



Forged under Fire

# Dallas Military Order News



Volume 30, No. 4

**Best Large Chapter in the Nation**

October 2021



Each year the Dallas Chapter sponsors between 60-70 outstanding high school students to attend one of the four Youth Leadership Conferences held in Texas and Oklahoma. Each Conference selects between 6-8 students who have excelled within their "teams" or workgroups and then further selects one individual who is recognized as the **Number One** participant at that Conference. The Dallas Chapter reaches out to those who were sponsored by our chapter and presents them with a Bronze Patrick Henry medal and Citation as soon as they return to classes in the Fall. **Karter Stanton**, this year's Number One, her parents, and her Allen High School Class Counselor will be our Guests at this month's Luncheon.

## This Month's Speaker, October 2021

### **"Intelligence Operations in the Middle East"**

LTC Reyno Arredondo is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned as a Military Intelligence officer. During his four years at West Point, Reyno was a varsity wrestler and is a member of the Texas Wrestling Hall of Fame.



He specialized in counter intelligence, interrogations, source operations, and communications intelligence.

He is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College; has a Master's degree from UT Austin; and is currently working on a doctorate from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

He served multiple tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan and is currently the G-2 (Intelligence Officer) of the 13<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Fort Hood, Texas.

Reyno will share with us the situations that he faced while gathering actionable intelligence on hostile elements in the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

## Commander's Comments

### **The Commander's Report**

Companions, our chapter is involved with multiple upcoming events. We still have two staff vacancies and many opportunities to serve in a variety of areas.

If you would like to serve on the staff or on one of our committees, please call me at: **817.368.7799**, or contact any staff member. Please visit our website for updated information – [www.dallasmoww.org](http://www.dallasmoww.org).

On 05 OCT 21, our Dallas Chapter MOWW meeting speaker will be LTC Reyno Arredondo, USA (Ret), We look forward to seeing you! Bring a friend.

Other upcoming military events include: the **North Texas Military Ball** (16 OCT), **Sky Ball** (4 NOV), **Veterans Day** (11 NOV), our **Christmas Banquet** (07 DEC) and **Wreaths Across America** (17 DEC).

Thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to our chapter! I am extremely proud to serve as your Chapter Commander.

*Without your dedication and help, our chapter's success would not happen!*

*Michael W. Menefee  
LtCol USMCR (Ret)  
Commander, Dallas Chapter MOWW*

Patriotic Education

### The Future is in Good Hands

Dallas Companion (and current Commander of the Texas Department of Region 8) LT Chuck Daniels presented an MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry to Ms. Isabella Bourtin, one of the top students at this year's Youth Leadership Conference at Texas A&M University in College Station. Isabella is a Senior at Heritage High School in Fredericksburg. She was sponsored by the **Hill Country** Chapter. She has already been invited to return in 2022 as a Counselor, and immediately accepted.



LT Chuck Daniels and Isabella Bourtin

During our October Luncheon, the Chapter will present a Bronze Patrick Henry to Karter Stanton, a Senior at Allen HS, who was chosen as the *Number One Student* at the Texas A&M Youth Leadership Conference. Karter was sponsored by the Dallas Chapter. He will be accompanied by his parents, Mike and Karen Stanton, and his High School Counselor, Ms. Lauren Cammack.

National Security

### Quarterly National Security Briefings

The *second* briefing in the 4-part series was held on **September 12**, at the Heritage Ranch Country Club and drew an even larger crowd than the first.

Click [HERE](#) to view a video of the September National Security Briefing (No. 2 in the Series)

A former CIA Station Chief and a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia presented a superlative overview of the State of Affairs in the Middle East today, as seen by two gentlemen who worked at the highest levels of our government, promulgating National Security policies.



The *third* briefing in the 4-part series will be held on **December 4**. The topic will be **Europe and Russia**.

Bring your *Significant Other*. The September briefing drew a sizeable crowd of our distaff better halves.

Last Month's Speaker, September 2021

### Operation Renewed Strength

It was hard to tell which one was a bigger hit at our September Luncheon - our Guest Speaker, Jason Morgan, or his best friend, companion, and service dog, Rue. Both were sensational.

Jason served in combat with the US Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group and later was attached to the elite 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (*The Night Stalkers*).



Jason Morgan & Rue

With Rue at his side, Jason told his incredible story of years enduring multiple surgeries, unbearable chronic pain, and addiction to pain killing drugs. He was somehow, simultaneously, wryly humorous, emotionally moving, and courageously inspirational.

In keeping with our Preamble

### Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better

- 5 Oct 21 – Reyno Arredondo, CEO, T<sup>3</sup>rust Consulting  
"Boots on the Ground in Afghanistan"
- 2 Nov 21 – Jeremy Mahugh, former Navy SEAL  
"Working to End Human Trafficking"
- 7 Dec 21 – Annual Dallas Christmas Banquet  
"Remembering Pearl Harbor"
- 4 Jan 22 – CAPT Marc Liebman, US Navy (Ret)  
"Evacuation of Non-Combatants from Kabul"
- 1 Feb 22 – Not Yet Confirmed
- 1 Mar 22 – Not Yet Confirmed

Joint Services Military "Sky Ball"

### Largest Military Event in North Texas

**Sky Ball** is BACK! You will not want to miss the most Patriotic weekend in North Texas, as *Sky Ball* kicks off a jam-packed weekend of military appreciation (**4 NOVEMBER**).

Join the Airpower Foundation and 15 Medal of Honor Recipients as we come together in celebration.



Click [HERE](#) for tickets or more information.

## Law and Order

### Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 25 Sep 21, Dallas Police Sr. Corporal **Anastasia Stevens** (#7182), received our Outstanding Service Citation for her selection as DPD's **Officer of the Month**. She is currently assigned to the Uniform Crime Reporting Division, where she is the unit trainer. Her natural leadership ability mixed with her superb subject matter expertise resulted in the UCR team successfully submitting crime statistics for an entire year in less than 6 weeks. She went far beyond expectations and much of the credit the UCR receives reflects her admirable leadership skills. She is an outstanding example of why the Dallas Police Department is one of the Finest in the Nation.



Sr. CPL Anastasia Stevens received the Citation from LT Chuck Daniels

## Companions Down

### Richard Lethe, Captain, USAF (1927-2021)

Richard (Dick) Lethe was born in San Francisco, CA, played baseball and tennis in high school and college, and graduated from USC, in 1949.

When the Korean War started, in 1950, Dick enlisted in the USAF and flew 27 combat missions. He was a test pilot, instructor pilot, and instrument examiner for the 58th Interceptor Squadron, at Otis AFB, MA.

Dick was a Commander of Dallas Chapter of the Jewish War Veterans. He [joined the Dallas Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars in 2004](#) and was a staunch supporter of the Chapter and [MOWW](#).

### James Patterson, Captain, USAAF (1922-2021)

We bid farewell to B-29 Bomber pilot, Jim Patterson, in our January 2021 edition of the Chapter Newsletter.

Since then, we have received a Citation from National Headquarters, congratulating Jim on his 100th birthday (*he missed it by two months*). We will present the award to his family during our October Luncheon.

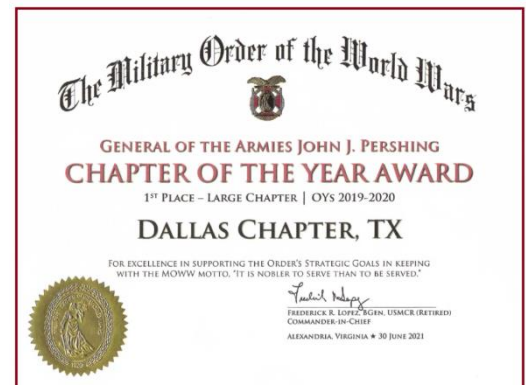


## Dallas Does it again

### 15<sup>th</sup> Time in 17 Years

For those who missed the announcement emblazoned across the banner on **Page One** of this month (and last month's) Chapter Newsletter, I have been asked to share the news more succinctly.

During the Banquet that concluded the 2021 MOWW National Convention in August, your Dallas Chapter was, once again, identified as the winner of the General of the Armies John J. Pershing Award, Best Large Chapter in the Nation. Take a bow Companions. You did it the hard way; you earned it.



## Awards & Decorations

### For Exceptional Service

LTC Michael Christians has been selected to receive a National Citation for Exceptional Service to the Dallas Chapter. The award will be presented during our October Luncheon.

Michael was the Chairman of the phenomenally successful National Convention held in Dallas, that attracted over 300 participants from more than 50 MOWW Chapters, nationwide.

As a nod to his alma mater (USMA, Class of 1989), Michael and his fellow classmates named their fledgling financial company: Black Knight Wealth Management.

The following year, Mike and his associates donated \$1,000 to sponsor students at one of the Youth Leadership Conferences conducted by the Dallas Chapter.

Mike celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Perpetual Companion of the Military Order.

And, Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mike!



Mike Christians (right) presented a **giant** check to support our YLC programs.

# Know Your Companions

(Inductions are accelerating following *Coronavirus Interruptus*)

## Christopher Cooper, LCDR, US Navy (Ret)

Chris Cooper was born in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from Florida A&M University in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and received a commission as an Ensign in the US Navy.



He later earned an MA degree from the US Naval War College in Newport, RI and an MS degree from the US

Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA.

Upon completion of training in the SH-60B (*Blackhawk*), he reported to Helicopter Squadron Light (HSL44) (*Swamp Foxes*) aboard the USS PETERSON (DD969) in the Mediterranean Sea following the events of September 11, 2001. He also deployed aboard the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG58) in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Chris served in the Pentagon as an Action Officer working Plans and Force Management for the US Navy Combatant Commands, worldwide. Later assigned to the United Nations Command, in Seoul, South Korea, he was Chief of Current Operations for the UN Command, US/ROK Combined Forces Command, and US Forces Korea.

He returned to sea duty aboard the USS TARAWA (LHA1) as the Aircraft Handling Officer and Hangar Deck Officer. His last command prior to retirement was the Navy School of Aviation Safety where he audited the Resource Management programs for all 43 of the Navy's Helicopter Squadrons.

Upon completion of his twenty-year career in the Navy, Chris joined the American Exchange Project (AEP) in the spring of 2021, as its Chief of Staff. He later worked with Veterans and the spouses of Veterans during their search for employment through Roger Staubach's nonprofit organization, *Allies In Service*.

Chris currently resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife and three children and enjoys helping local Veteran nonprofit organizations and spending his free time watching his children compete in sporting events.

## Janet Wright Blair, American Red Cross

Katherine Blair is a Hereditary Perpetual. She never served in the military, but both of her parents served during World War II. Katherine requested that we pay tribute to her Mother by posting her Mother's biography, rather than her own.



Janet Wright Blair was born on 11 Nov 1918, in Leominster, Massachusetts. She graduated from Vassar College in 1941,

with a major in German. After Vassar, she enrolled in the American Red Cross and was deployed to the European Theatre and attached to Gen. George Patton's Third Army. World War II was the defining time of her life. As a "Doughnut Dolly", she cheerfully engaged with everyone from Privates to Generals.

She returned from the War and enrolled in a secretarial school in New York City. Soon thereafter, she married LTC (Dr) Drury Shelton Blair, MD, a veteran of the war. The following year, they moved to Dallas, TX, where her husband began his practice.

She and her husband, Shelton, were members of the Brookhaven Country Club, where she became the club Golf Champion in 1977, 1978, and 1980. At the age of 72, She was 1991 Super Senior champion. In her later years, she was selected by the Professional Golf Association to be a PGA Rules Marshall.

She established a wholly owned business renting walkie talkies to golf tournaments in Dallas. When Dallas boomed during the 1980's, her business did likewise.

Janet was a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Association of Colonial Dames, and the Mayflower Society.

In 2004, she traveled back to France for the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Europe, where she was treated as a hero.

Janet's oldest daughter, *Katherine*, is single. She has a son, a 3-year-old grandson, and a 1-year-old granddaughter. Katherine lives in Dallas, Texas.

# Debt, Dollars, and Defense

## National Security issues

### DEBT, DEFICITS, AND INFLATION

By LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

How our nation handles its budgets, debt, and inflation are national security concerns. Our Congress, Executive, and Federal Reserve agency share in the direction of our budgets, deficits, and inflation. Each of these issues should concern every American citizen. Most citizens do not understand that our government does not have surplus funds, nor how our government is funded.

There are three primary ways government secures funds. The first is **taxation**. Every working age adult in America should help pay for the cost of our government, but unfortunately, that is not the case. Our country uses what is euphemistically called a “*graduated*” income tax scale. It is estimated that 61% of US households (100 million) do not pay federal income taxes (FIT), and the top 5% pay over **70%** of the FIT. Illegal aliens, refugees, low-income workers, and welfare recipients do not contribute to National Defense, Social Security, VA benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, or federal pensions. These federal programs make up most of the US federal budget, and except for national defense, are entitlements. Today, the US admits over one million legal immigrants per year. According to government and university data, there are now an estimated 36.75 million *illegals* in our country, and over 200,000 entered illegally in just the last month.

The second way our government secures funds is through **borrowing**. The US issues debt in the form of Treasury bills, bonds, and notes. Bond durations are 30-10 years; notes are 1-10 years; and Treasury bills are 90 days – 1 year. Longer term debt receives higher yields, while shorter term durations pay less yield. Different forms of debt have diverse

denominations and are sold in large blocks (millions of dollars). Corporations, individuals, and foreign Governments, buy these debt instruments which are backed by the “full faith and credit of the United States.” Japan and China are the largest borrowers of US debt.

The third way the US government secures funding is through **printing currency**. Most US currency in circulation today was printed in the last six months. Some currency is replaced because of wear, but our government also prints money to increase money supply. This can cause inflation.

**Inflation** can occur when government prints more money than it replaces. When the value of the dollar is reduced, the currency is devalued, and the cost of goods rise. Inflation also occurs when supplies of commodities (e.g., petroleum) are reduced.

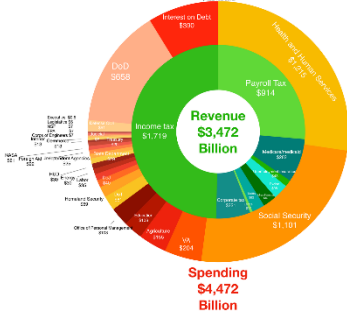
If demand remains constant or rises, then prices rise.

All goods and services shipped by vehicles dependent on oil, gasoline, diesel, or natural gas will incur price increases. Inflation is effectively a tax, and is at a 30-year high, hurting those citizens who have the least disposable income.

The Federal Debt is the amount of money the federal government owes. When spending exceeds a budget, Deficits occur. As federal entitlement spending increases, an ever-larger part of the federal budget is fixed, so there is less discretionary spending opportunity. Today, our federal debt is 100% of our Gross National Product.

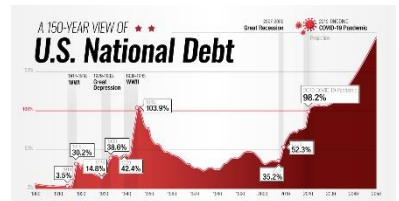
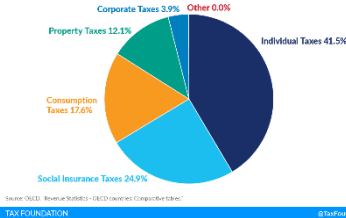
Debt limits affect future spending levels and effectively raise the country’s credit card balance. Future budgets and spending affect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federal pensions, VA benefits, military budgets, and potentially the strength of the US dollar. Maintaining the value of the US dollar is critical to the future of the US economy and to world economic stability.

Federal Spending and Revenue



Individual Taxes Are the Most Important Tax Revenue Source for the United States

Sources of Tax Revenue in the United States, 2019



Information for this article was gathered from Open Sources - media, published articles, websites, and general knowledge of the author. There is no classified information in this article, and no known quotations from any source. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or positions of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) or the Dallas Chapter of MOWW.

Dress Blies and tennis shoes

### 56th Annual North Texas Military Ball

For the first time in over a decade, the annual North Texas Military Ball will be held in a new venue. Military personnel of all ranks, all services, active duty, Reserves, and National Guard will attend.



This year's formal Gala will be held on Saturday, **16 October**, from 1700 hrs until 2230 hrs (5:00 to 10:30 p.m. for you civilians) in the Exhibition Hall of the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas, Texas.

Veteran's Day, 11 November 2021

### Our Annual Parade is cancelled

Concerns over the rising number of hospitalizations due to the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, has led to the decision to cancel the Parade portion of this year's commemoration.

The Parade Committee has instead opted to execute **Plan B**, an *indoor* Eleventh-Hour ceremony, to be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, on 11 November.

Invitations have been sent to "all the usual suspects" to include: the Governor of Texas, Mayor of Dallas, local, State and Federal officials, and a small number of guests.



Although the Museum offers a spacious venue, it will be impossible to accommodate all the patriotic citizens who might wish to attend. It is

hoped that local radio and television stations will take this opportunity to provide the Dallas community with live broadcasts of the **Eleventh-Hour** activities.

(FYI, that term comes from the traditional recognition that **World War I** officially ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> year, in 1918). The following year was proclaimed to be Armistice Day, later changed to Veterans Day.



1 October	Lawrence L. Anderson	
1 October	LT Thomas E. Hartin	
2 October	MS Gayle D. Westapher	
10 October	Capt John B. Belvin III	
10 October	CAPT Scott O'Grady	
12 October	Col Joseph L. Cordina	
12 October	Capt John M. Hayes	
12 October	Capt James M. Malakoff	
12 October	MR Kenneth A. Mayfield	
12 October	MR Scott Morris	
12 October	LCDR Larry Wilcock	
16 October	LCDR Ben J. Petrick	
16 October	LTG Ricardo Sanchez	
18 October	Lt Col William H. Whitten	
21 October	MRS Tracy K. Fisher	
22 October	LtCol Mike W. Menefee	
23 October	CHAP Mark R. Johnston	
24 October	MAJ David A. Kidd	
25 October	Capt David Pickett	
27 October	HPM Joanne Epply-Schmidt	
28 October	LTC Michael S. Christians	
28 October	MRS Catherine Hogan	
29 October	MAJ James Hamlin, Jr	
31 October	MR Jeremy Moore	



# Your Chapter in Action, September 2021.



First order of business was to Install LtCol Michael Menefee (USMC) as the 81<sup>st</sup> Commander of the Dallas Chapter



Next order of business was to be introduced to our Speaker's best friend, close companion, and service dog, Rue



Following his inspiring story, Jason and Rue posed for a photo op with Michael Menefee and Jason's Special Forces friend, Doug Gagliano

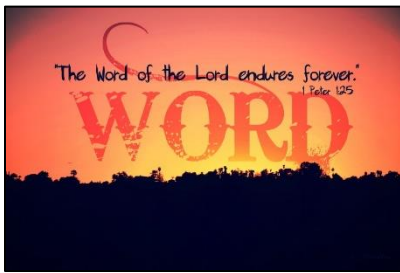


Although the Chapter was moved to hear Jason Morgan's journey from the edge of despair, Rue had heard it all before and caught some zzzzzz's



We were pleased that Jason agreed to take the time to personally autograph copies of his book, "A Dog called Hope"

**Notice: Next Commander's Staff Meeting will be held Thursday, 15 Oct 2021 at 1:30 p.m., in the Frontiers of Flight Conference Room, 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX, adjacent to Love Field.**



## The Word of the Lord

Just as our bodies are shaped by the foods we eat, so are our minds shaped by the news we consume.

Recognizing and even driving this, modern media companies play to their target market and give their audiences that which will keep them coming back for more.

As a result, we see starkly different viewpoints emerge on the issues of the day, even to the point that the different sides cannot agree on basic facts.

In such an environment, one may question if objective truth even exists. Yes, it does. And it is found in God's word.

As King David wrote in the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm, "The Word of the Lord is perfect; the statutes of the Lord are trustworthy; the precepts of the Lord are right."



May we each cling to the true root of life, which is the word of God. It is unchanging, everlasting, and universal. God bless each of you.

*Jamie Malakoff*  
Chapter Chaplain

## Wreaths Across America

### Let Us Fill it with Wreaths

Past Chapter Commander and former National General Staff Officer, Don Munson, has accepted the challenge of attempting to fill the very large shoes of last year's highly successful fund drive Chairwoman, as we seek to blanket DFW National Veterans' cemetery with Christmas Wreaths on 15 December 2021.



Despite rampant inflation and rising costs for virtually every product that must be shipped during the current broken global delivery chain, the price for the wreaths has been frozen at last year's price of **\$15 for one and a bargain discount of \$30 for three.**

There are no profits in purchases and all volunteers contribute their time and efforts, *pro bono*.

For more information (or to purchase wreaths), contact Don Munson at: **972-971-1413**.

Please dig deep and help us to ensure that there will, once again, be a Wreath on every headstone this Christmas.

Plan to join your chapter Companions in laying the wreaths (in December). Better yet, bring the whole family. Add this to your list of Christmas *traditions* that is both fun, inspiring, and a valuable teaching moment for children of all ages.



## Command and Staff, FY 2021

### Commander

**Michael Menefee**  
LtCol, USMC  
817-368-7799  
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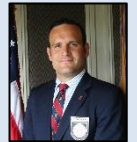


**Senior Vice Commander**  
(Temporarily Vacant)

**Junior Vice Commander**  
(Temporarily Vacant)

### Adjutant

**Brandon Hern**  
LT, US Army  
214-901-4874  
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### Treasurer

**Bill Coleman**  
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### Judge Advocate

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### Marshal

**Pat Teipel**  
Perpetual Hereditary  
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### Surgeon

**Fred Aurbach**  
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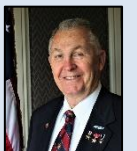
### Chaplain

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[dallasmoww.org](http://dallasmoww.org)