



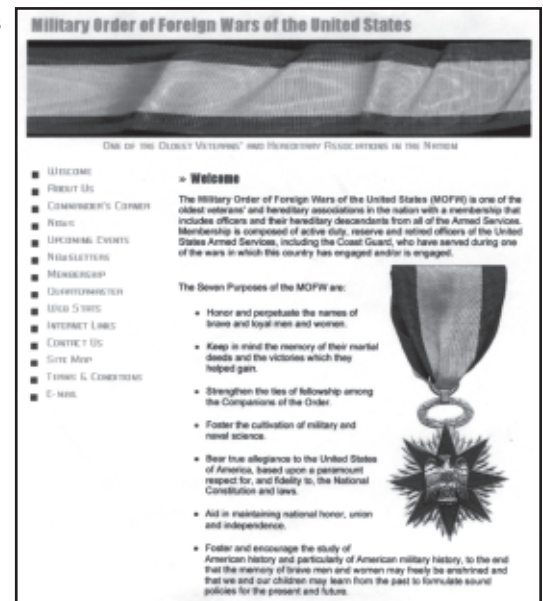
M.O.F.W.

Biennial 2009-2011 • Issue 2
JANUARY 2010

Newsletter

**WWW.MOFWUS.ORG
IS NOW ON LINE**

The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States has now joined the ranks of military, patriotic and hereditary organizations who “tell their story” on line. The idea for a MOFW website was first suggested at the 1997 Biennial Convention and was on the agenda for many subsequent Conventions. However, due to many obstacles, the web site program was never diligently pursued – that is, until the 2009 Convention in Philadelphia, PA. Under then Commander-General Arthur Nattan’s leadership, a Web Site Development Committee was established and given the authority to make the web site “happen”. MAJ Mark Hartell, newly elected Historian-General, was appointed as Committee Chair due to his extensive working knowledge of web site creation and development. The Committee itself was comprised of Companions with varying levels of interest and expertise in order to produce a web site that met the needs of the Order. The Committee was tasked to examine what had been accomplished, survey what was available and practical, determine the number of sites, adopt a common application, ensure a standardized format and appropriate content, and address privacy concerns. A huge task that was accomplished completely in a record amount of time. Extensive input was obtained by MAJ Hartell from the Committee members as well as other interested Companions. The most difficult part of the planning process was determining what was needed on the site and the best way to produce the final result. The planning and discussion stage was June through July when an IT Discussion Paper with recommendations for the web site was electronically submitted to members of the National Council as mandated by the May 2009 MOFW Convention. In August a meeting of National Council members in Philadelphia unanimously approved the recommendations from the IT Planning Committee, assigned MAJ Hartell as the MOFW’s initial webmaster, and charged him to design, assemble, and produce the Order’s first National “stand alone” Web site from the approved recommendations. With a “Target Date” of 1 November, MAJ Hartell devoted hours and hours of time and coordination bringing the web site to life. The site officially “came to life” on Sunday, 1 November 2009 and its “inaugural month” closed with 785 real visits and almost 30,000 search engine hits. It has already proven to be a great recruiting tool as the Order has had many confirmed individual new member application inquiries from across the country and its PDF MOFW application has already been downloaded numerous times. We have had dozens of MOFW Newsletter downloads. To date the web site is still a work in progress but has proven its worth to the Order in just these 3 short months. We encourage our State Commanderies to promote the use of the web site and to encourage their Companions and prospective Companions to visit the site on a regular basis. Commanderies who do not publish a newsletter can use the site, via a State Commandery link, to communicate with their Companions. The Rhode Island and Louisiana Commanderies are already “linked” to the web site and it is our goal to eventually have every State Commandery with a web site link. The “NEWS” section is a great way for every State Commandery to let everyone know what they are doing and what is in view for the future. We need everyone’s input on how they view the web site – web sites “die” without input from everyone. If you do not see what you need on the site, it is probably because no one asked for it! As I said, the web site is a work in progress. What is pending? Two initiatives on the “front burner” are putting the Order’s Constitution on the site and adding an “Archives Tab” for those who seek old issues of the newsletter and other historical documents. The Order owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to MAJ Mark Hartell for his unwavering and dedicated devotion to getting the Order’s first “stand alone” website up and running. A “Thank You” to the Web Site Committee members – Commander-General Lewis L. Neilson Jr., Past Commander-General Ron Fischer, Past Commander-General Ron Sommer, Registrar-General Noel Clinger, Deputy Treasurer-General John White III, and Companion Nick McDowell - for their input and support through the site’s early development stage. And last but not least, the Order would like to thank Companion Nick McDowell for providing free of charge a MOFW link from his FOXFALL MEDALS web site from 1998 until the Order’s site was on line. Companion McDowell’s generosity in allowing the Order to place a very basic informational link to his site provided us an opportunity to be “heard” for so many years. So sit down at your computers and type in WWW.MOFWUS.ORG and enjoy your web site!



MOFWUS.ORG Home Page

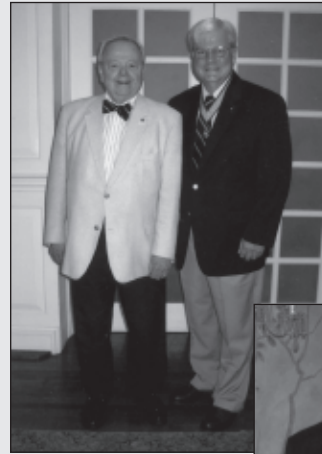
FROM THE C-G'S OFFICE

I am honored to be of service to the Order. The most significant accomplishment during the first six months of this term was to communicate monthly using email to approximately half of our membership. Starting with the email list from the Pennsylvania Commandery and the National Officers, I included a request in the June 2009 Newsletter for all Companions to send me their email address. When the response was only about 3 email addresses, I took the next step and requested the email addresses from the State Commanderies and then assembled an email database so that Companions were identified by Commandery and also state of residence. Then I sent lists of Companions without email to those with email by state. I appreciate the enthusiastic response to this effort. While the software is both complex and expensive, I am pleased that this effort has enabled enhanced communication. **IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO: LLNEILSON@POBOX.COM.** I was able to twice send an email with an Application Form so that over 500 Companions each had an application form which they could print out for proposed new Companions. If you need another form please let me know. I would like each of you to propose at least one new Companion. If you know of potential Companions in non Commandery states, please propose them to be Companions-At-Large and encourage them to form, or revive, a Commandery in their state. When you approach Companions or candidates concerning the formation of a new Commandery, I encourage you to review the Constitution and traditions of the Order. Past Commander-General Ron Fischer's outstanding 1994 History explains the origins of our Order and includes the initial role of the National Commandery in 1896 which was to basically provide for the perpetuation and government of the MOWF as a National Order. The initial Constitution then generally limited the National Order and, by amendment, also limited the General Officers from interfering with the affairs of a State Commandery. An additional unique aspect of governance was that each State Commandery, irrespective of size, is entitled to a National Delegate and 5 additional delegates. You can explain that new Commanderies upon approval will have an immediate and significant voice in the Order. I encouraged, in the June 2009 Newsletter, a focus of the Objectives for our Order and I continue to do so. Past Commander-General Ron Fischer's 1994 History included the following from a 1959 resolution: "...Further resolved, that the individual Commanderies, 60 days prior to the biennial Convention, submit a resume of their most important historical activity during the 2 years between conventions to the Historian-General, who will judge the winning Commandery which best encouraged the understanding of American Military Histories by its activities, and further that a citation be awarded to this Commandery at the Convention." I look forward to the award at the next Convention and encourage all Commanderies to participate. I was honored to attend, as Commander-General, the Pennsylvania Commandery Summer Barbeque hosted by State Commander Harry Carl Schaub and the Louisiana Commandery Annual Meeting where I met State Commander Thomas E. Beron and the guest speaker, RADM Mary E. Landry, Commander of the 8th Coast Guard District. I appreciated their hospitality. I welcome sugges-

tions for our Order which may be made to me at my email address, llneilson@pobox.com or office telephone which is (215) 735-5999. Thank you for your participation in our Order.

Lewis L. Neilson Jr.

COMMANDER-GENERAL



PA State Commander Schaub (l) and C-G Neilson



(l to r) LA State Commander Beron, RADM Landry, C-G Neilson

From the Treasurer-General

All Commanderies are reminded that the per capital head tax for 2009 is due April 1, 2010 and the tax is based on the State Commandery's total Companionship as of December 31, 2009.

Charles D. McCall

TREASURER-GENERAL

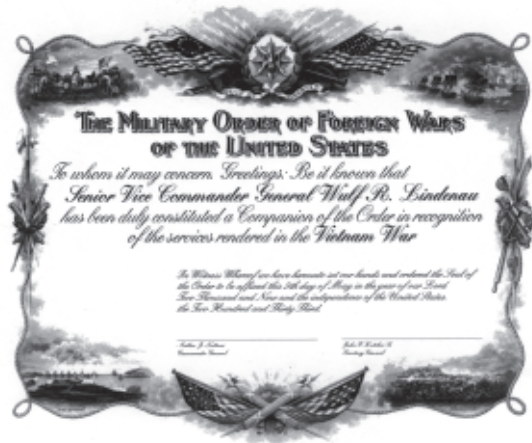


The following Companions have Answered the Last Roll Call: CAPT Joseph Frendo-Cumbo (PA), CAPT James W. Hayes Jr. (RI), COL Richard H. Love (DC), LT(jg) Robert L. McIntire (PA), COL Lewis L. Millett (CA), COL Paul P. Pederzani Jr. (RI) and COL Edward E. Sawada (MD).

Rest in Peace Faithful Companions.

From the Supply Room

For many years the Order offered a Diploma printed on parchment type paper as an option to the normal 8 1/2 x 11 inch version of our Diploma. This distinctive and unique diploma of Companionship is now back. The parchment type paper diploma is 16 1/2 x 20 1/2 inches in size and the calligraphy is script rather than block. This Diploma is a special order and each is printed and ordered as a one-by-one purchase. We do not carry the "blank" diploma in stock. The price of the completed Diploma is \$ 30.00 (shipping included). For more information, contact the Quartermaster-General at ronsommer@earthlink.net or by telephone at (410) 391-6687.



Ronald R. Sommer

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL

GOVERNMENT WASTE

"If you put the Federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand."

- Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize winning economist

Past Commander-General Postscript

Since our grand Biennial in Philadelphia, I have been busy implementing some of our Patriotic Spirit with neighbor nations in our fight against terrorism. As part of our US Department of State, I have been involved with the Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, coordinating with foreign officials responsible for anti-terrorism policy, legislation, enforcement, implementation, prosecution, and international operations. I have been impressed with their positive attitude of cooperation. Each country, however, has their own priority list against the threat of terrorism. Mexico, for example, is fighting a severe threat from drug traffickers and the violence and terror they produce. While I was in Mexico City (October 2009), the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in collaboration with Mexican officials, arrested 303 members of the La Familia cartel in Operation Coronado. The cartel is noted for beheading its enemies and trafficking vast amounts of methamphetamine that enters the US across our Southwestern border. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said "Indeed, while this cartel may operate from Mexico, the toxic reach of its operations extends to nearly every state within our own country." Our International efforts to combat terrorism are an opportunity to bring assets and concerns of pro-social countries together to experience teamwork and united satisfaction in attaining world security for all nations. It is a satisfying mission for me in extending our hand to those partners around the world interested in mutual respect and cooperation in resisting terrorism. The global intelligence and asset sharing provides an early warning and combine protections layer for peaceful advancement. The ATA Program has served 28 countries from Kazakhstan to Senegal and this year some of our program offers go to Jordan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Caribbean Islands. That is my comment for now - remember Companions, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE. We all can play a part from a single prayer to the total sacrifice. GOD bless you and GOD bless America!

Arthur J. Nattans

PAST COMMANDER-GENERAL
(2007-2009)

Are You A Companion In The Order

You have completed your State Commandery or Companion-At-Large Application Form and attached supporting documentation. That's good! You have sent along with the application form your check for the initiation fee and/or dues. That is even better! All have been accepted by the State Commandery so you are now a Companion in the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States – correct? The answer is "yes" to a point. Article X, State Commanderies, of the Order's Constitution states, when referring to enrollment, "it shall have the power to admit Companions of the Order and to be the judge of the eligibility of applicants for admission subject to the supervision of the Order as hereinbefore set forth, and the sole power to pass upon the other qualifications of such applicants". "Subject to the supervision of the Order" means that an additional enrollment step must be taken before you are "officially" a Companion in MOFW and that enrollment step must be taken by the State Commandery. A copy of your completed and approved (signed by State Commandery Officers) application form must be sent to the Order's Registrar-General for final processing. Section 7 of Article VI, Duties of General Officers, tasks the Registrar-General to "submit to the National Council for action any deficiencies which he/she may consider to exist in such data". In other words, you are not a Companion in the MOFW until the Registrar-General reviews your enrollment paperwork. So ARE YOU A COMPANION IN THE ORDER? You may not be if your State Commandery has not sent the Registrar-General a copy of your completed and signed application form, and has done so in a timely manner. You say "I am receiving a copy of the MOFW Newsletter so I must be recognized as a Companion at National – right?" Not really. The

Newsletter mailing list is derived from different information sources all of which do not always come from the Registrar-General. What is the purpose of this explanation? Every year we get a few messages/letters from individuals saying “I am not getting my Newsletter.” Or “I haven’t received a dues notice in 5 years.” or “I enrolled in the **** Commandery but have not a word from them since I sent in my dues and my application form.” The Registrar-General nor the Editor of the MOFW Newsletter have no record of the individual and have no idea who he/she is. After much time and effort, the Registrar-General, in most cases, can find out the information and solve the “mystery” but it would be great if he did not have to do any research at all. So ARE YOU A COMPANION IN THE ORDER? You can easily find out by asking your State Commandery Registrar if your paperwork was sent to the Registrar-General. If there is no record of that action, you can contact the Registrar-General (registrar.general@mofwus.org) to see if you are listed on the National Roster. If you are, then you are A COMPANION IN THE ORDER!

Vice State Commander Hall Worthington, Past National Secretary-General Jack Kutcher Sr. and Companion Ivan Dooley.

(Ed note: From an article “Hill 108 Monument Dedicated” written by John F. Kutcher sr., 12 Aug 08)



(L to R) Companions Kutcher, Worthington, and Dooley

Hill 108

The French Normandy city of St. Lo was the primary inland objective of the 29th Infantry Division after their D-Day (6th of June 1944) assault landing on Omaha Beach. The liberation of St. Lo from German occupation was critical to the success of the Normandy campaign since the city was the center of a strategic network of roads needed by the Allies to ensure their advance beyond the beaches. Hill 108 was the dominant terrain feature in the route of advance to St. Lo and was staunchly defended by the Germans. To take the city of St. Lo, Hill 108 must be in allied hands. The 175th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division captured the hill and for several critical days held it while fending off repeated German counterattacks. For its taking and defense of Hill 108, the regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Hill 108 was called “Purple Heart Hill” by its defenders because of the large number of casualties the regiment suffered. This award is worn by current members of the 1-175th Infantry Battalion today. In observance of the 65th anniversary of D-Day, more than a dozen members of the 29th Division Association, along with friends and family, to include members of Limestone Post # 72, the Regimental Post of the Association, made the trip to France in June 2009. A part of the D-Day observance visit was the dedication of a long overdue monument honoring the 175th Infantry Regiment in the town of Villiers-Fossard near Hill 108 and in the vicinity of St. Lo. The monument was made possible by donations from many individuals and patriotic and military associations. The monument consists of a 9’ 8” marble shaft with the 29th Infantry Division’s insignie super-imposed at the top left. A bronze plaque showing the unit history and a description of the battle is mounted on the shaft. The plaque also features images of the Regiment’s unit insignie, the Presidential Unit Citation and the French Croix de Guerre Medal that was also awarded the regiment for its actions on Hill 108. Three Companions of the Maryland Commandery who are also members of the 29th Infantry Division Association made the trip and participated in the dedication ceremony – Senior

WELCOME TO NEW COMPANIONS

CPT (Rev) William C. Baron (DC)
 Companion Elaine Battaglia (PA)
 LtCol Robert E. Bowen (DC)
 Companion Keith R. Butler (DC)
 MAJ Henry R. Canciglia (DC)
 COL Adelbert W. Carpenter (DC)
 CAPT Stephen J. Connelly (DC)
 LTC John A. Connor (RI)
 COL Dennis M. Duggan (DC)
 Companion Michell Henrix (DC)
 MAJ Carlton L. Hoskins (DC)
 COL William Jackomia (DC)
 COL Thomas S. Lloyd (DC)
 Companion Bernard W. Murray (PA)
 CDR Patrick E. Fitch (DC)
 Companion Kathryn A. Janiszewski (DC)
 CPT Scott E. Johnson (CAL)
 Companion Spiro C. Manolas (DC)
 LTC Larry J. Redmon (DC)
 Companion Stephanie A. Robertson (DC)
 Comp Kelly L. Sommer (MD)
 BG William Weise (DC)
 LCDR William J. Whalen (DC)
 Companion Kurt C. Wulfekuhler (PA)

(Ed Note. In the June 2009 issue of your newsletter, we reported Companion Jack C. Stultz’s last name as “Stulz” and his rank as “LTC”. Companion Stultz is a Lieutenant General (LTG). We apologize for the errors.

HONOR:
 WITH IT, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
 WITHOUT IT, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

First Vietnam War Medal Of Honor

US Army Special Forces Captain Roger H.C. Donlan and his 12 man A-Team (A-726) were training a force of local Vietnamese and Nung (ethnic Chinese) at a South Vietnamese camp called Nam Dong. At 0230 hours on 6 July 1964, 900 Viet Cong regulars attacked the camp. The attack was preceded by a mortar barrage, one round of which fell in the camp mess hall, blowing CPT Donlan out the door. The mortar barrage was the beginning of a very long night for the camp's 367 defenders. Donlan moved to his command post, which was now in flames, in order to save ammunition and supplies, and then headed out towards the camp's perimeter defenses. Another mortar round exploded, tossing him into the air and ripping off one of his boots. He managed to crawl to a trench when someone shouted "the VC are attacking the ammo bunker." He took off running towards the bunker when another mortar explosion knocked him off his feet again, ripping off his pistol belt and his other boot. Crawling into another trench, he saw 3 VC approaching the camp's outer gate and he fired on them, killing 2. He threw a grenade at the 3rd but was too busy to see its effect. By this time, Donlan had been wounded in the stomach, left forearm and face but he refused to stop. He ran to another bunker where his men were firing on more than 100 VC scaling the fence. Realizing that to try to hold that bunker was hopeless, he ordered his men out and headed for still another bunker. After refusing medical assistance, he headed out once again towards another threatened position. And, for a 4th time, an explosion blew him into the air, cutting up his legs. A grenade exploded near him, knocking him down and shortly thereafter, while taking cover in a pit, a concussion grenade exploded above him, knocking him down once again. Recovering, he tried to carry one of his men away from the threatened position when another huge explosion hurled him into the air, tearing up his shoulder, and knocking him unconscious. Coming to, he carried a mortar tube over to where 4 wounded Nungs lay and bandaged their wounds with his T-shirt and sock. The Nungs provided covering fire as he headed to a nearby pit to recover mortar ammunition. On his 3rd trip to the pit, a grenade exploded over him, driving shrapnel into his left leg. Donlan and one of his men fired the mortars until he accidentally stood too close to the mortar and was knocked back by the muzzle blast. Quickly recovering, he ran to another pit to get some boots when still another mortar blast knocked him down again. By this time the enemy began to retreat as they had had enough of Donlan and the defenders of Nam Dong. Despite his wounds, Donlan continued to check his perimeter and finally accepted medical treatment after one of his men threatened "Sit down, Sir, or I'm going to have to knock you down." When it was all over, Donlan had lost 3 of his A-Team men and 52 locals. The VC had left 62 bodies on the battlefield. For his bravery under fire and for preventing the camp from falling to the VC, Captain Roger H.C. Donlan received the first Medal of Honor awarded during the Vietnam War.

(Ed note: Condensed from a story published by Freedom Team Salute, a magazine sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff.)

LOST BAGPIPER

As a bagpiper I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery in the remote countryside and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there. As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost and being a typical man, did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the backhoe and the crew who were eating lunch but the hearse was nowhere in sight. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness and stepped to the side of the open grave where I saw the

vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I played out my heart and soul. As I played, the workers began to weep. I played and I played like I'd never played before, from GOING HOME and THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD to FLOWERS OF THE FOREST. I closed the lengthy session with AMAZING GRACE and walked to my car. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "Sweet Jeezuz, Mary n' Joseph, I have never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years!"

VETERANS DAY AT ARLINGTON



SVC-G Lindenau renders salute

On Veterans Day (11 November 2009) nine Companions of the District of Columbia Commandery ignored rainy and chilly weather to represent the Order at the annual memorial service at the grave of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. The ceremony was impressive. The US Army Band provided music and wreaths were presented by various veterans' organizations and by some of the embassies of foreign governments with whom the US were allied with during the First World War. SVC-G Wulf Lindenau, along with Deputy Sec-Gen for Legislative Affairs, Andrew Johnson, presented the MOFW wreath during the ceremonies. Speeches were given by the Commander, Military District of Washington, the Superintendent of Arlington Cemetery, and the Commander of the Military Order of World Wars. Along with opening and closing prayers, the Colors were presented and the National Anthem and the song "My Buddy" was sung. Along with Companions Lindenau and Johnson, Companions Roger C. Bultman, John W. Nicholson, Richards S. Flahavan, Robert D. Pollock, Kent S. Webber, Mark G. Hartell, and Cyrus R. Harrington also attended. Other organizations participating were the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Army and Navy Union, the Military Order of the Carabao, Sons of Union Veterans, and the Military Order of World Wars (the sponsoring organization).

Historian-General Honored



Comp Hartell (l) and
Mr. Van Diepen

Historian-General Mark Hartell was presented the US Department of State Meritorious Honor Award by Mr. Vann H. Van Diepen of the State Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation during ceremonies conducted on 4 November 2009. The award was in recognition of

Companion Hartell's outstanding achievements as Head of Delegation for the Australia Group Technical Experts who negotiate on nonproliferation export control policy. The "Australia Group" is an informal forum of 40 countries which, through the harmonization of export controls, seeks to ensure exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons. Coordination of national export control measures assists "Australia Group" participants to fulfill their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention to the fullest extent possible. Companion Hartell is an active Army Major serving a tour of duty with the US Department of State. He is the Order's Historian-General, the web master of the MOFW web site (www.mofwus.org), and a Companion in the District of Columbia Commandery. His outstanding work at the Department of State on behalf of our country and the associated nations involved in export controls to prevent unauthorized development of chemical and biological weapons has made a significant contribution to the welfare of humanity and he is truly deserving of the Department of State Meritorious Honor Award.

THE GOLD BAR

The word "lieutenant" comes from the French "lieu" (place) and "tenant" (holder). A lieutenant then is one who holds the place of another and, since he took the place of a senior officer, the lieutenant ranked next to that person and was his deputy. Such was the case for Lieutenant General and Lieutenant Colonel. Those who served with captains may have been called Lieutenant Captains but that title did not survive. The rank of lieutenant had existed in the British army for centuries so it was inevitable that the rank became part of the American Army in 1775. About 1832, First Lieutenants, except those in the Infantry, began wearing a bar – a gold one – on their shoulder straps as rank insignia. The bar had to be the same color as the border on their shoulder straps, which were gold. Infantry First Lieutenants, however, wore shoulder straps with silver borders so their bars were of silver. It really got confusing after 1851. After that date, all Army officers wore shoulder straps with gold borders so the Infantry First Lieutenants then wore gold bars. The situation was just the opposite when First Lieutenants wore their dress uniforms, which had gold epaulettes. Their rank insignia had to contrast with the gold so they wore silver bars. In 1872, the Army cleared up the confusion and made bars on the shoulder straps silver as well.

Second Lieutenants did not have rank insignia but wore epauletts or shoulder straps so their uniforms identified them as officers. When officers and enlisted men both started wearing khaki uniforms with plain shoulder straps during the Spanish-American War, it became more difficult to recognize the Second Lieutenant. Other officers wore metal rank insignia on their shoulder straps or collars. In 1917 the Army settled that problem by making the gold bar the Second Lieutenant's badge of rank and it has remained that way ever since.

THE SILVER DOLLAR SALUTE

It is an honored tradition that a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant proudly hands a shiny silver dollar to the first enlisted soldier who salutes him/her. The exact origin of the custom is arguable, but it probably began before the US Armed Forces were organized. British regiments stationed in colonial America brought with them a number of customs and traditions that were retained by the newly formed American Armed Forces. For example, newly commissioned British officers were assigned an enlisted soldier to train them, teach them the regiment's history and traditions, and ensure that his equipment met appropriate standards. Grateful lieutenants often showed their heartfelt gratitude by informally compensating the enlisted soldier with a small sum of money. This custom continued to grow within the British military and newly formed American units. American Second Lieutenants, in 1816, received a monthly base pay of \$ 25, a \$ 3 ration allowance, and \$ 1 for an enlisted advisor. This advisor's pay was later discontinued but the responsibility for teaching the newly commissioned officers continued. The present day tradition is thought to have its roots in this relationship. Authorized by Congress on 2 April 1792, the silver dollar traditionally is the only coin given in exchange for the first salute. Soon to be lieutenants go to great lengths to secure these silver dollars. The Silver Dollar coin represents more than the currency value. To every new officer, it has special significance. It represents the symbolic receipt of respect due the newly earned rank and position. It signifies a deep sense of gratitude of the new officer for the knowledge enlisted soldiers, especially NCOs (Non-Commissioned Officers), have passed on to them during training. Its acknowledgement from one professional soldier to another says, "Welcome to our service and to the profession of arms". The coin is an expression of respect shared together, as are all tasks and missions that are given together for officer and soldier to perform. The values and ethics that are passed on to the newly commissioned officer are there to be shared and remembered and to be passed on again when the time comes. Whatever the origin of the "Silver Dollar Salute", it is part of all soldiers' love of duty and their respect for each other and it strengthens their commitment and responsibility to serve their country.

(Ed note. The Silver Dollar Salute was taken from the Maryland Army National Guard graduation program of Officer Candidate School Class 50 and Class 51 Accelerated.)

COMMANDERY NEWS

District of Columbia On 28 May 2009, the Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the highest award the Secretary of the Air Force can approve for presentation to a civilian employee of the US Air Force, was presented to Companion Robert D. Pollock. The award recognized his outstanding accomplishments in financial management and acquisition methods between September 2008 and May 2009. On 10 August 2009 The Honorable Bill Livingood, Sergeant-At-Arms for the US House of Representatives, was enrolled in the Order and the DC Commandery by SVC-G Wulf Lindenau and his son, Companion Christopher Lindenau.



C. Lindenau (l) and Comp Livingood who is holding the Symbol of Office in his right hand

The quarterly meeting of the Commandery was held on 1 September 2009 at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC. A social period, a working business lunch and a guest speaker made up the agenda. The guest speaker was Mr. Thomas C. Van Hare, Executive Director of TF Hawk, Inc., and co-author of the book entitled "Betrayal". The book covers the downing by Cuban Air Force MIG-29 fighters of two small, unarmed, American civilian aircraft who were engaged in searching for rafters in the Florida Straights on 24 February 1996. On 30 October 2009, Companion (BG) John W. Nicholson was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in Vietnam on 27 December 1963. The award, 45 years in the making, was finally presented to BG Nicholson by LTG (Ret) John Cushman and BG Karl R. Horst, Commander, Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region and Military District of Washington.



(l to r) BG Korst, LTG Cushman, BG Nicholson

Another quarterly meeting of the Commandery was held on 1 December 2009 again at the Army and Navy Club. BG John W. Nicholson (Ret) was the guest speaker and he addressed the

various aspects of American patriotism. A Certificate of Achievement was presented by DC Commander LTC Chuck Trombetta to Companion (MAJ) Mark G. Hartell in recognition of his outstanding work in setting up the new MOFW web site.



Comp Hartell (l) and LTC Trombetta

Maryland 2009 was an active year for the Commandery. The Commandery cadre, led by Commander (BG) Virgil Stemple, planned and executed events in keeping with the purposes of the Order. The annual meeting of the Commandery was held in March at the historic Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. Fifty Companions, approximately 50% of the active roster, were in attendance and feasted on a hearty buffet dinner prior to the business session of the meeting. During the business session, the membership voted unanimously to underwrite the expenses of the Maryland Commandery's delegation to the National Convention in Philadelphia. The spring found our Companions at 5 Maryland University and college ROTC awards ceremonies. Sixteen awards for Leadership and Academic Excellence in Military Science were presented to Cadets at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University, Morgan University, and McDaniel College. Two JROTC awards were presented to cadets at Chesapeake H.S. (Baltimore County). As always, the high point of the year was the Commandery's Annual Social held in August at the MDNG's Gunpowder Military Reservation. More than 60 Companions and guests enjoyed the traditional summer barbeque fare of pit beef and turkey, hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. During the event, State Commander Virgil Stemple presented the MOFW Distinguished Service Award to Mrs. Alicia Mitchell in recognition of her ten plus years of volunteer service in support of the MOFW Newsletter. For each issue of the newsletter, Mrs. Mitchell makes all changes to the mailing list and, at no cost to the Order, prints the labels. In addition, over the years she has performed many additional tasks as requested by the editor. The Commandery was joined by members and guests from the Susquehanna and Baltimore Chapters of MOAA, the Fifth Regiment Veterans Corps, and the officers of the 121st Engineer Battalion. The cook out was a huge success. The Commandery also gave its customary support to the Maryland National Guard ChalleNGe Program which provides academic and leadership education to at-risk teenagers from the Baltimore metropolitan area. The Commandery presented the program's Most Outstanding Cadet a certificate and a \$ 100 US savings bond. Never satisfied to rest on its laurels, the Commandery cadre has plans to expand activities for 2010 by adding two additional events to be held in the DC Metro/Northern Virginia area for Commandery members living in that region.

Michigan The Commandery held its Fall Reunion on 10 October 2009 in Lansing, MI. State Commander Terry Dankenbring presided over the meeting at which 22 Companions, spouses and guests were in attendance. The

Social Hour began at 1130 with lunch being served at 1230. The business meeting began at 1315. Annual dues was discussed and it was decided to keep the dues at \$ 15.00 per annum as the Commandery remains solvent and can meet all its financial obligations. Past Commander-General (COL) Duane Bartrem gave a brief summary of the May Biennial Convention in Philadelphia that he and Commander Dankenbring attended. It was announced that the Commandery has 24 Companions currently enrolled with one prospect in the process of being enrolled. Membership was discussed in length and all Companions were asked to work on this severe strength problem. Companion (COL) Russell Hagerman and Past Commander-General (COL) Versel Case had just celebrated their 90th birthday and they were honored with the singing of Happy Birthday and a nice round of applause. It was reported that Commander Dankenbring gave a short presentation to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) at their meeting on 8 October 2009. He spoke on the Order's history, purpose, and eligibility requirements for Companionship. He stated that several officers showed interest and he hopes the Commandery may gain some new members. COL Bartrem swore in the new State Commander, LTC Orlando "Orley" Benedict, and also sworn in were LTC Robert Hagan as Vice Commander, COL James Spackman as 1st Vice Commander and LTC William McCurdy as Secretary/Treasurer. COL Dankenbring closed the meeting by saying that "it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as the Michigan Commander for the past 4 years. I plan to work hard for the Order and this fine organization". Commander Benedict adjourned the meeting at 1430.

Rhode Island Rhode Island Commandery Companion (COL) Theodore F. Low has been reappointed as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. This will be the third consecutive term in the office for Companion Low and while in office, he will retain the rank of a 3-Star general officer. He served in the 43rd Infantry Division in WWII and in 3 major battles in the Korean War. Companion Low is a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy, Brown University and the Ohio State Graduate School of Business.

POTPOURRI

** Camp Darby. If you are including a European trip in your plans, Camp Darby, Italy, welcomes you. Facilities are open to all military ID card holders, their dependents, DoD civilians, and retirees. Home to the only "American Beach" in Europe, Camp Darby is located in the heart of Tuscany with the city of Pisa and the Pisa Airport only minutes away. The Camp has a complete Information, Tours and Recreation (ITR) service. Since Camp Darby is not an Armed Forces Recreation Center, reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Accommodations include 2 lodges, log cabins, and camp grounds on the installation. All are handicapped accessible. For more information go to <http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil> or email lodging@eur.army.mil. You may also telephone the Sea Pines Lodge at 39 – then 050-54-7225 or 050-54-7580 8 AM to 5 PM Central European Time.

** DD-214 On Line. The National Personnel Records Center has a web site, <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>, which allows veterans to gain access to their DD Form 214 on line. This new

web-based application procedure was designed to provide better service by eliminating the records center's mailroom and processing time.

** How We Won The War. Or, "Ya Gotta be Kiddin'! You got away with that?" Author Charles G. Pefinis publishes memoirs and stories from veterans. He is looking for stories that are amazing, humorous, inspiring or religious in content – but not horrific ones. If you have a story that fits what he is looking for, he would be happy to hear from you. For more information, visit his website at www.howwewonthewar.com, give him a call at (O) 410-252-8270 (C) 443-386-4014 or (Fax) 410-252-8884. or write him at Pefinis-Matheson Theme Books, P.O. Box 397, Timonium, MD 21094.

(Ed Note: This information is provided as a service to Companions. The Order does not endorse or sponsor this author or his writings.)

MOFW ANNUAL AWARDS

** US Coast Guard Academy. On 19 June 2009, the MOFW Award (an engraved wristwatch) was presented to Midshipman Alexander P. Smith. The award is presented to the midshipman who is the Most Proficient in Handling a Sailing Vessel.

** US Merchant Marine Academy. The recipient of the MOFW Award was Midshipman Alexander P. Smith from Barkhamsted, CT. The award, an engraved wristwatch, is presented to the Midshipman who writes the best Leadership Essay for the Department of Naval



CDR Wilburn (l) and M/N Smith

Science Leadership Course or AFROTC Leadership Course and who plans to enter active Military service after graduation. The award was presented by the Department Head of Naval Science, CDR Donald Wilbur.

** US Military Academy. The MOFW Award, a Crossed Saber Plaque, was presented to Cadet Jason A. Bogardus by Companion William R. Adelaar (NY Commandery). The award is given to the Cadet who excels in the field of General Management.



Comp Adelaar (l) and Cadet Bogardus

** Kinnick High School, Yokosuka, Japan. On 11 June 2009 District of Columbia Companion (CWO3) Edward Fox presented MOFW NJROTC awards to 2 cadets: Cadet c/CPO

Marlowe R. Gonzales for Leadership and to c/CPO Grace Marie Remolano for Academics.



Letters to the Editor

** COL Arthur Tulak (DC Commandery) writes "Quite a lot has happened here at HQ ISAF since I last wrote. We have a new commander of US Forces Afghanistan and ISAF, GEN McChrystal, who is reorganizing his two HQs (US Forces Afghanistan and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force) bringing the US and ISAF HQs into a more integrated/combined approach. He is also creating the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) which will be led by LTG David Rodriguez, currently the Deputy Commanding General of USFOR-A. I will be appointed as the Director of Information Operations for the IJC, while simultaneously continuing to serve with the same title for HQ USFOR-A. The IJC is now building a new camp, which we are moving to in the next few weeks. It will be rather "expeditionary" at first, and we'll live and work in tents and plywood "B-huts". The insurgents have dramatically stepped up their campaign of violence in the Kabul area, and across the country as they did their best to disrupt elections. There were many incidents of civilians being maimed and mutilated for voting, or attempting to vote, in areas where the government of Afghanistan does not exert control. However, despite this, they failed to achieve their aims and the elections were successfully carried out across the country. The months of July and August saw the highest casualty figures for US troops since the war began in 2001. You probably know about the suicide vehicle bomb attack on our HQs on 15 Aug. The blast was huge and destroyed our front entrance, and so badly damaged one of our barracks that the occupants were relocated to tents freshly erected in the camp. The shock wave knocked people to the ground, even those who were inside buildings. At first, myself and those around me thought it was a rocket that had landed very close to us inside the compound, as the insurgents have been firing rockets into Kabul for some time now. Quickly, we learned that it was a SVBIED attack on the perimeter. I nominated two of my noncommissioned officers for the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor for their response to the initial attack and subsequent efforts to clear out the damaged barracks at the site of the attack. This attack wounded 70 civilians, killed 3, and wounded 25 of our ISAF soldiers. The insurgents then followed up with another suicide vehicle bomb attack at our ISAF camp at the airport on 8 Sep that killed 3 civilian by-standers. As part of the new concept of operations, we are partnering with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Police to a much greater level than previously attempted. We have been conducting joint planning with the ANA over the last month, and are replicating this approach down to the lowest levels. It will be exciting to see how our new strategy and cooperative approach with the ANA unfolds over the next five months of my tour here."

(Ed Note: COL Tulak wrote me on 27 Sep 09 so, unless he is extended, he will be rotating home sometime in February 2010. He also sent me the August and September issue of "Freedom Watch Afghanistan", an excellent magazine published monthly by the 40th PAD located in Dragon Village at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. You can view this

magazine's past and current issues by going to www.CJTf82.com)

** Companion William J. Perret (Louisiana Commandery) writes "Thank you for a wonderful newsletter. For me the June 2009 issue was the best ever. I was particularly pleased with your note on Josephine Baker. She is one of my all time favorite singers. As to her heritage, I understand her mother had both Indian and African blood. I am confused by the reference to her Creole father. What is a Creole father? In my area books have been written about the definition of a Creole. Please elucidate the ethnic background of Josephine Baker's father."

(Ed Note: Companion Perret and I carried on a discussion on the definition of the word Creole and who this word defines. We came to the conclusion that the word may have numerous definitions. He wrote me that in Louisiana the generally accepted criterion for Creole is a "person born in the French or Spanish colonies whose parents were born in the mother country". Unfortunately, I was unable to provide him any additional information on Josephine Baker's father. I learned a lot from my discussion with Companion Perret and I thank him. If interested, more information may be obtained by contacting the Creole Heritage Center, NSU Box 5675, Natchitoches, LA 71497 (318) 357-6685.)

I REGRET TO REPORT the passing of Past Commander-General (COL) Richard H. Love on 18 August 2009. He was 2 weeks shy of his 94th birthday. Companion Love was a member of the District of Columbia Commandery and served as C-G from 1977-1979. Besides the MOFW, he was very active in other veteran organizations. He will be missed but not forgotten.

TAPS REPORTING MISTAKE In the June 2009 issue of your newsletter, Rhode Island Companion (LTC) Paul H. McLaughlin was reported as having passed. I am happy to report that Companion McLaughlin is alive and well and now resides in California. I truly regret the reporting error and apologize to LTC McLaughlin for any inconvenience or problems the mistake may have caused him. Companion Ron Sommer, Editor, MOFW Newsletter

Requiem for COL Lewis L. Millett, Medal of Honor Recipient

Retired US Army Colonel and California Commandery Companion Lewis L. Millett passed away at a veterans' hospital in Loma Linda, CA, on 14 November 2009. A veteran of both the US and Canadian armies, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for personally leading a bayonet charge up Hill 180 near Soam-Ni during the Korean War. He once said, "I must be the only Regular Army Colonel who has ever been court-martialed and convicted of desertion!" in reference to official actions taken against him in 1942. He "left" the US Army Air Corps Gunnery School in order to join the Canadian Army and fight fascism after President Roosevelt said in 1941 that the US was not going to war against Nazi Germany.

WORDS TO LIVE BY Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO, what a ride! Author Unknown

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