



The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States

The Ohio Commandery

Newsletter

November 2019

HAPPY VETERANS DAY!

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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

Monday, 11 November 2019, we celebrate Veterans Day, a day we recognize our Veterans for what they have done for our country. Veterans should not only be recognized for what they have done for our country, but be celebrated for being an asset by leading in our communities, organizations and businesses. I know you will be at various events observing this important day. On 8 November 2019, I was honored to speak at the Annual Veterans Breakfast hosted by the Department of Military Science and Leadership at the University of Akron.



On 19 October 2019, the Commandery had its Fall meeting. A summary by Senior Vice Commander, COL (ret.) Dave Taylor of the presentation of Dr. Robert Kraus, COL, USAF, retired is on page three. I also presented the Certificate of Companionship to Captain, USN, Retired, Bill Tate at the meeting.

I had the opportunity to travel to Louisville, Kentucky to present MOFW Medals to Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol. Companion Matt Wiseman, Second Lieutenant, CAP, was present. Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Brent S. Reynolds was awarded the Silver Medal for Academic achievement. Cadet Second Lieutenant Natalie L. Parker was awarded the Bronze Medal for Leadership achievement. Pictures of the presentation are on pages nine and ten.

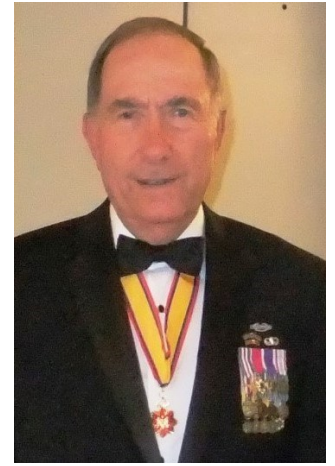
The companions of the Ohio Commandery are involved in many organizations and they help advance the seven purposes of the MOFW. I would like to introduce our companions in our newsletter starting with Companion Major (ret) Tom Jenks and CAPT (ret) Bill Tate.

Deus et Libertas,”
Donald Bratton

**19 October 2019 Ohio Commandery Meeting
Medina, Ohio**

Guest Speaker: Colonel (USAF-Ret) Robert Kraus

Presentation: “Aim High, Aim Higher— Building the Future Air Force”



Summary by: COL (USA-Ret) Dave Taylor
Senior Vice Commander

The MOFW Ohio Commandery held its October 19 fall meeting in northeast Ohio at the Medina County Veterans Memorial Hall in Medina, Ohio.



Pictured above are some of the MOFW attendees discussing shared experiences prior to the MOFW October 19 lunch and presentation.

Pictured above from left to right are CAPT, USN, Ret, Bill Tate; Don Bratton; BG USA, Ret. Tom Luczynski; MG, USA, Ret, Dan Hahn; CAPT, USN, Ret, Mike Dash (back to camera); LTC, USA, Ret, Dominic Giordano; guest speaker COL, USAF, Ret, Robert Kraus.

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“Aim High, Aim Higher—Building the Future Air Force”
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The guest speaker was recently retired US Air Force Colonel (and Air Force Academy graduate) Robert J. Kraus. Kraus was originally from Medina, Ohio.

Colonel Kraus’s presentation gave a remarkable overview of the present and future Air Force given his unique assignments and experiences. In his recent retirement Kraus has secured a professorship as the Associate Dean for Flight and Operations in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering at Kent State University.

Prior to his Air Force retirement in July 2019, he was head of Operations and Coordination Division, Collaborations Support Office, NATO Science and Technology Organization (S&T), where he oversaw planning, coordination and execution of the NATO Collaborative S&T Program of Work.



Colonel (Ret) Robert Kraus is shown presenting a fascinating discussion on Air Force technologies that will shape the future role of the US Air Force.

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“Aim High, Aim Higher—Building the Future Air Force”
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Prior to this, Colonel Kraus served as the Chief Scientist at the US Air Force Academy and oversaw the basic science investments of the US Air Force. Colonel Kraus is a command pilot and experimental test pilot with over 3,000 hours in 32 aircraft and is a recipient of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

He holds a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree and commission from the US Air force Academy in 1991.

Colonel Kraus gave his Ohio MOFW audience a background on the testing of various aircraft including the ubiquitous C-130 used for everything from hauling cargo and troops to its special configuration for special operations missions. The research he participated in included how to detect the type of heat-seeking missile attempting to down the aircraft that would determine the suppression system the C-130 would release from the aircraft to thwart the attack. His varied flying experience also included flying specially configured aircraft into category 5 hurricanes.

Colonel Kraus’s extensive assignments in Air Force Research were to discover, shape and champion the basic science that will profoundly impact the future Air Force, including areas such as stealth technologies and “smart bombs” (laser & GPS guided). It is not well understood that the Air Force has received more money for scientific research than any other university in the world.

Many things that Americans use today were influenced by Air Force research (the computer “mouse” came out of Air Force Technology). The modern technology developed by the Air Force is so extensive that bombers now perform close air support previously reserved for jet fighters.

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“Aim High, Aim Higher—Building the Future Air Force”
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Bombs launched from bombers at high altitudes have become smaller and smaller and extremely accurate to kill the enemy but avoid civilian casualties. Kraus noted, “specially configured smart bombs can destroy one part of a house when the target is located, leaving the rest of the dwelling relatively intact”

Kraus also noted that Air Force-funded research has led to 77 Nobel Laurates in the past 64 years. Current and future research is now looking at automated vehicles for the Army and much more sophisticated drone aircraft. That research also includes electro-magnetic pulsing against enemy drones and sensors and electronics technologies that look at passive radar systems.

The MOFW Ohio Commandery once again had an excellent meeting with a sophisticated discussion of the present and future American military that continues to protect America’s freedom.

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19 October 2019 Ohio Commandery Meeting
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Captain Bill Tate, USN, Retired



Commander Don Bratton presented Captain, USN, retired, Bill Tate his Certificate of Companionship at the Fall Meeting. We are glad to have CAPT. Tate as a companion of the MOFW and the Ohio Commandery.

Captain, USN, Retired, Bill Tate was drafted in 1969 during the Vietnam era and served with the Second Infantry Division on the Korean Demilitarized Zone. He was commissioned through Navy OCS in 1978. At sea, Captain Tate served in both Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. Upon completion of his tours at sea, Captain Tate was an officer recruiter and Officer Programs Officer at Navy Recruiting District, Washington, D.C.

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Captain Bill Tate, USN, Retired
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In 1987, he transitioned to the Selected Reserve where he had many and varied assignments. He retired from the Navy in 2008. During his reserve service he worked for Raytheon in marketing and engineering services for the Navy Standard Missile-2 Program and then as a project manager for Battelle, from which he retired in in 2013.

Captain Tate is a member of the Military Officers Association of America and has belonged to the MOAA Central Ohio Chapter since 2013. He served as the Chapter's Scholarship Chair and Programs Director, then as President for 2016 and 2017 during which time the Chapter attained MOAA's 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for both years.

He is active in Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7883 in Westerville. He served as Commander from 2016 to 2019, during which time Post 7883 attained VFW All-State and All-American status. He is President of the Association of the United States Navy, Columbus OH Chapter.

He is a long-term member of Toastmasters in which he has achieved the designation of Distinguished Toastmaster. He has held a number of leadership roles in Toastmasters and was named its District 40 Area Governor of the Year for 2014-2015. He is currently president of the Battelle Toastmasters Club.

CAPT Tate was recently sworn into the Sons of the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin Chapter in Columbus. He has an avid interest in military history and gives talks on topics in that field. He his wife Patty live in Westerville.

Silver Medal Awarded to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Brent S. Reynolds

Commander Don Bratton presented the Silver Medal for Academic Achievement to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Brent S. Reynolds, Squadron 039, Civil Air Patrol, Louisville, Kentucky.



Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Brent S. Reynolds, his parents
and Commander Don Bratton

Bronze Medal Awarded to Cadet Second Lieutenant Natalie L. Parker

In the picture on the right, Commander Don Bratton presents the Bronze Medal for Leadership Achievement to Cadet Second Lieutenant Natalie L. Parker, Squadron 039, Civil Air Patrol, Louisville, Kentucky.

The picture below from the left to right is Lt. Debbie Parker, mother of cadet 2Lt. Parker and Instructor, Cadet 2Lt. Natalie Parker and Commander Don Bratton.





Thomas J. Jenks
Major U. S. Army (Ret.)

Tom was born and raised in Sanford, Michigan. He earned his BS degree in Mathematics while enrolled in the ROTC program at Central Michigan University (CMU), where he was commissioned a 2LT in the Army Ordnance Corps in 1973. As a Lieutenant at the Tank-Automotive Command, Main Battle Tank Program Management Office, Warren, Michigan he completed his Master's in Business Administration in CMU's off-campus program.

As a dual tracked officer, he had acquisition management assignments at TACOM, McDonnell-Douglas Astronautics, Huntington Beach, CA and Allied Signal Aerospace, Torrance, CA. His Tank and Ground Mobility assignments include: Shop Officer 520th Maintenance Company, Korea; A Company Commander, 707th Maintenance Battalion, 7th ID, Ft. Ord, CA; Executive Officer (XO) 8th Maintenance Battalion, Hanau, Germany; Commander European Redistribution Facility, Hanau, GE and Commander 3rd Armored Division Materiel Management Center, Germany and Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He had a nominative assignment as Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His final assignment was as an advisor to the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Division as they were transitioning from an Infantry Division to an Armored Division.

Following his twenty-year Army career, Maj. Jenks moved to Cleveland where he taught Army Junior ROTC for another twenty years, mostly at Cleveland's Collinwood High School, but with two years at Minnesota Transitions Charter School, Minneapolis, MN and three years at Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids, MI. While teaching at Collinwood he was recognized in the "Who's Who of American Teachers".

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Thomas J. Jenks
Major U. S. Army (Ret.)
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Foster Cultivation of Military science: He taught Army ROTC 4 years at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Taught Army Junior ROTC for 20 years with the mission statement: “Motivate young people to be better Citizens”

He has coordinated the Cleveland Flag Day/Army Birthday/Naturalization ceremony and the Cleveland Veterans Day Ceremony for the past 3 years.

He has spoken at numerous Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, most recently as keynote speaker for the 2019 Euclid Memorial Day Ceremony.

Maj. Jenks has served as:

Secretary/Treasurer Ohio Council of Chapters MOAA 1997-1999, active in MOAA’s successful effort to have Military retirement exempt from Ohio income tax.

President of the Cleveland Chapter MOAA, 4 years; 2001-2003 and 2012-2014; as chapter member he was instrumental in establishing a JROTC Scholarship program in 1997 and is still on the scholarship board

President Cleveland Chapter AUSA 2003-2005

President Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County, currently in third term

Current Vice President Ohio Council of Chapters MOAA

Current Trustee: Euclid Veterans Association

Current Mentor Cuyahoga Veterans Treatment Court

He was inducted into the Central Michigan University ROTC Hall of Fame in 2012

He and his wife Sue have been married 41 years and reside in Euclid.