



M.O.F.W.

NEWSLETTER

Editor-Publisher Emeritas:
LTC (USA, Ret) Ron Sommer

SEPTEMBER 2014

Biennial 2013-2015 Issue 3

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LTC RON SOMMER... RIP

by: Joyce Sommer



Ron grew up in Parkville, a suburb of Baltimore City, living at Daniels Avenue until he went into the Army in 1963. "My childhood was normal – at least I think it was normal – with neighborhood friends that played together as we grew up. Parkville was still somewhat rural at that time." Three houses from the county line Ron attended Baltimore's Polytechnic Institute, an all-boys school.. Next stop was Towson Teachers College (TSU) "But a strange thing happened while I attend classes at Towson. I slowly but surely moved away from my goal of becoming a school teacher and began looking at military service as my next move. Not as a career maybe but something definitely opposite of the life I had been living. Why the military? I did not come from a military family and the Sommer family did not have a history of military service. According to one family history, the last Sommer who served was a John Sommer who served in the US Navy in 1866."

Basic training was at Fort Jackson from July through September 1963. "I think it was the hottest summer in the south in forty years and I sweated from the time I stepped off the train in Columbia until I got back on the train for my trip home on leave after graduation. I was assigned to the fifth platoon, Company. We were the first company at Fort Jackson to be issued and train with the new M14 rifle". From Basic Training Ron went directly into OCS. Ron wrote of "being stopped by two or three of the blue hatters, they made me open my uniform coat and lo and behold they found the back part of my necktie longer than my front part. For every inch of overlap I had to do 25 pushups – and it went downhill from there. It took me over 2 hours to get in the door and sign in to 52nd Company (OC), Class 4-64." The morning of 17 April 1964, Graduation Day, they assembled in WIGGLE HALL to be sworn in as commissioned officers in the US Army.

First duty station after commissioning was Fort Ord, California. On Sunday afternoons were football games between Brigades. 1st Brigade was the Chargers and 3rd Brigade was the Pioneers. Ron's Brigade Commander put the word out secretly that he "wanted" that Pioneers

THE M.O.F.W. 120 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

wagon before the game. Of course Ron was involved in this one. Not too long and the Commander was told “they had the wagon. He asked if any of the “thieves” could be identified, and was told that “Lieutenant Sommer had to wear his uniform to make the plan work and his name was therefore known to the 3rd Brigade. Acting quickly, he ordered me to “stay in my BOQ room until further notice”. I was not to leave the room and my meals would be brought to me. And somehow he arranged so that on post there was no Lieutenant Sommer - I did not exist! At the game, those of us who were involved in the Great Heist took the wagon by its yoke and pulled it out to mid-field. There our Commander saluted the 3rd Brigade Commander and said “Colonel, take charge of your wagon!” Ron was one to work hard but he also had fun with it.

While at Fort Ord, Ron met and married his first wife, Nancy. They had two children. For a short time Ron was assigned to Camp Roberts and later returned to Fort Ord and assigned to ICA Committee (3rd Bde AIT) Ron left active duty and moved back to Baltimore.

Soon after Ron’s return to Maryland, he joined the Maryland National Guard. Ron was assigned as the Communication Platoon Leader, Communications Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), of the 1st Brigade of the 29th Infantry Division. “The Army deactivated the 29th Infantry Division in late 1967 and the officer’s and men were reassigned to units in Maryland and Virginia. Since I was Infantry, I was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry (5th Maryland) that was then in the 28th Infantry Division (called “The Bloody Bucket” because of its red bucket-shaped shoulder patch) which was a Pennsylvania National Guard outfit. The “5th Maryland” was located within the 5th Regiment Armory in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. I was to spend almost my entire National Guard career at the 5th.” Ron met Joyce (as he would say his current wife) at the 5th Regiment Armory. Married in 1988 and they had two children.

In 1991, Safety Officers were needed therefore Ron “volunteered” for Desert Shield and later Desert Storm. So in January 1991, he departed for Fort Benning, GA to begin deployment to Saudi Arabia. The “Air War” in the Gulf had just begun. Ron was assigned to the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division in Saudi. His tour was six months, returning just in time for his son’s wedding.

Ron left military service in 1992, with 28 years, but continued working at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Safety, retiring from there in December 2000. Ron was active in other organizations, but mostly volleyball. He was very instrumental in the early development of the Chesapeake Region of US Volleyball Association. He wore many hats in this arena also. Tournament Chair (scheduling all tournaments), Wrote Newsletters, Board member, Director (Host) of many tournaments, Director of a large adult club, and but mostly loved to be “Coach”. He did not stop coaching until he turned 70.

Ron always used stories to teach and coach young people. Ron had a great sense of humor. Loved to tell a joke and then he himself would laugh after his own joke. He used a lot of material from the “King of One Liners” His positive attitude and humor was endless.

In 1980’s, Ron became involved with the Maryland MOFW thru BG Feingold. I believe, in MD MOFW he has held position of secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, vice and MD Commander in 1994. Ron became National Vice under Michigan’s COL Versel Case. Case wanted a newsletter to keep all members connected and informed. Ron started writing and did not quit after all those years. He was National Commander General in 1997-1999.

Ron strongly believed and lived by the **Army Values** every day. **Loyalty** -Believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone. **Duty** - Fulfill your obligations. **Respect** - Treat people as they should be treated. **Selfless Service** - Put others before yourself. Doing without thought of recognition or gain. **Honor** - A matter of carrying out, acting, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything you do. Integrity - Do what’s right, legally and morally. **Personal Courage** -Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral).

I (Joyce) hope our future MOFW organization and council members continue to live by these and that with staff like Ron and these values, the MOFW’s future stays secure. Remember life is not totally about what we did but who we touch. I believe Ron touched many by who he was. I have added a few of Ron’s stories right out of his own writings that he was working on for our children. He loved to tell stories and laugh while telling them.

EDITORS NOTE: For this exemplary service, Commander-General David Russell has posthumously conferred upon Ron the title of Editor-Publisher Emeritus. See page 13.

THE COMMANDER-GENERAL'S COMMENTS

Companions, as you read this MOFW Newsletter I trust most of you have finally escaped the reality of a rather harsh winter and spring. We are at this time deep into summer with great expectations of pleasant fall weather. My message for all our companions is to think about the upcoming elections this fall. Politics has never had a place in our order; however it is of the utmost importance that we concern ourselves with the Congressional elections. We currently have a Congress that is almost devoid of military veterans and there are many proposals being put forth by a number of individuals, agencies, and groups that will have a negative impact on our active duty forces, veterans, and retirees.



We all have read or heard about proposals to cut the pay increases of our active duty personnel, change the retirement system, and of course raise the cost of Tricare medical benefits for retirees, among other initiatives. It is imperative that we remain focused on these potential changes. It is also imperative that we focus on voting for Congressional candidates that support our active duty military, veterans, and retirees. We all need to get out and vote regardless of whether we vote for democrats, republicans, or independents.

Recently there have been several newspaper articles regarding a number of veterans who have announced they are running or are thinking about the possibility of running for US Representative and US Senate seats. We need to take a hard look at incumbents and where they stand in support of our military and if they don't support us, then we certainly need to look to these veteran candidates that are running and support them with contributions and our vote.

All are now aware of the passing of Past Commander-General LTC (Ret) Ronald R. Sommer and of the considerable contributions he made over the years to our Order. It was a privilege and honor for me to attend his wake in Maryland this past spring. Ron's passing caused an immediate void in matters concerning quartermaster functions, awards, newsletter, and various rosters of personnel of our Commandery's and National Staff.

We have been fortunate that a number of Companions have stepped forward to volunteer to take on those tasks formerly taken care of by LTC Ron Sommer. I have appointed our Webmaster General MAJ George Miller as the Newsletter Editor, CW3 Brad Hopkins as Quartermaster General, CW5 David Hathaway as the Awards Chairman and Secretary General LTC Dennis Morgan to continue preparing and updating rosters. I expect that within a very short time all functions will be operating at 100 percent.

I wish all of you the best in the coming fall and winter seasons and hope we see a significant increase in the number of veterans elected to Congress that support our concerns.

David H. Russell

THE EXCHEQUER

MOST URGENT! The results of the donation request made to each Companion in the June 2013 issue of your newsletter have been somewhat disappointing. To date 81 Companions have donated a total of \$ 2770, the number of donors being less than 10% of our membership and far short of our projected goal of 50% participation for \$ 15,000. The Order is making this donation request once again and we are confident that those of you who have not as yet donated will now do so. In order to assist our Treasurer-General in covering the cost of managing our Order, we are asking for a voluntary minimum donation of \$ 25.00 from every Companion. Of course any donation in excess of the minimum would be greatly appreciated. Please send your donation check or money order, made payable to the "Treasurer-General, MOFW", to T-G Dan McCall, Box 1641, West Chester, PA 19380-1641. Your donation is urgently needed!

At its 6 February 2014 Commandery Luncheon, the Maryland Commandery voted to donate \$ 250.00 to National. Thanks Maryland!

Honor Bestowed On One Of Our Own

I was honored at the end of July with the Order of Military Medical Merit by MG Joseph Carvalho, Jr., Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick. It was particularly special as the awards ceremony followed a major town hall meeting from LTG Michael E. Williamson, Principal Military Deputy to the ASA (ALT), who also participated in the ceremony and the audience was all of Ft. Detrick.



The Order of Military Medical Merit is a unique, private organization founded by the Commanding General of U.S. Army Health Services Command in April 1982 to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department (AMEDD) personnel. Membership in the Order denotes distinguished service which is recognized by the senior leadership of the AMEDD.

The Order of Military Medical Merit represents the top 10% of the entire Army Medical Regiment

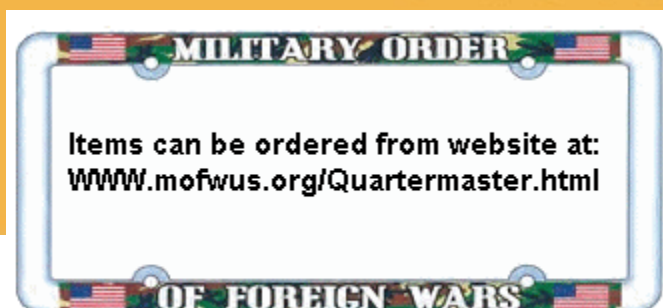
Membership in the Order recognizes those individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the Army Medical Department with selflessness, and have made a sustained contribution to the betterment of Army Medicine.

Mark G. Hartell, PhD.
LTC, MS, USA
Historian-General
Military Order of Foreign Wars

THE QUARTERMASTER STORE

Opening October 1st

Congratulations to our new Quartermaster-General
CWO3 Brad Hopkins (USA, Ret) in Rhode Island.



COMMANDERY NEWS

***Alaska:** CPT DeFabio has accepted and is hereby appointed as Organizing Secretary for the State of Alaska.

*** California:** The Commandery is progressing well in its efforts to revitalize and once again become an active Commandery in the Order. A complete staff has now been assembled: Commander and National Delegate James C. McHargue, Vice Commander Ronald D. Risley, Secretary Stephen R. Renouf, Treasurer Jennifer A. Bishop, and Chaplain Frank L. Kebelman III. The Commandery extends its thanks to Companions Ron Dunn and Michael Teilman for “holding things together” until the new commander and staff were in place.

*** Illinois:** Organizing Secretary Ralph Keen has resigned.

*** Ohio:** The first meeting of the Ohio Commandery since it chartering on 4 April 2013 was held in NW Canton, OH on 22 March 2014. Plans for 2014 were discussed and approved, to include but not limited to, working with the Ohio Western Chapter of MOAA to present ROTC medals to high schools, emphasis on recruiting with each current member tasked to recruit 3 new members, working to promote and focus on activities that the local MOAA chapter does not, the use of the Commandery web site to promote military history, and participation at memorial events. The Ohio Commandery by-laws were discussed and approved as was the recommendation that the Commandery host quarterly meetings.

*** Rhode Island.** Our Commandery has carried on traditions and, at the same time, tried new ideas this year. From the September ceremony to honor Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie to our coming tribute to Rhode Island Independence Day at the Bristol Train of Artillery Armory, the Commandery is acknowledging important aspects of Rhode Island's military history. In February the Commandery met for a tour of the Naval War College Museum, personally guided by Professor John Hattendorf – a guide does make all the difference and Professor H. wowed us with our own history. The tour was followed by dinner at the Officer's Club and Professor H. spoke, without notes, on Admiral Stephen B. Luce, the first Commander of the Rhode Island Commandery. In March, Len DiLorenzo from the Navy League and RI MOFW spoke to the ExCom about working together – publicizing and supporting each other's events. The Navy League and the Commandery will now share information about events of both groups. In May our annual meeting took place at the historic Bristol Train of Artillery Armory, one of RI's 18 historic armories. It was a black tie affair and marked the induction of officers for 2014-2015. Honors were given by the reading of the names of those who have answered the Last Roll Call, Companions who have bravely served our country. The speaker was Frank Lennon, a West Point graduate, Vietnam Veteran, and former Green Beret. We continue to give scholarships, assist related youth groups, honor JROTC and ROTC graduates, donate to historic military-related sites, and mark important military-related dates in history. We hope you who have served know how much our great country has depended on your service. It is one more reason to belong to the MOFW. Your Secretary-General from the RI Commandery, LTC Dennis Morgan, recently retired as the Eastern Regional Member Development Director for the Reserve Officers Association headquartered in DC. He also retired after serving many years as the US Army Reserve Ambassador for RI appointed by the Chief of the Army Reserve. Companion Morgan will now devote more time to his genealogical research business, The Hibernian Research Society.

Cold War Warriors Receive Accolades

As the son of a *Cold War Warrior* and a *Cold War Warrior* myself, my father and I were both witnesses to and participants in one of the momentous periods of history. The Cold War lasted from 1946 to 1991, and finally ended with victory as millions of people in Europe and Asia were liberated from Soviet aggression. In 1998 Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to recognize Cold War veterans for their distinguished service. What we received was the same flimsy certificate as postal carriers received for carrying the mail between the years of 1946 and 1991. In 2001 Congress attempted to clarify this situation with a statement that it was "the sense of Congress" that the Secretary of Defense should recognize Cold War veterans with a medal. For some unknown reason, perhaps the intent to avoid offending the Russians, none of the Secretaries of Defense have honored this charge.

Despite our own government's inability to adequately recognize Cold War veterans for their distinguished service, often in dangerous and unfriendly environments, and sometimes resulting in injury or even death to our brothers, one honorable man has stepped forward into the fray.

Prince Davit Bagration, head of the Royal House of Georgia, has recognized numerous Cold Warriors with knighthoods in Georgia's premier order of chivalry, the Royal Order of the Eagle of Georgia. The first Cold Warrior to receive this honor was BG Ronald Mangum, USA (ret), who received the Grand Cross of the Order in 2004. Since that time, many US and allied Cold Warriors have been honored with knighthoods in the Royal Order of the Eagle of Georgia in the grades of Knight, Knight Commander, Grand Officer, and Grand Cross. In fact, at least six members of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States have received knightly honors from the Royal House of Georgia. In January of 2014, Prince Davit honored the MOFW with New Years greetings and personally thanked us for our contributions in liberating his country from Soviet aggression. Prince Davit knows personally about Soviet aggression: the Georgian people were oppressed and terrorized, the Royal Family was banned from visiting their homeland, and in 2008 the Russians invaded his homeland again and the prince responded by accompanying the Georgian Armed Forces to the front lines. It now seems that the 2008 invasion of Georgia was just a dress rehearsal for Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine. It is unclear if we are now entering an era of Cold War II, but Prince Davit has shown that he knows who his friends are and that he treats them with respect.

For more information on the Royal House of Georgia, and the Royal Order of the Eagle of Georgia, please contact the US Delegate of the Royal House, Companion Joseph Crews at: Joseph.M.Crews@usace.army.mil / (817)886-1836.

NEW COMPANIONS AND FUTURE OF THE ORDER

CPT Justin Craig Honaman, (GA)
 CPT Jonathan W.G. "Jack" DeFabio, (AK)
 COL Steven W. Swann, MD (TN)
 LTC William Ralph McKern, (VT)
 CW2 Alan Lee Russ, (CO)
 MAJ William J. Collins, Jr., (VA)
 Comp Gary M. Bohannon (CA)
 Comp Jeffrey H. Brown (CA)
 CWO2 Stephen C. Dowdy (TN)
 COL (Dr) Richard J. Erickson (AL)
 Comp Aubrey N. Ford (CA)
 Comp David L. Grinnell (CA)
 Comp Margaret D. Herder (IN)
 COL William H. Huff IV (DC)
 LTC William D. Linn II (NC)
 LTC John C. Molina (HI)
 Comp Stephen R. Renouf (CA)
 LCDR Michael L. Rudolph (IN)
 Comp William W. Walker (GA)
 LTC Derek G. Webb (NC)
 Companion Robert Girard Carroon

ENS Richard D. Parker, (Trans to TN)
 Lt Col Philip Z. Horton III, (TN)
 LTC William D. Linn II, (Trans to CO)
 COL Anthony Demolina, (Trans to CA)
 Lt Col Alex E. Dubovik, (UT)
 COL Michael A. Hoyt, (IN)
 Comp Janet J. Borczon Brown (CA)
 CW4 Christopher P. Carlson (NC)
 Comp David W. Eaton (CA)
 COL (Dr) Robert L. Ferguson (NC)
 Comp James C. Fosdyck (CA)
 Comp John K. Herder (IN)
 CPT Richard W. Hodges (MD)
 LTC Christopher I. Jose (WA)
 LtCol Douglas H. Lloyd (NJ)
 Comp Derek N. Payne (IN)
 1LT James W. Rosebrough (IN)
 CW4 Thomas R. Ussery Jr. (NC)
 LTC William J. Washo (NC)
 LTC Brian J. Yarbrough (NC)
 CW3 Brad Hopkins (RI)

Received on the Command Frequency



**** From Commander Richard N. Andriano-Moore (CA Commandry):** "Dear Companion Sommer – A note to let you know that I really appreciate your MOFW Newsletter more than others that I often receive. It is most interesting and very informative. I liked the investment note "401-KEG" which I have re-written and sent to friends."

**** From Companion David E. Eaton (CA Commandry):** "I belong to a few societies and I am pleased about the MOFW as it is the first one where I could place my father's name on a certificate and be descended from him rather than someone from the 1600's. I have never before had an opportunity to name him personally on anything of this nature. I will be pleased to hang the MOFW Diploma with his name on it on my office wall and will make a 2nd color-copy, also properly framed, to hang on my wall at home. I am very pleased to see the word "Companion" in front of my name as I think that is a very appropriate title for a member of your/our society".

**** From Companion James C. Fosdyck (CA Commandry):** "My 6th great-grandfather, Bartlett Searcy, took the Oath of Allegiance to the cause for American freedom in Nutbrush District, North Carolina on 22 May 1778. Captain Bartlett Searcy's company was part of the 6th North Carolina Regiment commanded by Colonel Gideon Lamb (December 1778). Various pension applications of men under Captain Searcy's command substantiate that Captain Searcy's company was with Major General Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden, South Carolina on 16 August 1780. British forces routed the American forces at Camden; however, the North Carolina Militia stationed next to a regiment of Delaware Continental regulars, held its ground, the only militia unit to do so. Other than the Continental regulars that day, the North Carolina militia suffered the greatest number of casualties – 63 killed and 82 wounded."

Arnaud De Borchgrave Awarded France's Legion of Honor



Arnaud de Borchgrave, left, receiving the Légion d'honneur from Ambassador of France to the United States François Delattre.

Wednesday, 30 Jul 2014 01:57 PM

Internationally renowned journalist Arnaud de Borchgrave has been awarded the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian distinction. De Borchgrave received the award at the French Embassy in Washington on July 18 from French Ambassador Francois Delattre, acting on behalf of French President Francois Hollande.

Editor's Note: Arnaud De Borchgrave is a personal friend of our Commander-General Emeritus Wulf Lindenau and a member of the Washington, D.C. commandry. Upon award of the medal Wulf wrote:

Dear Arnaud: I am truly delighted that you have been formally recognized for the unique person you are.....!!!!!! Many, many, many congratulations for the belated but appropriate award. I am really happy for you, for the well-deserved honor !!!! Wulf

De Borchgrave response: Dear Wulf, Thank you dear friend for those kind words.
Yours ever, Arnaud

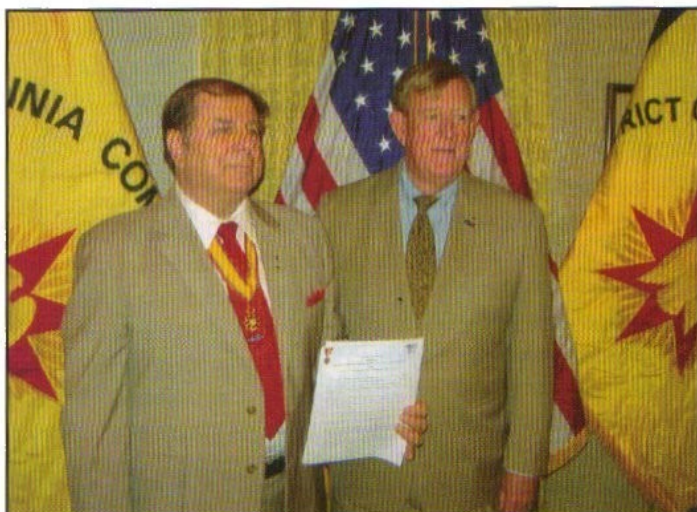
STRONGER TOGETHER



&



On 3 June 2014, at a Luncheon/Meeting of the D.C. and VA MOFW Commanderies, Lt. Gen Jack Klimp, USMC (Ret), NAUS President and CEO and MOFW Commander



CDR GEN Emeritus Lindenau (l) holding the Affiliation Agreement and Lt. Gen Klimp (r), with the Virginia Commandery flag, the USA flag, and the Washington D.C. Commandery flag.

General Emeritus Wulf Lindenau signed an Affiliation Agreement, wherein the NAUS and MOFW affirmed that both organizations share mutual interests in the well-being of our military service members, veterans, retirees and their families and survivors. It was agreed to support one another, encourage each organization's members to join the other qualified; applicants to the NAUS & MOFW shall receive a steeply reduced membership rate for the first year.

MOFW applauds the Affiliation Agreement and encourages all qualified members to join the NAUS - which is clearly one of the most active, respected and effective voices veterans and military personnel have in Congress.

The pertinent web sites are: www.MOFWUS.org and www.NAUS.org.

Thoughts

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins, a politician and Indian diplomat, in the late 18th century while in the South and being requested to return to Washington by the President. In response he reportedly wrote the words and it was deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

(Ed Note: Thanks to PC-G Ron Fischer historical note)

Steeping Forward

CW5 David Hathaway Sr, has volunteered to serve as the Chairman of our Awards Program. Companion Hathaway is a member of the Texas Commandery. He may be reached at: sirdrhathawaysr@gmail.com

Congratulations Companion Hathaway!

Military Personnel Take the Hit Yet Again

Bob Carey and Josh Flynn-Brown*

Last week the Army alerted the ranks that 550 Majors will be laid off. Of the 550, a significant percentage could be in the middle of a combat deployment. Imagine a sweat drenched, blood stained officer arriving back to base from a two day mission with a pink slip on his bed. So much for taking care of our own.

This follows the Army giving the boot to more than 1,100 Captains. These officers are not bad apples, rather they are the victims of rudderless policy and feckless prioritization in the White House and Congress. Political bickering and gamesmanship are part of the legislative process but needlessly sacrificing careers of combat vets is intolerable. As a glaring example of incompetent leadership and government mismanagement, the Treasury noted that in 2010 Illegal Aliens claimed \$4.2 billion in child tax credits. If that loophole was closed it would more than fund the officers on the cutting block.

The Army appears to be targeting those officers soon eligible for retirement in order to cut cost. Army Legal personnel guidelines provide protections for long-serving officers. In fact, these protections set in after 14 years of service and require officers to be continued in service. This long-standing policy was set in the 1980s by the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act which states that an officer "on attaining permanent O-4 grade, has a career expectation of 20 years of service."

It is clear that Congress well understood that bean-counting civilian bureaucrats in the Department of Defense may engage in such dastardly cost-saving by targeting those long-serving officers who are close to retirement. In addition to keeping faith with our troops, the policy of retaining long-serving personnel is critical to projecting a strong national security posture. As numerous military leaders have testified before Congress, cutting personnel levels will directly interfere with waging successful military campaigns.

Meanwhile, another Army officer, Lt. Col. T. G. Taylor, wants to retire but the Army is making him stay another 20 months to "pay-back" for transferring his G.I. Bill education benefits to his daughter. If he had used those benefits himself, he could retire right now. The Department of Defense could let Colonel Taylor retire, take that money saved and discharge one less Captain or Major, but we doubt such logic would ever prevail.

If the Department has so poorly managed its books that it has to let go of thousands of troops now so that it can pay for the mandated but unwanted continued service of others, the least we can do is give these laid-off officers the retirement they earned to date. For example, in 2012's National Defense Authorization Act, Congress reinstituted Temporary Early Retirement Authority to provide pro-rated retirement for years served in lieu of an abrupt discharge. It is a fraction of full retirement but arguably a more measured response than simply a discharge certificate, a week of transition training, and a one-way airplane ticket home.

Our troops have made monumental sacrifices since 9/11. They've deployed at rates and for lengths not seen since the hollowed-out military of the late 1970s, suffered the physical and invisible wounds of war, and lost comrades on the battlefield. They are not bureaucrats sitting in air-conditioned rooms; they are in a world ravaged by war and are thus uniquely situated. As Bruce Springsteen so aptly sang, "Wherever this flag is flown, we take care of our own." Mr. President and Congress, are you listening?

* Mr. Carey is a former Senior Executive in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, a Captain in the Navy Reserves, and the Executive Director of the National Defense Committee (www.NationalDefenseCommittee.org), a non-profit based in Alexandria, VA that works to protect the individual rights of service members. Mr. Flynn-Brown is an attorney that has represented dozens of military personnel in termination actions against the government and is a Legal Fellow at the National Defense Committee.



THE NATIONAL MILITARY AND VETERANS ALLIANCE (NMVA) The NMVA is composed of military associations and veterans organizations representing nearly 3.5 million service members, including active duty, National Guard and Reserve, military retirees, veterans , families and survivors. NMVA received no federal grants and has no federal contracts. NMVA testimony before Congress takes into consideration the interests of each individual association in all joint actions and testimony. Working together, they undertake to expand their resources and present a united voice to Congress and the administration, promoting their goals and objectives concerning a wide range of military quality-of-life issues including pay, personnel, medical care, survivor benefits, military housing, education and related veterans issues sand legislation. NMVA meets on the 3rd Monday of the month in Alexandria, VA and the MOFW is represented at the meetings by your Deputy Secretary-General for Legislative Affairs, Companion Kent Webber. One of the main concerns for the Alliance is the assurance of generous pay and benefits for the brave men and women who serve in uniform to defend the Nation and its citizens. Our top priority is to end sequestration of our service personnel and to protect the readiness of those who serve. The Alliance has been urging Congress in this era of partisan disputes to find a solution that secured the Nation's commitment to service personnel, past and present. On 9 April 14 the Alliance testified before the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, Committee on Armed Services on legislative priorities and view on the FY15 Pentagon Plan. Your MOFW is an active member of the NMVA, which includes the following organizations:

American Logistics Association
 American Military retirees Association
 American Military Society
 American Retirees Association
 AMVETS
 Armed Forces Marketing Company
 Army Navy Union
 Association of the US Navy
 Gold Star Wives of America
 Hispanic War Veterans Assoc
 Japanese American Veterans Assoc
 Korean War Veterans Foundation
 Legion of Valor
 Military Families United
 Military Order of the Purple Heart
 Military Order of Foreign Wars

Military Order of the World Wars
 Nat Assoc for Uniformed Services
 National Defense Committee
 Naval Enlisted Association
 Reserve Enlisted Association
 Reserve Officers Association
 Senior Citizens League
 Society of Military Widows
 The Flag and Gen Off Network
 The Retired Enlisted Association
 Tragedy Assistance Pro for Survivors
 Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
 VFW
 Veterans of Modern Warfare
 Vets First of United Spinal Assoc
 Vietnam Veteran of America

Submitted By:

KENT S. WEBBER
 DEPUTY SECRETRY-GENERAL FOR LEGIATIVE AFFAIRS

OF BOOKS TO READ

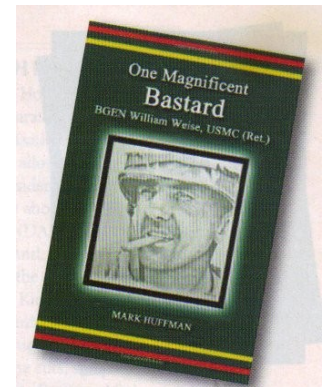


"One Magnificent Bastard"

BG William Weise, USMC (Ret)

Reviewed by Mark Huffman

Uniformed Services Journal July/August 2014



Most who have worn the uniform of the United States Marine Corps know that the “Devil Dogs” of 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment (2/4) are known as “*The Magnificent Bastards*.” It is a title the battalion earned in 1966 as a result of the fighting spirit its “*Leathernecks*” demonstrated during Operation Jay, in which the battalion, as part of a larger Marine force, caught the North Vietnamese 812th Main Force Battalion in a vise. In nine days of fighting, the Vietnamese suffered more than 80 killed. Later, at the battle of Dai Do, during the Tet Offensive of 1968, under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel “*Wild Bill*” Weise, they demonstrated that the title was well deserved.

In a bitter four day battle between 2/4 and the 320th NVA Division (8,000-10,000 men) the under strength battalion inflicted nearly 1,500 killed on the enemy while sustaining 81 dead and 397 wounded. Two Marines, Captain Jay Vargas and Captain James Livingston (a NAUS member) were awarded the Medal of Honor. LtCol Weise (also a NAUS member) received the Navy Cross

This book is the story of that decisive battle. More than that, it is the life story of Bill Weise. A Marine, almost by accident, he led by example and was a strict taskmaster, who trained his Marines constantly and whose motto was “*The harder we work, the luckier we become.*”

He believed his main duty was to prepare his Marines to fight and beat any enemy. His dedication to the people who served with him is inspirational.

The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States Washington, DC Commandery recently was honored to have BGen William Weise, USMC (Ret), as its guest speaker at the Commandery's quarterly luncheon at Fort Myer. The General gave a detailed and interesting account of the battle of Dai Do in Vietnam, from April 30 to May 3, 1968, a full account of which is included in the General's book,

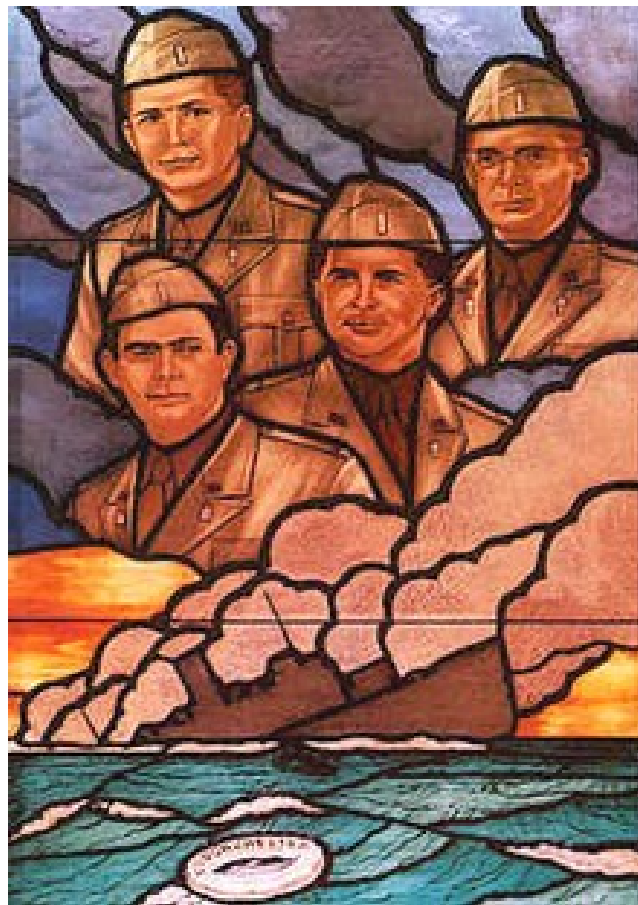
The Order is pleased to encourage its members and readers to consider assisting the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in its ongoing program to honor the fallen of 2nd Battalion/4th Marines in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. The 2/4 Marines Association is sponsoring this initiative to lay a commemorative brick in the park adjacent to the museum for each Battalion member who was killed in action, or died as a result of wounds, since the Battalion's formation in 1914. The 2/4 Association has already contributed enough for the first 376 bricks of the estimated nearly 1,000 collection. The bricks are being laid in reverse chronological order, beginning with the fallen of Afghanistan

Contributions to the 2/4 Marines Association for this program are of course welcome, but there is another way to help as well: If you have information about a fallen member from the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines who served prior to the Vietnam War, please contact NAUS and MOFW member BGen William Wiese, USMC (Ret) at [wwiese2@gmail.com](mailto:wweise2@gmail.com), or 7444 Spring Village Dr., Apt 306, Spring Village, I/A 22150-4473.

Odds and Ends

WORLD WAR II FLIGHT TRAINING MUSEUM Located on the campus of the 63rd Flight Training Detachment in Douglas, GA., the site is the most intact, freestanding WWII primary flight training facility left in the US with its 13 original buildings, including 2 hangers and instructors barracks. The museum recreates its original billeting aspects as well as housing the PAUL SCHMIDT Reference Library and Archive. Exhibits highlighting military and civilian contributions to the war effort include unique and often rarely seen artifacts of the era. The museum provides an introduction to and history of the thousands of men and women who volunteered and trained to fly in the world's greatest airborne conflict. A visit to the museum is worth the time and effort. The WWII Flight Training Museum is located at No. 3 Airport Circle, Douglas, GA 31533 (912) 383-9111 douglas63rd@accessatc.net P.O. Box 190, Douglas, GA 31534

THE IMMORTALS A stained glass window in the Pentagon commemorates the memory of Rev. George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Rev. John Washington and Rev. Clark Poling, known as the *Immortals*. During WWII all were aboard the US Army troop transport DORCHESTER when she was torpedoed by a German submarine. All gave their life jackets away and went down with the ship



RI Commandery Proposed Memorial

Shortly after taking command of the Rhode Island Military Order Wars of the United States in May of 2014, LTC Albert Guarnieri (USA, Ret), suggested to the EX-Com that we build a memorial at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, RI. The idea was immediately embraced and voted on by all concerned.

In the two months that followed, there were a variety of things to take into consideration before the project could see the first stone overturned. Land acquisition at the cemetery, design, and of course... cost.

A committee was formed and immediately went to work on the project. A variety of designs were considered with the one pictured below in all black marble becoming the winner.



*Designed By:
George C. Miller, Jr.
MAJ (USA, Ret)*

Once the design was approved, the dimensions were submitted to the stone mason and costs were settled upon. In the meantime, COL Dave Russell met with officials from the cemetery where he chose a suitable site to erect the monument and signed the necessary paperwork giving the RI Commandery the rights to use the land.

Site preparation will begin in the Spring of 2015 and a dedication ceremony is slated for May of 2015.



The Order regrets to report that BG E. Donald Bangs (MD), CPT Richard H. Breithaupt Sr. (CA), CAPT Frank J. Budroe (CA), CPT Alan D. Clift (MD), Companion Kennedy J. Gilly (LA), CPT John E. Goggin (IN), CWO3 Donald J. Oglesby (OH), LTC RON Sommer (MD) and CDR Hans Von Leden (CA) CPT William J. Cambio (RI), Howard F. Brown (RI), COL Christos J. Evangelos (RI), LTC Richard L. Marrocco (RI), COL John B. Altieri (RI), COL Lynwood F. Hoxsie (RI), CPT (DR) Walter C. Heisler (RI) BG John Kean (RI) have answered the Last Roll Call. Rest in Peace Faithful Companions.

Editor's Notes:

I would like to thank those members of the MOFWUS who had the confidence in me to name me as the new Editor-General of the newsletter. Filling Ron's shoes is a near-impossible task; however, I will give it my best shot.

For all of you who have sent in articles, pictures, etc. and did not see them published in this edition, they have unfortunately been lost in the transition. If you would like to resubmit them, I will publish in next edition.

Lastly, as you know, a newsletter is only as good as the submissions made by its membership, please keep them coming.

George Miller
Editor



Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States

Instituted 1894

Office of the Commander General

Deus et Libertas

15 August 2014

To all Companions of the Order,

Be it known from this day forward, that Past Commander General LTC (Ret) Ronald R. Sommer has been appointed posthumously as the Editor-Publisher Emeritus.

This appointment is made in recognition of LTC Sommer's considerable contributions to the Military Order of Foreign Wars for many years; most noteworthy was his work as the Editor-Publisher of the MOFW US Newsletter.

By Order of;

David H. Russell
COL (Ret) USA
Commander General
MOFW US