



M.O.F.W.

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Newsletter

THE CALL TO CONVENTION COME ONE - COME ALL

BE IT KNOWN THAT ALL COMPANIONS OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE HEREBY CALLED TO ATTEND THE 50TH CONVENTION OF THE ORDER IN WASHINGTON, DC ON MAY 5 – 7, 2011.

Join the District of Columbia Commandery for a very special **50th Convention** in the Nation's Capital – it will be a Convention to remember! The DC Commandery has gone to great lengths to ensure that you will have a great Convention with a business agenda worthy of your time and energy, a super social calendar where Companions and their guests can spend meaningful time together, and a chance to visit our Nation's Capital. Even if you have visited Washington before, there is always something new and exciting to do and see. The DC Commandery has been able to bring the cost of attending the 50th Convention down to an unbelievably low amount – an amount unheard of in the DC area today! The Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn National Airport in Crystal City, has given us a great nightly rate and the DC Commandery has set a registration fee that everyone can afford. And as a special bonus for attendees, a **50th Convention Commemorative Medal** has been struck and will be presented to all registered Companions. Those of us who attended the MOFOW 100th Anniversary celebration in New York City in 1994 and received the 100th Anniversary Medal know how special these commemorative medals are to the recipient. So, even if you have attended a MOFOW Convention in the past or if you have never had an opportunity to attend one, this is a chance you do not want to pass up! The Convention itinerary –

Arrival (May 5th) - A courtesy shuttle is available from Reagan National Airport. Upon arrival, go to Doorway #5 or #9 and take the shuttle to the Holiday Inn (2650 Jefferson David Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, tele: (703)684-7200). For those of you who opt to use Dulles or Thurgood Marshall-BWI, please be advised you will need to hire transportation to the Headquarters Hotel. For those driving, hotel parking fees have been waived for the length of the Convention but make sure you receive a parking pass for your windshield. There is no valet parking but there are Bell Hops on hand to help you with your luggage and the parking garage is just a short walk away. Register at the MOFOW Convention Check-in Table in the hotel lobby. The Welcome Reception is 6 – 8 PM and you are invited to visit the Hospitality Room at any time during the Convention.

Friday (May 6th) – Join everyone for breakfast (served 7 – 8:30 AM) in the hotel's "Fifties-Themed" restaurant. Registered attendees will be provided breakfast tickets for each day. After breakfast,

while the delegates attend a morning business meeting, spouses and guests will tour beautiful **Hillwood Estate and Gardens** in NW Washington. All will meet for lunch at the Headquarters Hotel and after lunch, all will tour the newly refurbished **Mount Vernon**, home of our first President and Father of our Country, George Washington. Even if you have visited Mt. Vernon in the past, you have to make this tour to see the outstanding renovations that have been completed. After the tour we will gather for dinner at the hotel.

Saturday (May 7th) – After all have breakfast (again in the hotel restaurant), the delegates will attend a business meeting while spouses and guests tour **Old Town Alexandria** where many of the country's Revolutionary War and early national leaders lived and attended church. At noon, all will meet for lunch at the hotel and then take a riding tour of Washington's newer monuments. Saturday night all are invited to attend the Convention's Reception and Banquet.

Sunday, (May 8th) – Washington D.C., the nation's Capital, and the District of Columbia Commandery will bid Companions and their families and guests a fond farewell.

Headquarters Hotel: Holiday Inn National Airport at Crystal City, the gateway to Washington, DC. Reservations must be made by **April 5, 2011** to receive the special 50th Convention rate of \$ 109.00 (plus taxes) per night. Call 1-800-Holiday or 703-684-7200 for reservations. Courtesy shuttles are available to and from the Reagan National Airport and to the metro (subway) to visit the Crystal City underground and shopping. To get an up-front view of the Headquarters Hotel, check out www.hinationalairport.com.

Registration: \$150.00 per person, which includes receptions, meals, banquet, tours and transportation. Registration deadline is **March 4, 2011**. Extra Banquet tickets will be available at cost (\$ 60.00). An ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM can be found on the last page (page 10) of this newsletter.

For further information on the MOFOW 50th Convention, contact the DC Commandery Secretary, Wulf Lindenau, at (301-776-9865) or visit the Order's web site (www.mofw.org).

From the Supply Room

If you have not already noticed, The Quartermaster Store section of this newsletter is no longer present! Because of our excellent MOFW Web Site and the procedure of mailing all newly enrolled Companions a copy of our color picture Brochure of MOFW items offered for sale, it was determined that to continue to include a list of MOFW and FOXFALL items for sale in your newsletter was a duplication of effort. We can now use the extra space to bring you more information and news. As a reminder, to access the MOFW Web Site and the Quartermaster's Store, go to www.mofwus.org.

Ronald R. Sommer
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL

- From the Archives -

Upon my election as your Historian-General, the primary mission I was given was to “get a handle” on the historical records of the Order. As you know, the Order's historical records are maintained and stored by the US Army Heritage and Educational Center (USAHEC) located at Carlisle, PA. Along with Deputy Registrar-General Larry Swesey, I visited the USAHEC on 16 July 2010 to find the location of our records and their condition. I also needed to find out how much work was going to be needed in order to bring these files up to “useable condition” as well as the rules and requirements for our access to these records. Companion Swesey and I met with Mr. Mike Perry, Executive Director of the USAHEC Foundation, who gave us an overview of the Center's history, mission, and fund-raising drives followed by a short tour of the holdings and material staging area. This was of particular interest to us since this is where the Center's staff and interns process incoming/donated materials. The process involves removal, identification, and batching cataloging/indexing based on internal hierarchal data (in the case of collections, like organization papers). Following the tour, I was registered as a researcher for access with a 2-year expiration/renewal term and Companion Swesey was confirmed with a pre-existing registration. We then spoke with staff concerning access protocols and then with the USAHEC Deputy Registrar, Mr. David Kennaly, who explained the donation process. And last, we met with USAHEC's Chief Archivist, Ms. Melissa Wilford, for a lengthy discussion about the MOFW holdings, future indexing, future access, and future additions to our collections. To list the MOFW holdings at the USAHEC and facts concerning these holdings is too lengthy to detail here but I would like to end this brief account by saying that the good news is that the Order – and me in particular – will not have much to do at the USAHEC since the Center's staff and interns will do all the work (identification, batching, cataloging, etc.). The bad news is we must find a new centralized home for all of our **membership** and **financial records** as the USAHEC's rules and regulations prohibits the storing of these documents. Since the Order does not have a central and permanent headquarters, this is

going to be the tricky part and may take us a while to figure out. For you “history buff Companions” desiring to know what we have stored at the Center, and the facts concerning this storage, please contact me. Our visit to Carlisle was most enlightening and most successful in terms of the maintenance of our historical records and I am looking forward for news from the USAHEC on their agreed upon work on our files. **P. S. – DON'T THROW ANY DOCUMENTS, PHOTOS, ETC., AWAY! PLEASE SEND THEM TO ME – THEY WILL BE A VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE HISTORY OF OUR ORDER.**

Mark G. Hartell
HISTORIAN-GENERAL

NEWS FROM THE WEB

The number of “hits” on our site have been quite remarkable and the word is getting out about who we are and what we do. I call your attention to two sections of the web site – NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS. Your use of both of these sections is encouraged and welcomed. It is a great way to let everyone know what you are doing and what is happening. To get your news on the web is very easy. Just email the news and upcoming event to webmaster@mofwus.org and I will take it from there! I also want to welcome the New York Commandery for being our newest Commandery Link on the site. New York joins Louisiana and Rhode Island with Commandery links to the MOFW web site and we are hoping that in the very near future each and every Commandery will be linked to www.mofw.org! If you have any questions about setting up a Commandery web site and/or linking your site with our National site, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark G. Hartell
WEBMASTER-GENERAL

Your Order's Constitution

A major item on the agenda for the upcoming 50th Convention is the discussion and approval of proposed amendments to our current Constitution. The last major comprehensive review and revisions to the Constitution occurred in April 2003. Since that time questions “from the field” and interpretations made by our JAG have made it very clear that it was time to revise the Constitution in order to clarify “grey” areas and to make important minor changes. Under the able leadership of Past Commander-General Ron Fischer, a number of National Staff officers and those we shall call our “Sages and Elders” reviewed the current Constitution and recommended to Companion Fischer proposed changes. In accordance with ARTICLE XVII, Amendments, copies of the proposed amendments, endorsed by at least four General Officers, Past Commanders-General or National Delegates, will be sent to each Commandery at least 90 days prior to any action being taken, in this case at the 50th Convention. This newsletter is your notice of the 50th Convention where action will be taken on the proposed amendments. That being said and the Call to Convention having

been made in this newsletter, please review the following proposed amendments to the Constitution –

1. Preamble: Add to the wars, expeditions and campaigns required for Companionship the Global War on Terrorism, Afghanistan Campaign, and the Iraq Campaign.
2. Article III, Companionship.
 - a. Sections 2 and 3, Veteran and Hereditary Companions, add the phrase “above the age of 21”.
 - b. Section 5, defines the period of eligibility for The Persian Gulf Conflict, the Kosovo Campaign, The Global War on Terrorism, the Afghanistan Campaign and the Iraq Campaign.
 - c. Section 8, add the word “State” before Commander and Secretary. Add the sentence “No National Head Tax shall be paid for an Honorary Companion by the Commandery to which assigned/enrolled.”
 - d. Section 9, Companionship-at-Large, change to read “They shall be elected by the Council of the State Commandery from which the Registrar-General shall have been elected and shall pay their entrance fee and dues to the treasurer of the State Commandery.”
3. Anywhere in the Constitution where the word “war” or “wars” defined eligibility for Companionship, change to read “wars, expeditions and/or campaigns”.
4. Article V, General Officers.
 - a. Section 1. Add to the list a “Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs” and a “Webmaster-General”.
 - b. Section 4. Add “The General Officers usually shall serve until the next regular convention of the Order, or until their respective successors shall be elected or appointed. However, any General Officer may be removed for cause, which will include but not be limited to, conviction of a felony, malfeasance in an office in the Order, insubordination, and a failure to complete duties assigned, by a two-thirds vote of the National Council. Vacancies caused by any reason, except expiration of term of office of an elected General Officer, may be filled by a majority vote of the National Council.
5. Article VI. Duties of General Officers.
 - a. Section 1, Commander-General. Change to read “The Commander-General shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Order and at all meetings of the National Council except that the Commander-General may hold votes of the National Council by U.S. Mail, e-mail, telephone, or any combination of U.S. Mail, e-mail and telephone. He shall perform such other duties as may be designated herein and also such as usually appertain to such office. However, he shall submit all matters of great significance to the Order, to include but not limited to an intent to request a surrender of a State Commandery Charter, the intent to remove a General Staff Officer for cause, and the intent to sanction/penalize a State Commandery for violation(s) of this Constitution, between national conventions to the National Council for consideration and decision.”
 - b. Section 3, Secretary-General. Add “and/or the Treasurer-General” to the general staff officers exempt from having the Secretary-General maintain their files, books and papers.

- c. Section 12, Surgeon-General. Add “His duties include, but not be limited to, keeping the Order and its Companions informed of any and all new or eliminated benefits and information from the Veterans Administration (VA) that would impact our membership, and assist State Commanderies in developing programs to support local VA Hospitals and retirement homes.”
 - d. Add a Section 15, Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs and the sentence “The Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs shall contact members of Congress and/or state legislators, as applicable, concerning matters referred to that officer for action by the Order in Convention or the National Council.”
 - e. Add a Section 16, Webmaster-General and the sentence “The Webmaster-General shall manage the Order’s website, update sections of the website, and make any needed changes to the website when considered in the best interest of the Order, or when directed by the Order in Convention or by the National Council.”
6. Article VIII, paragraph 3, to define who shall appoint an investigative committee add ““Commander-General and report”.
7. Article IX, National Council, add the word “Organizing” before all the words “Secretaries”.
 - a. To the 4th paragraph add the sentence “The National Council shall have the sole power to elect Honorary Companions.”
 - b. Change the 6th paragraph to read “Meetings of the National Council shall be held at such times and places as shall be designated by the Commander-General, but votes of the National Council may also be conducted by U.S. Mail, e-mail, telephone or any other combination of U.S. Mail, e-mail, and telephone. A National Council meeting must be called by the Commander-General or else a vote conducted by him on the written request of three National Delegates.”
 - c. Add a new 7th paragraph to read “The National Council may remove a General Officer for cause (to include but not limited to, a conviction of a felony, malfeasance in an Office of the Order, actions detrimental to the honor and good name of the Order, and failure to perform assigned duties as required) upon a two-thirds vote.
8. Article X, State Commanderies.
 - a. 4th paragraph, change to read “Those who reside in States in which there is no Commandery and who are assessed or eligible to be companions in the Order, shall be known as Companions-at-Large. They shall be elected by the council of the State Commandery from which the Registrar-General shall have been elected, and on election shall pay such entrance fees and dues to the treasurer of such Commandery and as set by the National Council.
 - b. 5th paragraph, change to read “No Commandery shall admit to Companionship any person unless he or she makes application in writing upon an official blank of such Commandery which shall have been approved as to form by the Registrar-General, or else upon an official blank of the Order approved by the Registrar-General.”
9. Article XIII, Change the title of the Article to read “Insignia of the Order and Award Medals of the Order.” Add a 9th paragraph to read “The award medals of the Order are:
 1. The gold colored Distinguished Service Medal, to be awarded by vote of the Order in Convention, for distinguished service to the Order involving accomplishment(s) of great significance;
 2. The silver colored Exceptional Service Medal, to be awarded by the Commander-General, for exceptional service to the Order involving

accomplishment(s) of importance to the Order but not as such a nature as to warrant award of the Distinguished Service Medal; 3. The bronze colored Meritorious Service Medal award by a vote of a Commandery council for accomplishment(s) of importance to that Commandery.”

10. Background and History of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, add to the first bullet under PURPOSE the words “and women” after “loyal men”. And in the RESOLVED paragraph add the words “and women” after the words “brave men”. And in the COMPANIONSHIP paragraph add the words “and campaigns” after the word “expedition” and add the words “Afghanistan Campaign” after the words “Revolutionary War to the”. And in the 2nd paragraph add the words “and warrant officers” after the words “commissioned officers”.

11. Commanders-General. Add to the list - “2003-2005 MG John J. Salesses”, “2005-2007 COL Duane H. Bartrem”, “2007-2009 COL Arthur J. Nattans”, “2009-2011 LTC Lewis L. Neilson Jr.” and “2011-2013 MAJ Wulf R. Lindenau”.

This is your Constitution and your comments are welcomed. If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, please direct them to Past Commander-General Ron Fischer at 107 Wilson Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901-2941 (517) 973-3763 e-mail MEDALVILLE@AOL.COM.

COMMANDERY NEWS

District of Columbia The Commandery hosted its quarterly luncheon on Tuesday, 7 December 2010 at The Army Navy Club in downtown Washinton, DC. The guest speaker was Dr. Richard W. Rahn, noted author, educator, economist and senior fellow at the Cato Institute and the Chairman of the Institute for Global Economic Growth. At the gravesite Memorial Service for General of the Armies John J. Pershing, DC representatives met and talked with MG Karl R. Horst, Commanding General, JFHQ-NCR/MDW, who agreed to be the guest speaker at our March 2011 Quarterly Meeting and who will be enrolled as the Commandery’s newest Companion at that time.

Maryland Along with the Maryland Army National Guard Veteran’s Corps, the Commandery co-hosted its annual family cookout and picnic at the Gunpowder Military Reservation on Saturday, 21 August 2010. Perfect weather and a nice turn-out of MOFW Companions, Veteran Corps members, and their guests led to an outstanding afternoon of fellowship.

Michigan Twenty-one Companions and guests of the Michigan Commandery gathered on 30 October 2010 at the Lexington Hotel, in Lansing, MI. After lunch, the assembled attendees were introduced to the guest speaker, Mr. Ernst Floeter. Mr. Floeter was born in Berlin, Germany and in 1942, at the age of 17, he was forced to join the German Army, assigned to the radio signal corps, and stationed in Normandy. After the D-Day invasion, he was captured and sent to England and from there to the United States. He entered through Ellis Island, was sent to Camp Custer, Battle Creek, MI, and then on to Illinois and finally Texas. As a POW in Texas, he “earned his keep” by picking cotton. After the war he returned to Germany and later

immigrated to the US, became a naturalized citizen, and later settled in Grand Ledge, MI. At the business meeting, recruiting was discussed as was the upcoming National Convention in May 2011. Companions were asked to use and visit the MOFW web Site (www.mofwus.org). The next meeting of the Commandery will be on 9 April 2011.

New York The Commandery has settled in our new headquarters on West 44th Street, New York City. Our subtenants are the NAVAL ORDER OF THE U. S., the 1st CONTINENTAL CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, and THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES. We are hopeful that this combination of venerable military societies will work to our mutual benefit. In the past few years, we have experienced several changes in Commandery life. We lost our Commander, Frederick A. Parker Jr., who served the Order with distinction over many years, and was beloved by Companions. In April, we voted in a new slate of Officers and Companions of the Council. Our new Commander is Donald L. Twiss, a longtime faithful Companion with decades of service on our Council. We are grateful that his team is rising to the task ahead to revitalize the New York Commandery, and its major goal of recruitment to overcome the large attrition of the past few years. The Commandery enjoyed a successful cocktail party in June 2010, with Medal of Honor recipient, COL Jack Jacobs, as our guest speaker. We gathered once again for our Fall Membership Dinner on November 10, 2010. It is a new world these days for societies similar to our Order and we must adjust our goals to go forward while still preserving the tenets of our Order. We send out greetings to all Companions of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, wherever you are!

MOFW ANNUAL AWARDS

** US Naval Academy. On 27 May 2010 Midshipman Allison Christine Aichele was presented the MOFW Award, a Wrist Watch and Plaque, by Companion Lewis L. Neilson Jr. of the PA Commandery. The award is presented to the Midshipman who excels in Mathematics. Midshipman Aichele was since been commissioned a 2LT in the US Marine Corps.



2LT Wingate

** US Merchant Marine Academy. “Dear MOFW: I was very honored to hear that I received an award from the Military Order of Foreign Wars this past June during my graduation. Although I could not initially receive the award due to some family complications/logistics, I was sure proud to wear it as I crossed the stage to shake hands with the Honorable Ray Lahoud, Admiral Mullen and the superintendent. I suppose one could say this watch accompanied me as I met some of the greatest men of my time! I look forward to representing the award and all those who have deem fit for me to have it! Thank you again for

such a superb watch and I speak from my heart when I say I am very proud of my country and look forward toward my career as an Army Infantry Officer. Very Respectfully Submitted, 2LT Alexander R. Wingate, US Army."

** US Military Academy. The Chaplain Henry Darlington Memorial Award is presented annually at the Academy during a Baccalaureate Service. The award this year was presented by Chaplain (Companion) Henry Darlington Jr. of the New York Commandery to Cadet Jonathan E. Morgan. The award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership in the Chaplain's Program.

(Ed Note: The Chaplain Henry Darlington Memorial Award is not a MOWF award; it is sponsored and funded by Companion Darlington and friends. A similar privately funded award, The Milton Betelle Award (named for a Past Registrar-General), is presented annually at Villanova University. Many of our Companions sponsor and present awards on their own without fan-fare or notoriety and we thank Companion Darlington for sharing his award and service to the US Military Academy with us.)

MURPHY

We are all familiar with **MURPHY'S LAWS**, **MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMBAT** (my favorite being "Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you!"), **THE COROLLARIES TO MURPHY'S LAWS**, and other "truths" that are attributed to this guy Murphy. But have you ever been privy to **MURPHY'S LESSER KNOWN LAWS**? No? Well now you are!

- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
- The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
- Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
- The 50-50-90 Rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there is a 90% probability you will get it wrong.
- If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
- When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who were not smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Annual Memorial Service

The annual Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Gravesite Memorial Service honoring General of the Armies John J. Pershing at Arlington National Cemetery was held on 11 November 2010 on an unusually sunny and beautiful Memorial Day. Representing the MOWF were Senior Vice Commander-General Wulf R. Lindenau, the DC Commandery Commander, LTC Chuck Trombetta, and the DC Commandery National Delegate, COL Andrew M. Johnson. Distinguished visitors, including MG Karl R. Horst, CG, JFHQ-NCR/MDW, spoke and the United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") played for the occasion. Defense Attaches of our WWI allies – Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain, Greece, India, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Russia – participated in wreath-laying ceremonies as did representatives of numerous Veteran and Military organizations.



(l to r) LTC Trombetta, MG Horst, MAJ Lindenau

HAVE A SAFE AND PEACEFUL MEMORIAL DAY

If you are able save them a place inside of you.
And save one backward glance when you are leaving
For the places they can no longer go.
Be not ashamed to say you loved them,
Though you may or may not have always.
Take what they have taught you with their dying
And keep it with your own.
And in that time when men decide and feel safe
to call the war insane.
Take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes
You left behind.

Major Michael Davis O'Donnell
1 January 1970
Dak To, Vietnam

AMERICAN INGENUITY

In August 1951, the 780th Field Artillery Battalion found itself supporting the infantry holding the town of Kajon-ni, Republic of Korea. Nicknamed the "Cavalier Redlegs" because its three batteries were all from Virginia, the battalion was an Army Reserve outfit called to Active duty for service in Korea. The 780th is best known for the first use of direct assault fire from an 8-inch, self propelled howitzer in Korea. "Direct assault fire" means the artillery crew has a direct line of sight between the gun and the target, and aims and fires the weapon using visual cues. The hybrid cannon developed by the 780th was named "The Bastard" by its crew during develop-

ment and its subsequent move up a snow-covered hill was dubbed "Operation Mountain Goat". Why was The Bastard developed? It was noted that the enemy was tunneling through the opposite side of a hill or mountain and fortifying their bunkers with sandbags. The enemy would fire one or two rounds and then pull back into the cave, safe from American counter fire. After unsuccessfully attempting to silence the enemy guns and destroy the cave entrances using US Marine Corps tanks armed with 90mm cannon, it was decided to use a larger caliber weapon to do the job. WWII experienced officers remembered placing an 8-inch tube and breech block on a 155mm self-propelled carriage to clear German street barricades. It was decided the same hybrid system would work again in Korea. Once the system was assembled, the 780th's Battery B, led by 1LT Dennis Crafton, volunteered to take the weapon uphill to engage the enemy. It took nearly 3 weeks of work by the engineers to construct a road to the mountain top. It was December in Korea, above the 38th Parallel, and everything was snow and ice covered. The treads on the self-propelled carriage could not get traction so the engineers furnished a bulldozer to assist. With the blade raised up, the unit pushed and pulled the howitzer up the 10-mile, ice-covered road. Once in position, the cannon shot 200 pound, high explosive rounds 1800 yards into the enemy bunkers. On the first day they destroyed at least 32 enemy bunkers without receiving any counter-fire. The second crew to scale the hill with the cannon after Operation Mountain Goat was Battery D and it took that unit 3 days to bring the cannon up to the firing area. The engineers always followed or led the cannon using ropes and cables to move it. The unit knew it was "hurting" the enemy because the North Koreans and Chinese were constantly sending patrols out to try to destroy it. To fire the 8-incher, two men would raise the massive projectile onto the platform. The barrel (or tube) was lowered to put the round in which was made much more difficult and dangerous because of the wintry conditions. After firing, the crews had to wait at least 3 minutes for the tube to cool before reloading. The rate-of-fire was quite slow but very effective. The 8-inch howitzer was a large target and being positioned right on top of the mountain, made it a tempting target for the enemy. Crewing the weapon was hard and dangerous work. Few people, even Korean War veterans, are aware of Operation Mountain Goat, the crews that manned that 8-inch cannon, or the key role it played in the war overall. The 780th Artillery Battalion was chosen to represent all the Army Reserve units that served in the Korean War at the dedication of a memorial in May of 2009 at a veteran's hospital in Salem, VA. Etched on the side of the memorial are the names of 122 men from the unit who did not come home. "The Bastard" was loved and respected by all the "Dogfaces" it helped to protect.

(Ed note: Condensed from a story by Jacqueline M. Hames, Soldiers Magazine, August 2010.)

WELCOME TO NEW COMPANIONS

CPT Mike Alabre (DC) CPT Katherine Z. Auxier (RI) MAJ Alvin J. Bedgood (FL) Comp Sherry L. Ulmer Blair (DC) COL Marcus A. Brinks (DC) CAPT Stuart H. Carroll (PA) LT Michael J. Colleran (PA) LtCol Richard G. Daigre (LA) COL John Duval (RI) LTC Jack L. Eckles (DC) Comp Stanley E. Ellington Jr. (LA) Comp William H. Foreman Jr. (LA)	Comp Christopher I. Herndon (DC) Comp James R. Jeter Jr. (LA) Comp Jay C. Joste (DC) Comp Harry B. Kelleher (LA) Comp William S. Mark Jr. (PA) LtCol John M. McNamara (DC) CAPT William J. McShane (NY) Comp Levere C. Montgomery Jr. (LA) LTC Charles E. Nelson (RI) LTC Charles R. Odom (DC) MAJ William J. Potterton (DC) Comp John B. Rice (LA)	Comp George B. Riviere Jr. (LA) Comp Robert S. Royer (DC) COL John C. Silvia III (CAL) COL James E. Stevens (DC) LTC Lewis G. Sumner Jr. (DC) Comp Brian D. Ulmer (DC) CPT Kevin L. Waldroup (DC) LTC Leon M. Wessel (DC) LTC Christopher E. West (DC) CAPT James L. Winter (LA) Comp Dalton L. Woolverton (LA)
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The Brotherhood

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite.
 Not to tell stories or look at old pictures.
 Not to laugh or weep.
 Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted
 at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who suffered and were
 stripped of their humanity.
 I did not pick these men.
 They were delivered by fate and the military.
 But I know them in a way I know no other men.
 I have never given anyone such trust.
 They were willing to guard something more precious than my life.
 They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me.
 It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to
 die for one another.
 As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day.
 I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my
 family and my comrades.....
 Such good men!

Author Unknown

POTPOURRI

** The MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL (MOVSM) may be awarded to members of the Active and Reserve Force who after 31 December 1992, performed outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. The award is to recognize long term service – not a one-time single act or achievement. It is intended to honor direct support of community activities; for example, attending meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action telephone line for a sustained period of time is considered qualifying service. Award of the MOVSM may be approved by the Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Director of the Joint staff and by commanders further delegated. Quick facts about the MOVSM – (1) The overall level of volunteer participation and impact of an individual's service is key to determining whether award of the medal is justified; (2)

Multiple awards of the medal during a single tour of duty is not authorized. However, a sustained record of significant community service performed during successive tours may be considered by approval authority; and (3) The medal is worn after the Humanitarian Service medal.



OBVERSE



REVERSE

** *The USS Olympia*, now a museum and berthed on the Philadelphia, PA waterfront, was the Flagship of the fleet that Commodore George Dewey led in the 1898 attack on Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. His famous order given to the ship's captain, Charles Gridley, when in range of the Spanish Fleet, was "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley." In the ensuing battle, eight Spanish warships were sunk and 400 casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The Americans lost one man – to heat-stroke. During WWI the *USS Olympia* patrolled the Atlantic and in 1921 she carried the remains of the conflict's "Unknown Soldier" home for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. She was decommissioned in 1922 and remained docked at the Philadelphia Navy Yard until 1950 when she became a museum. Today, due to a 20 million dollar shortfall in funds and in need of extensive and critical repairs, this popular tourist attraction and National Landmark is in danger of being taken out to sea and scuttled to create an artificial reef. The non-profit "Friends of the Cruiser Olympia" is seeking the necessary funds to save the ship and information on how you may help can be obtained by going to the organization's web site, www.cruiserolympia.org. As note of interest to the Companions of the Order, Historian-General Mark Hartell, searching for our historical records, discovered that some of the Order's records were at one time stored aboard the *USS Olympia* for safe-keeping.

** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a veteran. Each service has its own medallion. Under Federal Law, eligible Veterans in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. This new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after November 1, 1990 and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. The VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion and, until the form is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers (VA Form 40-1330). Instructions on how to apply for the medallion are at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp.

** As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's (BRAC), seven bases received new names in January 2010. Ft. Lewis and McChord AFB (WA state) became Joint Base Lewis-McChord, led by the Army; the Navy's Anacostia Annex

and Bolling AFB (Washington, DC) became Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, led by the Navy; Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB (HI) became Joint Base Pearl Harbor, led by the Navy; Charleston AFB and Naval Weapons Station Charleston (SC) became Joint Base Charleston, led by the Air Force; Elmendorf AFB and Ft Richardson (AK) became Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, led by the Air Force; Lackland and Randolph AFB and Ft. Sam Houston (TX) became Joint Base San Antonio, led by the Air Force; and Langley AFB and Ft. Eustis (VA) became Joint Base Langley-Eustis, led by the Air Force. In addition, in October 2009, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek and Ft. Story (VA) became Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Ft. Story, led by the Navy; Ft. Myer and the Marine Corps' Henderson Hall (VA), became Joint Expeditionary Base Myer-Henderson Hall, led by the Army; Andrews AFB and the Naval Facility Washington (MD) became Joint Base Andrews, led by the Air Force; McGuire AFB, Ft. Dix and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst (NJ) became Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, led by the Air Force; and Navy Base Guam and Anderson AFB (Guam) became Joint Region Marianas, led by the Navy.

(Ed. Note. It is getting to the point where you cannot "tell the players without a program"!)

** Under Secretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal and US Postal Service officials unveiled a new 44-cent stamp honoring the late Kate Smith. Smith, who made famous Irving Berlin's song "God Bless America" was a radio star and later a TV personality. That single song, "God Bless America" became an unofficial national anthem during WWII, Korea and later Vietnam. Kate Smith recorded over 3,000 songs and made more than 15,000 radio broadcasts. In 1973 she sang the song at the opening of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey season and was from then on considered a good-luck charm for the team: they won games when she sang. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Kate Smith "a national treasure" and introduced her to Britain's King George VI and the future Queen Elizabeth in 1939, saying "Ms. Smith is America". In 1982, President Ronald Reagan presented Smith with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Pamela Murphy Has Passed

Pamela Murphy, widow of WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010. She was the widow of the most decorated WWII serviceman but she had established her own distinctive 35 year career working as patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital, treating every veteran who visited there as if they were a VIP. Any soldier or marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure "her boys" got to see the specialist they needed. If they didn't, watch out! Her boys weren't Medal of Honor recipients or movie stars like Audie, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their country and that was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name, it was always "Mister". Respect came with the job. "Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy" said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousand of veterans she had befriended over the years. "Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting

more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but this didn't matter to Murphy. Only her boys mattered. She was our angel." Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, squandering millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and yes, women. Pam said "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero." She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys, CA where she raised 2 sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby VA to support herself and start paying off her husband's debts. At first no one knew who she was. Soon word spread through the VA that that nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a hug. "Thank you" they said over and over. The first couple of years the hugs may have been for Audie's memory as a war hero - the last 30 years they were for Pam. One year she was asked to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no. "Honor them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hall. "They are the ones who deserve it." The vets disagreed. Mrs. Murphy deserved the accolades they said. Incredibly in 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated due to budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff" although she didn't believe "helping cut down on veteran's complaints and showing them the respect they deserved should be considered "excess staff". Neither did the veterans. They went ballistic, holding a rally for her outside the VA gates. Pretty soon word came down from the top of the VA - Pam Murphy was no longer considered "excess staff". She remained working at the VA until 2007 when she was 87. "The last time she was here was a couple of years ago for the conference we had for homeless veterans," said Becky James, coordinator of the VA's Veterans History Project. Pam wanted to see if there was anything she could do to help some more of "her boys". Pam Murphy was 90 when she died. What a Lady!

(Ed Note. Condensed from an article by Dennis McCarthy, Los Angeles Times, April 15, 2010.)

THE MASON-DIXON LINE

Most of us have heard of the Mason-Dixon Line (MDL) and commonly associate it as the dividing line between the northern (free) and southern (slave) states prior to and during the Civil (or War Between the States as some prefer to call it). And although the Order does not recognize the American Civil War for membership, the MDL played a large role in the history of this Nation and must be recognized as such. In actuality, the line was delineated to settle a boundary dispute in the Mid-1700s. In 1632, King Charles I of England gave the first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert, the colony of Maryland. In 1862 England's King Charles II gave William Penn the territory to the north which later became Pennsylvania and a year later increased Penn's land grant to include the Delmarva Peninsula, now the state of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. As might be expected, the boundaries (supposedly along 40 degrees North Latitude) of both grants did not match and there was a great deal of confusion

as to where the boundary actually lay. The Calvert and Penn families took the dispute to the British Court and England's Chief Justice declared in 1750 that the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland should lay 15 miles south of Philadelphia. It took 10 years for both families to agree on the compromise and they set out to have the new boundary surveyed. Unfortunately colonial surveyors were no match for the difficult job and two experts from England, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, were hired. Mason was a renowned astronomer who had worked at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, England, while Dixon was a well known surveyor. Both had worked previously as a team. They arrived in Philadelphia in November 1763 and determined their first task to be to determine the absolute exact location of Philadelphia since the new boundary was set to that city's south. From Philadelphia they began to survey the north-south line that divided the Delmarva Peninsula into the Calvert and Penn properties. Only after the Delmarva portion of the line had been completed did the two move to mark the east-west line between Maryland and Pennsylvania. After precisely establishing the starting point bench-mark 15 miles south of Philadelphia, they worked east to establish the eastern end of the boundary and erected a benchmark at their point of origin. Traveling and surveying to the west was difficult and slow. Mason and Dixon had not only to deal with the hazards of the unsettled wilderness but the hostility of the Indians. Although they had recruited Indian guides, it wasn't until October 9, 1767, almost 4 years after they began their survey, that the 233 mile-long MDL had (almost) been completely surveyed. Fifty plus years later, the boundary between the two states came into the spotlight with the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which established a boundary between the slave states of the south and the free states of the north. The Missouri Compromise boundary that began as the Mason-Dixon Line extended westward to the Ohio River and along the Ohio to its mouth at the Mississippi River and then west along 36 degrees 30 minutes North Latitude. Ironically Delaware, after its separation from Pennsylvania, was considered a slave state since it fell south of the MDL but it will always be remembered as a slave state that stayed in the Union. The Mason-Dixon Line symbolized a young Nation's struggle to reconcile over the issue of slavery and the two surveyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, will always be associated with that struggle. Yet the very stones that mark this boundary are weathering, damaged, vandalized or missing altogether. Since 1992, two surveyors, Todd Babcock and Dilwyn Knott, both with a passion for American history and armed with a GPS, are locating and documenting each and every stone laid by Mason and Dixon more than 200 years ago. The original stones - huge blocks of limestone between 3' and 5 feet long and weighing between 300 and 600 pounds - were quarried in Great Britain and shipped to America. Carried by wagon to their final location, the stones were placed at 1-mile intervals. These mile markers were decorated with vertical fluting and a "P" on the north face and an "M" on the southern face and every 5th mile along the line the stones were engraved with the Penn coat of arms on the Pennsylvania side and the Calvert coat on the other. The Mason-Dixon Line has a noble place in the history and growth of these United States and the names of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon need to be remembered for their contribution to that history.

(Ed Note: The Mason-Dixon Line is condensed from articles by Matt Rosenberg ("Mason-Dixon Line") and Brijal P. Trivedi ("Saving the Mason-Dixon Line"))

THE CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT

The MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) for the Chaplain Assistant was established by General Order No. 253, War Department, Washington DC on 28 December 1909, paragraph 1, which read "One enlisted man will be detailed on special duty, by the commanding officer of any organization to which a Chaplain is assigned for duty, for the purpose of assisting the Chaplain in the performance of his official duties." That meant that the assistant generally cared for the chaplain's official property, acted as his clerk, and helped with the chaplain's educational, religious, and entertainment programs. As far back as 1866, the Army decided that a soldier found competent to teach common school subjects should be detailed to do so under the auspices of a local chaplain who often served as the schoolmaster. In the 1909 General Order, although "high moral character" was required, no other prerequisites or criteria were needed for the assignment. In 1927 and again in 1933, requests were made to the Secretary of War for the establishment of a small corps of enlisted assistants, but to no avail. The MOS continued to have no vocational integrity until after WWII. The Korean War saw the development of MOS 71B, so after almost 100 years of vague existence, there was a formal training program for the chaplain assistants. Training began at Fort Dix, NJ and Fort Ord, CA with a 4-week course taken after completion of Basic Training (9 weeks) and completion of the Clerk Typist AIT (9 weeks). In August 1965, during the major revision of AR 611-201, assistants were designated 71M and given a job description and specific skill requirements. The following year the chaplain assistant schools were combined into the USACHCS at Fort Hamilton, IN. During 1972, the 71M was implemented into the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) and was accorded the same degree of professionalism as other enlisted specialties. On 1 October 2001, the chaplain assistant MOS changed from 71M to 56M and the chaplain assistants now serve in a "stand alone" Career Management Field.

(Ed note: Condensed from an article in "Soldiers Magazine". Can anyone provide us with some history of the Chaplains Assistants in the Navy/Marine Corps, Air Force and/or US Coast Guard? We would like to hear from you and to learn more of the "history" of the chaplain assistant.)

Letters to the Editor

** Companion (CAPT) Donald W. Darby Jr. (PA Commandery) writes "May I invite your attention to a small error in the note on the USS AMERICAN LEGION (June 2010, page 8). The ship could not have carried the Fifth Marine Division to Guadalcanal. Only the First and Second Marine Divisions fought at Guadalcanal. The Fifth Marine Division was not activated until 11 November 1943, and with the Third and Fourth Marine Divisions secured Iwo Jima. Twenty-two marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for Iwo Jima, 10 posthumously. Five Naval personnel (4 corpsmen) were also awarded the Medal, 2 (both corpsmen) posthumously. It was about Iwo Jima that Fleet Admiral Nimitz stated "Uncommon valor was a common virtue".

(Ed Note: CAPT Darby is correct and I apologize for the typo on my part. The USS American Legion indeed carried the 1st Mar Div to Guadalcanal. For more information on the USS American Legion, GOOGLE "USS American Legion". She had an interesting career! I thank CAPT Darby for his info.)

** Companion Jean-Jacques Steinberg writes "Thank you for your Thanksgiving wishes. Normally the French people do not know what is Thanksgiving but since I have very much been with and near the American community of Paris since the early 60's and belong to American Associations such as USAIRE (www.usaire.org) and AFCEA (www.afceaparis.org) we have been celebrating this important date (4th Thursday of November) for 40 years. With USAIRE it used to be a kind of convivial celebration with 50 to 70 people. This was in the early 70's. However, more and more people liked this celebration and nowadays, we still celebrate Thanksgiving at the "Cercle de l'Union Interalliee" (www.union-interalliee.fr/historique_cercle.php?lg=en) with 270 guests!!! Personally I think there are too many people and it is not anymore a friendly celebration. We shall have

celebrating Thanksgiving with us Heads of large companies (American and European), members of the French Parliament, Ministers, Generals, Admirals, etc..... Of course we shall have the traditional dinner and(too many) speeches! We usually celebrate Thanksgiving on the 4th Friday of November in order that our American friends may celebrate it with their respective family on the proper day."

(Ed Note: Companion Jean-Jacques Steinberg is one of the last Companions who belonged to "old" European Commandery that was headquartered in Paris, France. His message was a response to my wishing him a happy Thanksgiving and I thought you might enjoy knowing how the holiday is celebrated outside the US. Companion Jean-Jacques is currently a Companion in the new European & African Commandery headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.



I regret to report that Companion Lee E. Bishop Jr. (CA), ENS Walter E. Blessey (LA), LTC H. Edward Gabler III (NJ), CPT Harvey E. Kemp Jr. (NY), MAJ John A. League (MD), CAPT Harry M. Meyers Jr. (PA), and COL Peter Platten (PA) have Answered the Last Roll Call.

Rest in Peace Faithful Companions.

THE QUARTERMASTERS STORE

Go to www.mofwus.org. For those of you who do not have computer/internet access, contact QM-G Ron Sommer for a color brochure and price list of the items the Order has for purchase.

50TH MOFW CONVENTION ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME & RANK *(Please Print)* _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____
COMMANDERY _____
GUEST(S) NAME *(Please Print)* _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

2. I HAVE MADE MY REGISTRATION AT THE HEADQUARTERS HOTEL, HOLIDAY INN, NATIONAL AIRPORT/
CRYSTAL CITY (703) 684-7200 OR 1-800-294-5099

YES _____ NO _____ **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NLT 5 APRIL 2011**

3. ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK/MONEY ORDER FOR MY ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR _____
ATTENDEES @ \$150.00 PER PERSON. PLEASE NOTE FOOD COSTS ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRA-
TION FEE. PLEASE ADD \$60.00 PER GUEST FOR THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE BANQUET ON
SATURDAY, 7 MAY 2011. MAIL THIS FORM AND FEES TO:
COL ANDREW M. JOHNSON
1200 SOUTH MONROE STREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-4219

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION NLT 4 MARCH 2011

4. PARKING AT THE HOTEL IS FREE BUT ATTENDEES MUST OBTAIN A PARKING PASS FROM THE HOTEL AND
DISPLAY IT IN THE VEHICLE WINDOW.



**MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

Companion Ronald R. Sommer
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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