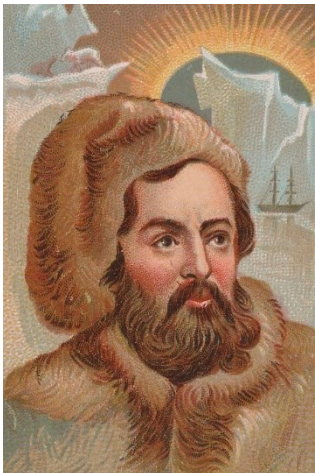
His next assignment was with the African Squadron, a special US Navy unit assigned to suppress the slave trade by blockading the coast of West Africa.

During the Mexican War, U.S. Army General Winfield Scott captured Mexico City, but lines of communication had broken down with Washington, D.C. President James Polk, understandably concerned that General Scott was in a position to negotiate his own terms with the Mexican government, tasked Secretary of State James Buchanan with appointing a special envoy to personally deliver instructions to General Scott in Mexico City. Lost to history are the reasons why, but Secretary Buchanan appointed a sickly, 27-year-old Navy physician as the courier. Under the guise of an inspection tour of military hospitals, Kane was trusted to deliver Presidential orders personally to General Scott. Enroute, Kane's detachment became engaged in combat near Nopalucan. For his battlefield treatment of

both US and Mexican casualties, notably saving the life of the son of a Mexican general, he received a commendation. Kane successfully accomplished his mission. In February 1848, General Scott cooperated with US Envoy Nicholas Trist in negotiating the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war. For his part, native son Elisha Kent Kane was presented a ceremonial sword by the City of Philadelphia.

Next posted to the U.S. Coast Survey team, Kane participated in the survey of the southeast coast of the United States. After which, at the age of 30, he was appointed to the rank of Senior Surgeon, USN.

Kane joined the Grinnell Arctic Expedition, 1850-51, vainly searching to rescue or determine the fate of arctic explorer Sir John Franklin. The expedition did succeed in discovering an encampment and a number of gravesites on Beechey Island (located in the Arctic Archipelago of Nunavut, Canada), for which Kane received credit. Returning from this adventure, he began a series of public lectures before audiences numbering in the hundreds. A charismatic and gifted speaker, Kane gained star-like status for his presentations. During this period, he published *U.S. Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin: A Personal Narrative*.



Building on his prestige, he organized and headed a second expedition in 1853-55. The coasts of Smith Sound (now Kane Basin) were charted and the ice-free Kennedy Channel was discovered (an Arctic waterway lying between Greenland and Canada's northernmost island, Ellesmere Island).

The team penetrated farther north than any exploration up to that time. Fifty years later, Commander Robert Peary, USN incorporated this passage on his route to the North Pole. Kane's brig, the *Advance*, eventually became icebound and was abandoned. The expedition force then

endured an 82-day march to Upernavik, Greenland. Carrying sick and injured men, only one man did not survive the journey. Historians of arctic exploration hale this trek as the epitome of victory over defeat. Kane documented this expedition in his two volume *Arctic Explorations, the Second Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin*.

Though in failing health, Kane traveled to England to fulfill his promise to personally report the findings of his expeditions to Lady Jane Franklin. In hopes of restoring his health he then sailed to Cuba, where he died February 16, 1857. His body was escorted to Philadelphia for burial, after lying in state at Independence Hall.

Few men have experienced or accomplished more in their lifetime than Senior Surgeon Elisha Kent Kane, USN. To have done this within a lifespan of only 37 years and a naval career of less than 14 years is nothing short of implausible. Is there a likely movie role here for Leonardo Di Caprio?

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 14 Oct 2023

General Fund	\$9,234.52
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$9,284.52
Patriotic Savings Account	\$4,841.17
Endowment Fund	\$14,756.93
GRAND TOTAL	\$28,882.62

AZYLIC –Seventeen (17) of twenty (20) candidates completed the program. I woefully underestimated the price per student by over \$150 each. As indicated in the October issue of the Bulletin, the conference was more expensive this year and we had substantially less income to fund the program. The participating chapters

have been tasked with trying to find a less expensive venue for next year's conference.

Annual Financial Audit – I need one more member to assist with the annual audit of the operational year (OY) (June 30, 2023).

Chapter Dues is Due. Chapter dues is only one source of revenue. The other two sources are from the 50/50 raffle and MOWW National Headquarters' annual dividend for our perpetual members. We need every bit to fulfill our Chapter's 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.

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

Future Events

- 18 November 2023 – Chapter Meeting
- 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

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 December 2023 Bulletin is the 22th of November.

Email articles to carltonbjerkas@gmail.com



SPECIAL FEATURE

Civil War Naval Hero David G. Farragut Was the Navy's First Admiral

BY **ROBERT F. DORR** - JANUARY 18, 2022



Adm. David G. Farragut aboard USS Hartford. Library of Congress photo

David G. Farragut was the first American naval officer to hold the rank of rear admiral, vice admiral and admiral – a unique status that resulted directly from his many accomplishments during the Civil War.

He was born James Glasgow Farragut in Tennessee in 1801, but grew up in New Orleans. His family knew local Navy Commodore David Porter, who adopted Farragut as his son after Farragut's mother died in 1808. It was Porter who then

obtained an appointment as a midshipman for young Farragut, even though he was only nine years old.

During the War of 1812, Farragut joined Porter, then a captain, in the latter's famous attacks on British whaling ships in the Pacific. Farragut, only 12 years old, served as a prize master on a captured British ship and sailed it into Valparaiso, Chile. In a subsequent fight with the Royal Navy warships *Phoebe* and *Cherub*, both Porter and Farragut were taken prisoner. After the war was over, his adopted father praised Farragut for his heroism. Farragut honored Porter by taking his first name.

Farragut remained in the Navy after the war and served in a variety of assignments. He participated in Mediterranean actions against pirates and commanded the sloop *Saratoga* during the Mexican-American War.



Adm. David G. Farragut, ca. 1863. Photo part of the Mathew Brady Collection.

When the Civil War began in April 1861, then-Capt. Farragut remained loyal to the Union despite his southern origins. In January 1862, Farragut took command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. His mission was to capture New Orleans, then the South's largest port. His initial plan was to use the firepower of his flotilla to subdue the Confederate batteries guarding the entrance to New Orleans.

When this plan did not succeed, Farragut adopted a brilliant new tactic. On the night of April 24, 1862, he ran his ships past the Confederate forts and their defenders and sank 11 Confederate vessels. When troops under the command of Union Gen. Benjamin F. Butler subsequently landed, New Orleans surrendered without a shot being fired. This was a major victory for the North, since the Confederacy lost a major port while the Union gained a strategic location astride the Mississippi River from which to launch further attacks. Congress was grateful: It promoted Farragut to rear admiral in July 1862 – making him the first American naval officer to hold that rank.



Adm. David G. Farragut lashed to the rigging of the USS Hartford during the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5th, 1864 by Henry Alexander Ogden/The Stapleton Collection.

Farragut is best known for capturing Mobile. At the time, the Alabama city was the last major Confederate port on the Gulf of Mexico. It was well defended. First, its gun batteries were located at Fort Morgan at the entrance to Mobile Bay. Second, tethered naval mines – then called torpedoes – guarded the approaches. Third, the ironclad CSS *Nashville* provided protection. Undeterred, on the morning of Aug. 5, 1864, Rear Adm. Farragut led his four armored monitors and 14 wooden ships under Fort Morgan’s guns.

All went well until the monitor USS *Tecumseh* struck a mine and sank with great loss of life. The other Union warships started to hesitate and pull back. At this point, Farragut, who was tied to the mast of the steam-powered frigate *Hartford*, seized the moment and yelled: “Damn the torpedoes! Full steam ahead!” Inspired by Farragut, the Union flotilla passed through the minefield, entered Mobile Bay and, after a brief battle, captured CSS *Nashville*. Mobile surrendered on Aug. 23, 1864, and Farragut was promoted to vice admiral in December – again, the first American naval officer to hold the rank.

On July 25, 1866, an appreciative Congress promoted Farragut to full admiral. Farragut died in August 1870 at age 69. A sailor to the very end, he was still on active duty.

*This story was first published on **June 24, 2011***

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