

OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 63 • NUMBER 4

JULY–AUGUST 2024



MOWW 2024 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

GEN Carter F. Ham

US ARMY, RETIRED



Passing the Baton

As the 92d Commander in Chief of our Order, it has been a distinct honor and privilege to walk with all of you in leading and advancing this great team as a well-recognized Veteran Service Organization (VSO) where all veterans will unite to serve our **Youth, Community, and Nation**.

As we look at ourselves throughout our ten Regions and 74 Chapters, we can proudly shout out loud that we are building "A Stronger America." As we agreed, we are evolving to ensure we grow and stay relevant, serving other than ourselves. Every MOWW companion proves by their actions that "It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served."

As I mentioned a year ago in my opening remarks taking office, my first words will always be "THANK YOU" in capital letters. Thanks to all of you and your families for your commitment, dedication and service to the Order and our Nation. We can confidently conclude that we are making a notable positive difference in our communities. We have served, we are serving, and we will continue to serve, so help us God.

At the 2024 National Convention in Valley Forge, Philadelphia, I will **Pass the Baton** to the next elected Commander in Chief and elected Executive Committee. We can all be confident they will perform the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them. We pass an operational and viable Order to this new leadership, executing our vision and mission determined to build a more robust and prosperous America. We will all stand, walk, and support them as we continue our defined progressive path into the future. Succession is a key component of our readiness.

I will take this last opportunity to emphasize, "What you do not Touch will not Happen," and if it is not part of the Strategic Plan 2023–2028 focused on outreach programs and is not advancing the visibility of the Order, most probably you should not be using your valuable resources doing it. Our team is strong. Every one of our Chapters, with their scalable capabilities, is part of the overall effectiveness of our Order.

We have shared ideas and discussed "change" at many previous Conventions. In the upcoming Convention, we will have the opportunity to decide whether our Membership "should include all veterans." It is important to understand that this decision requires the approval of an amendment to the Constitution, which will need the approval of **three-fourths (¾) of the delegates present at the convention**. Your presence and voice at the Convention are vital to this important decision shaping our future. You need to be present at the Convention to be part of this important decision moving us into the future.

After the Convention, as a former Commander in Chief, it will be an honor to join our Council of Past Commanders in Chief. Alongside all of you, esteemed Companions, we shall continue our unwavering commitment to serve our Order and our Nation.

It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served!

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Retired)
Commander in Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

MOWW OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief & CEO, MOWW, Inc.
BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)
perezv56@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)
worleymoww@earthlink.net

Vice Commanders-in-Chief
CAPT Deborah A. Dombeck, USCG (Ret)
debdombeck@gmail.com

CAPT Edward W. Gant, USN (Ret)
ed_gantt@hotmail.com

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)
ruizmarlon08@gmail.com

COL Loren A. Weeks, USA (Ret)
lorenaweeks@gmail.com

Immediate Past CINC
LTC (DR) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret)
maokin1953@gmail.com

Chief of Staff, & COO, MOWW, Inc.
Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
chiefofstaff@moww.org

Treasurer General & CFO, MOWW, Inc.
Col Jerry E. Knotts, USAF (Ret)
treasurergeneral@moww.org

Judge Advocate General
CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)
harold@hglaw.pro

Surgeon General
CPT (DR) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr)
bobmallinmd@gmail.com

Chaplain General
LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)
vicburnett@aol.com

Historian General
HFM Mr. Charles W. Bennett, Jr.
lpdchief@aol.com

HQ MOWW
435 North Lee Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-683-4911
www.moww.org





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GEN Carter F. Ham, USA (Ret), was chosen by CINC BG Victor S. Pérez as the Order's 2024 Distinguished Service Award Recipient.



“YOUTH LEADERSHIP—BUILDING THE NEXT GREATEST GENERATION”



*The Commander-in-Chief
of the
Military Order of the World's Wars
cordially invites you
to attend the one hundred fourth
2024 MOWW Convention
Valley Forge*

*Tuesday, 6 August 2024 through
Saturday, 10 August 2024*

CROWNE PLAZA PHILADELPHIA
KING OF PRUSSIA
260 MALL BLVD, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406
HOTEL: 610-265-7500

*Register Online:
[HTTPS://MOWW.ORG/CONVENTION/](https://moww.org/convention/)*

GEN Carter F. Ham

US ARMY, RETIRED



SPC 4 Carter Ham, right, is recognized as the 82nd Airborne Division's Outstanding Trooper of the Month in July 1974. Collection of GEN Carter Ham

GEN CARTER F. HAM retired from the United States Army in 2013 as Commander, U.S. Africa Command, working to enhance America's security by establishing and developing partnerships and building the military capacity of African nations. He directed all U.S. military operations in Africa, including leading coalition forces during the Libyan conflict in 2011, hostage rescue operations in Somalia, and counter-terrorism operations in several countries.

Prior to leading AFRICOM, General Ham was the commander of all U.S. Army forces in Europe, where he oversaw troops deployed to the Balkans, to Iraq, and as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission in Afghanistan. He spent nearly four decades in the Army and is one of a very small number of military leaders who rose from the rank of Private to four-star General. He is a 1976 Distinguished Military Graduate of John Carroll University and earned a master's degree from the Naval War College, Newport, RI.

During his nearly 38 years as a soldier, General Ham served in various capacities both in the field and in the Pentagon. In January 2004, he assumed command of the Multinational Brigade (Task Force Olympia)—North in Mosul, Iraq, and served there until February 2005. He commanded the First Infantry Division (the Big Red One) and, later, served as the Director of Operations, J3, at the Joint Staff.

In retirement, he chaired the Congressionally-mandated National Commission on the Future of the Army and, from 2016 until 2021, served as President and Chief Executive Officer for the Association of the United States Army, a Virginia-based, private non-profit organization with 121 chapters worldwide. This role, which acts primarily as an advocacy group for the Army and its soldiers, allowed him to continue his service in a different capacity. He and his wife, Christi, now reside in Northern Virginia. ★



Who is a Delegate?

Four Hundred Delegates are Eligible to Cast Their Votes This August.

According to the Order's Constitution (Article IV, Section 1), each chapter shall be entitled to two (2) delegates-at-large and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof (in addition to chapter members who are members of the National General Staff) who are in good standing as of 30 June preceding the National Convention, annually.

A Companion can only be a delegate for a single chapter. A duly accredited alternate for the chapter may attend and vote in the absence of a chapter delegate. A chapter delegate requires written certification by the chapter commander utilizing MOWW Form 22, "Convention Delegate Appointment," which must be presented during registration at the MOWW Convention. Chapter delegates may also e-mail a signed copy of MOWW Form 22 to the Host Chapter Commander.

All members of the National General Staff are delegates. General staff members do not require certification as delegates; however, they should identify their General Staff status when registering at the MOWW Convention to receive proper identification as delegates.

According to the Order's Constitution (Article V, Section 4), The statutory delegates to the MOWW Convention constitute the General Staff and consist of:

A. Commander-in-Chief	L. Past Commanders-in-Chief
B. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief	M. Chairman, Council of Area Commanders
C. Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each)	N. Assistant Treasurer General
D. Chief of Staff (ex officio without a vote)	O. Assistant Judge Advocate General
E. The MOWW Board of Trustees	P. Assistant Surgeon General
F. Treasurer General	Q. Assistant Chaplain General
G. Judge Advocate General	R. Assistant Historian General
H. Surgeon General	S. Region, Department, and Chapter Commanders
I. Chaplain General	T. General Staff Emeritus Members
J. Historian General	U. Chairs of all National Committees
K. General Staff Officers (GSOs) (at least five, but no more than 10, Appointed). [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019.]	V. Directors of Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) sanctioned by the Order (if not otherwise members of the General Staff)

All delegates should wear their MOWW Convention badge with their "Delegate Ribbon" attached while attending all business functions during the National Convention. This identification will be required to cast votes during the MOWW Convention.

The attached is a list of chapter delegates calculated as of 30 June 2024. Remember, the chapter commander is a statutory delegate. Statutory delegates are not included in the attached list. ★

CINC BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), reminded Companions that the 2024 MOWW National Convention will be significant and historical.

Let the power of our collective voice shape the future of the Order, as we consider a name change and the opening up of our membership.

2024 TOTAL NUMBER OF DELEGATES PER CHAPTER

REGION / CHAPTER	CHAP POP A/O 30 Jun 23 [Primary Membership Only]	# of DELEGATES	REGION / CHAPTER	CHAP POP A/O 30 Jun 23 [Primary Membership Only]	# of DELEGATES
REGION I (R-I)	308		REGION VII (R-VII)	370	
Cape Cod MA (R-I)	17	3	Col Elmer AR (R-VII)	48	4
Granite State NH (R-I)	13	3	LTG Walker MS (R-VII)	34	3
Green Mountain VT (R-I)	30	3	MG Wheeler AL (R-VII)	39	4
MG (Bvt) Chamberlain ME (R-I)	42	4	CPT Grevemberg LA (R-VII)	66	5
Narragansett Bay RI (R-I)	29	3	Greater Kansas City MO (R-VII)	93	6
Worcester MA (R-I)	37	3	LTG Middleton LA (R-VII)	90	6
Greater Boston MA (R-I)	140	8			
	Total Delegates	27		Total Delegates	28
REGION II (R-II)	392		REGION VIII (R-VIII)	955	
Detroit MI (R-II)	54	4	Austin TX (R-VIII)	26	3
Fort Knox KY (R-II)	89	6	CAPT Dilworth TX (R-VIII)	33	3
Louisville KY (R-II)	47	4	Fort Hood TX (R-VIII)	27	3
MG Butler KY (R-II)	61	4	North Texas TX (R-VIII)	42	4
Chicago IL (R-II)	141	8	Pinson Memorial TX (R-VIII)	35	3
	Total Delegates	26	COL Woods OK (R-VIII)	88	6
REGION III (R-III)	384		Fort Worth TX (R-VIII)	70	5
COL Roosevelt NY (R-III)	36	3	GA Eisenhower KS (R-VIII)	59	4
Delaware DE (R-III)	44	4	Houston TX (R-VIII)	56	4
LTC Shehab NJ (R-III)	29	3	MG Critz OK (R-VIII)	54	4
GEN Ridgway PA (R-III)	55	4	Dallas TX (R-VIII)	357	16
Philadelphia PA (R-III)	220	11	Hill Country TX (R-VIII)	108	6
	Total Delegates	25		Total Delegates	61
REGION IV (R-IV)	667		REGION XIII (R-XIII)	465	
Roanoke VA (R-IV)	30	3	Denver CO (R-XIII)	28	3
Hampton Roads VA (R-IV)	63	5	Santa Cruz Valley AZ (R-XIII)	68	5
Maj Gen Wade DC (R-IV)	80	5	West Valley AZ (R-XIII)	33	3
Northern Virginia VA (R-IV)	67	5	Colorado Springs CO (R-XIII)	85	5
Prince George's County MD (R-IV)	59	4	MG Miles NM ((R-XIII))	58	4
Richmond VA (R-IV)	48	4	Phoenix AZ (R-XIII)	90	6
Virginia Piedmont VA (R-IV)	85	5	Greater El Paso TX (R-XIII)	103	6
General Meade MD (R-IV)	235	11		Total Delegates	32
	Total Delegates	42	REGION XIV (R-XIV)	894	
REGION V (R-V)	490		Capt Dillingham HI (R-XIV)	28	3
Brig Gen Scott GA (R-V)	20	3	LTG Wright CA (R-XIV)	37	3
GEN Westmoreland SC (R-V)	47	4	BGen Holland CA (R-XIV)	64	5
Knoxville TN (R-V)	45	4	Conejo Valley CA (R-XIV)	75	5
Atlanta GA (R-V)	89	6	MajGen Pendleton CA (R-XIV)	76	5
Columbia SC (R-V)	52	4	San Francisco Bay Area CA (R-XIV)	63	5
Memphis TN (R-V)	47	4	COL Woolsey CA (R-XIV)	89	6
Augusta GA (R-V)	190	10	GA Bradley-COL Hanson CA (R-XIV)	109	6
	Total Delegates	35	Puget Sound WA (R-XIV)	244	12
REGION VI (R-VI)	571		San Diego CA (R-XIV)	109	6
Clearwater FL (R-VI)	45	4		Total Delegates	56
Fort Walton Beach FL (R-VI)	63	5	At-Large (R-ATL)	730	
North Central Florida FL (R-VI)	25	3	BG Bultman Chapter (At-Large)	730	31
Northeast Florida FL (R-VI)	26	3		Total Delegates	31
Space Coast - Indian River FL (R-VI)	62	4			
Puerto Rico PR (R-VI)	132	7			
Sun City Center FL (R-VI)	218	11			
	Total Delegates	37			

Total Number of Chapters:

75

Number of Base delegates:

150

Number of Add'l Delegates:

250

Total Number of Delegates:

400



2024-25 Candidates for Elected Office

IPCINC BGEN FREDERICK R. LOPEZ, USMCR (RET)
CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)

VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (4):

CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)
Region VI

COL Loren A. Weeks, USA (Ret)
Region III

COL Michael Paul Peck, USA (Ret)
Region II

Col Adalberto Rivera, USAF (Ret)
Region VI

Note: the MOWW Constitution [Article V, Section 2, Paragraph A.2], states, "Four each, with no two of whom coming from any one region."

TREASURER GENERAL:

Col Jerry E. Knotts, USAF (Ret)

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)

SURGEON GENERAL:

CPT (Dr) CPT Dan L. Cameron, Jr. USA (Fmr)

CHAPLAIN GENERAL:

LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)

HISTORIAN GENERAL:

HPM Charles W. Bennett Jr.

“IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE” VOLUNTEER AS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

The MOWW National Convention will be held 6-11 August 2024 in Valley Forge, PA. Every Companion can fulfill the promise of MOWW's motto, “It is nobler to serve than to be served,” by running for an elected leadership role or by volunteering for an appointed position. Become a candidate for national elected or appointed office!

Please consider serving as MOWW's Assistant Historian General, Assistant Surgeon General, Assistant Chaplain General, or *Ad Hoc* GSO (to assist the Chief of Staff develop ideas for an Annual Membership Drive).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Companions: please email the following Companions with your candidacy preference.
Remember: if you're running for elected office, you need a nominating official!

• **Chair, Nominating Committee**

IPCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)
Email: flopez23@cox.net

• **Vice Chair, Nominating Committee**

PCINC LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret)
Email: maokin1953@gmail.com





2024 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA



"YOUTH LEADERSHIP—BUILDING THE NEXT GREATEST GENERATION"

Tuesday, 6 August 2024 | Dress: Casual

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
0800-1030	Pre-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	Wayne	EXCOM Members
0800-1600	GOLF OUTING & LUNCH - Waynesborough Country Club, Paoli, PA		ALL Golfers
1600-1700	National Candidate Orientation	TBD	Candidates for National Office
1700-1830	HQs Membership Seminar	Independence	All Attendees

Wednesday, 7 August 2024 | Dress: Casual

0730-0900	Council of Area Commanders (CAC)	Independence	CAC Members
0845-1600	TOUR 1: FOUNDING FORWARD AT VALLEY FORGE, PA		ALL ATTENDEES
1600-1700	Hann-Buswell Chapter Meeting	Independence	H-B Chap Members
1800-2100	CINC Welcome Buffet	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees

Thursday, 8 August 2024 | Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress)

0730-0930	Council of Past CINCs Breakfast	Radnor	CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS
0800-0930	New Chapter Commanders Forum	Independence	All Attendees
0815-1630	TOUR 2: HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA		ALL AVAILABLE
0945-1030	Naming Ad Hoc Committee Brief	Independence	All Attendees
1045-1130	Membership Ad Hoc Committee Brief	Independence	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED		
1300-1500	Youth Leadership Panel	Independence	All Attendees
1530-1700	Commander's Call	Independence	All Attendees
1800-2100	Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner	Freedom V & VI	H-B Chap Members
	DINNER AS DESIRED		

Friday, 9 August 2024 | Business Casual

0730-0900	National Candidate Presentations	Independence	All Attendees
0930-1030	Teller Meeting	Wayne	Tellers
0900-1030	Nominating Committee Voting	Independence	Nom Cmte Del
1045-1115	Veterans Affairs Committee Seminar	Independence	All Available
1130-1330	MOWW Awards Luncheon	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
1400-1445	Patriotic Education Committee Mtg	Independence	All Available
1500-1730	Convention Business Session I	Independence	All Available
	DINNER AS DESIRED		

Saturday, 10 August 2024 | Business Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress/Tuxedo)

0730-0830	MOWW Memorial Service	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
0900-1130	Convention Business Session II	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED		
0915-1600	TOUR 3: LONGWOOD GARDENS, KENNETT SQUARE, PA		ALL AVAILABLE
1300-1345	Scouting Committee Seminar	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1400-1445	ROTC Committee Seminar	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1500-1545	PS/L&O Homeland & National Security Mtg	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1600-1645	Non-Denominational Worship Service	Amphitheater	All Attendees
1730-1800	National Officer Photos	Freedom Foyer	CPC/CINC/VCINCs/CS
1800-1850	CINC Reception	Freedom Foyer	All Attendees
1900-2100	CINC Banquet	Freedom IV - VI	All Attendees

Sunday, 11 August 2024 | Dress Casual

0800-1030	Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	Wayne	EXCOM Members
0800-1030	EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast	Radnor	Spouses/Partners



The Threat Within Our Backyard

BG HECTOR LOPEZ, USA (RET)
SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

There is a saying in Latin America that says, "The US always says no to Latin America by always looking east and west and never north and south. It remains true today that Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the recent October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel occupy US attention in those geographic regions in addition to the prioritization of efforts directed toward the Indo-Pacific region.

In addition, it is important to highlight that having a myopic domestic security approach focused on mainly addressing "illegal immigration" at the border with Mexico restricts having a strategic focus and vision that encompasses and directs sufficient efforts to address in a multidimensional manner the security and defense challenges that are germinating in our hemisphere.

This reality is providing our adversaries a window of opportunity in our hemisphere that they are utilizing very effectively. Our nation continues to focus on addressing sterile domestic issues and internal ideological wars, many of which are generated on social platforms by our adversaries.

For instance, it is striking to what extent the Tehran regime has been promoting and increasing its presence in Latin America. Its determined work in recent years to strengthen and intensify relations with countries in the region is leaving its mark. Today, the Islamic Republic already has 11 embassies in the region; in four of them, it operates with defense attachés and has been signing memorandums of understanding on security and defense with countries such as Venezuela and Bolivia.

In the midst of the confrontations in the Gaza Strip following the Hamas terrorist attack, the Bolivian government announced the severance of diplomatic relations with Israel. This fact highlights Iran's close relationship and influence in Bolivia. Research indicates that Iran maintains supportive alliances with violent non-state actors such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis in Yemen, through which it sponsors and foments conflicts to weaken governments in the Middle East and Latin America is no exception. Hezbollah's operations in Latin America are an integral part of Tehran's



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, right, and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro shake hands in 2022. Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year "cooperation road map" during a state visit by President Nicolas Maduro to Tehran. Source: Vahid Salemi/AP

The area is known as the triple border, where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet, and is considered the “criminal paradise.” It has become a gateway for operations and the epicenter of Hezbollah’s activities.



strategy; through these terrorist organizations, Iran expands its presence and advances its objectives, just as it does in the Middle East. These organizations have gone from being a simple terrorist network in Latin America to participating in the most lucrative illicit enterprise in the region: narcotics. The area is known as the triple border, where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet, and is considered the “criminal paradise.” It has become a gateway for operations and the epicenter of Hezbollah’s activities. According to a 2016 report by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Hezbollah moves about \$2 billion annually from drug trafficking in this area. “Hezbollah has reached such a level in transnational organized crime that it has been dubbed the ‘Western Union of drug cartels’ in Latin America.”

Stealthily and persistently, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in conjunction with Hezbollah, has carried out its infiltration that has today penetrated various high political and economic spheres of the region, as well as outlaw groups, including drug cartels, criminal networks, and revolutionary movements. These steps, patiently executed in the shadows, have occurred, according to the experts, without the region’s awareness, to include the vast majority of our American citizens and policymakers. “The greatest threat our continent faces is the lack of

knowledge and awareness about the Middle East and its history. According to Joseph Humire¹, this is a big challenge. “It is essential to understand who Iran and Hezbollah are and how they benefit from the disruptions in the region. We also need to acknowledge the impact of leftist governments and criminal groups that have long caused much damage to the continent. Raising awareness and gaining knowledge about these issues is crucial for our safety and security.” Joseph Humire, who has been studying Iran and its armed wings for more than a decade, is sounding the alarm not only to governments and decision-makers but to the entire civilian population, the media, and academia to sharpen their sensitivity to the growing risks to the security and democracy of countries in the region. “We are facing a threat that is no longer latent but real that is being presented at a global level. The United States and Latin America must stop seeing Iran as a distant actor and understand the dimension of the seriousness of this situation. As governments move forward in strengthening ties with Iran, the people must become aware of the implications of these relations and prevent them from continuing to develop before it is too late,” Humire concludes.

Iran’s reach in Latin America is not surprising. However, more than that, it is worrying and



[1.] Joseph M. Humire is a foreign policy and national security expert, analyzing Transregional Threat Networks in the Western Hemisphere. He provides regular briefings and lectures on the convergence of international terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as countering China, Russia, and Iran’s malign influence in the Americas to various entities within the US government, as well as prominent think tanks and universities worldwide.





The primary antenna of a Chinese deep space ground station in the Neuquén province, Argentina. Source: Argentina Presidency of the Nation.

unsettling because of the proven capabilities to reach different sectors of society and the resilience and patience to plan their actions, as witnessed by the terrorist attacks against Israel. Latin America's closeness to the United States means that the region plays a leading role in the course of events, making Iran the worst threat to the continent's democracies. Experts like Humire are calling for urgent attention to Iran's intentions and its current presence in Latin America.

Moreover, it is now even more evident that Iran uses Hezbollah for its political goals, and it has an agenda of its own in the Western Hemisphere. The last visit of the president of Iran to the region, in June 2023, included Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, which already makes it clear where they are playing and with whom, Voice of America published. "It is clear that they are playing hand in hand with Russia to cause the disruption of democracy, to create problems for the United States, and to consolidate the autocracies and dictatorships of the continent," referring to Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

The hyperactivity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxy Hezbollah is increasing alarmingly in the Western Hemisphere. "Iran's main regional objective is to establish a political, military, and paramilitary network, parallel to like-minded anti-U.S. movements and regimes, to counter its influence and erode its legitimacy in the Western Hemisphere," reports a report by the American



(L-R): Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and Cuba's Council of Ministers and Executive Committee (Deputy Prime Minister) Ricardo Cabrisas talk during Rouhani's departure at Jose Marti airport in Havana, Cuba, Sept 2016.

Enterprise Institute (AEI)^[2] think tank.

The terrorist organization Hezbollah has a presence in more than forty countries. However, its presence in Latin America is causing growing concern in the region, especially in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru. For decades, one of the most active regions for this terrorist faction has been the Tri-Border between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Reports from the German information network DW have revealed the discovery of explosives and funding through drug trafficking.^[3]

Indeed, to describe the details of how Iran, Russia, and China continue to expand their influence and control in the Western Hemisphere would take lengthy chapters, which should urgently alarm all spheres of American government and society. It is imperative to focus diplomatic, information, military, and economic (DIME) attention and resources on a multidimensional strategy and whole-nation approach in Latin America beyond concentrating on the migratory phenomenon, which is merely the symptom of more complex regional security problems and challenges that soon could threaten the stability and security that the United States has endured at home for many decades. ★

[2.] <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/the-mounting-hezbollah-threat-in-latin-america/>

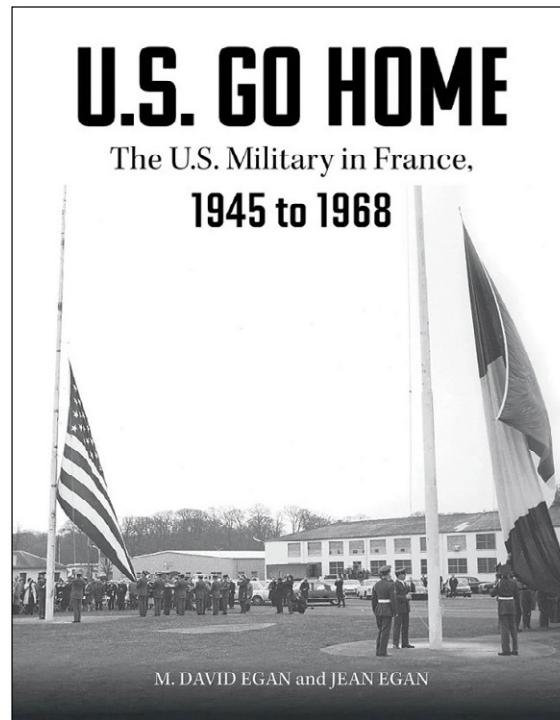
[3.] <https://p.dw.com/p/4ZVQH>

‘US Go Home: The US Military in France, 1945-1968’

RICHARD W. STEWART, PH. D., CHIEF HISTORIAN, US ARMY (RET)

The general outline of the history of the United States military in Germany during the Cold War is fairly well known. The size of the commitment during the 1950-1990 period, the many and controversial weapons systems, and the large and vibrant American community have all been well chronicled over the years. With the continued, albeit reduced, American presence since the end of the Cold War, more studies, reminiscences, and histories will doubtless be forthcoming in the future. Less well known, however, especially as it recedes further into the past, was the substantial US military commitment in France from the end of World War II until the withdrawal of all US units at the request of French President DeGaulle beginning in 1966. Peaking in 1962 with about 100,000 US troops and civilians and employing around 22,000 French civilians, the huge logistical infrastructure for the forward-based combat units in Germany was a major pillar of the planned defense of Europe in the early Cold War.

David and Jean Egan have written a major study of the multi-faceted US community in France during these early years of the Cold War. With tremendous detail, the Egans have prepared a well-illustrated work that was doubtless a labor of love given David Egans several years of service with the US in France in the mid-1960s. It seems that no aspect of the US military establishment in France has been left uncovered. The many depots, hospitals, warehouses, headquarters, military housing facilities, main supply routes, and even motor pools are recounted here in all their comprehensive glory. The Egans have spared no pains to ransack the archives, conduct interviews, and explore all the military records of the US presence in France from the establishment of the headquarters of NATO in Paris until the US departed France in 1968 at French request. The result is a rich work that anyone assigned to France in this period would surely enjoy. It also provides a major contribution to the scholarship of the Cold War. It will probably be the definitive reference book on the details of the US presence in France during this period of the Cold War. It should be in every library with a Cold War section. ★



US Go Home: The US Military in France, 1945-1968, by M. David Egan and Jean Egan; Illustrated by Charles Tilley Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 2022. 608 pages.

M. David Egan, graduate of Lafayette College and MIT, is Distinguished Professor of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, as well as Professor Emeritus at Clemson University, and holds the Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa). His seven architectural books are available in eight languages. From 1962 to 1964, he served with the US Army in France, where he commanded the 39th Ordnance Co. at Trois-Fontaines (Marne). He is a member of the Society for Military History (SMH) and the Cercle National des Armées, Paris, France, and a Companion of the Military Order of the World Wars.

D. Jean Egan, graduate of Louisiana State University, is an independent scholar. She edited five technical books for architects and engineers, published by McGraw-Hill and Wiley-Interscience. She is a member of MIT's Katharine Dexter McCormick Society, the Society for Military History (SMH), and the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP).



“The Bloody Hundredth”

102-Year-Old WWII B-17 Pilot ‘Lucky’ Luckadoo Addresses Dallas Chapter

CPT ALLEN CLARK, USA (RET)

DALLAS CHAPTER, TX



Cadet photo of John Luckadoo. Source: Collection of John Luckadoo.

The 100th Bomb Group gained the reputation as the ‘Bloody Hundredth’ due to the heavy losses they suffered.

On their first mission alone the 100th Bomb Group lost three planes and thirty men.

Between 25 June 1943–20 April 1945, flying out of Station 139, they conducted 8,630 missions with the staggering loss of 732 airmen killed or missing and 177 aircraft lost.

On 25 June 1943, the 100th BG flew its first Eighth Air Force combat mission, bombing the U-boat yards at Bremen – the beginning of the “Bloody Hundredth”’s legacy. The group focused its bombing attacks against German airfields, industrial plants, and naval facilities in France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, and Ukraine. The group inherited the “Bloody Hundredth” nickname from other bomb groups due to severe losses it took on several missions during the summer and fall of 1943. During one such raid on Münster on 10 October 1943, eighteen 100th BG aircraft were sent, of which five aborted and turned back before reaching the target. Twelve of the thirteen aircraft that reached Münster were shot down, and the only surviving 100th BG B-17 to reach Münster and return was seriously damaged and with several crew wounded. Only four of the original thirty-eight co-pilots assigned to the group completed their assigned twenty-five mission tour.

In August 1943, the group received its first Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) after attacking a German aircraft factory, which resulted in a serious disruption to German fighter production. From January–May 1944, the 100th BG regularly bombed airfields, industries, marshaling yards, and V-weapon sites in Western Europe. In February 1944, the group participated in Operation Argument (“Big Week”), the Allied attempt to force a decisive battle with the Luftwaffe and gain air superiority over Western Europe before the invasion of France. In March 1944, the 100th BG completed a succession of attacks on Berlin and received its second DUC of the war.

While bombing during the Oil Campaign of World War II, the group also conducted interdictory missions, such as the June bombing of bridges and gun positions in support of the Invasion of Normandy. The next month saw aircrews bomb enemy positions at Saint-Lô, followed by similar attacks at Brest in August and September. In October 1944, the 100th BG attacked enemy defenses in the Allied drive on the Siegfried Line, then bombed marshaling yards, German-occupied villages, and communication targets in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge from December 1944 to January 1945. For its extraordinary efforts in attacking heavily defended German installations in Germany and dropping supplies to the French Forces of the Interior from June through December 1944, the 100th BG received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

The 100th BG flew its last World War II combat mission on 20 April 1945. In December 1945, the group returned to the U.S., where it was inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, on 21 December 1945.

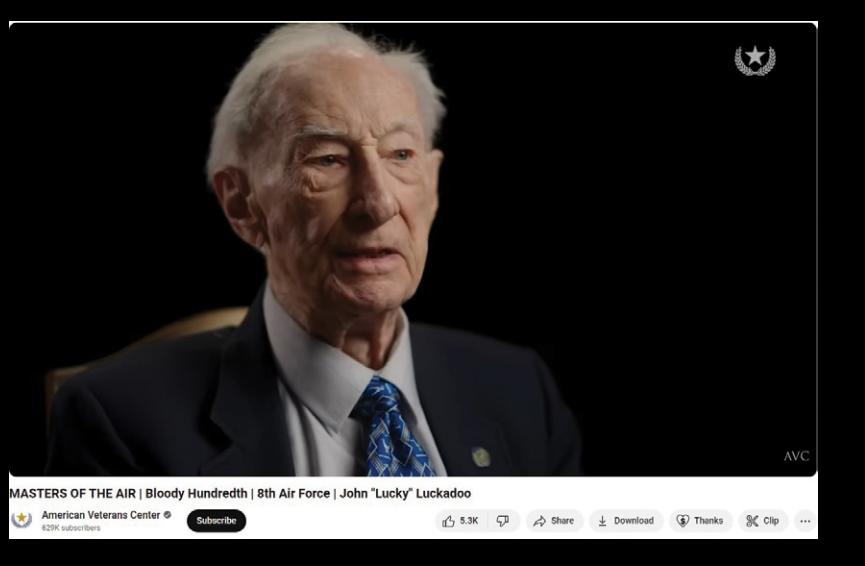


On 7 May 2024, the audience at the Dallas Chapter meeting was kept in rapt attention by the inspiring presentation from Maj John H. "Lucky" Luckadoo, USAF (Ret), leaving a lasting impact on all aviation industry professionals and guests in attendance.

At 102 years young, Maj Luckadoo is the sole surviving member of his 40-man, twin-engine flight school class of February 1943. Maj Luckadoo showed a PowerPoint describing his B-17 bomber and related what it is like bombing in formations that could have averaged as many as 1000 planes. He related the challenges of going on raids with the 100th Bomb Group with and without fighter escort. Only four members of his 40-man class survived their tour of 25 combat missions. As a member of an early US Bomber Group sent to England, the losses in his unit quickly named his unit "The Bloody Hundredth." Attendees will never forget this talk by a member of "The Greatest Generation." Although it was not his birthday, the Chapter ordered a birthday cake for him (pictured in the center of the photo, grey jacket).

"Masters of the Air," produced by PBS, features interviews with veterans from the 100th Bomb Group, who share captivating stories of their missions.

Search YouTube for
MASTERS OF THE AIR
Bloody Hundredth | 8th Air Force
John "Lucky" Luckadoo



Harvard: Past And Future

COL RAOUL HENRI ALCALA, USA (RET) &
CAPT PAUL E. MAWN, USN (RET), HARVARD '63
GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER, MA

At the meeting of the Greater Boston Chapter on 2 April 2024, we had the privilege of meeting and honoring the work of Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons, the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Harvard College. He was invited to receive a Silver Patrick Henry Award and Medal for his patriotic service in connection with both the recognition of veterans who apply for admission and those who aspire to national service in our nation's military forces.

A little background is important in what is a continuing story. It is well known that the Greater Boston Chapter was organized by National Guard officers during the Boston Police Strike of September 1919. Our connection to Harvard goes back to that very first day and that first group of companions. The original members of the Chapter, the second to be formed, were mostly Harvard grads, many of whom would have then been described as "bluebloods". As a historical process this was far from unusual. The University itself and its alumni have a remarkable patriotic record. In addition to the political leaders that have emerged

from that college, thousands of its alumni served in the US military, many with illustrious records. Harvard's rolls include eighteen Medal of Honor recipients, second only to the US Military and Naval Academies, and countless others received other gallantry awards in consequence of their service.

But these are different days, and other voices are heard on campus, some raised in virulent criticism of our form of government, the features of the Constitution, and in opposition to virtually every defense program and military action undertaken since the first European settlement of the country. Many are the strident advocates on our campuses preaching changes in the fundamental form of our government, the permanent establishment of principles for internal governance strikingly different from traditional concepts, the immediate relinquishment of our country's leadership in international affairs, the termination of our system of alliances, the dismantlement of our capacity to exert military force overseas, and the adoption of a policy of passivism even in the face of aggression against democratic allies.



Student Army Training Corps at Harvard circa World War I.

These are all fair topics for consideration in a university setting. Every rational idea is entitled to be discussed, debated, analyzed and parsed to the bottom, because it may be said that critical thinking is the first subject of any institution of higher learning. Having said this, among opinions voiced in a modern elite university we think there should also be a place for those who speak for the overall correctness of our form of government, who urge the recognition of the benefits and affirm the positive

(L-R): COL Raoul Henri Alcala presented MOWW's Silver Patrick Henry Award to Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admission & Finance at Harvard University, with CAPT Paul Mawn of the Advocates for Harvard ROTC.



features of American life, and who wish to devote themselves to national service, including military service.

In this context our honoree, Dr. Fitzsimmons has recognized the potentially important diversity of opinion added by former enlisted veterans who apply for admission, and by those who wish to pursue commissioned military service by enrolling in Harvard's ROTC program. To recognize his work, Dr. Fitzsimmons was presented with the Silver Patrick Henry Award in accordance with the following citation:

"For many years Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons has been important in fostering the interest of students in the combined Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units on the Harvard campus, resulting in the tripling in size of the enrollment in those units to the current level of 95 cadets and midshipmen. He has also singled out, and given due consideration to, applicants for admission with prior military service, regarding that factor as a distinguishing positive feature in their applications. In consequence of his efforts, Harvard College enjoys the presence both of military veterans and an energetic group of students who aspire to render national service as military officers. In applying these factors, Dr. Fitzsimmons has demonstrated an understanding that a substantial presence on the Harvard campus of these two groups of students beneficially contributes to the diversity of personal experiences represented within the student body."

ACCORDINGLY, the Greater Boston Chapter of THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS takes great pleasure in conferring upon Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons the Order's SILVER PATRICK HENRY AWARD and medal FOR PATRIOTIC achievement, the highest honor the Chapter may confer."

Joining Dr. Fitzsimmons for this presentation were CAPT Jack Houdeshell, Commander of the Boston (ROTC) Naval Consortium, CAPT Paul Mawn, CAPT Paul Haley, and LT Paul George, all Harvard alumni and active in the Advocates for Harvard ROTC, the organization of those who support the ROTC programs of the three services on the Harvard campus.

Taking advantage of the new program adopted for the purpose of bringing sympathetic people such as Dean Fitzsimmons into a closer relationship with the Order, he was also awarded MOWW Patriot status.

It is, of course, a tradition in New England for graduates of our local universities to engage in banter, reminiscences, and comments about colleges from which they and others have graduated. Following the presentation, our Chapter Commander, COL Alcala, was heard to say that after his graduation from West Point, he went on to obtain a graduate degree from Yale University. Dr. Fitzsimmons was heard to respond graciously that he was reasonably confident that Yale continued to be an accredited college. ★



USCG Academy Awards Ceremony

COL LAWRENCE A. WILLWERTH, USA (RET)
GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER, MA

On 21 May 2024, MOWW Region I (New England) participated in the 2024 Individual Proficiency Ceremony hosted at the renowned United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

The MOWW Award presenters had the privilege of meeting with the honored cadets and their parents for lunch before the ceremony. USCGA Ceremony photos courtesy of photographer Bradley Clift.

CAPTAIN CHARLES AVERY SATTERLEE MEMORIAL AWARD



CAPTAIN CHARLES AVERY SATTERLEE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Satterlee Award was presented by COL Lawrence Willwerth, Commander, MOWW Region I (New England), to **Cadet 1/c William O'Leary**.

The Military Order of the World Wars presented a Certificate and cash award in memory of the late Captain Charles Avery Satterlee, USCG. He was the Commanding Officer of the USS Tampa in World War I. The Tampa was lost at sea with all hands. This award is given to the cadet who excels in Composition and Rhetoric. First awarded in 1985.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP AWARD



MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP AWARD

Boston Chapter Companion LTC James Littleton, USA (Ret), presented the MOWW Pistol Marksmanship Award to **Cadet 1/c Genzo Matua Gonzales**.

The Military Order of the World Wars presents a certificate and cash award to the cadet who attains the highest proficiency in pistol marksmanship. The award was first awarded in 1953.

The 2024 MOWW Lufbery Award

LTC MICHAEL BERENDT, USA (RET)
COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER, CO

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter Commander, Col Kermit Neal, USAF (Ret), had the honor of presenting the MOWW Lufbery Award to United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Cadet Griffin T. Peter from Rochester, NY. The MOWW Lufbery Award is a national-level award that recognizes the Outstanding USAFA Cadet in a Western Language Minor.

Cadet Peter won the award for his excellence in French language studies. He graduated on 30 May 2024 and will pursue a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University while awaiting an assignment to pilot training.

The Lufbery Award is presented annually in memory of Major Gervais Raoul Victor Lufbery (14 March 1885 - 19 May 1918), a French and American fighter pilot and flying ace in World War I. Due to his service in the French Air Force and later the United States Army Air Service during World War I, he is alternatively listed as a French or American ace.

Officially, all but one of his 17 combat victories came while flying in French units. The USAFA Department of Foreign Languages faculty determines the recipient on behalf of the Order. ★

(L-R): COS Chapter Commander Col Kermit Neal, USAF (Ret), presented the Lufbery Award to Cadet Griffin T. Peter at the United States Air Force Academy.





Memorial Day 2024

Companions of the MOWW leadership attended the National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery to honor America's fallen service members.

(L-R): Senior Vice CINC David Worley, CINC Victor Perez, Chief of Staff Michael Farrell, and Northern Virginia Chapter Commander Vince Ogilvie

SPOUSES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Veterans Benefits

LCDR TAMI KING, USN (RET), GILLESPIE COUNTY, TX, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER &
COL NORM WELLS, USAF (RET), ADJUTANT
HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER, TX

Does your spouse know how to receive military and VA benefits when you pass? Spouses of veterans need to know about their benefits and the documentation required to receive them. It can be challenging (but not impossible) for a surviving spouse to receive benefits if the veteran and spouse have not made the necessary plans. The surviving spouse must know where to locate the information needed.

Veterans and their spouses should gather the needed documentation now and put it in a place where they and their children can find it when needed. These include the DD214 Form, a comprehensive list of duty stations and their respective assignments (including Temporary Duty), monthly MyPay statements, service and service treatment records, and marriage certificates. The spouse must be aware if the veteran has chosen the Survivors Benefit Program, which ensures a portion of the veteran's retired pay will be provided to the surviving spouse.

The spouse should know if the veteran is enrolled in the VA system and if there is a disability rating. Veterans should enroll with the VA even if they do not have a current disability in case they are eligible for benefits in the future. They should list any accidents or injuries in the service and if they were diagnosed with any chronic medical condition. The government has recently included many medical conditions and duty locations that qualify veterans for benefits.

The cause of death shown on the Death Certificate must include at least one of the VA service-connected disabilities so the VA can provide death benefits to the surviving spouse. The list of disabilities should be available to discuss with the person signing the Death Certificate to facilitate getting benefits. It may be appropriate to get an autopsy if the disabilities were omitted on the Death Certificate. The surviving spouse of a veteran who dies from their service-connected disability is eligible to receive a tax-free monthly benefit (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation).



If there is one, the spouse should have access to the veteran's MyHealthEVet account. It is imperative that a Health Care Power of Attorney and all Health Directives be on file with the VA, private hospitals, and personal physicians. These organizations cannot talk to a surviving spouse if the documentation is not on file. The VA periodically sends a letter to veterans or surviving spouses asking that they confirm their status—failing to reply leads to termination of benefits.

It's of utmost importance to notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS—the organization responsible for sending military retired pay) and the VA about the veteran's passing. Government pay ceases upon the veteran's death, and any money received after that time will need to be repaid by the surviving spouse. However, the surviving spouse may still be eligible for other forms of pay. A new survivor-dependent ID card will be necessary. By taking these proactive steps, the surviving spouse can feel confident in their ability to manage the transition.

It is highly recommended that veterans arrange a meeting with their local Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to establish a comprehensive file with their documents and to review benefits. The VSO will be able to provide many services to the surviving spouse if the important information is already in the system. Veterans should also meet with a funeral home to make appropriate plans—provide your DD214 to the funeral home and advise them if you are a disabled veteran. Making plans now will facilitate the spouse receiving needed benefits when the veteran passes. ★

Aspirin

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR)
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

It is with mixed feelings that I write this last article as MOWW Surgeon General.

My career path has gone from Captain and Squadron Surgeon for the 1 1/10 Cavalry in Vietnam to General. Not all that bad. I am ending a thirteen-year tour in this capacity with appreciation, honor, and a little sadness. I have chosen for the topic perhaps the most used medication and one of the earliest medications prescribed: Aspirin.

Aspirin is in a group of medications called salicylates. It works by stopping the production of certain natural substances that cause fever, pain, swelling, and blood clots. Aspirin is also available in combination with other medications, such as antacids, pain relievers, and cough and cold medications. What are the main uses of aspirin, which is the most common household remedy available?

Aspirin reduces fever and relieves mild to moderate pain from muscle aches, toothaches, the common cold, and headaches. It may also be used to reduce pain and swelling in conditions such as arthritis. People can and usually do buy aspirin without a prescription. The medicine is widely marketed in numerous places. It has indications that it can lower the risk of cardiovascular events.

Aspirin contains salicylate, a compound found in plants such as the willow tree and myrtle. Its use was first recorded around 4,000 years ago in Sumerian tablets that mention willow as pain relief, and also used by the ancient Chinese and Greeks. Hippocrates used willow bark to relieve pain and

fevers. This ancient natural remedy for headaches and minor pain is still used by some today. In 1853, chemist Charles Frédéric Gerhardt treated the medicine sodium salicylate with acetyl chloride to produce acetylsalicylic acid for the first time.

Aspirin is a trademark owned by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer and widely used around the world. The generic term for aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid. Aspirin can also be part of a treatment plan for people who have recently had revascularization surgery, a mini-stroke, a transient ischemic attack, or an ischemic stroke, which is caused by a blood clot.

Rheumatic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, other inflammatory joint conditions, and inflammation around the heart may also benefit from acetylsalicylic acid treatment.

While aspirin is a widely used medication, it's important to be aware of its potential risks. It can interact with many drugs, including anti-inflammatory painkillers, which can increase the risk of stomach bleeding. Aspirin is also utilized long-term to help prevent subsequent heart attacks, ischemic strokes, and blood clots in individuals at high risk.

An estimated 44,000 tons (120 billion pills) of aspirin are consumed each year. It is worth noting that aspirin is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, which is a list of the most effective and safe medicines needed in a health system. The first clinical trial of salicylate was recorded in 1876.

Be well, and thank you / Bob. ★



Companions, It's Half Time

LTC VICTOR W. BURNETTE, USA (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

—ROMANS 15:13 NIV



As individuals, we often set goals and resolutions at the start of the year. Now, halfway through 2024, it is time for an assessment and reflection to evaluate our progress. Have we stayed true to

our intentions? Have we made positive changes in our relationships, families, communities' health, finances, MOWW Chapter, or work?

Similarly, as MOWW Companions and leaders, assessing the progress of your chapter's objectives is crucial. Reflecting on achievements and identifying areas for improvement ensures continued growth and impact.

More importantly, let us look at our faith walk and relationship with God. You emphasize the importance of checking in with God during this mid-year pause. Our faith walk involves prayer, love for others, and a personal relationship with God.

Just as a sports team gathers during halftime to receive encouragement and refocus, we can

seek spiritual guidance. God's love, faithfulness, and compassion sustain us even when life feels challenging.

The book of Lamentations, a testament to the pain and suffering of the people of Jerusalem, also holds a beacon of hope. Lamentations 3:21-25 beautifully reminds us that God's love and faithfulness are unwavering, and His mercies are new every morning. In seeking Him, we find hope even in the midst of despair.

Companions, I want to encourage you to take a knee and gain perseverance. This is our halftime. Your commitment to take a knee and assess your walk with God is commendable. It is a moment of vulnerability and honesty. Remember Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.” Even when circumstances seem out of control, our hope rests in God's power and presence.

So, let us continue forward, trusting that God's goodness sustains us. May you overflow with hope, joy, and peace as you seek Him. ★

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.”

—NUMBERS 6:24-26 NAS



Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

AFJROTC Award of Merit

BY COL VINCENTE C. OGILVIE, USA (RET)

Cadet Timofei Zharkov of Chantilly High School Air Force JROTC displays his MOWW Award of Merit Medal and Citation, presented by Northern Virginia Chapter Commander, COL Vince O'Gillvie, USA (Ret).



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

Military Appreciation Month

BY COL ADALBERTO RIVERA, USAF (RET)

On 24 May 2024, the Senate of Puerto Rico bestowed recognition upon several veterans in Puerto Rico at a ceremony held at the Capitol building. This ceremony was held to honor veterans during Military Appreciation Month. State Senator William Villafañe presented Senate Resolution number 939, signed by Mr. Jose L Dalmau-Santiago, Senate President, to several Veteran Service Organization members.

(L-R): Senator William Villafañe presented a copy of the Senate Resolution to Chapter Adjutant Maj Isabel P. Vazquez, USAF (Ret).



Sun City Center Chapter, FL

Cadet Awarded Perpetual Membership

BY COL LONNIE D. VONA, USA (RET)

Companion COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret), presented MOWW ROTC Awards to four cadets from Florida Southern College in Lakeland. The senior cadet, Joseph Powell (far left), was awarded a Perpetual membership in the Order. He is a history major and was commissioned into the Armor branch.

Puget Sound Chapter, WA

Gold Patrick Henry Medal Presented

BY PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)

At the Region XIV meeting on 4 May in Steilacoom, WA, Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret), who served as the Past Puget Sound Chapter Commander, was honored with the prestigious Gold Patrick Henry Medal and Plaque, the highest award given by MOWW. The award was presented by the SVCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), who traveled all the way from California for the presentation. This is truly an incredible achievement and a well-deserved recognition for Lt Col Muri's dedication and service.

(L-R): SVCINC Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret), congratulates Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret).



Augusta Chapter, GA

The Augusta Chapter 2024 YLC was a Great Success

BY PCINC LTC GARY O. ENGEN, USA (RET)

The Augusta Chapter 2024 YLC was a two-day event covering a Friday late afternoon and evening and most of the following Saturday. This year was Augusta's 28th annual conference, with 26 students from eight different high schools in attendance. The top four students were Libby Yeretzian (Greenbrier HS), Dani Gillies (Evans HS), Thesius Hartman (Lakeside HS), and Wyatt McDonald (Midland Valley HS). All four were selected to be sponsored by the Augusta chapter for attendance at the 3-day National Leadership Challenge (NLC) at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega on 22-24 March. One of our top students will also be invited to attend the 4-day "Spirit of America Leadership Conference" held at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, PA, in mid-July. It is safe to say that our country's future is in good hands with the caliber of young citizens who sat before us during the conference. A special thanks goes to all the instructors and Companions who volunteered to participate in the YLC.





National Headquarters

Resolution of Cooperation

On 28 May 2024, BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret), Commander in Chief of MOWW, and Mark W. Underwood, National Secretary & Treasurer of the National Sojourners, signed a new Resolution of Cooperation.

Together, MOWW and the National Sojourners, Incorporated are committed to supporting the promotion of Patriotic and Americanism education throughout our Nation!



Fort Walton Beach Chapter FL

Cadet Recognition

BY LT COL JOHN E. CAHOON, JR., USAF (RET)

Florida State Representative retired US Army Reserve Brigadier General Thomas Patterson 'Patt' Maney, a Companion of the Fort Walton Beach Chapter, recently presented the MOWW JROTC Award of Merit and Medal to Cadet Reinhart Spence. Cadet Spence distinguished himself as a member of the Fort Walton Beach High School AFJROTC Unit FL-51.



COL Roosevelt Chapter NY

Chapter Welcomes VCINC Weeks and Region III Commander Kirlin

BY CAPT MICHAEL P. GOLDEN, USMC (FMR)

On 20 April 2024, the Chapter held their annual meeting at the historic George Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, New York. Distinguished guests included VCINC COL Loren A. Weeks, USA (Ret), and Region III Commander COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret). The meeting concluded with a tour of The Hasbrouck House utilized by General Washington 1782-83 and a lunch social at the Newburgh Brewing Company.

Brig Gen Scott Chapter, GA

Chapter Hosts Region V Commander

BY MAJ ROBERT L. KOMLO, USAF (RET)

The Chapter was honored to host Region V Commander Dr. James Brady. He is a former US Army Captain and Marine Corps Infantryman, a tenured and retired faculty member of the University System of Georgia and an Adjunct Faculty member of Georgia Military College. He continues to teach Communications, Critical Thinking, Ethics and Leadership at Georgia Military College. We were briefed on all things happening in MOWW & Region V. Dr./Capt Brady gave us the best updates and ways to reach-out to gain more members.

(L-R): Chapter Commander, Captain Theron Simpson, Jr, USMC (Ret), welcomes new Regional V Commander, Dr. James Allen Brady III.



Houston Chapter, TX

Silver Patrick Henry Award to CDR Eugnen Tulich

BY LTC ROLLINS COLLINS, USA (RET)

Chapter Commander MAJ Daniel Gutierrez, USA (Ret), presented the Silver Patrick Henry award to Commander Eugene N Tulich, USCG (Ret), the Houston Military Affairs Committee Chairman, at the Houston Armed Forces Military Gala on 18 May 2024. CDR Tulich has been a driving force for Reserve, National Guard, Active-Duty forces, and retirees in the Houston, TX Area. He has done a great deal for Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base to ensure units have quality facilities and family support.



Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

MAJ Tisha Ellis on Mental Health Care

BY LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)

MAJ Tisha Ellis, USAR, supports the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division by providing outpatient mental health care to active-duty Army service members. She spoke to Companions about the Army's initiatives to improve mental health care and the issues she encounters. She mentioned that most of her patients are young enlisted soldiers coping with mental health issues exacerbated by stress, alcohol or substance abuse. MAJ Ellis also noted that Officers and Senior Enlisted soldiers seek care for mental health issues upon leaving the Army due to the historical stigma associated with seeking help while in Service.

(L-R): (L-R): A MOWW Certificate of Appreciation was presented to MAJ Tisha Ellis (USAR), by Chapter Commander Col Kermit D. Neal, USAF (Ret), for her informative talk on current mental health initiatives.





VA updates home loan benefits, helping Veterans remain competitive in the housing market



WASHINGTON — Recently, the US Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses who use the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit can pay for certain real estate buyer-broker fees when purchasing a home beginning on 10 August 2024.

This will help ensure that veterans remain competitive and are not disadvantaged on the homebuying market due to changes that may result from a key class-action settlement involving the National Association of REALTORS®, which is slated to take effect later this summer. Previously, veterans could not pay their buyer-broker fees when using their home loans benefits.

The VA home loan program, which celebrates its 80th anniversary later this month, is a critical benefit for eligible veterans interested in becoming homeowners. Created in 1944 as part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act—also known as the “G.I. Bill of Rights”—this program has provided over 28 million loans to veterans to date. Last year, veterans obtained over 400,000 homes loans through this program.

“We always want to put veterans and their families in the best possible position to buy the homes they want, and that’s what this update is all about,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs. “Veterans using VA home loan benefits can now pay reasonable and customary amounts for certain charges—including commissions and other broker-related fees—thus ensuring that they remain competitive in the rapidly changing housing market.”

The temporary measures announced today will help ensure that veterans are not negatively impacted by the class-action settlement. VA will continue to monitor how the settlement affects the brokerage market and looks forward to pursuing a rulemaking.

For more information visit: <https://news.va.gov/132094/va-updates-home-loan-competitive-housing-market/>

VA Burial Benefits, Memorial Items and Survivor Benefits



VA burial benefits can help service members, veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery.

Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a veteran. Find out how to apply for the burial benefits you've earned, and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

Follow this link to see many resource links for VA benefits: <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>

A Capitol Fourth—Celebrate Your Freedom



A Capitol Fourth on PBS premieres July 4. Most stations air the Concert at 8:00 p.m. ET / 7:00 p.m. CT and repeat the program at 9:30 p.m. ET. Check before the live broadcast of A Capitol Fourth to find showtimes for your local station.





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NOTE: Primary Memberships Only

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CPO Robert J. Welch, USN (Ret)

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CPT Mark W. Smits, USA (Fmr)

1LT MARVIN THEDFORD, USA (FMR)**

CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)

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MAJ Michael Pesko, Jr., USA (Ret)

GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER MA

CAPT PAUL R. HALEY, USN (RET)*

CPT William J. Maloney, USA (Fmr)

GREATER EL PASO CHAPTER TX

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MAJ William M. Tarpley, USA (Ret)

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MAJ Trent D. Laviano, USA (Ret)

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LTC William K. Rapp, USA (Ret)

LTG WRIGHT CHAPTER CA

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CAPT Quinn L. Hawley, USN (Ret)

MEMPHIS CHAPTER TN

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CDR BRUCE CARROLL CARAWON, USN (RET)**
CWO4 David A. McCuistion, USN (Ret)

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MAJ EDWARD SEAN LANIER, USA (RET)**
COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)

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2LT JENNA LYNN LEONHARDT, USA*

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Capt Edward J. Murphy, USAF (Fmr)

MRS SUSAN A. JONES**

Lt Col Annette M. Mummary, USAF (Ret)

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CA

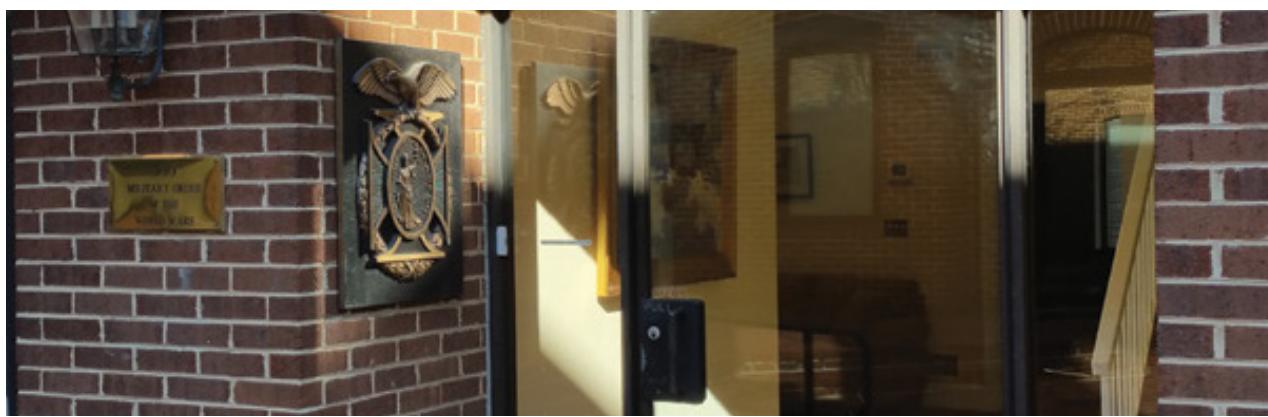
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COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)
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COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)
2LT JOSEPH H. POWELL, USA*
COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)
2ND LT OMOREMI J. SOTEL-JACKSON, USSF*
COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)
2LT TREVOR R. UHLMANN, USA*
COL Lonnie D. Vona, USA (Ret)





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"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

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- ★ Gen Peter Pace, USMC (Ret)



**D-Day Squadron Travels Over 3,000 Miles,
Crosses Atlantic Ocean to Commemorate 80th
Anniversary of D-Day**

"That's All, Brother", a C-47 Skytrain, travels over Connecticut, May 17, 2024. During World War II, "That's All, Brother", piloted by U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Donalson, commander of the 438th Troop Carrier Group, led a formation of 800 aircraft carrying over 13,000 Army paratroopers that were dropped behind enemy lines in France approximately 48 minutes after midnight on June 6, 1944.

(US Army photo by SGT Matthew Lucibello)