



The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States

The Ohio Commandery

Newsletter

March 2019

Upcoming Event

Scheduled meeting of the Ohio Commandery.

Date: 13 April 2019
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Program: 12:30 p.m.
Location: 17 Public Square Restaurant
17 Public Square
Medina, Ohio 44256
Dress: Gentlemen please wear jacket
And tie.

A luncheon will be served.

The speaker will be our companion,
LTC Dominic Giordano, USA, Retired

Please feel free to invite quests to join you.

Please send me your reservation

In this Newsletter

Commander's Comments Page 2
Four Chaplains Remembrance Page 3
Why I want to become an Officer Page 6

The Seven Purposes of the MOFW:

1. Honor and perpetuate the names of brave and loyal men and women.
2. Keep in mind the memory of their martial deeds and the victories which they helped gain.
3. Strengthen the ties of fellowship among the Companions of the Order.
4. Foster the cultivation of military and naval science ..
5. Bear true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the National Constitution and laws.
6. Aid in maintaining national honor, union and independence.
7. Foster and encourage the study of American history and particularly of American military history, to the end that the memory of brave men and women may freely be enshrined and that we and our children may learn from the past to formulate sound policies for the present and future.

The Commander's Comments

The Ohio Commandery is comprised of those individuals who provide leadership in many organizations, fulfilling the purposes of the MOWF wherever they serve. One example is the Four Chaplains Remembrance Service on 7 February 2019 (see page 3).

Also, March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day. I know two of our companions are very involved in planning activities for this day, MAJ. Tom Jenks, USA, retired, who is the President of the Veterans



Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio and COL. Dave Taylor, USA, Retired, Commander of American Legion Post 202 in Medina , Ohio.

The main purpose of the MOWF is captured in the first two purposes which are:

1. Honor and perpetuate the names of brave and loyal men and women.
2. Keep in mind the memory of their martial deeds and the victories which they helped gain.

Although that is our focus, I am always impressed in those who are just joining the military and are going to carry on the history of those who served before them. One example is Cadet Hannah Schwegmann, a member of the Kent State University Air Force ROTC program. Cadet Schwegmann granted me permission to publish a one page letter she was asked to write as to “why she wants to be a military officer”. We remember those who served, but reading Cadet Schwegmann’s letter, which is published on page 6, I realize we have outstanding leaders preparing to take the reins.

“Deus et Libertas,”
Donald Bratton

**Ohio MOWF Members Observe
Four Chaplains Remembrance
7 February 2019**



Continued on page 4

Four Chaplains Remembrance
February 7, 2019
Continued from Page 3

Four Chaplains Legacy Remembered

An important component of the MOWF is to keep alive the institutions and memories of our military services in the history of our nation. One important incident that involved four Army lieutenants (Chaplains) was the sinking of the troopship, the USAT Dorchester, sunk by a German U-Boat on February 3, 1943 while the ship steamed to Greenland in the North Atlantic.



MOWF Ohio Commandery Vice-Commander Lights a Candle for Each Fallen Chaplain



On Board were
Four Army

Chaplains along with over 750 US Army and US Army Air Corps personnel and civilian passengers. The chaplains represented four different faiths: Rabbi Alexander Goode (Judaism), Father John Washington (Catholicism), Reverend George Fox (Methodist) and Chaplain Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed Church).

When the ship was hit by a German torpedo, panic broke out on the ship. The men were not able to lower some life boats into the water and the passengers quickly ran out of life vests; the four chaplains calmly walked about helping the soldiers to stay calm and encouraged them to jump into the frigid water to try to save themselves. When life vests were no longer available, the four chaplains took off their own life vests and gave them to others. The ship sank in only eighteen minutes after being hit by the torpedo.



Continued on page 5

***Four Chaplains Remembrance
February 7, 2019
Continued from Page 4***

The men in the water watched the four chaplains on the deck of the ship along with others who did not go into the water. The chaplains gathered them together and led the remaining men in prayer and a hymn. Soldiers in the water reported seeing the chaplains on the severely slanting deck with arms linked together, heads bowed in prayer as they sank beneath the waves. Their bodies were never recovered. One survivor in the cold sea remarked, "It was the finest thing I have ever seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven"

Of the 902 officers, crew, service men and civilian workers on board, 672 went to an unmarked, watery grave. Each of the Four Chaplains was subsequently posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.



American Legion Posts throughout the country hold Four Chaplains' Remembrance Services in February to commemorate the event. The MOFW Ohio Commandery Senior-Vice Commander, Army Colonel (Ret) David Taylor, who is also the Legion Post Commander in Medina, Ohio, holds a Four Chaplains service each year for the Medina community.

The Ohio Commandery Commander, Don Bratton, also a resident of Medina attends with others who are members of the Ohio MOFW.

Taylor notes, "We take the example of the Four Chaplains, each from separate faiths but worshipping one God, as a means to bring our community together. Medina is a nice community with a high density of churches, but no community can escape all the problems in American society. So we dedicate the Four Chaplains' service to recognizing selfless service to one another within our community, within our families and within our hearts"

Why I Want to Become an Officer

Hannah Schwegmann

12 February 2019

If you were asked what your first subconscious memory was when you were a child, what would you first think of? For me, I was three years old, anxiously waiting by the door for my Father to return from Afghanistan after he left shortly after 9/11. My Father was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and his duty was to save lives as a medic on the battlefield. I was young, but I was rooted with a strong foundation of patriotism that was instilled in me as I grew up in a military family. Even though he left quite often, the day my Father returned in 2002 from Afghanistan, was the day I knew in my young heart that I wanted to grow up to make a difference just like him. I can remember seeing him in the crowd of humbled men and women, proudly dressed in desert sand American camouflage and instantly running into his arms. Today, I put on my very own uniform, with the intention to serve my country as officer in the near future and live my dream of instilling freedom to the people of this great country, just like my father did. With that being said, in this paper I lay out my passionate reasoning for why I want to become an officer in the United States Air Force.

When I think of the question of why I want to become an officer, the first couple words that pop into my head are; the passion to lead and serve others. As I have previously stated, my childhood foundation was built around the values of putting others first before myself and to always strive for a purpose that is greater than myself. To me, becoming an officer lines up with the values I have aligned for myself and is a goal that I know will achieve my divine purpose on this Earth. An officer is an individual that is held to a high standard of discipline, leadership, and service. An officer is a leader who is passionate about their people and radiates humility through their service. As I went through the trails of high school, eventually I was faced with choice that ultimately changed my life and my future. I was the varsity captain for my water polo team my senior year; I soon came to realize how much I enjoyed leading my team and experiencing how important my role had an on the comradery of a team. I started to get college offers and recruiters coming to watch me play, but while this was an exciting time, I knew in the back of my mind my passion for leading was meant to be radiated elsewhere. Reverting back to my childhood roots and doing some soul searching, I made the decision that becoming an officer was indeed my divine purpose and that serving my country was my number one dream. Therefore, by growing up being surrounded

Why I Want to Become an Officer

Hannah Schwegmann

12 February 2019

(Continued from page 6)

With this being said, what greater privilege do we have our lives to be able to serve alongside each other to defend our freedom? Every day I wake up with the excitement of knowing that I am one day closer to be able to do that freely and know in my heart that my passion to impact others is becoming a reality for me. An officer is a defender. An officer is a warrior. And an officer is a selfless leader. As John Quincy Adams once said “if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader”. To conclude, I have chosen this path because of the men and women who have rightfully served at their own accord to ensure the freedoms that we have today. To ensure that my life is worth living for the freedom of someone else and that is why I want to become an officer.