



# M.O.F.W.

NEWSLETTER

Editor-Publisher:

MAJ (USA, RET) George C. Miller, Jr.

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## The Commander-General's Message

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Orfeo Trombetta Jr, PhD  
Commander-General

The primary purpose of my comments in this issue of our MOFW Newsletter is to address the upcoming 53rd Biennial Convention of the Order. As many of you know, the Convention of the Order will take place on June 15-17, 2017 at the Holiday Inn, National Airport/Crystal City, 2650 Jefferson-Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. All details may be found on the MOFWUS.org website.



All MOFW members anticipating attendance at this event should register as soon as possible as we only have until May 15th to use our MOFW Convention reservation for a price equal to that when we held the 50th Convention at this same location. Again, all details and prices are contained in the documents at the MOFWUS.org website.

The following information is provided to assist you in the events:

- Please ensure you check in on Thursday, June 15th, prior to 5PM as the first event, the National Council Meeting shall be held the first evening in the Board Room. (All events/times/locations will be provided after you register with the MOFW table after registering with the Hotel).
- On Friday, June 16th, the Business Meeting for the Order in Convention will be held. Breakfast arrangements have been made and lunch will be served in the meeting room with a presentation by a member of the MOFW to speak about a wonderful new book that he has recently had published about the Nuremburg Trials.
- On the morning of Saturday, June 17th, we will hold a half-day session to address all final issues and then will serve lunch again in the meeting room and enjoy another presentation by another member of the MOFW discussing a book that he recently published about operations in Vietnam.
- On Saturday evening we shall hold our traditional Grand Banquet to close out the Biennial Convention of the Order. Our distinguished speaker will be the 75th Attorney General of the United States and former Counsel to President Ronald Reagan, the Honorable Edwin Meese III. Accompanying him will be his son, Brigadier General Michael Meese, USA, Retired, and his family. We will have the traditional Old Guard Honor Guard, the Strolling Strings for entertainment, and will swear in our newly elected officers of the Order.

As some of you may recall, at the 50th Biennial Convention held at this same location, we hosted the Honorable Lawrence Eagleburger, former Secretary of State at a great event. I am encouraging all members to register early so you can obtain the lowest possible room rates as negotiated by our staff. This location is also located within blocks of the famous Crystal City Underground. I look forward to meeting and seeing as many of you as possible at this next Convention in June.



Announcing The 53rd  
MOWUS Convention



Crystal City, Virginia  
June 15 - 17



**Hear Ye... Hear Ye**



## The Military Order Of Foreign Wars Of the United States

*Will hold its 53<sup>d</sup> National Convention from June 15 to 17, 2017 at the  
Holiday Inn, 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.*

*You and your guest(s) are invited to attend this wonderful event.  
Just across the bridge is the nation's capital, Washington DC.*



*There are many events planned for the conduct of  
business and we will conclude with a Grand Banquet full  
of "Pomp and Ceremony" on Saturday evening.  
So pack your Mess or Dress uniform and get ready to  
have a great time at the convention*



*Make your Reservation today!  
The deadline is Tuesday, 16 May 2017*



**See You There!**

**Wi-Fi \* Airport Shuttle (free) \* On-site Parking (free) \* Fitness Center**



## 53 rd Convention Special Guest Speaker

### Hon. Edwin Meese III

**Edwin "Ed" Meese III** is an American attorney, law professor, author and member of the Republican Party who served in official capacities within the Ronald Reagan Gubernatorial Administration (1967–1974), the Reagan Presidential Transition Team (1980) and the Reagan White House (1981–1985), eventually rising to hold the position of the 75th Attorney General of the United States (1985–1988).

He currently holds fellowships and chairmanships with several public policy councils and think-tanks, including the Constitution Project and the Heritage Foundation.<sup>[1]</sup> He is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.<sup>[2]</sup> He currently sits on the National Advisory Board of Center for Urban Renewal and Education. He is on the board of directors of The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.<sup>[3]</sup> He has served on the board of Cornerstone closed end funds.

#### Military Service

Meese became a member of ROTC upon enrollment at Yale, and upon graduation he obtained a commission in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. He spent 24 months at Fort Sill near Lawton, Oklahoma. Meese gained experience in logistics, conducting installation and operations of the 240 mm howitzer M1. Meese completed active duty in 1956 and continued in the United States Army Reserve, specializing in military intelligence. Meese retired from the Army Reserve as a Colonel in 1984.

Also in Attendance will be

### BG (USA, R) Michael Meese

BG. Meese served in Afghanistan as the top deputy at the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) for General David Petraeus and also served with U.S. forces in Iraq. He was also head of the Department of Social Science at West Point and, most recently, headed the American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association to help veterans.

His family will also be in attendance.

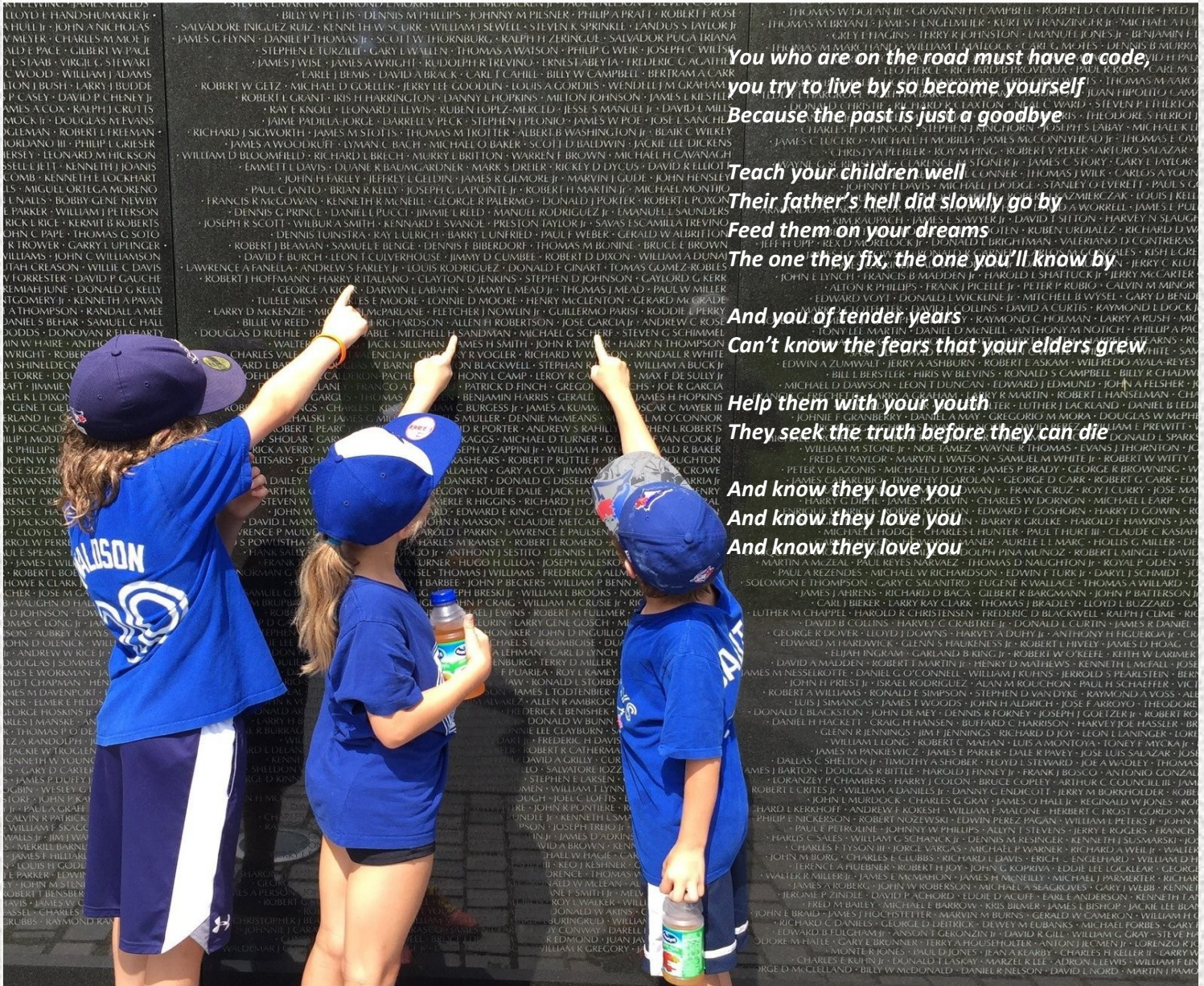




# COMMANDERY NEWS

**\*Ohio:**

## Teach Your Children Well David W. Taylor



*You who are on the road must have a code,  
you try to live by so become yourself  
Because the past is just a goodbye*

*Teach your children well  
Their father's hell did slowly go by  
Feed them on your dreams  
The one they fix, the one you'll know by*

*And you of tender years  
Can't know the fears that your elders grew*

*Help them with your youth  
They seek the truth before they can die*

*And know they love you  
And know they love you  
And know they love you*



## \* *Rhode Island:*

### COMMANDERY HONORS RHODE ISLAND WWI VETERANS



On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany after more than two and a half years of neutrality in the Great War. The nation mobilized for an unprecedented commitment of American armed forces overseas, with Army forces organized as the American Expeditionary Forces under the command of General John J. Pershing. Ultimately, more than four million Americans served in the military during World War I. Among those who served were 28,817 from RI with 612 making the supreme sacrifice in the cause of freedom in a "war to end all wars." On 2 APR 2017, RI Commandery representatives assembled before RI's WW I Monument in Providence to observe the historic date of our entry into that

war which changed the face of Europe forever and transformed America into a world power. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by remarks by tribute organizer Companion Dennis Morgan, LTC USA (Ret). RI Director of Veterans Affairs, Companion Kasim Yarn, LCDR USN, (Ret), read a Gubernatorial Proclamation. A Memorial Wreath was presented by Commander George Miller, MAJ USA, (Ret) and Sr. Vice Commander, James Kenney, LTC USA, (Ret). Commandery Chaplain Fr. Philip Salois a Vietnam Combat Veteran and Silver Star recipient—offered a moving prayer followed by the playing of TAPS by SGT Andrew Bates of the RING 88th Army Band. Since 1900 the mission of the RI Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars has been to promote our military history, honor all RI men and women who have served their country and keep their brave deeds alive as part of our heritage.

## \* *Virginia and Washington, D.C. Commanderies*

The DC and VA Commanderies have traditionally met together four times a year - at quarterly intervals- , and all meetings and luncheons are conducted in the Officers' Club, Fort Myer, VA. Because the meetings are conducted by the DC/VA Secretary/Treasurer, who lives in Georgia, and roundtrip travel to VA and lodging when in VA is rather expensive, the Commanderies now meet only three times a year - with the last meeting in December dependent upon the weather. The Officers' Club at Fort Myer is a great location for the meetings, as the room utilized is adjacent to the main buffet style dining area, and the food is never anything less than superb - parking is free and available next to the club.

Currently meeting dates for the DC/VA Commanderies are April 4, July 11, October 3, and possibly December 3. The year's first meeting on 4 April featured as speaker a senior member of The Heritage Foundation, Mr. Hans A. von Spakovsky, who was followed by administrative comments and a discussion of the 53rd MOFW Convention scheduled for 15 through 17 June 2017 in Arlington, VA (see registration info on MOFWUS.org - our MOFW national web site).

Planning is well underway for the Convention, however - member attendance remains (as often is the case) sparse and we need many more to demonstrate our commitment to the Order! CG Trombetta and CG-Emeritus Lindenau were unable to attend the first meeting because of other commitments , and Senior Vice CG Kent Clark assisted by Lt Col (Ret) Bruce A. Schank, USMC orchestrated a highly successful meeting.

With the untimely recent demise of Colonel Jack Kutcher (see comments made by CG Trombetta), the MD Commandery - which often sent officers to attend the DC and VA Commandery functions - was effectively without leadership. Efforts by the MOFW Sec Gen resulted in filling this important position and a welcome is herewith extended to all members of the Maryland Commandery (and any others who may wish to attend) to participate as guest attendees at the luncheons mentioned in the above paragraph.



# A lifetime of healing

By Henry Howard : Reprinted from American Legion Magazine, March 2017

Phil Salois recognized the dire situation six comrades faced near the village of Suoi Kiet. Their platoon was surrounded by the North Vietnamese Army, ducking fire from multiple directions. “We had walked right into a U-shaped ambush,” recalls Salois, who served in the Army’s 199th Light Infantry Brigade. “Six of our guys were separated from the rest of us by an open clearing. They were stranded. We were trying to return fire, but we’re shooting over our comrades’ heads trying to find a place to shoot, so as not to kill any of them.” The fighting was intense for an hour, maybe longer. Salois grew angry and impatient. Why wasn’t anyone trying to rescue them?



“I said a quick prayer to God,” he says. “I said, ‘You know, God, I’m going to go out there and rescue these guys. This is a crazy thing to do. If you get me out of this mess safe and sound without a scratch, I’ll do anything you want.’” With adrenaline pumping through his veins and what he describes as his “useless” M79 grenade launcher at his side, Salois ventured out to help his fellow soldiers. Herb Klug voluntarily accompanied him.

They found a huge boulder to hide behind and opened fire on the NVA’s right flank, providing cover for the trapped soldiers. Four of their comrades safely sprinted back to camp.

After they didn’t see any more movement, Salois and Klug agreed that the other two were either dead or too wounded to move. (Terrance Bowell was killed, but Michael Kamrat survived.) They decided to return, low crawling side by side.

“I made it back safely, and I turned around, and I said, ‘Where’s Herb?’” Salois recalls. “He didn’t come back with me. I looked back over the berm and he was halfway out, laying on his stomach. And without even thinking, I went out there and tried to drag him in.”

It was too late. A sniper had picked off Klug.

Salois was one of only seven in his platoon who weren’t injured in the battle. He received the Silver Star for his actions on March 1, 1970. What transpired led him to an even higher calling, one that has given him the opportunity to minister to countless souls over the decades since Vietnam.

‘THIS IS WHAT I WANT FOR YOU’ Salois served just over a year, then returned home to California and started working again for an insurance agency. A few years later, a newspaper article caught his attention and changed the course of his life.

“It said in 20 years there’s going to be a great shortage of priests, Catholic priests,” Salois says. “The prediction came true, because in 1990 a lot of the priests were leaving the church. And there were not that many going into the seminary.”

As a boy, Salois was raised in the church but considered himself a “Sunday Catholic” – he attended Mass but was not an altar boy. During his time in Vietnam, he read from his Bible daily – a French pocket version his aunt had given him. But he had never considered religion as a profession.

“I kept going back to that article,” he says.

“I don’t know why I kept going back to it. I started reading the Bible again. I hadn’t picked up the Bible since I left Nam. I wondered if I was being called to the priesthood.”

Salois began studying – the “first time in my life I really enjoyed studying” – and passed the test in 1972. A couple of years after joining the seminary, he was walking through the woods, praying the Rosary, when he had a flashback to the battlefield.



"I remember saying to God, 'You know, God, I'm really happy here. I'm really glad you called me here,'" Salois says. "And I heard that inner voice say to me, 'Well, do you remember that promise you made to me four years ago?'"

Of course he did: "If you get me out of this mess safe and sound without a scratch, I'll do anything you want."

In the woods, Salois heard God respond, "This is what I want for you."

Until that day, he had not thought about his vow during the firefight in Vietnam. But now it was an affirmation. "From then on, I knew where I was supposed to go."

**A SURPRISE AT THE WALL** Salois decided to move back to New England to join the La Salette order. Eventually, he graduated from Providence College in Rhode Island, then completed theology studies at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and was later ordained.

In 1983, an experience as a deacon at the White River Junction Vet Center in Vermont brought him back to the jungles of Vietnam. He was among clergy invited to a panel discussion of Vietnam War veterans who would talk about their spiritual needs. "That's pretty avant-garde for them to be talking about in those days," he says.

Salois looked forward to the meeting, thinking he would teach and mentor the others.

"The Vietnam veterans started telling their stories to clergymen from different denominations," he says. "All of a sudden, I am reliving my Vietnam. I hadn't thought about Vietnam since 1970. It's starting to weigh on me. Then they showed a newsreel of actual footage, and I got butterflies in my stomach. I was churning all over the place. I just felt very uncomfortable. I just wanted to get out of there but didn't want to make a scene."

The panel leader was the only ordained clergyman who was a Vietnam veteran. He approached Salois afterward, asking if he was all right. Salois admitted that he wasn't, and they agreed to talk the next morning in private. "I showed him some pictures to help me remember," Salois says. "I remembered March 1 detail by detail. But everything else I couldn't remember."

The counseling sessions continued for six months, until Salois was ordained. Then he was given a homework assignment: Visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and look up Herb Klug. "There were like a gazillion people there," he recalls of his Fourth of July visit. "I looked up Herb's name, found out what panel he was on, what line. He was 13 west, line 71. He was right at eye level."

Salois was surprised to see another familiar name directly above Klug: Lt. Terrance Bowell.

"I did a pencil rubbing of both names and said a quick prayer," he says. "I didn't want to get too emotional because of so many people around. It's quiet though, very quiet. Everybody's very still."

**BACK TO VIETNAM** Something was still missing for Salois. The visit to the Wall had brought him comfort but not closure.

He was still sad about Klug's death. He was still angry at the North Vietnamese. "As a priest, I can't hate a race of people. I didn't quite know how to heal from that."

In June 1990, Salois took advantage of a three-week "healing trip" to Vietnam, organized by VA. He figured that being immersed in Vietnam would help him, but he didn't really know what to expect.

"We landed in Hanoi, the capital of the former enemy country," Salois recalls. "There were soldiers at the airport with their pith helmets. Oh my God. They looked like NVA. And the heat, and the smell, the smell of death. I thought I made a big mistake. I wanted to turn that plane around and go back home, but I stuck it out."

The VA psychiatrist on the trip counseled Salois, assuring him that all returning veterans go through the same emotions. Some are affected upon arrival, while others take a little longer. As Salois let his emotions out, he allowed the healing in.



"What healed me over there was the children," he says. "Every time we walked the streets in Hanoi, they would run up to us, touch us, pinch us, giggling and all that. I was never fond of children and especially that many at once. They kind of make me nervous. But I got to thinking about that passage from Scripture, 'Let the children come to me.' And I realized these children have never known war. Why should I hate these children? It's not their fault. They're innocent."

From there, Salois began to embrace the Vietnamese, their culture and his past. In Ho Chi Minh City, Salois concelebrated Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral with a pastor and addressed the congregation in French since he did not know Vietnamese.

"I told them who I was: a Vietnam War veteran who 20 years ago was shooting at people who look like them, and receiving fire from people very much like them," he says. "I went there to be healed and to forgive them and to have them forgive me. It was just very healing, and it was a very powerful image." □

**'I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU'** Inspired by his trip to Vietnam, Salois set out on another healing quest: Klug's grave.

After locating Klug's parents – Ray and Beulah – and getting their phone number, Salois put off making contact for a couple of weeks. Eventually he did, in July 1991.

Ray answered the phone. "I don't want you to think this is a crank call," Salois told him. "I just wanted you to know that I served with your son and that he died in my arms and what I wanted to do was write you a letter to tell you about it, the incident, and I would like to go to Dayton (Ohio) and visit his grave, but I would understand if you don't want to meet with me."

Instead, they welcomed Salois, and plans were made for a visit to the Klugs' home and Herb's grave nearby.

With knees bent and a red rose extended, Salois poured out his heart at the gravesite.

"Herb, here I am. I know it's taken me 21 years to get here. I'm sorry, but you know you never left me. You've never been away from my heart and my soul. You've been with me in all the ministry I do for vets, and I want to thank you for the strength that you gave me and thanks for the sacrifice you made for us on March 1. I'll never forget you."

**A MENTOR AND FRIEND** With closure, Salois thrust himself into his work and joined veterans organizations, including The American Legion.

"For me, healing is activity," says Salois, the Legion's Department of Massachusetts chaplain since 1993. "It's doing something. It's not a passive thing. I always tell vets if you want to be healed, you've got to do something. You can't just sit on your butt, wait for God to heal you. If you know somebody who was killed, try to get ahold of the family. Try to go visit his grave. Try to bring some of your buddies together. That's healing."

He found himself counseling other veterans and their wives.

"I just wasn't one of the guys anymore," he says. "I was doing a little bit of marriage counseling because a lot of those guys were having troubles with their wives. Their wives didn't understand why they were behaving the way they were. And the guys weren't talking to their wives, not explaining. They didn't want to tell them anything about Vietnam because they didn't want to hurt them, cause them pain or have them think less of them."

In 1993, Salois was promoted to chief of the chaplain service for the VA Boston Healthcare System, where he counseled veterans and provided other services. He retired Feb. 28, 2015. He was often called upon to counsel veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. One of those was Skip Spoerke, who joined the 94th Army Band as a trumpet and flugelhorn player and later deployed with the 3rd Infantry Division.

After a vehicle accident in Iraq, Spoerke returned home and recovered from his physical injuries. But he struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder following the deaths of his comrades. Spoerke turned to drinking. Sometimes he would stay in bed all day. Once, he put on camouflage and ran into the woods for hours, thinking he was behind enemy lines.



“He couldn’t understand why other people couldn’t understand what he was going through,” says Nancy Spoerke, his mother.

But “Father Phil” understood, thanks to a chance meeting at a Boston-area VA facility in February 2006, soon after Spoerke returned from his deployment.

Salois first met Spoerke while the latter was lost in the hallway, giving him direction in more than one way. They talked for several hours that day and later met in counseling sessions. The first session still resonates in Salois’ memory. Spoerke was describing nightmares about his friends who died in Iraq.

“He’s explaining all of this to me,” Salois recalls. “He says that one of the guys came up to him and says, ‘Don’t bother ... he’s gone.’ And he doesn’t believe it. But as he’s telling me that, I’m gone.

I dissociated. I don’t know how long I was gone.

I went back to March 1 when I was dragging Herb and his body across land ... and turning him over and seeing that.”

When he came to, he apologized to Spoerke, explaining that his story took him back to the ambush. “He says, ‘Don’t apologize. That makes you more human,’” Salois says. “I guess I’ll never forget the compassion that I received from him. And it helped him as well, knowing he wasn’t alone. You know, I still get emotional about that.”

From their first meeting, Spoerke knew he could trust Salois.

“I’m grateful that Father Phil had time to meet me – a guy who came home feeling broken and hopeless – because our first conversation gave me a slice of hope that quality of life would improve,” says Spoerke, who does not consider himself a religious person. “After a close friend committed suicide a year after we returned from Iraq, Father Phil made time to talk to and help me remember the good times with my friend. He encouraged me to see the opportunities in the world, instead of fearing the threats. Father Phil showed me that a happy and long life was within reach. I only needed to pursue it.”

Their counseling sessions continue today and involve Spoerke’s family too. Spoerke still battles PTSD but is happily married and pursuing a college degree.

“We could see that Father Phil was impacting Skip’s life through the communication and everything Skip would talk about,” says his father, Frank, an Air Force veteran and member of American Legion Post 226 in Massachusetts. “Father Phil really became a close mentor to Skip. They have a personal connection that’s hard to explain.”

It’s a relationship that has helped both men heal from their losses on the battlefield.

For many years, Salois saw March 1 as doomsday. But now he takes a different view.

“Now I have a celebration in honor of that day,” he says. “I got another buddy who lives nearby. He was in the 4th Infantry Division and that same week he had nine of his guys killed. We try to get together with some of the other guys and go to dinner, and we celebrate. We have a toast to them. I think and talk about it a lot, because it’s made me who I am today. If I hadn’t gone to Vietnam, I don’t know where I’d be.”

Fr. Phil is a member of the RI Commandery of MOFWUS and our National Chaplain.



## Colonel John “Jack” Kutcher

It is with a sad heart that I must announce the very recent passing of Colonel John “Jack” Kutcher, USA, Retired. Jack died at home on February 17, 2017 from complications associated with his two year battle with Esophageal Cancer.

Jack was a stalwart in the MOWF and served in a number of positions in the Maryland Commandery and was the Secretary General of the National Order. In all positions, he was first and foremost a leader extraordinaire.



I first met Jack when he was the Secretary General of the Order at a Convention of the Order that was held in Baltimore. I remember how impressed I was with his “command voice” and his obvious leadership of the meeting and other events that took place during that event. Since that time, I have continued my friendship primarily when Jack would visit the combined Virginia and DC Commandery meetings at Fort Myer, Virginia. Jack leaves behind his wife Maxine of 53 years and four wonderful boys, John Jr., Michael, Mathew, and Daniel, together with a wonderful family too numerous to name here. Jack’s funeral was attended by hundreds of associates, friends, and well-wishers attesting to his personal integrity and friendships with many, many people. He will be sorely missed by all.

- Orfeo Trombetta, Jr.  
Commander-General

## Chief Warrant Officer 4 Thomas Shortall



Born in Providence he was a son of the late Thomas F. and Elizabeth (Fahey) Shortall. Mr. Shortall grew up in the Mt. Pleasant section of Providence and graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School.

Tom joined the R.I. National Guard in 1949 and attended the Allen School of Aeronautics, where he earned his master mechanic license from the Federal Aviation Administration. After stints with American Airlines in New York as a mechanic, the U.S. Air Force as a civilian technical rep. and Fram Aerospace in the Research & Development Dept., he decided to enroll in flight school at Fort Wolters in Texas. He returned home in 1970 as a 38-year-old helicopter pilot.

CWO4 Shortall eventually became the Helicopter Pilot for the Governors of Rhode Island. During Governor Noel’s term, he was credited with saving the Governor’s life with his exceptional flying skills. This occurred when the two were flying to the Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich in May of 1976 when the helicopter experienced a mechanical malfunction.

Mr. Shortall was a 2011 Inductee to the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame. He also was a member of the BPOE Lodge in Wakefield, as well as the Rhode Island Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States and many other civic and military organizations. He will be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor, and how he enjoyed telling stories.

He is survived by five children, Thomas P. Shortall, Jr. and his wife Susan of Maine, Scott Shortall of Narragansett, Douglas Shortall and his wife Marguerite of Lincoln, Dorothy McMahon and her husband John of Narragansett, and Stephen Shortall and his wife Jennifer of Coventry; four grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Beth Cassani of California. He was the brother of the late John F. Shortall.



**Dr. Ernest R. Sohns, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) USA,**

Lastly, and representing a sad loss to the DC and VA Commanderries, and the many friends the gentleman had during the 98 years of his remarkable life, the demise, several months ago, of Dr. Ernest R. Sohns, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) USA, a scholar, diplomat, and mentor, leaves a treasured memory for many MOFW members, and a very personal loss for Wulf Lindenau to whom Dr. Sohns was a brother!



Dr. Ernie Sohns' educational background included an A.B. from Miami U., an M.S. Degree from Iowa State, and a Ph.D. in Botanical sciences, zoology, geology, and Russian. This resulted in professional assignments as Chairman, Dept. of Biology, College of William and Mary, Associate Curator, Smithsonian Institute, Research Analyst, Scientific and Technical Div., ACSI, Dept. of the Army, senior positions with the National Science Foundation, Scientific Attache, U.S. Embassy, Sweden. His scientific work resulted in finding a plant which heretofore was unknown and subsequently having it named for him - an honor well earned! Another milestone in his career was an as Army Officer, when Ernie was responsible for producing invaluable intelligence for the U.S. Army in a Top Secret program (since declassified) interrogating senior German officers in World War II. This resulted not only in information of value to the U.S. Army, but also in Dr. Sohns' learning the German language in a most proficient way.

After retirement from the Government and Military, Dr. Sohns joined many veteran and professional organizations, and was a senior leader of the American Legion, holding all leadership positions, including Washington, D.C. Department Commander (State Commander). He was succeeded in this position by Wulf Lindenau, and from that day to his death, Ernie and Wulf were inseparable as "life-long friends" and communicated (often in German or Russian) with each other on a daily basis, 365 days a year.

A surprise birthday party was held at the last MOFW meeting attended by Ernie Sohns prior to his death. Ernie was recognized by all MOFW members present for his many productive years with the MOFW as well as with a number of other military service organizations. Then Ernie was presented the MOFW Distinguished Service Medal for his years of distinguished service with the Order and especially for his many contributions to the National Security of our country during and after World War II. The presentation was conducted by Commander-General Chuck Trombetta. Additionally, CG Trombetta presented the Sohns family with the MOFW Memorial Certificate at his inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery. We shall all dearly miss Ernie, a true patriot in every sense of the word.

## **Welcome New Members**

**LTC John L. Cole**

**Hawaii**

**COL John C. Spear**

**Hawaii**

**CPT Lawrence S. Eiden**

**Michigan**

**Dr. Linda Karen Miller**

**DC/Nevada**

**Lt Col (Ret) James P. Atkins III, USMC**

**South Carolina**

**Companion Joseph Barry Henson, Jr.**

**South Carolina**



# Odds and Ends



My full name is Jack Leroy Tueller. This is two weeks after D-Day, it's dark, raining, muddy, and I'm stressed, so I get my trumpet out and the commander says: "Jack don't play tonight, because there is one sniper left."

I thought to myself that, German sniper is as scared and lonely as I am. So I thought, I'll play his love song.

The next morning, here came a jeep from up the beach about a mile and a half away, and the military police says: "Hey captain, there's some German prisoners getting ready to go to England, one of them keeps saying in broken English, who played that trumpet last night?"

And he burst into sobs he said "When I heard that number that you played, I thought about my fiancée in Germany, I thought about my mother and dad, about my brothers and sisters, and I couldn't fire." And he stick out his hand, and I shook the hand of the enemy. He was no enemy; he was scared and lonely like me.

The power of music.

## DEFINITION OF RANK

### GENERAL

Leaps tall buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water amid typhoons, gives policy to God.

### COLONEL

Leaps short buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if sea is calm, talks to God.

### LT. COLONEL

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds, is almost as powerful as a switch engine, is faster than a speeding BB, walks on water in indoor swimming pool, talks to God if a DA-4187 request form is approved.

### MAJOR

Barely clears Quonset hut, loses tug-of-war with switch engine, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well, is occasionally addressed by God.

### CAPTAIN

Makes high marks by trying to leap buildings, is run over by a locomotive, can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury, dog paddles, talks to animals.

### 1ST LIEUTENANT

Runs into buildings, recognizes locomotives two out of three times, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat if properly instructed in the Mae West, talks to walls.

### 2ND LIEUTENANT

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter buildings, says "Look at the Choo-Choo", wets himself, plays in mud puddles, mumbles to himself.

### SERGEANT

Lifts tall buildings and walks under them, kicks locomotives off the tracks, catches speeding bullets in his teeth and eats them, freezes water with a single glance, HE IS GOD.

