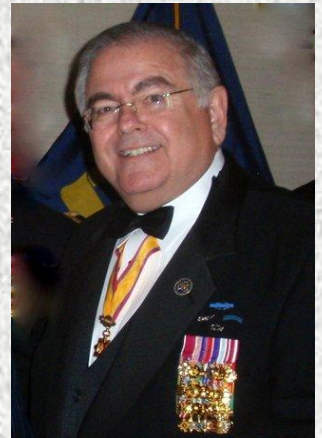


Military Order of Foreign Wars Office of the Commander-General

Dear Companions of the Order,

As most of you know, the Order recently held its 53rd Biennial Convention in Arlington, Virginia, 15 - 17 June 2017. As usual, the Officers and members of the Order pulled together to put on a wonderful Convention on par with most of the others that we have all attended in years past. I believe that this Convention was far more robust in that we had representatives from 21 Commanderies in attendance. This is certainly a record since I joined the Order and I believe it bodes well for the continual well-being of the Order in general. As usual, we all need to do our individual best in recruiting new members to assist in this regard.

I believe the significant highlights of this Convention were: (1) the number of Commanderies participating; (2) the installation and recognition of two Honorary Companions, Mr. Gary Hoitsma from the DC/Virginia Commandery, and MG Arthur Logan from the Hawaii Commandery; (3) the participation in the Convention of two of our own Companions who provided overviews of the books that they wrote thereby demonstrating our commitment as an Order to continue to enforce the principles of the Order; and (4) the installation as Companions of a father and son: Attorney General Edwin Meese, III, 75th Attorney General of the United States, and COL, USA, Retired and his son, Brigadier General Michael Meese, USA, Retired.



As we enter the year 2018, I shall be coordinating with our Senior Vice-Commander General regarding his assumption of Command. When the dates are confirmed, all Commanderies will be notified of the Change of Command Ceremonies which, at this writing, will be held at Fort Myer, Virginia as part of a DC/VA Commandery meeting.

Additionally, you should all know that Commander General Emeritus Wulf Lindenau resigned yesterday from the multiple positions he has held as Secretary General, Secretary of the DC/VA Commandery, and Coordinator of the Organizing Secretaries for establishing new Commanderies. He remains a Companion of the Order.

Orfeo Trombetta Jr

Dr. Orfeo Trombetta Jr, PhD
Commander-General, MOFWUS

SPECIAL EDITION 53RD CONVENTION

by the Hawaii National Delegate – Chaplain, Colonel David Terrinoni

The 53d Bi-Annual Convention of the MOFW was as entertaining as was informative. Anytime a group of military officers gather (let's face it, we're all some flavor of "type-A" personalities), there is bound to be some lively discussion. What I did appreciate was when all the dust settled, mutual respect reigned.

Highlights of the Convention:



For the first time in many, many years, 21 state Commanderies were represented. This is a new record for attendance. Seven of the new commanderies were created by Commander Emeritas MAJ(R) Wulf Lindenau. An additional record is the revitalized Connecticut Commandery which has been inactive since 1925. It's newly appointed Commander, LCDR(R) Christopher St.Victor-dePinho, recruited



more than the minimum number of members (fifteen) needed to recharter within two weeks of his appointment!

Recognition of Honorary Companions 2017:



- Mr. Gary Hoitsma was approved for Honorary (no vote and cannot hold an office) membership for the DC/Virginia Commandery. He used to work for Senator Inhofe, supplies great speakers for the Commandery, and has been a HUGE supporter of the Order.
- Major General Arthur "Joe" Logan, Adjutant General, (HI Commandery) was also recognized as an Honorary member at the Convention. MG Logan was previously approved for Honorary membership on 15 July 2016 via email votes of the National

Officers and National Delegates of the Order.

There was much discussion on Tax filing status with the IRS. Most Commanderies are sub-units of the National Order's Tax ID number, but many Commanderies have not done the paperwork for Tax Exempt status (501C4) and the National Officers stressed the importance of doing, and keeping, the annual paperwork current so as not to be liable to pay back taxes.

The Order does have a few Commanderies who are set-up as a (501C3) organization where donations to these Commanderies may be tax deductible on a person, or organization's Income Tax. There was also much discussion on the financial status of the Order. The National Convention is asking all MOFW members to donate \$25 to the Order (in addition to our annual membership dues) to get the Order on a more solid financial foundation.



The Registrar General asked Commanderies to submit current Companion/Honorary Member contacts in "Excel" format as this is the only format he can use with Companion email addresses. Commanderies were also reminded that they need to supply the National office with a list of active Commandery members and forms by 31 December of each year, and pay "head-tax" to the treasurer by the following April for the preceding year's membership.

Examples of Memorial Certificates for deceased members of the Order were shown at the Convention. The certificates may be signed by the MOFW Commander General, the individual Commandery's Commander, and the Chaplain, to present to the next of kin at a funeral/memorial service. The Convention stressed the importance of each Commandery to have their own Web-Page and asked that photos, with captions, as well as stories be submitted for the national newsletter (which is now on-line).

The Quartermaster General stated that the MOFW polo shirts will be black – but, any colors are allowed. He said that he can make an imprint on any kind of shirt with the MOFW logo – just work the order with him. He also asked that each state should have their own Quartermaster with whom he could work and coordinate MOFW brand products. State Commanders have the authority to establish these positions.

Junior Commander General Tulak's Membership Committee (assigned at the 2015 Convention) developed, and Hawaii Companion Terrinoni presented, a number of recommendations to the Convention to help the Order bring in new members. The National Committee decided that it won't formally enact the membership recommendations, but did allow hard copies to be distributed to each represented Commandery at the Convention.

The National Officers pointed out to the Commanderies that each Commandery can have individual chapters. This could be beneficial in large states and for Hawaii/Europe when it would be difficult for people to travel for hours for Commandery events. The state chapters can hold events/meetings in their area and send reports to the State Commander for State Commandery's records and reports to National.

The Convention recommended Commanderies contact and create a relationship with the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW). The MOWW is very involved, very active, and may be a good partner for the MOFW. Each Commandery was also encouraged to share newsletters with all commanderies. The Order has several Commanderies with exceptional newsletters that can be used as examples.

There was also discussion regarding speakers at MOFW events. As a matter of policy, MOFW is politically neutral and takes NO stand on national and state issues. With this policy, guest speakers are allowed to speak on any topic they wish as MOFW events also uphold a "non-attribution" policy. At the same time, Commandery leadership needs to be careful of not accidentally making a public political statement of endorsement or condemnation of what was presented (stay neutral) – especially if there are members of the news media present – and Commanderies are not allowed to modify these policies.

A suggestion was presented to allow for and develop a "Spouse Auxiliary." The Commander General will assign a study group who will present a recommendation at a future National meeting of the Order. The slate of National Officers was elected without exception and a new position of Deputy Chaplain General was established. A motion was presented to grant the Secretary General the right to have a vote. This motion caused much conversation. After the stated time in our constitution, this change will come to the Commanderies for a vote.



The Convention had several very interesting speakers. One was Companion **Harry Schaub** who served as an intelligence staff officer in the General Staff G-2 of the US Army. He's a lawyer specializing in international law. His book, "Call Your First Witness," culminates a 17-year project regarding WWII Germany's Intelligence Agency (Abwehr) leader, General Erwin Lahousen and how the Abwehr was part of the Resistance against Adolph Hitler.

The second speaker was retired **COL David Taylor** presenting his book, "Our War," on the 5th/46th Infantry Battalion in the Vietnam War 1968-1971.



The Convention Banquet speaker was the **Honorable Edwin Meese III**, 75th Attorney General of the United States of America. Both Edwin Meese III and his son, **BG (USA, Ret.) Edwin Meese IV**, were inducted as Companion Members of the Order in their own right as veteran and retired members of the United States military



All our guest speaker's comments fulfilled the 7th purpose of the Order – “to Foster and encourage the study of American history and particularly of American military history...”. With this purpose in mind, there was a cautioning comment on a growing trend in our country of the danger of “re-writing history.” It was observed that the Baton Rouge, LA mayor was having a statue of Robert E. Lee removed, as was Baltimore, MD (and this conversation happened before the terrible events in Charlottesville, VA) – and the concern of once history is allowed to be re-written, when and how does it stop?

The 54th MOFW Bi-Annual Convention will be held 3-5 May 2019 in Daytona Beach, FL.

Please note that if a Commandery is going to have a Proxy member present at a convention, the State's by-laws have to show that Proxies are allowed and this proof has to be presented before a Convention and before the Proxy representative shows up at the Convention.



From the left is COL Dan McCall, Treasurer-General; MAJ Wulf Lindenau, Commander-General Emeritus/Secretary-General; LTC Chuck Trombetta, Commander-General and LTC Kent Clark, Senior Vice Commander-General.



Swearing-In of our National Officers



Background Music



Head Table



Hon. Ed Meese receives DSM



MAJ Miller & CW3 Hopkins



Rhode Island Delegation



BG D'Agostino & MAJ Lindenau



Below from left to right are:

CPT Donald Bratton, Commander/National Delegate, Ohio Commandery; MAJ Wulf Lindenau, Commander-General Emeritus/Secretary-General; LTC Chuck Trombetta, Commander-General and COL David Taylor, Companion Ohio Commandery.



Col. Dave Terrinoni, National Delegate, Hon. Edwin Meese, 75th AG of the USA,
and LTC Daphany Prewitt, Hawaii State Delegate



From left: MAJ George Miller, Registrar General; CW3 Brad Hopkins, Quarter Master General; COL David H. Russell, Sr., Past – Cmdr General and Fr. Philip G. Salois, Chaplain General.



COL Dan McCall, Treasurer-General, with CPT Donald Bratton Commander Ohio Commandery.

COMMANDERY NEWS

DC& Virginia:

4th Battalion 3d US Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard"



Congratulations to Justin James Rojek, *a Companion of the DC Commandery*, as he is promoted to the rank of Captain by his parents Mr. and Mrs. William Rojek, and assisted by Col. Jason T. Garkey, Regimental Commander, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), by the United States Capitol, US Army Military District of Washington, August 4, 2017. CPT Rojek is joined by 4th Battalion leadership and other special guests at the ceremony.

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Daniel Yeadon.

“The Old Guard” is the Army's official ceremonial unit and escort to the president, and it also provides security for Washington, D.C., in time of national emergency or civil disturbance.



Hawaii:

Hawaii Commandery Recognized for support to the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration

The Hawaii Commandery has been a member of the Hawaii State 50th Vietnam War Planning Committee since its inception in March 2015, and an official 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner since March 2013.



During the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Week from 23-29 May 2017, the Commandery's Commemoration Partner flag was displayed on behalf of all Commemoration Partners, to include the State of Hawaii. MG, Ret. James T. Jackson, Director of the DoD 50th Vietnam War Commemoration, recognized the top half of all 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partners, based on their contributions and number of events conducted since the start of the Commemoration Period. The Hawaii Commandery was the highest-performing Commemorative Partner in the State of Hawaii, out of 38 partners, with a total of 14 officially-recognized events when the selection process was completed in May 2017.

Mahalo to all Commandery Volunteers who contributed over the last four years to earn this distinction!



DoD Commemoration Certificate to the Hawaii Commandery as the top-performing 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner in the State of Hawaii

New Jersey:

The 53rd Convention of the Military Order of Foreign Wars of The United States was held 15-17 June 2017 at the Holiday Inn, National Airport/Crystal City, 2650 Jefferson-Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Our Commandery was represented by Doug Lloyd, who attended for all three days of the Convention. The first formal activity was a National Council Meeting that convened the night of the 15th. Rules of the Convention and the awarding of travel fees were discussed and voted on. Approval of an Honorary Membership for Major General A.J. Hogan of the Hawaii Commandery was announced, and a vote was taken to approve the re-establishment of the Connecticut Commandery. The Business Meeting was opened on the morning of 16 June by MOFW Commander-General Orfeo “Chuck” Trombetta. After opening formalities, the roll call determined that 18 of the 21 operational Commanderies were in attendance, easily meeting the quorum requirement. After that, Special Committees were appointed, with the NJ Delegate being assigned to the Reports Committee. The Secretary-General read the minutes of the last Convention, and the report of the National Council, then the National Officers made their reports to the membership. The afternoon of the 16th was dedicated to a special presentation by Pennsylvania Commandery member Harry Schaub about his book “*Call Your First Witness*”, an account of the WWII Nuremburg Trials. The final day commenced with a continuation of the Business Meeting. State Commandery Delegates gave their reports, followed by the reports from the Special Committees. In the New Business phase of the meeting, a discussion regarding the update of the *MOFW Strategic Plan* and the *Organization and Functions Manual* took place, as well as the adoption of a non-attribution policy for guest speakers.



Companion Lt. Col Doug Lloyd pictured with former Attorney General Edwin Meese III

New York:

The United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York

Academic Awards Convocation, June 16, 2017



The National Commandery of The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States Award recognizing his Meritorious Service Award for Best Leadership Essay in Navy Leadership Course was presented to Midshipman Larry Lucian Allgood of Toccoa, Georgia by Companion of the Order, Historian and Archivist of the New York Commandery, Donald F. MacIver, Jr. The award was signified by an engraved QUAD blue-faced watch with steel bracelet and a framed MOFW Certificate of Recognition for “Leadership, Loyalty, and Devotion to Duty”.



After graduation now Second Lieutenant Allgood of the United States Air Force is headed for flight training.

United States Military Academy at West Point, New York

Superintendent's Awards Convocation, May 25, 2017

At the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York Superintendent's Awards Convocation. May 25, 2017, The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States Award, established in 1929, was awarded for Excellence in Leadership and Management Studies to Cadet Kyle C. D. Wolffe. The beautiful framed and mounted Cadet Saber was presented by Companion of the Order, Historian and Archivist of the New York Commandery, Donald F. MacIver, Jr., and accompanied by a framed MOFW Certificate of Recognition for “Leadership, Loyalty, and Devotion to Duty”.



Cadet Kyle Wolffe, a native of Trinidad and Tobago moved to the United States and enlisted in the United States Army at age 17. He completed Engineer Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Paratroop and Air Assault Training and was assigned to the Tenth Mountain Division. He realized his dream of attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point through his own perseverance and his superiors' recognition of his leadership skills while on active duty.

At the Awards Convocation, Cadet Wolfe also received Distinguished Graduate Awards for his Top 15% and Top 5% ranking in the Class of 2017 which recognized scholarship, athletics, and leadership. He graduated 22nd in his class with a GPA of over 3.67. Second Lieutenant Wolfe's future career includes Advanced Engineering Training beginning this August and Army Ranger School beginning in January 2018. His ultimate goal is to serve with the Army Special Forces.

**** The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina:***



General Charles P. Summerall Award for 2017

The General Charles P. Summerall Award for 2017 was presented at The Citadel's Spring Awards Convocation on 4 May to Cadet Captain Devin W. Oliver. Presenting the award on behalf of MOFWUS was LTC J. Whit Jones, Executive Officer of the Army ROTC Palmetto Battalion.

The award is given annually by MOFWUS to a Senior Cadet in good academic and disciplinary standing who has excelled in the ROTC program, leadership, and the study of military history, and who has demonstrated proactive qualities and will be commissioned in the U.S. Armed Forces upon graduation. It consists of a large framed panoramic print of the Citadel campus, with accompanying certificate, and is named in honor of General Charles Pelot Summerall, U.S. Army, who fought in World War I, served as the Army Chief of Staff between 1926 and 1930, was President of The Citadel between 1931 and 1953, and was an early distinguished Companion of MOFWUS.

While attending The Citadel on a 4-year National ROTC Scholarship, Cadet Oliver was named to the Dean's List seven times, earned Gold Stars, was named to the President's and Commandant's Lists, was a member of the elite Summerall Guards, and served as both Regimental Sergeant Major and Oscar Company Commander. MOFWUS commends Cadet Oliver on his outstanding leadership and academic achievements, and sincerely wishes him every success in his military career and future endeavors.

MOFWUS is grateful to Ms. Kasee Hucks of The Citadel's Office of the Commandant for her kind assistance in the coordination of this award.

Submitted by Companion Chris Chapman, Georgia Commandery

Best regards,
Rick Hauck