



# M.O.F.W.

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## Newsletter

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

CALL TO CONVENTION. ALL LOYAL AND HONORABLE COMPANIONS IN THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE HEREBY DIRECTED AND REQUESTED TO REPORT TO PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA FROM MAY 7 TO MAY 10 FOR THE ORDER'S 2009 BIENNIAL CONVENTION. CONVENTION INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO THE STATE COMMANDERIES BY THE HOST PENNSYLVANIA COMMANDERY. SPOUSES AND GUESTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND PLAN TO BE THERE!

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

### *Wearing the "Blue Helmet"*

Since World War II, a most notable ally of the US in the global quest for world peace has been the country of Italy. Members of the Italian Army, Navy and Air Force have served or are now serving in Lebanon, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Afghanistan and throughout the Mediterranean bringing stability and security to areas where once only fear and uncertainty held forth. Like their UN Counterparts, they brought peace crossing the seas, flying ceaselessly through the skies, bringing stability and security as well as dying for peace. In Lebanon, UNIFIL is the most important ongoing mission under the direct command of the United Nations. Currently there are 13,000 Blue Helmets from 30 countries deployed in the country. With 2,300 Blue Helmets deployed south of the Litani River, Italy provides the first contingent of the UNIFIL 2 mission which began in September 2006 after the "33-day war" between Israel and Hezbollah. Throughout the Italian zone, hundreds of young Lebanese students take Italian language courses organized by Italian soldiers. This is an extraordinary turnout and demonstration of the sense of security generated by the soldiers. Aircraft and crews of ITA-LAIR-UNIFIL are the "flying arm" of the whole mission while the Italian Army trains the newly constituted Lebanese Army. Units of the new Lebanese Army have returned to the South of

Lebanon after decades to help Beirut regain sovereignty over the territory and regain the population's trust. In Kosovo, the arrival of the Italian Carabinieri and the creation of the MSU (Multinational Specialized Unit) have been synonymous with security. The key feature of modern MSU's is their ability to operate in that grey area between a military mission (whose troops are not trained or equipped to deal with problems of law and order) and civilian police forces, be they international or local which are not as yet able to carry out police functions with the required degree of effectiveness. The Italian MSU is unique in that it is a branch of the army with a global intervention capability. The airport at Dakovica, better known as M.I.Ko, is a masterpiece of logistics created by the Italian Air Force which will benefit Kosovo in the future. The airport is the main KFOR hub but it is also a source of hope for many Kosovars, especially children, who leave from the airport to get medical treatment in Italy. In Kosovo, the NATO mission is to keep the territory under control and to protect its important historical monuments and works of art. In Bosnia, the Carabineiri is also active operating under the Integrated Police Unit (IPU). The IPU provides an essential guarantee of security and stability in Bosnia today. In Afghanistan Italian forces are located in Herat, a city that connects Afghanistan with Iran therefore being of great strategic importance. Combining humanitarian missions with that of security tests the capabilities and dedication of Italian Forces. Units of the Afghan Army (ANA) are

being trained under the supervision of the Italian Army (such as soldiers from the Tuscania Paratrooper Regiment) with the training of Afghan Border Police by the Guardia di Finanza as another top priority. And last, but not least, the Italian Navy is active in the Mediterranean from the Indian Ocean to Gibraltar.

(Ed Note: Information for this article was provided by Companion (Lt Col) Fulvio Poli, Italian Army, who is currently serving as Chief MA Section, Office of the Deputy Chief of Defense, Rome, Italy. In 1998 -1999 he served in SFOR Multinational Division South-East, Mostar Bosnia-Herzegovina and then as the Multinational Brigade North Liaison Officer. Lt Col Poli writes "I served with US troops during my tours of duty with NATO Forces in Bosnia and Kosovo. In Kosovo I had the honor of having a US Infantry Company under my orders during a particularly important operation in the municipality of Decane." Highly decorated and fluent in English and French, Lt Col Poli is a member of the Association of Friends of the Waterloo Committee, Federation International des Anciens Combattants Allies as well as the MOFW. The MOFW thanks Lt Col Poli for his efforts in representing the MOFW in Italy. For further reading on the current role of the Italian Armed Forces in UN and NATO I suggest the English version of a book by Pino Agnetti, "Something Worthwhile", published by Grafiche Step Editrice.

## FROM THE C-G'S OFFICE

Greetings Companions! With the Christmas Holidays recently concluded, I thought it appropriate to reflect on the moral advancement of "our new found country" and the guidance with which we were entrusted by our freedom-seeking forefathers. It is becoming more apparent that our acceptance of truth as espoused by our political leaders is far from that, and at such a proliferation is becoming expected. There is no accountability for mistruths and outright lies by those seeking "power and position". We have come a long way from the first Thanksgiving and George Washington and the cherry tree, and the "war to end all wars". Honor and integrity have been replaced by Cronyism and Corruption without popular condemnation. Since colonial days, America was respected as a sanctuary for religious freedom and practice as well as dignity and expression of ideas by the "common man". As a guidepost the "founding fathers" declared God fearing and dedicated to protecting the rights of all Americans. When did the direction change? The purpose of my comments is to focus on the blessings we have been given in this country and the responsibility of our stewardship so that our children will also benefit from responsible National parenting. All of us are patriots of freedom and liberty. Our membership in this organization declares that, but how long can we expect God to "Bless America" when we dis (disrespect) Him? Removing "In God We Trust"

from our currency, removing the Ten Commandments from our courts, making the word "Christmas" offensive and politically incorrect, etc. Deuteronomy (6:24) "And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive". Our freedom is secured in the LAW of the Ten Commandments. Violation of these commands has brought destruction to Nations as well as individuals recorded over generations. We appear to be disturbed by our current National economic situation. Isn't it the result of greed, self-indulgence, pride, wastefulness, excess, lust for wealth and power...? Freedom isn't free but we have the tools to protect it. We have been given a just God, one who is loving to an extreme but tolerant to a point. Ezekiel (23:25): Therefore thus says the Lord God - because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back. Therefore you shall bear the penalty..." I ask you to join me in resolving in the New Year to obey the ten laws of success and act justly against those who would dilute or defile their purpose. May God Bless you and your loved ones and may God always Bless America.

*Arthur J. Nattans*  
**COMMANDER-GENERAL**

## From the Pulpit

It takes time and patience to make an eagle but much less than a chicken. Think about it. I read recently in a nature magazine an article on the cycle of an eagle from conception to a full grown bird. I was astounded. As I read this article, I remembered reading an account of a man who owned an egg ranch. He raised chickens to lay eggs for profit. It taught me some valuable lessons especially as I reflected on the difference between eagles and chickens. There are several distinct differences I noted that raised eagles to the forefront of uniqueness. These unique insights have lesson in life for all of us. One distinction is that once paired, eagles remain together until one dies. Their fidelity is without question. They remain loyal and trusting to each other always giving back into the relationship. Chickens are open to casual relationships without commitment. Should our human relationships be anything other than loyal, sincere, and of high value? Our society reflects these values. Another distinction is that the male eagle shares in incubating the eggs or brings food to his mate. There is almost always at

least one adult on the nest for the first 2 weeks. The rooster goes on his merry way leaving the hen on her own. It takes caring and loving parents who each take responsibility for their child's environment. Eagles are leisurely migratory birds. They ride obliging wind currents, traveling 100-125 miles per day. Chickens stay close to what they know and where they can feel safe, never to venture far out of fear. We too need to be open to new opportunities and follow our dreams. We grow by letting go. An eagle's wings are long and broad, making them effective for soaring to an altitude of 10,000 feet while a chicken's wings are made to stay close to the ground on short flights. Our Creator made us to soar like eagles in freedom of choice and fulfillment. We were not made to hug the ground in fear and limited freedom. Do you want to be an eagle or a chicken? You were made to be an eagle but the choice is always there to be a chicken. You belong in the air soaring on the winds of life. Take flight today and conquer what holds you back.

*Ronald E. Martin-Minnich*  
**CHAPLAIN-GENERAL**

## From the Purser's Office

All Commanderies please be reminded that the Head Tax with annual report is due to me by 1 April 2009 for the tax year 2008 based on the membership as of December 31, 2008. The following Commanderies have paid in full for 2007: District of Columbia, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. Head Tax for 2007 due and in arrears from: California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and West Virginia. Pennsylvania and Florida remain in arrears for 2006. All Companions are requested to stress to their Commandery's leadership the need to make Head Tax payments and reports in a timely manner. All Head Tax monies are needed to support the financial obligations of your Order. For questions or information on your commandery's Head Tax status, please contact me at P.O. Box 1641, West Chester, PA 19380 (Office) (610) 352-9133 or email [mccalls@raes.us](mailto:mccalls@raes.us).

*Charles D. McCall*  
**TREASURER-GENERAL**

## From the Supply Room

Two changes. First, due to an increase in vender cost, the MOFW Service Bar will now be \$ 16.00. Second, in order to reduce the number of slow moving items in stock, please be advised that the MOFW Special Necktie will no longer be available. Our excellent quality standard necktie is still in stock at a reasonable price of \$ 13.00. **Reminder – all prices shown include mailing/shipping.**

*Ronald R. Sommer*  
**QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL**

### DO YOU KNOW?

*In 1935 it was proposed at the 14th Triennial Convention that a Badge (Insigne) of the Order, on a neck ribbon, be posthumously presented to the Unknown Soldier where it would remain on display at the Arlington Amphitheater along with many other honors bestowed by the U.S. and many foreign governments. This was accomplished on December 11, 1937 at a formal ceremony at Arlington.*

## Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

A proposed Amendment to the Constitution has been made, to wit, "To amend Section 7 of Article III of the Constitution of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States by adding a semi-colon after the sentence "and individuals who have rendered exceptional service to this Order or to a Commandery of this Order", and to add the following "and others who occupy or have served in senior executive or higher level US Government or equivalent private sector positions, and who support the Order and its goals." Section 7 will then read as follows: "*Honorary Companionship*: The President of the United States; ex-Presidents of the United States; General officers of the Army of the United States, the United States Air Force and the United States Marine Corps, not below the rank of Lieutenant General; Flag Officers of the Navy of the United States and the United States Coast Guard, not below the rank of Vice Admiral; Medal of Honor recipients; Officers of the armed services of Foreign Countries, allies of the United States, of corresponding ranks; individuals who have rendered exceptional service to this Order or to a Commandery of this Order; *and others who occupy or have served in senior executive or higher level U.S. Government or equivalent private sector positions, and who support the Order and its goals*, shall be eligible to *Honorary Companionship* in this Order and when admitted shall be known as "*Honorary Companions*". This Amendment will enable the Order to enroll prominent members of Congress, the judiciary, government service and exceptional leaders from the private sector thereby enhancing the Companionship of the Order. Safeguards to *Honorary Companionship* remain in place since the enrollment of *Honorary Companions* may only be accomplished by the Order in Convention or by the vote of the National Council between Conventions. The Amendment is proposed by and endorsed by Companion Andrew M. Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs (DC Commandery), DC Commandery National Delegate Cyrus R. Harrington Jr., Commander-General Arthur J. Nattans (Maryland Commandery) and Junior Vice Commander-General Wulf R. Lindenau (DC Commandery).

## USS FRANKLIN RESCUE

On March 19, 1945, I was a lieutenant (jg) serving on the destroyer USS HUNT about 55 miles from the Japanese island of Kyushu. As we secured from our usual dawn alert, a single undetected Japanese dive bomber, approaching in a shallow dive, flew over the flight deck of the USS FRANKLIN (CV-13), loosing its 500 pound bomb near the ship's island. The bomb exploded in the ship's mess hall. The word came over

our PA system that the FRANKLIN had been hit and we knew our division of destroyers was going to be sent to assist her. Looking over towards the ship, I could see a thin column of white smoke followed by huge columns of black smoke which began spiraling skyward. Every 30 seconds the silence was punctuated by a deep rumbling which followed a sudden cherry red ball of flame. Some balls of flame went as high as 2,000 feet. Rockets from the FRANKLIN were zooming in all directions while pieces of burning debris dotted the waters, The sea was covered with gasoline and oil. By the time our ship had

been prepared for the task of rescuing survivors, groups too numerous to count could be seen a few thousand yards off our bow. The ship's boats were swung out (I commanded the whale boat), heaving lines were broken loose and nets cut free to hang along the ship's side. Shortly we found ourselves encompassed by survivors and floating debris, black from fire. The survivors had attempted to collect in groups as much as possible and hundreds of these groups could be seen bobbing up and down. The first survivors the whale boat approached were about a thousand yards away. Two rafts, completely submerged by the overload of men, were tied together. The wounded men were lying or held upright in the center of the rafts; fatigued men were sitting on the raft's sides while the stronger men held on to the perimeter. All faces were tense and drawn, blue with cold with peculiar white foam oozing from the lips. The great danger was in approaching the rafts too closely, allowing the men to grab the whale boat and possibly capsizing it. It was necessary to lie off and explain to the men that the wounded would be taken on board the whale boat first, thereby lightening the rafts. The whale boat and the HUNT's gig would return and pick up the remaining men. During the time the boats were in the water, the HUNT was maneuvering so as to rescue as many groups with lines as possible. Heaving lines were thrown in all directions and survivors were pulled amidships or to the fantail where the distance from the deck to the water was considerably less. The crew formed human ladders to assist survivors up the hanging nets and those who were injured or completely exhausted had a line looped around their waist, secured in back, and hauled aboard. Occasionally a crewman with a line around his waist would dive in to help an injured or exhausted survivor. The less fatigued survivors were allowed to go below to the engine room to warm up, the slightly wounded were escorted to bunks in the chief petty and enlisted quarters, and the seriously wounded were carried to the improvised "sick bays" in the Ward Room and Officer's Country. By 9 AM we had over 200 survivors on board. At this time the FRANKLIN was still belching flames and smoke one and one-half hours after the bomb hit. Our day and work was just beginning. Back on the whale boat the rescue continued. Men too weak to pull themselves over the gunwales were hauled aboard by the boat's crew by grasping an arm or a leg or a belt. When approximately 20 survivors were aboard we would head back to the HUNT's fantail where they were pushed, shoved and hauled aboard. Since the waves were too high for the boat to see the survivors, as we headed back out we would look to the bridge of the destroyer for directions. The men on the destroyer's bridge would spot the rafts and signal their position to us by flashing light, a very quick and efficient system. In the Ward Room and Officer's Country another drama was being enacted – that of medical treatment of the wounded. Pharmacist's mates and newly recruited men from the crew assisted the doctor in treating the survivors. The medical drama lasted 2 days, at the end of which time the most critical cases had been transferred to a large man-of-war. The doctor and his assistants went without food and sleep during those crucial days and their work was invaluable, their stamina and courage was great. Do to their efforts only a few men died onboard. Even greater work was accomplished on the FRANKLIN which was saved due to the heroic action of the Captain and crew. Her engines were brought back to life and gave her a capable 21 knots. During the days she was forced to remaining the area, anxiety was great due to the fear of more enemy attacks. We sounded General Quarters numerous times to repel planes, one of which was shot down after dropping his bomb close astern of the disabled carrier. Eventually the FRANKLIN returned to the United States and her ordeal and that of her crew is part of our Navy's lore. We were proud of the HUNT and our participation in the saving of the FRANKLIN and many of her gallant crew.

(Ed Note: Condensed from CAPT Ward's article published in The Springton Lake Village VOICE, November 2008. CAPT E. Smedley Ward Jr. is a Companion in the Pennsylvania Commandery.

## ***SIGNS OF THE TIMES***

\* Told to treat his military housing as he would if he owned it, the Navy Chief quickly mounted a sign in the front yard: "FOR SALE."

### **IN THE KITCHEN**

- \* Countless people have eaten in this kitchen and have gone on to lead normal lives.
- \* My next house will have only vending machines.
- \* Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
- \* I'd cook dinner but I can't find the can opener.
- \* I came, I saw, I decided to order out.

## ***Bailey, Banks and Biddle***

For nearly 100 years the firm of Bailey, Banks and Biddle of Philadelphia, PA was the "official jeweler" for the Order. Mr. Joseph T. Bailey of the firm designed the MOFW Insigne (hereafter referred to as the "badge") and applied for a design patent on January 27, 1899. The original patent was approved for a term of 14 years. I have been told that B. B. & B. not only produced an affordable badge but a solid gold badge as well for those Companions who wanted something special. The original B, B, and B sold out some time ago and the new owners, although keeping the B, B. and B. name, priced themselves right out of our market. Some of the original B. B. & B. badges are still out there. If you have one of these rare badges of the Order, please let us know. By the way, did you know that up until WWII all the badges of the Ordered were numbered and assigned to Companions by name?

# VETERANS DAY at Arlington

The MOWF was represented at the memorial service at the gravesite of General of the Armies John J. Pershing in Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day, 11 November 2008, by Commander-General and Mrs. Arthur J. Nattans, Junior Vice Commander-General Wulf R. Lindenau, and Deputy Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs Andrew M. Johnson. The District of Columbia Commandery was represented by National Delegate Cyrus R. Harrington Jr. and Companion (Captain) Kent S. Webber. C-G Nattans participated in the service by presenting the MOWF wreath at General Pershing's gravesite. Wreaths were also presented by The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of WWI of the USA, Inc.; The Military Order of World Wars (MOWW); The Army and Navy Union of the USA; The National Society of the Pershing Rifles; and The Young Marines. Wreaths were also presented by representatives from the defense attaché offices of the embassies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

These wreaths from foreign governments represented our allies and friendly governments during the First World War. The memorial service was sponsored by the MOWW, and, among other things, marked the 90th anniversary of the Armistice ending the fighting in WWI at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The invocation and benediction was provided by Chaplain (LTC) Michael Punke, USA. The US Army Band ("Pershing's Own") provided the music and the National Anthem was sung by Staff Sergeant Bob Bruner. SSG Bruner also sang "My Buddy" prior to the presentation of the wreaths. The Armed Forces Color Guard posted and retired the Colors for the service. Mr. Frank Buckles, the sole surviving American military veteran of WWI, who is nearing his 108th birthday, was present and was introduced to those in attendance. Speakers included the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, John C. Metzler Jr., the MOWW Commander-in-Chief, LTG Robert L. Wetzler, and key note speaker MG Richard J. Rowe Jr., Commanding General of the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region/Military District of Washington. The playing of TAPS concluded the memorial service. This was the second year the MOWF has been formally represented at this Veterans Day service although individual Companions of the Order have attended in the past. It is anticipated the Order will continue to formally participate in the future.



(L to R) CAPT Webber, C-G Nattans, Comp Harrington, Comp Johnson, JVC-G Lindenau

## WELCOME TO NEW COMPANIONS

Comp Edward C. Bush (LA)  
Comp Mario A. Calonje (LA)  
Comp Winslow J. Chadwick (LA)  
LT(jg) Rutledge C. Clement Jr. (LA)  
Comp Bret A. Clesi (LA)  
Comp Scott W. Cole (DC)  
MAJ Michael J. Conroy (DC)  
Comp Robert D. Coyle (LA)  
Comp James A. De Falco Jr. (CAL)  
MAJ Harry N. Gilbert (LA)  
COL Alan L. Gropman (DC)  
Comp Kennedy J. Gilly (LA)  
LTC Thomas H. Gudowicz (PA)  
Comp Gerald Guice (LA)  
2LT James W. Hailey (LA)  
Comp John R. Hartman Jr (CAL)

1LT Nicolaus R. Heum (CAL)  
Comp H. Jack Hinrichs (LA)  
Comp Samuel B. Hoff (PA)  
CPT Carlton L. Hoskins (DC)  
LTC Charles F. Howton (DC)  
COL Charles H. Huettner (DC)  
Companion Larry D. Jordan (CAL)  
Comp Carol J. Kelley (PA)  
CAPT Hilliard F. Kelly III (LA)  
CPT Dennis G. Kurre (DC)  
MG Bennett C. Landreneau (LA)  
Comp Elizabeth M. Lindenau (DC)  
Comp Harrison G. Moore IV (CAL)  
LTC Jerry T. Morgan (FL)  
BG John W. Nicholson (DC)  
COL Andrew K. Schober (DC)

Comp William H. Sewell Jr. (LA)  
LTC Thomas H. Shar (NJ)  
MG John J. Singlaub (DC)  
CAPT Mont J. Smith (DC)  
Comp Gregory E. Sohns (DC)  
Comp Sandra E. Sohns (DC)  
Comp James M. Stokes (LA)  
COL Joseph Sullivan (CAL)  
Comp Jack W. Thomson (LA)  
COL James P. Tierney (DC)  
COL David T. Ulmer (DC)  
COL Stanley J. Whidden (DC)  
CDR Joseph W. White (DC)  
MAJ Kenneth W. Wical (DC))

# Commandery News

**District of Columbia** Companion James P. Schuback succeeds Companion James L. Cole Jr. as Commander. A Quarterly Meeting of the Commandery was held on 2 September 2008 at the Army & Navy Club in Washington, DC. The guest speaker was MG John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret), the co-author of the book entitled "Hazardous Duty, An American Soldier in the Twentieth Century". MG Singlaub discussed some of his war time experiences including memorable experiences while assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during WWII in both Europe and Asia. The Guest Speaker for the Commandery meeting on 2 December 2008 was the Honorable Scott W. Stucky, a sitting judge on the US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces who discussed the work of the Court within the historical context of the military justice system over the years. The Commandery was pleased to welcome as a guest the Order's Secretary-General, COL John F. Kutcher Jr.

**Florida** I regret to report that State Commander William H. Stemper Jr. Answered the Last Roll Call on Sunday, 2 November 2008. Bill was a long-time and loyal Companion in the Order as well as a loyal American and patriot. He will be missed but not forgotten. Companion David G. Snyder has been appointed as State Commander. Commander Snyder is a member of the Association Liaison Committee, Society of the Cincinnati; President of the Florida Association of the Society of the Cincinnati; Member of the Capital Campaigns Committee, General Society Sons of the Revolution; Historiographer General, Archivist General, National Society of the Sons of the American Colonists; and Governor, Florida Society, National Society Sons of the American Colonists.

**Louisiana** Companion (BG) Thomas E. Beron succeeds Companion H. Mortimer Favrot Jr. as the Commander of the Louisiana Commandery.

**New Jersey** Commander H. Edward Gabler III and State National Delegate COL Stanley L. Lapidow attended the commissioning of the USS Sterret (DDG 107) in Baltimore, MD on 9 August 2008. The evening before Veteran's Day, the Companions attended a Veteran's Day dinner at Sir John's Restaurant in North Brunswick. On Veteran's Day the Commandery participated in the dedication of the WWII Memorial across from the State House in Trenton.

**New York** The New York Commandery regretfully reports the death of State Commander Frederick A. Parker Jr. on 10 July 2008. Companion Parker was a longtime loyal and patriotic member of the MOFW and will be missed.

**Pennsylvania** The Commandery has maintained its busy program in 2008 with 5 speaker-lunches at the historic Philadelphia Club, the Annual Summer Buffet at the venerable Merion Cricket Club, and the Annual Christmas Party, also at Merion. We remind Companions from all Commanderies that they are invited to attend our functions if they find it convenient to be in the Philadelphia area. We continue an active and successful campaign to recruit Veteran and Hereditary members. The Commandery takes part in the community by providing awards to outstanding cadets in ROTC programs at several colleges and universities, such as

the U of Pennsylvania and Villanova. There will be a change of command at our Annual Meeting in January 2009. The incoming staff, as well as the entire Pennsylvania Commandery look forward to hosting the Biennial Convention in Philadelphia in May 2009.

## MOFW ENDOWMENT FUND

Article XVI of the Order's Constitution directs that a separate fund, known as the **Endowment Fund**, be created and established. The Article states "Contributions to the fund will be solicited and accepted and held in trust and the income used from time to time in the discretion of the Trustees to advance the purposes of the Order. The trustees are the Commander-General, the Senior Vice Commander-General and the Treasurer-General and they have full and complete control over the Fund." At one time the Order published a Yearbook in which a report on the Fund was provided. Research has shown that the Endowment Fund is no longer active and has not been active in the "modern era" of the Order. Past Treasurer-General Ted Neilson (and current Senior Vice) stated that "I believe that there may be a provision for an endowment fund in the Constitution; however, I do not believe that it was funded or if any funds have been allocated to it. When I became the TG, the (MOFW) funds were "unrestricted general funds". I attribute the preservation of the fund to the prudence of our (National) Council." Our current Treasurer-General, Dan McCall, reported that there are no Endowment Fund monies in our current budget. So it appears that the Order has a provision for a "discretionary fund" that could be used to pay for special events and occasions that from time to time may arise. It is interesting to note the wording in the Constitution when referring on how the Endowment Fund is funded - "contributions will be solicited and accepted". It appears that the money for the Endowment Fund came from donations made by the Order's Companions or other outside sources and not from the Head Tax. It is also interesting to note that at one time the Order published a YEAR BOOK (a part of the Historian-General's duties) which, from what I have been able to find out, was a yearly written history of the happenings in the Order. I wonder when the Year Book ceased to be prepared and if there are any still in existence?

## BIRTHPLACE OF ROTC

Norwich University, located in Northfield, Vermont, is reported to be the “birthplace” of the ROTC Program. Established in 1819, NU was the first private military college in the country. Its founder, Captain Alden Partridge, believed that a structured military lifestyle combined with rigorous academics would benefit those pursuing careers in both the military world and the private sector. His vision resulted in the creation of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). As the birthplace of ROTC, Norwich houses all four branches of the armed services – Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force – as well as a Coast Guard commission track.



LCDR Milton Betelle (PA), CDR Joseph L. Brumit (CAL), LTC Joseph E. Herkness (PA), LT Robert A. Orr (PA), 1LT Lambert B. Ott (PA), Companion Frederick A. Parker Jr. (NY), Companion William H. Stemper Jr. (FL), and COL Walbrook D. Swank (CAL) have Answered the Last Roll Call.

*Rest in Peace Faithful Companions.*

## MOFW ANNUAL AWARDS

\*\* US Merchant Marine Academy. The recipient of the MOFW Award, a wristwatch, was M/N Brennen M. Halbach from Wheat Ridge, CO. The award is given to the Midshipman that writes the best essay in the Department of Naval Science Navy Leadership or AFROTC Leadership Course and is going on active duty with the military.



CDR Donald Wilburn (L) and M/N Halbach

\*\* The Citadel. The MOFW Award, a picture collage of The Citadel, was presented to Cadet Kenneth Burch by Companion (COL) “Butch” Fuller of the Maryland Commandery.



COL Fuller (L) and Cadet Burch

## HARRY TRUMAN

“It doesn’t matter how big a ranch ya’ own, or how many cows ya’ brand, the size of your funeral is still gonna depend on the weather.” This quote was the kind of rhetoric Americans came to expect from President Harry S. Truman and he was the kind of president that everyone came to admire and respect. When he retired from the Office of the President of the US in 1952, his income was substantially a US Army pension reported to have been \$ 13,507.72 a year. The US Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an “allowance” and, later, a retroactive pension of \$ 25,000 per year. When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating “You don’t want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn’t belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it’s not for sale.” Even later, on 6 May 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing “I don’t consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise.” In a time when many have found wealth while enjoying the fruits of political office, Harry Truman was a refreshing and decent American. Old Harry was correct when he observed, “My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a warehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there’s hardly any difference. I, for one, believe the piano player job to be much more honorable than current politicians”. **GIVE ‘EM HELL, HARRY!**

(Ed Note: Actor James Whitmore performed a solo act play, later shown on TV, which highlighted Harry Truman’s time as President. It was a tremendous performance by Mr. Whitmore which depicted the real Truman. If the show comes around again, I highly recommend you see it or watch it.)

## POTPOURRI

\*\* "DEUS ET LIBERTAS". Did you know the MOWF motto means "God and Liberty".

\*\* VIET NAM WAR INFORMATION. One of the most complete information lists about the Vietnam War for anyone and especially to those who served there can be found at <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>.

\*\* BRONZE ARROWHEAD DEVICE. This device is issued as an attachment for a given campaign medal to US service members participating in an amphibious assault, a combat parachute drop, a helicopter assault landing, or a glider attack. The Bronze Arrowhead Device is a one-time decoration for each respective campaign medal and no more than one Bronze Arrowhead Device may be authorized per campaign medal. As of 2004, the campaign medals authorized the Arrowhead Device are: Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; Korean Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; and Iraq Campaign Medal. In nearly all cases the Bronze Arrowhead Device is issued with a corresponding campaign service star, denoting the campaign in which the assault landing was accomplished.

\*\* SHADES OF GREEN. The Walt Disney World Resort has traditionally been available only to active and retired military, National Guard, Reserves, and DoD and Coast Guard civilians. Now the Resort is inviting **all veterans who have been honorably discharged** to spend a well deserved vacation in Orlando, Florida. Although other months of the year are available, January and September offer the best opportunity to reserve a room or rooms. The resort also offers a complete line of conference and banquet services. For more information and links to obtain a copy of your DD Form 214, go to [www.shadesofgreenvets.org](http://www.shadesofgreenvets.org) or call (407) 827-VETS (8387).

\*\* CAPE HENRY INN. The Cape Henry Inn located at Fort Story, VA has been designated as an Armed Forces Recreation Center, taking its place beside The Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, HI, The Shades of Green in Orlando, FL, The Dragon Lodge in Korea, and the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. The Army plans to expand the facility to more than 3 times its present 95 room capacity with modern recreation and conference areas. In addition to the hotel, Cape Henry also includes log cabins and bungalows. For more information and/or reservations, go to [www.capehenryinn.com](http://www.capehenryinn.com) or call (757) 422-8818.

\*\* US POSTAL SERVICE. The USPS has made it easier to get packages to the troops. Most of us are familiar with the Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box (12" x 12" x 5.5") that can be shipped to any US address for \$ 12.95. Now if you are sending the package to an APO or FPO address, you'll pay only \$ 10.95, a \$ 2.00 military discount. The large flat-rate boxes are free and you can get them at your local Post Office, on line at [www.usps.com/supplies](http://www.usps.com/supplies) or by calling 1-800-610-8734.

\*\* CODE NAME "CENTREBOARD". In April 1945 the US War Department (forerunner of the current Department of Defense) approved the code name "Centreboard" for the mission of dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. The Uranium bomb was nicknamed "Thin Man" after President Roosevelt and the Plutonium bomb was nicknamed "Fat Man" after Winston

Churchill. Later when the gun barrel of "Thin Man" was shortened, the bomb was renamed "Little Boy". "Little Boy" was dropped on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and "Fat Man" on the city of Nagasaki on 9 August. Japan sued for peace shortly thereafter.

\*\* THE LAST ROLL CALL. A very special and extremely helpful brochure, "When there has been a Military Death" is available by calling 1-800-DIGNITY. With US military personnel currently deployed world-wide, the change of service personnel dying while on duty is an unfortunate occurrence. This brochure, written by Dr. Eva Shaw, Ph.D., a noted authority on death, grief and recovery, would be invaluable to family and friends of the deceased as it contains concise information on grief and what to expect after the death of a loved one while in service to his/her country. Her web site is [www.evashaw.com](http://www.evashaw.com).

\*\* THE MILITARIA FORUM. There is an interesting web site, [www.USMilitariaForum.com](http://www.USMilitariaForum.com), you may want to visit. Information concerning the MOWF is a recent addition to the forum. Mr. Kevin Beyer, a contributing writer on the site, was instrumental in posting the Order's information. Pay the site a visit and let us know what you think fit.

## THE NATIONAL COMMANDERY

Article IV and Article IX of the Constitution provides specifics on the Organization of the Order and its National Council.

From time to time a discussion arises as to whether or not a "National Commandery" of the Order exists. As you know the Order was founded in 1894 and by 1896, due to the rapid growth of membership and the formation of State Commanderies, it was deemed advisable to institute a **National Commandery**. The National Commandery would centralize and coordinate the activities of the various state Commanderies and have general supervision and control over the policies and activities of the Order. Thus, in 1896 the representatives from the then existing 3 state Commanderies – New York (27 Dec 1894), Pennsylvania (29 Apr 1895) and Connecticut (13 Feb 1896) – met in New York City and established The National Commandery. The first Commander-General of the Order was Brevet Major General Alexander Stewart Webb of the New York Commandery. The Office of the National Commander was first established in New York City to keep the national records including a complete set of applications kept by the Registrar-General. In 1919 the office was moved to the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, PA in order to have the records closer at hand for use by the Registrar-General who was regularly selected from the Pennsylvania Commandery. The office was noteworthy for its collection of Army and Navy registers which were used to verify applications from Hereditary members. In 1955, due to cost, the office was broken up with the National Commandery records being sent to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, while the older records were put into storage at the Atlas Storage Company in Philadelphia. Therefore since 1955, the



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Order has not had a “permanent location or office” and the **Office of the National Commandery** is the home and/or office of the current Commander-General. The Commander-General and his National Staff maintain just enough files and records to conduct the Order’s day-to-day business. Files and records that are no longer needed are sent to the Historian-General for disposition or, in the case of the Registrar-General, applications for enrollment and membership rosters and records are sent to the Center of Military History at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The National Commandery also has a **National Council** whose purpose is to conduct the necessary business of the Order between Conventions. The National Council has the authority to exercise all the powers of the Order in Convention and consists of the Commander-General and his National Staff, Past Commanders-General, and the appointed National Delegate from each state commandery. The Order’s current Past Commanders-General are: 1977-1979 Richard H. Love (DC Commandery), 1987-1989 James C. McElroy (NJ Commandery), 1995-1997 Versel Case Jr. (MI Commandery), 1997-1999 Ronald R. Sommer (MD Commandery), 1999-2001 Joseph P. Kirlin III (PA Commandery), 2001-2003 Ronald E. Fischer (DC Commandery), 2003-2005 John J. Salesses (RI Commandery), and 2005-2007 Duane Bartrem (MI Commandery).

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## Letters to the Editor

\*\* CAPT C. Weston Darby Jr. (PA Commandery) writes “The announcement about the new DoD medals (on page 6 of the June 2008 Newsletter) omitted the following new (2004) medal: Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. This medal is awarded to military personnel who actively participated in, or served in support of, Global War on Terrorism on or after 11 September 2001 in a non-deployed status, whether stationed at home or over seas. (By contrast, service in an operationally deployed status abroad within a designated area of eligibility merits primary eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal). Two other medals were also issued recently. I did not see anything about them in the Newsletter: The Air Force Air and Space Campaign Medal in 2002 and for all services, the Korea Defense Service Medal in 2003. Perhaps I overlooked them.”

(Ed Note. Thanks to CAPT Darby for bringing these medals to our attention. As you might expect, I depend on many sources for medals and I publish the information as soon as I receive and verify it. The Air Force Air and Space Campaign Medal, approved on 24 Apr 2002 recognizes Air Force personnel who are not eligible for the Kosovo Campaign Medal or other Operation ALLIED FORCE (OAF) DoD Campaign Medals but who provided direct support of combat operations at home station or from outside the geographical area of combat. The Korea Defense Service Medal, created in 2002, is authorized for military personnel who served on duty in the Republic of Korea to uphold the armistice between South and North Korea. For specific eligibility requirements for all three medals, please check with your particular branch of service.)

\*\* CWO 3 Edward Fox writes “I was reading the latest newsletter and saw the article on new DoD medals. Just to update you, the DoD has recently authorized campaign stars for the Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) and Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) campaign medals.”

\*\* COL Robert D. Pollock (DC Commandery) writes “Kudos to you on the Jan 08 MOFW newsletter. I got a chuckle out of the article entitled “A heart-wrenching story” and thought that the newsletter reader’s might enjoy another view of joint service cooperation in the next edition. “1/22/2008 – **SALMANPAK, Iraq (AFP)** – Aircrews of B-1B Lancers, F-16 Falcons, Navy F/A-18 Hornet pilots, Army 3rd Infantry Division soldiers and Iraqi forces cleared out an al-Qaida stronghold 30 miles SE of Baghdad late night Jan. 20 and early morning Jan. 21. Coalition aircraft dropped more than 30,000 pounds of bombs on former al-Qaida territory in Salmanpak, Iraq. This was all part of the on-going Operation Marne Thunderbolt, which is part of Operation Phantom Phoenix, an overarching operation to defeat extremism throughout Iraq. This particular mission targeted an area where al-Qaida laid obstacles in the way of IEDs, and took up safe haven at the same time. They also used the land to traffic weapons and send fighters up into Baghdad. Airmen and soldiers teamed up with Iraqi forces to clear the area of IED and weapons caches in order to move ground forces into the area. “The enemy is back on their heels and the Army is chasing them north and south,” said CO Peter Donnelly, the 18th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group Commander. “The Air Force is here to stay and clear the way for those Army troops on the ground as long as there is an enemy threat.” F-16 Fighting Falcons out of Bald Air Base, Iraq, came in during the operation to take out several house-born IEDs in the area where al-Qaida is starting to focus their efforts in hopes of blindly attacking ground forces when they go in to clear and secure buildings. Air Force efforts eliminated this threat in the area. The US Air Force, US Navy, US Army and coalition forces are keeping up pressure on the enemy forces to meet (Multinational Force – Iraq Commander Army) Gen. (David) Petraeus’ objectives to secure Iraq and set the conditions for freedom for the Iraqi people. Operation Marne Thunderbolt is one example of this,” said LtCol Joe Katuziowski, an air strategist deployed in the Middle East. “The operation was specifically scheduled at night for a reason,” COL Donnelly said. “This helps to reduce the potential for collateral damage, which is top priority for the military and since the locals adhere to strict night curfew, this makes a night mission more safe and effective.” With the area cleared, the 3rd Infantry Division and Iraqi forces can now move in and secure the land in order to set up a control area. “We want a permanent presence down there,” Col Donnelly said. “We need to provide an environment that will lead to security in that region, which will assist in defeating al-Qaida and its objectives. Operation Marne Thunderbolt kicked off Jan. 1.”

Air & Space Campaign Medal



Korea Defense Service Medal



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The Quartermaster-General. All General Officers of the Order, except the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Quartermaster-General and the Editor of the Newsletter are elected by the Order in Convention. The named Staff Officers are appointed by the incoming Commander-General and serve until the end of his tour.

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