



An Official Publication of the Texas Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States

**STATE OF THE COMMANDERY**

Our order continues to grow and is now the **FOURTH LARGEST** Commandery chartered. While many of the Commanderies are losing members to death and attrition, we have been able to increase in size from 44 when we were chartered to 51 members whose dues are paid through the end of 2019. We have an additional 24 members that did pay their dues in 2018 but have not yet paid the 2019 dues. If you know of prospective new members that qualify to join us, please reach out to them and encourage them to become part of our Order. I will again reach out to the 24 members that have not yet paid their past dues and try and reactivate them.



**ACTIVITIES / INVOLVEMENTS**

Thus far this year we have had several events and activities that have represented the Texas MOFW. In May we presented three awards to outstanding students at the Texas A&M awards banquet. June was the Biennial Convention which was held in Orlando. We were represented by two Companions that were able to attend and vote on the business of the National Order. Challenge Coin fund raising continues to be a way to not only put “jingle in your pockets” but also “coins” into the TX Commandery treasury. The more we can grow our order and our bank

account balance, the more we will be able to do in the area of Commandery events and worthwhile projects outside our organization. We have a very limited number of 2018 Texas Commandery coins remaining as well as a dwindling supply of 2019 coins on hand. Both coins measure 1 3/4”. Order yours NOW at the great price of \$10 each – shipping and handling INCLUDED!!



Please let us know your thoughts on having a “gathering” in the North part of the state (Dallas/Ft. Worth) as well as the South (Austin/San Antonio) early in 2020. This will be a great chance to meet, visit and renew acquaintances with Texas Commandery members and view and purchase Commandery items from the Quartermaster! If you would like to be involved in planning and hosting of one of these events, please reach out to Brian Dumble in the North, [brian.dumble@gmail.com](mailto:brian.dumble@gmail.com) or Tom Mohler in the South, [thomas.mohler@medpro.com](mailto:thomas.mohler@medpro.com).

In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable. *Dwight D Eisenhower*

No man is fit to command another that cannot command himself. *William Penn*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans' service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the 'Uniform Monday Holiday Act' ensured three-day weekends for federal employees. Under the bill, as enacted, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on November 11.

### ANNUAL MEMBER'S DUES ARE ..... **DUE NOW**

Companions located within the U.S., please mail your check for \$35. to:

MOFW-Texas Commandery  
2121 Lohman's Crossing, Suite 504-238  
Lakeway, TX 78734

## "MEMBER OF NOTE"

Pictured below, Edwin Meese III, became a member of the MOFW in 2017 at the Biennial National Convention in Washington D.C.,



and on October 2nd of this year President Trump awarded Companion Meese with the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* for his distinguished leadership and legal guidance while serving as Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan. Former Attorney General and MOFW Companion Meese was quoted, "I am greatly honored to receive such recognition from President Trump. For many years, I had the privilege of serving the country under President Ronald Reagan. "During that time and throughout my life and career, my aim has been to remain committed to the Constitution, the rule of law and the conservative American values that have made America 'the shining city upon a hill.'"



## THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists.

At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain and providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621 be set aside as a day of thanks for and by the colonists that they were still alive.

These Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America, gave thanks to God for His provision for them in helping them find 20 acres of cleared land, for the fact that there were no hostile Indians in that area, for their newfound religious freedom, and for God's provision of an interpreter to the Indians in Squanto. Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 friendly Indians (who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison), prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving in America has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

As November 28, 2019 approaches, let us remember to be thankful for the bounty we enjoy, our freedom of religion, the Second Amendment, our loving families, and our extended military family. To me, Thanksgiving does not cease beyond the third Thursday in November, but it continues into an everyday lifestyle. We should see the value behind being thankful for what we already have, tangible or intrinsic, and celebrate that with the important people surrounding you.

Thanksgiving can be a time to reflect and respond to the blessings that God has provided us. I am thankful to have a family that loves me dearly and I am always thankful to have a roof over my head and food on our table. Be intentional with your time with your family this Thanksgiving. It is often difficult to find a way to get everyone in the same place at the same time, so don't take it for-granted.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

## 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.



"I will never quit. My nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my enemies and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight."  
*Marcus Luttrell*

"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."  
*Winston S. Churchill*

## 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE ..... DUE

For the convenience of our members in Canada and Great Britain, NOW you can renew using the convenience of PayPal and get your 2020 Member Cards into your hands in a timelier manner. Cut and paste or copy this link into your browser if you are unfamiliar with the process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yliWoA35sxl>

Here's how to submit your 2020 Membership Fee payment:

- ◆ Visit [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com)
- ◆ Click **Send & Request** at the top of the page.
- ◆ Select: **Send to friends and family in the US.**
- ◆ Enter [thomas.mohler@medpro.com](mailto:thomas.mohler@medpro.com) as the payee.
- ◆ Enter the amount of **\$35.00** (*in US dollars if you are paying from outside the USA*),
- ◆ Then click **Continue.**
- ◆ Review and confirm the information on the screen and click **Send Money Now.**
- ◆ PayPal sends an email message to the Texas Commandery to let us know that you have sent us funds. It's really **THAT** easy!!



## THE FLAG DRAPED CASKET

Have you ever noticed that the Honor Guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States Flag..... thirteen times? You may have thought that it symbolized the original Thirteen Colonies, but we learn something new everyday.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> fold** The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> fold** signifies our belief in eternal life.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> fold** is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> fold** exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> fold** is an acknowledgment to our country,

for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

**The 6<sup>th</sup> fold** is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

**The 9<sup>th</sup> fold** is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

**The 10<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> fold**, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> fold**, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The last fold**, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "**In God We Trust.**"



"The U.S. Military is us. There is no finer representation of a country than the people that it sends into the field to fight for it. The people who wear the uniform and carry rifles into combat are kids, and our job is to support them, because they're protecting us."  
*Tom Clancy*

It is a proud privilege to be a soldier - a good soldier [with] discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self confidence born of demonstrated ability.  
*George S. Patton, Jr.*

"After I was discharged from the military, it was difficult trying to become a civilian."  
*Chris Kyle*