



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.moww131.org



Bulletin No. 5

January 2023



Commander's Message

John Hannan
Commander

December was a busy month for our chapter. The December meeting was led by First Vice Linda Howry who did an outstanding job. Mark McGrath was the speaker and gave a very interesting talk about converting the Boeing 737 into a submarine hunter. I've had lots of positive feedback on this subject.

We had many updates in the staff meeting. First, we have had several entries into our first essay contest. The deadline is fast approaching and the winner will be announced at the local High School of the winner. We will also invite the winner to one of our monthly meetings. This is really a terrific initiative for our chapter and the young people taking advantage of this opportunity. Both Fred and Ann Garnett should be congratulated for enthusiastically managing this program.

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned January 14, 2023 at 0930 at **Chef Peter's Bistro**, 17300 N. Village Parkway, Surprise Arizona, 85374.

The AZYLC leadership program is struggling to revive after a three year Covid pause. I recall the old saying; "Objects at rest will stay at rest and objects that are in motion will continue to move". Fred Garnett has stepped up to the mighty task of trying to revive the much needed leadership program. The cost of this program, like many other things, has increased dramatically, plus securing a site for this multiple day event is daunting. I can't imagine what the bureaucracy is like.

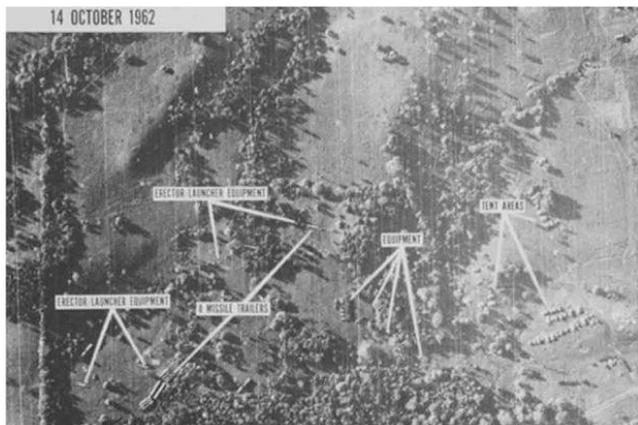
Ken Blanchard has informed our chapter of a terrific and much needed gift from the Festival Veterans Club of \$2,000 designated to the AZYLC program. This just demonstrates the dedication and generosity of the veterans of the FVC. Thank you, Veterans.

Jerry Wojtas reported that he is getting very good response for the MOC. We're getting very near the final planning stages of putting this program together and you can expect another thoughtful and meaningful tribute to the remembrance of our Veterans. Don't miss it, (February 21, 2023).

G.O. Jensen has been very active with his recruiting team. Our lofty goal is 10 new members. We now stand at four but have received interest from several others. Locally our membership requirements are less restrictive than the national requirements. We feel that if a veteran finds our mission appealing, we'll enthusiastically welcome them as members to West Valley Chapter 131.

SPECIAL FEATURE (Page 11)

The First Recipient of the Air Force Cross Was the Only Casualty of the Cuban Missile Crisis



If you didn't catch it, the West Valley Veterans Association had a very meaningful Memorial Day ceremony in Sun City West. This thoughtful celebration was led by none other than our past commander Buz Isban. It's nobler to serve...

We do need better attendance at our monthly meetings. Please encourage others to attend. Speakers really help make our meetings more informative but they are always hard to come by. Suggestions are very welcome. In the past we have heard from our chapter members with great information on people they worked with or events, or programs they were involved in. It doesn't have to strictly be a military subject. Linda Howry and I are wide open for suggestions for improving our meetings. We may not be able to accommodate every suggestion but every suggestion will be carefully considered.

Our treasurer gently reminded me that my chapter dues need to be sent in. If you're in the same boat, please contact Buz Isban at the January meeting.

We have new equipment to handle presentations — a projector, screen and laptop. Fred Garnett has volunteered to visit high school JROTC departments to reinforce the role that MOWW plays, including our overall mission to youth, community and nation. If you haven't taken advantage of visiting high schools to make award presentations, please don't miss this affirming opportunity.

We also use the computer for Wi-Fi purposes. Ken Coffman has recently revamped and updated our website, www.moww131.org. This was much needed and will keep Ken busy keeping the site current and informative. Well done, Ken, thanks again for stepping up.

www.moww131.org

We have members, as those mentioned above, that naturally fill the gap without prodding. They take this Veterans club as a personal reflection of who they are. It's nobler to serve...

Finally, we should have a new MOWW Chapter 131 sign to display at our monthly meetings as well as at the MOC. We are trying to further project the

positive attributes and strength of our chapter. I think this sign should be especially dedicated to Todd and Mary Lou Eikenberry. This dedicated team has brought support and strength to our chapter for many years.

Respectfully submitted
John F. Hannan
Commander MOWW West Valley 131

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

RSV Infections 2022

RSV (Respiratory Syntax Virus) is primarily seen in premature infants, infants, and children under two years of age. This is a very common cold virus, and most individuals get this disease by the time they are two years old. This virus most commonly occurs between the months of November and April. It causes about 58,000 hospitalizations and 500 deaths per year in those under 5 years of age. So why should you as an older adult be concerned? This year has seen a marked-up swing in cases in both children and adults who are at risk. Those adults at risk are aged sixty-five years and older and adults with heart or lung disease and compromised immune systems. According to the CDC, in individuals over sixty-five, this virus causes some 177,000 cases and 14,000 deaths per year. It is expected these numbers will rise this year.

If children and adults are healthy, the RSV will cause weak or cold like symptoms, such as a runny nose, mild headache, fever, sore throat, congestion, cough, and fatigue. If the symptoms worsen, they will include wheezing, difficulty breathing, increased dry cough, dehydration, pale and blueish color of the skin. If these symptoms appear, contact health facilities. This can cause bronchitis and pneumonia in older adults because of inflammation of the lungs' small airways.

RSV is transmitted by coming into contact with an infected person. It spreads through virus containing droplets which become airborne

through coughing and sneezing. You can get this virus by touching hard surfaces, even hours after an infected person has touched that surface. A person with this infection is contagious for three to eight days. But in those who have a weakened immune system, they can spread the virus for as long as four weeks according to the Center for Disease Control.

With the current infections of flu and COVID-19, it may be hard to diagnose without doing a Covid test or a flu test. There is also a PCR (polymerase chain reaction test) to rule out RSV. Some medical facilities can now do a triple PCR test that checks for COVID-19, flu, and RSV. Currently drug companies are working on an immunization for RSV.

Sources: CDC, Mayo Clinic, Everyday Health

Long Overdue Recognition

By Buz Isban

While reviewing participation for individual awards routinely presented to Companions at the end of the operating year, it became obvious there had been an oversight. Colonel Phil Hanson USAR (Ret) joined the MOWW while in Salt Lake City in 1977. When he returned to the Valley of the Sun (Phoenix) he became affiliated with the Phoenix Chapter 92 and later the West Valley Chapter 131. Throughout the years, Phil had never been recognized with a tenure award.

Phil has been awarded Silver Beaver for Distinguished Service to youth by the Boy Scouts of America. The Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce selected him as the Member of the Year in 1996. As an elected member of the Arizona House of Representatives, he was named the 2002 Legislator of the Year by the Arizona Association of Homes for the Aging. The following year, he was selected as the Distinguished Legislator 2003 by the Department of Arizona American Legion. Also in 2003, Phil received the Selective Service System Meritorious Service Award with Bronze Medal. He is a past commander of the Northwest Valley Veterans Association – a group of sixteen veterans’ service organizations who focus on mutual support in patriotic activities. Phil was honored by the



governor of Arizona having been selected to become a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame 2004.

Phil most certainly personifies the MOWW motto, “It is nobler to serve than to be served.”

The twenty year gold tenure award Phil should have received in 1997 has finally arrived. A quarter century later, the West Valley Chapter 131 Companions are honored to correct this oversight.

Treasurer’s Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report As of 15 Dec 2022

General Fund	\$15,024.56
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$15,074.56
Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,563.84
Endowment Fund	\$13,940.69
GRAND TOTAL	\$34,579.09

Chapter Dues Are Due

Thank you to those who have already paid. Please make checks payable to “**MOWW**”

Chapter 131” and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382.

AZ Tax Credit to Support AZYLC Delegates.

After a hiatus of three years due to COVID-19, it appears that the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference (AZYLC) will take place in July 2023. Please consider making a donation to support our sponsored delegates this summer. In the end, your contribution will cost you nothing if you pay Arizona taxes. The contribution is also deductible on your federal return at your federal income rate. It's a Win, Win, Win. Costs you nothing, you get a federal deduction, and we send a future leader and delegate to AZYLC in 2023. The tax credit is limited to \$400 filing jointly or \$200 filing separately. As you make your tax credit donation, please let Companion Buz Isban know ahead of time, so that he can track the use of funds in 2023. His contact information is buzisban@cox.net or phone 623- 512-.0765. You have until April 15, 2023 to take advantage of the tax credit for calendar year 2022.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Membership Update

By G.O. Jenson

Going into 2023, we have successfully recruited 4 new members (all Retired Officers), and have ongoing discussions with a couple more gents as to their probability of joining us.



Our ongoing actions to reach our goal of 10 new members at the end of our 2022-2023 season; they include submitting a series of articles in the Independent Newspaper, as well as local SC Magazines that address:

- Who we are – What is the MOWW?
- What does our West Valley Chapter 131 value and do?
- A description of our MOC and when and where.

- Our additional programs with youth (AZYLC, Student Essays, and Awards).

We will further use the MOC to contact / possibly recruit new members.

We will further present briefing to other patriotic organization.

December Chapter Program Speaker

By Ken Coffman

Mark McGrath BA Architecture, MBA

Mark started at the Boeing Company the day after graduation from high school where he worked in mail room. He worked part time while attending the University of Washington. Survived 2/3 layoffs of 1969/70.



Mark was lucky enough to have a high draft number so after college he transferred to Boeing construction management group. Later he migrated to project management of large internal Commercial Airplanes software.

His team built software that managed aircraft manufacturing quality required to make a profit on the 777 aircraft. His team then built software to manage work on the shop floor replacing 70,000 paper instructions per day. These systems are still in use today in the 787 aircraft. Promoted to executive responsible for all computing hardware used in Commercial Airplanes manufacturing. This included sales, bill of

material, inventory and logistics, shop floor, and quality.

He is also a private pilot and member of Boeing Flying Club as well as a Presbyterian Church elder.

Mark spoke about the procedures necessary to convert the Boeing 737 aircraft to a P-8 Poseidon to keep software and hardware chips from falling into the hands of nations that would use the technology to harm the United States or its allies.

The Boeing P-8 Poseidon is an American maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft developed and produced by Boeing Defense, Space & Security, and derived from the civilian Boeing 737-800. It was developed for the United States Navy. The P-8 operates in the anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance roles. It is armed with torpedoes, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and other weapons, can drop and monitor sonobuoys.

It can fly higher (up to 41,000 ft) and faster (490 knots). The faster speed reduces the size of the Area of Probability when searching for submarines, surface vessels or search and rescue survivors. P-8 is also designed for low altitude missions and has already proven its abilities supporting humanitarian and search and rescue missions.

The higher altitude flying allows it to sneak up on enemy submarines by dropping torpedoes with wings from a very high altitude that glide to a target and deploy a parachute to slow down the descent and enter the water virtually undetected. Because it flies high, unlike the P-3, it can't be heard by submarines which could then take evasive action if they hear one.

Optics on the P-8 are so improved that objects the size of periscopes and a person floating on the water can be seen from a very high altitude. The P-8 combines the most advanced weapon system in the world with the cost advantages of the most operated commercial airliner on the planet because it shares 86% commonality with

the commercial 737NG. That provides enormous supply chain economies of scale in production and support and a lower operational cost. The P-8 is engineered for 25 years/25,000 hours in the harshest maritime flight regimes, including extended operations in icing environments. This saves the US taxpayers many dollars.

Mark told us that two agencies, one from the State Department and one from the Department of Defense regulate the flow of information by restricting the information to US Persons. He further informed us that a US Person may be or not be a US Citizen. Some US Citizens work for a foreign nation or a foreign company. Those citizens are Foreign Agents and are supposed to be registered as such. Foreign agents by definition have a conflict of interest and are restricted from access to parts and information about developing the 737 to a P-8 and other such projects. Some non-US Citizens that have Green Cards and work for Boeing, other US companies or the US government may be classified as a US Person and have access that is denied to other US Citizens or other Green Card holders.



Captain Linda Howry, Senior Vice Commander of West Valley Chapter 131 presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mark McGrath.

This Month in History in Viet Nam

January 1961 - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev pledges support for "wars of national liberation" throughout the world. His statement greatly encourages Communists in North

Vietnam to escalate their armed struggle to unify Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh.

January 20, 1961- John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President and declares "...we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to insure the survival and the success of liberty." Privately, outgoing President Eisenhower tells him "I think you're going to have to send troops..." to Southeast Asia.

The youthful Kennedy administration is inexperienced in matters regarding Southeast Asia. Kennedy's Secretary of Defense, 44-year-old Robert McNamara, along with civilian planners recruited from the academic community, will play a crucial role in deciding White House strategy for Vietnam over the next several years. Under their leadership, the United States will wage a limited war to force a political settlement.

However, the U.S. will be opposed by an enemy dedicated to total military victory "...whatever the sacrifices, however long the struggle...until Vietnam is fully independent and reunified," as stated by Ho Chi Minh.

January 11, 1962 - During his State of the Union address, President Kennedy states, "Few generations in all of history have been granted the role of being the great defender of freedom in its maximum hour of danger. This is our good fortune..."

January 15, 1962 - During a press conference, President Kennedy is asked if any Americans in Vietnam are engaged in the fighting. "No," the President responds without further comment.

January 3, 1963 - A Viet Cong victory in the Battle of Ap Bac makes front page news in America as 350 Viet Cong fighters defeat a large force of American-equipped South Vietnamese troops attempting to seize a radio transmitter. Three American helicopter crew members are killed. The South Vietnamese Army is run by officers personally chosen by President Diem, not for their competence, but for their loyalty to him. Diem has instructed his officers to avoid

causalities. Their primary mission, he has told them, is to protect him from any coups in Saigon.

January 30, 1964 - General Minh is ousted from power in a bloodless coup led by General Nguyen Khanh who becomes the new leader of South Vietnam.

January 20, 1965 - Lyndon B. Johnson takes the oath as president and declares, "We can never again stand aside, prideful in isolation. Terrific dangers and troubles that we once called "foreign" now constantly live among us..."

January 27, 1965 - General Khanh seizes full control of South Vietnam's government.

January 27, 1965 - Johnson aides, National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, send a memo to the President stating that America's limited military involvement in Vietnam is not succeeding, and that the U.S. has reached a 'fork in the road' in Vietnam and must either soon escalate or withdraw.

January 1965 - Operation Game Warden begins U.S. Navy river patrols on South Vietnam's 3000 nautical miles of inland waterways.

January 12, 1966 - During his State of the Union address before Congress, President Johnson comments that the war in Vietnam is unlike America's previous wars, "Yet, finally, war is always the same. It is young men dying in the fullness of their promise. It is trying to kill a man that you do not even know well enough to hate...therefore, to know war is to know that there is still madness in this world."

January 28-March 6, 1966 - Operation Masher marks the beginning of large-scale U.S. search-and-destroy operations against Viet Cong and NVA troop encampments. However, President Johnson orders the name changed to the less aggressive sounding 'White Wing' over concern for U.S. public opinion. During the 42 day operation in South Vietnam's Bon Son Plain near the coast, troopers of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) once again fly by helicopters directly

into battle zones and engage in heavy fighting. 228 Americans are killed and 788 wounded. NVA losses are put at 1342.

The term 'search-and-destroy' is used by the media to describe everything from large scale Airmobile troop movements to small patrols rooting out Viet Cong in tiny hamlets. The term eventually becomes associated with negative images of Americans burning villages.

January 31, 1966 - Citing Hanoi's failure to respond to his peace overtures during the 37 day bombing pause, President Johnson announces bombing of North Vietnam will resume.

January 31, 1966 - Senator Robert F. Kennedy criticizes President Johnson's decision to resume the bombing, stating that the U.S. may be headed "on a road from which there is no turning back, a road that leads to catastrophe for all mankind." His comments infuriate the President.

January 2, 1967 - Operation Bolo occurs as 28 U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom jets lure North Vietnamese MiG-21 interceptors into a dogfight over Hanoi and shoot down seven of them. This leaves only nine MiG-21s operational for the North Vietnamese. American pilots, however, are prohibited by Washington from attacking MiG air bases in North Vietnam.

January 8-26, 1967 - Operation Cedar Falls occurs. It is the largest combined offensive to date and involves 16,000 American and 14,000 South Vietnamese soldiers clearing out Viet Cong from the 'Iron Triangle' area 25 miles northwest of Saigon. The Viet Cong choose not to fight and instead melt away into the jungle. Americans then uncover an extensive network of tunnels and for the first time use 'tunnel rats,' the nickname given to specially trained volunteers who explore the maze of tunnels. After the American and South Vietnamese troops leave the area, Viet Cong return and rebuild their sanctuary. This pattern is repeated throughout the war as Americans utilize 'in-and-out' tactics in which troops arrive by helicopters, secure an area, then depart by helicopters.

January 10, 1967 - U.N. Secretary-General U

Thant expresses doubts that Vietnam is essential to the security of the West. On this same day, during his State of the Union address before Congress, President Johnson once again declares "We will stand firm in Vietnam."

January 23, 1967 - Senator J. William Fulbright publishes "The Arrogance of Power", a book critical of American war policy in Vietnam advocating direct peace talks between the South Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong. By this time, Fulbright and President Johnson are no longer on speaking terms. Instead, the President uses the news media to deride Fulbright, Robert Kennedy, and a growing number of critics in Congress as "nervous Nellies" and "sunshine patriots."

January 5, 1968 - Operation Niagara I to map NVA positions around Khe Sanh begins.

January 21, 1968 - 20,000 NVA troops under the command of Gen. Giap attack the American air base at Khe Sanh. A 77-day siege begins as 5000 U.S. Marines in the isolated outpost are encircled. The siege attracts enormous media attention back in America, with many comparisons made to the 1954 Battle of Dien Bien Phu in which the French were surrounded then defeated.

"I don't want any damn Dinbinfoo," an anxious President Johnson tells Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Earle Wheeler. As Johnson personally sends off Marine reinforcements, he states "...the eyes of the nation and the eyes of the entire world, the eyes of all of history itself, are on that little brave band of defenders who hold the pass at Khe Sanh..." Johnson issues presidential orders to the Marines to hold the base and demands a guarantee "signed in blood" from the Joint Chiefs of Staff that they will succeed.

Operation Niagara II then begins a massive aerial supply effort to the besieged Marines along with heavy B-52 bombardment of NVA troop positions. At the peak of the battle, NVA soldiers are hit round-the-clock every 90 minutes by groups of three B-52s which drop over 110,000 tons of bombs during the siege, the heaviest

bombardment of a small area in the history of warfare.

January 31, 1968 - The turning point of the war occurs as 84,000 Viet Cong guerrillas aided by NVA troops launch the Tet Offensive attacking a hundred cities and towns throughout South Vietnam.

The surprise offensive is closely observed by American TV news crews in Vietnam which film the U.S. embassy in Saigon being attacked by 17 Viet Cong commandos, along with bloody scenes from battle areas showing American soldiers under fire, dead and wounded. The graphic color film footage is then quickly relayed back to the states for broadcast on nightly news programs. Americans at home thus have a front row seat in their living rooms to the Viet Cong/NVA assaults against their fathers, sons and brothers, ten thousand miles away. "The whole thing stinks, really," says a Marine under fire at Hue after more than 100 Marines are killed.

January 31-March 7, 1968 - In the Battle for Saigon during Tet, 35 NVA and Viet Cong battalions are defeated by 50 battalions of American and Allied troops that had been positioned to protect the city on a hunch by Lt. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, a veteran of World War II in the Pacific. Nicknamed the "savior of Saigon," Weyand had sensed the coming attack, prepared his troops, and on February 1 launched a decisive counter-attack against the Viet Cong at Tan Son Nhut airport thus protecting nearby MACV and South Vietnamese military headquarters from possible capture.

January 31-March 2, 1968 - In the Battle for Hue during Tet, 12,000 NVA and Viet Cong troops storm the lightly defended historical city, then begin systematic executions of over 3000 "enemies of the people" including South Vietnamese government officials, captured South Vietnamese officers, and Catholic priests. South Vietnamese troops and three U.S. Marine battalions counter-attack and engage in the heaviest fighting of the entire Tet Offensive. They retake the old imperial city, house by house, street by street, aided by American air and artillery strikes. On February 24, U.S. Marines occupy

the Imperial Palace in the heart of the citadel and the battle soon ends with a North Vietnamese defeat. American losses are 142 Marines killed and 857 wounded, 74 U.S. Army killed and 507 wounded. South Vietnamese suffer 384 killed and 1830 wounded. NVA killed are put at over 5000.

January 1, 1969 - Henry Cabot Lodge, former American ambassador to South Vietnam, is nominated by President-elect Nixon to be the senior U.S negotiator at the Paris peace talks.

January 20, 1969 - Richard M. Nixon is inaugurated as the 37th U.S. President and declares "...the greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker. This honor now beckons America..." He is the fifth President coping with Vietnam and had successfully campaigned on a pledge of "peace with honor."

January 22, 1969 - Operation Dewey Canyon, the last major operation by U.S. Marines begins in the Da Krong valley.

January 25, 1969 - Paris peace talks open with the U.S., South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong all in attendance.

January 4, 1971 - President Nixon announces "the end is in sight."

January 19, 1971 - U.S. fighter-bombers launch heavy air strikes against NVA supply camps in Laos and Cambodia.

January 30-April 6, 1971 - Operation Lam Son 719, an all-South Vietnamese ground offensive, occurs as 17,000 South Vietnamese soldiers attack 22,000 NVA inside Laos in an attempt to sever the Ho Chi Minh trail. Aided by heavy U.S. artillery and air strikes, along with American helicopter lifts, South Vietnamese troops advance to their first objective but then stall thus allowing the NVA time to bring in massive troop reinforcements. By battle's end, 40,000 NVA pursue 8000 South Vietnamese survivors back across the border. The South Vietnamese suffer 7682 casualties, nearly half the original force. The U.S. suffers 215 killed, over 100 helicopters lost, and over 600 damaged while supporting the

offensive. NVA losses are estimated up to 20,000 as a result of the intense American bombardment. Also, among those killed was Life magazine photographer Larry Burrows who had been working in Vietnam for ten years. Although an upbeat President Nixon declares after the battle that "Vietnamization has succeeded," the failed offensive indicates true Vietnamization of the war may be difficult to achieve

January 25, 1972 - President Nixon announces a proposed eight point peace plan for Vietnam and also reveals that Kissinger has been secretly negotiating with the North Vietnamese. However, Hanoi rejects Nixon's peace overture.

January 8, 1973 - Kissinger and Le Duc Tho resume negotiations in Paris.

January 9, 1973 - All remaining differences are resolved between Kissinger and Le Duc Tho.

President Thieu, once again threatened by Nixon with a total cut-off of American aid to South Vietnam, now unwillingly accepts the peace agreement, which still allows North Vietnamese troops to remain in South Vietnam. Thieu labels the terms "tantamount to surrender" for South Vietnam.

January 23, 1973 - President Nixon announces that an agreement has been reached which will "end the war and bring peace with honor."

January 27, 1973 - The Paris Peace Accords are signed by the U.S., North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Viet Cong. Under the terms, the U.S. agrees to immediately halt all military activities and withdraw all remaining military personnel within 60 days. The North Vietnamese agree to an immediate cease-fire and the release of all American POWs within 60 days. An estimated 150,000 North Vietnamese soldiers presently in South Vietnam are allowed to remain. Vietnam is still divided. South Vietnam is considered to be one country with two governments, one led by President Thieu, the other led by Viet Cong, pending future reconciliation.

January 27, 1973 - Secretary of Defense Melvin

Laird announces the draft is ended in favor of voluntary enlistment.

January 27, 1973 - The last American soldier to die in combat in Vietnam, Lt. Col. William B. Nolde, is killed.

January 8, 1975 - NVA general staff plan for the invasion of South Vietnam by 20 divisions is approved by North Vietnam's Politburo. By now, the Soviet-supplied North Vietnamese Army is the fifth largest in the world. It anticipates a two year struggle for victory. But in reality, South Vietnam's forces will collapse in only 55 days.

January 14, 1975 - Testifying before Congress, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger states that the U.S. is not living up to its earlier promise to South Vietnam's President Thieu of "severe retaliatory action" in the event North Vietnam violated the Paris peace treaty.

January 21, 1975 - During a press conference, President Ford states the U.S. is unwilling to re-enter the war.

Future Events

14 January 2023 – Chapter Meeting
11 February 2023 – Chapter Meeting
21 February 2023 – *Massing of the Colors*
11 March 2023 – Chapter Meeting
8 April 2023 – Chapter Meeting
13 May 2023 – Chapter Meeting

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the February 2023 Bulletin is the 22th of January. If it is possible to get articles earlier, it would be very much appreciated. With all that is going on we will be flexible.

Email articles to cbjerkaas@cox.net

Thank you.

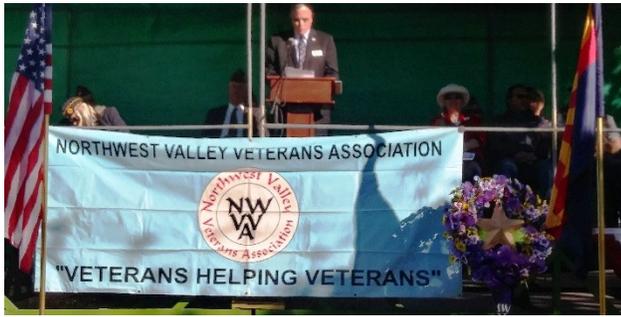
Carlton Bjerkaas, Editor

Northwest Valley Veterans Association

Past Commander Buz Isban has the privilege to serve as the Commander/CEO of the Northwest Valley Veterans Association (NWVVA), a 501 3(c) organization. It is an association of sixteen (16) veterans' service organizations who mutually support each other in patriotic events and fund raising. MOWW West Valley Chapter 131 is a charter member of the Association and has been participating in the Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies for years. Companion Phil Hanson is a Past Commander of the Association. The following are a few photos from the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2022. "It is nobler to serve..."



**Buz Isban,
Commander of
the NWVVA**



Maj Gene Wikle USAF Ret is the guest speaker



**Maj Wikle receives an engraved
Eagle of Appreciation**



**Greenway High School Navy JROTC
present the colors**



Legion Post 94 Honor Guard



**Boy Scouts from Troop 921 carry the
organizational flags**



Rosie the Riveters are honored guests



**Past Commander
George Van de Langeryt
and Uncle Sam - Joe
Delgado**



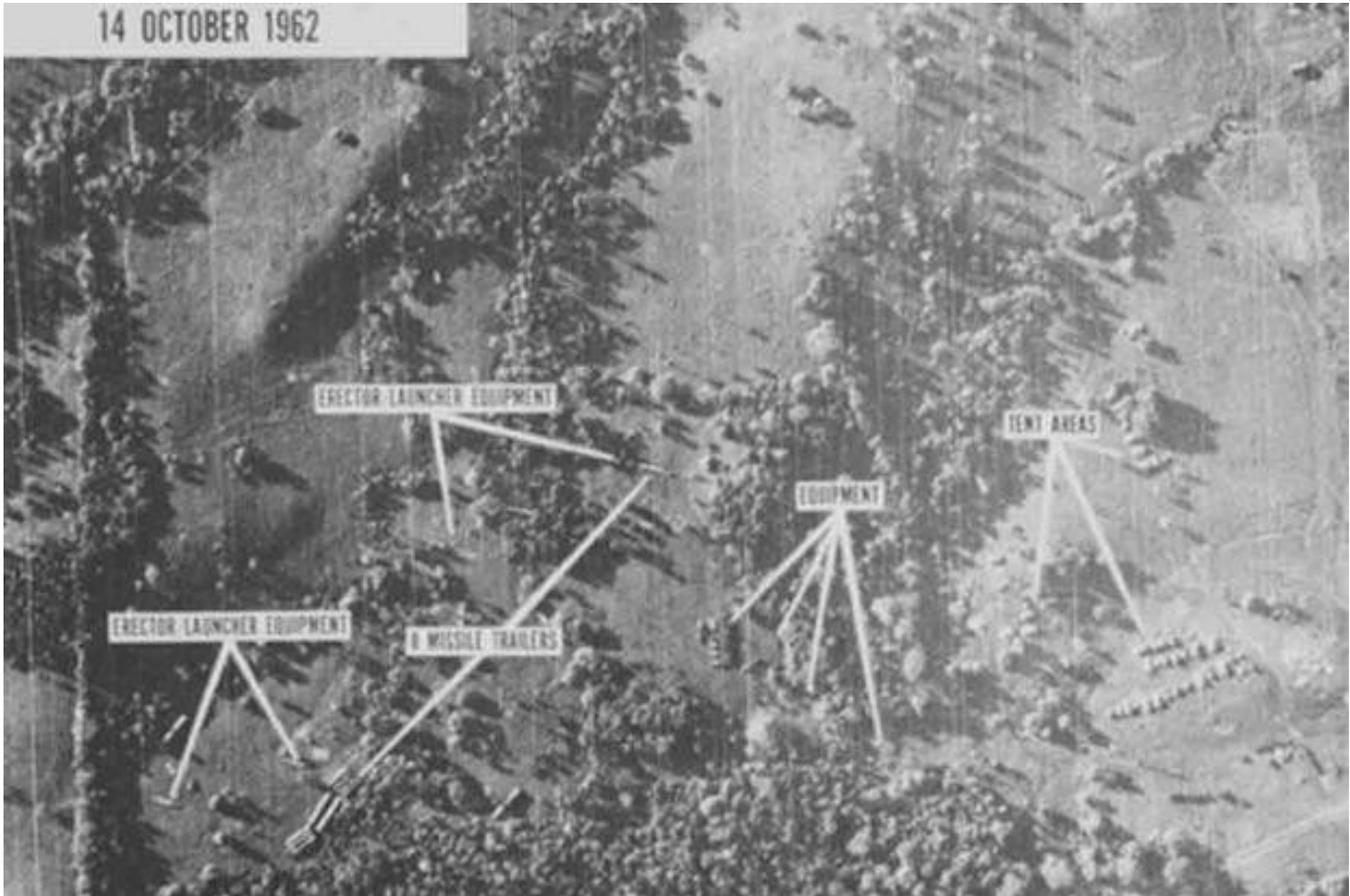
Old Glory is his favorite



**Many Veterans
attended**

SPECIAL FEATURE

The First Recipient of the Air Force Cross Was the Only Casualty of the Cuban Missile Crisis



(U.S. Air Force)

Military.com | By Blake Stilwell

For nearly two weeks in October 1962, the world stood on the brink of nuclear annihilation. American medium-range nuclear missile deployments in Turkey prompted the Soviet Union to place medium-range weapons of its own in Cuba.

When the United States discovered the missile sites, President John F. Kennedy and his staff debated a response to the Soviet threat. Any misstep might have led to a nuclear exchange that would kill millions. In the end, the only casualty was Maj. Rudolf Anderson, a U-2 spy plane pilot whose work led to a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Anderson joined the Air Force after completing ROTC training as a student at Clemson University. Although he entered the service in 1951, he wouldn't earn his pilot's wings in time to fight in the Korean War. After the war ended, he flew missions from South Korea and Japan, earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After qualifying on the then-secret U-2 reconnaissance plane in 1957, Anderson was transferred and began flying top-secret missions over Cuba. His unit, the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, took the photos that discovered the secret Soviet nuclear launch sites under construction there. Maj. Anderson captured photos of the sites on October 14, 1962.



Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr. was shot down and killed while flying a U-2 Dragon Lady over Cuba. (U.S. Air Force)

On October 15, CIA photo analysts discovered the evidence of those sites on the island. The next day, President Kennedy was briefed on the situation and began to convene meetings about what to do next. His advisers were divided about how to proceed, but the one thing they did agree on was that the missiles were a legitimate threat.

Among the military choices they considered was a full U.S. invasion of Cuba to overthrow President Fidel Castro and remove the missiles. The military also came up with a plan that would strategically eliminate the sites. A third option was to blockade the island to prevent more missiles and materiel from reaching the launch sites.

As negotiations with the Soviet Union continued, Kennedy opted for the blockade, which went into place on October 22. Officially called a "quarantine" of offensive weapons, any ships bound for Cuba carrying weapons would be turned back to their home port. The U.S. military raised its alert status to DEFCON 3.

Two days later, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev called the blockade "piracy" in a telegram to Kennedy, saying any intervention of a Soviet ship would lead to war. The United States

responded by going to DEFCON 2 on October 26. B-52 bombers were placed on continuous airborne alert; reservists were recalled and the U.S. nuclear arsenal was put on alert status.

On October 27, 1962, Maj. Rudolf Anderson took off for Cuba in a U-2F Dragon Lady to make his sixth overflight of the island. It would be his last. As he flew over Banes, Cuba, his aircraft was hit by shrapnel from a Soviet-built Dvina surface-to-air missile (SAM). The fragmentation shredded his high-altitude pressure suit.



(Lockheed Martin)

Castro, fearful of a U.S. invasion, had ordered all Cuban SAM sites to fire on American aircraft in Cuban airspace. With the shutdown of Anderson's U-2, negotiations began to intensify, but Kennedy didn't respond militarily. Secretly, the two sides would agree to remove American missiles from Turkey in exchange for the Soviets removing the missiles from Cuba.

The shooting down of Anderson's U-2 was one of many close encounters that might have led to an escalation and nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis, but in the end, Anderson would be the only casualty. His remains were retrieved by the Cuban government and released to the United Nations. He was buried near his hometown of Greenville, South Carolina.

In 1964, under Kennedy's orders, Anderson was awarded the first of a new medal created in 1960. It is still the Air Force's second-highest award for heroism in combat: the Air Force Cross.

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