



Military Order News



Volume 27, No. 3

Best

Chapter in the Nation

September 2018



Dallas Does it Again. Best Large Chapter in the Nation (13th Year in a Row)

A Call to Arms

ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

To accomplish the Chapter's MISSION in 2019, we will host a Reception from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, 2 November 2018 at the Prestonwood Country Club. The purpose of the Reception will be to make local business leaders aware of the enormous number of Youth activities, Law Enforcement, and Veterans projects that are organized and conducted by the Dallas Chapter of MOWW. It goes without saying that these projects cost money.



We will solicit funding for them during the Reception. For this event to be successful, it is necessary for ALL CHAPTER COMPANIONS to bring at least one local business representative to hear the Chapter's Presentations to convince them to assist us in supporting these worthy Community Projects and Programs.

THE CHAPTER'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

Youth Leadership

Honoring the Best and the Brightest

Over 300 students attended one of the five Youth Leadership Conferences in Texas and Oklahoma, this year. The Dallas Chapter sponsored nearly 25% of them. At each of the Conferences, students are called upon to demonstrate leadership during workshops and are evaluated by their peers and Counselors to determine the **Top Students**.

I am pleased to report that ten (10) of the students who were sponsored by the Dallas Chapter were chosen as Tops at their Conference. Three of the ten were further selected as the "NUMBER 1" student.



During our Luncheon on 4 September,

our Chapter Commander will present Bronze Patrick Henry medallions to these outstanding young men and women.

Each of the students will be accompanied by his or her Parents, High School Principal (and/or Class Counselor) and in many cases, by proud family and friends.

Please take the opportunity to welcome these Guests and congratulate them on their achievements. You will be pleasantly surprised to discover that the Future of our Country will be in good hands.

Commander's Call

LTC Chamberlin is poised to lead the Order

Our own LTC Chuck Chamberlin was sworn in as the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Order. That puts Chuck in the queue to become our *eighth* Companion to reach the pinnacle of MOWW leadership.



Those of you who missed the National Convention in Columbus, Georgia, in August, missed an awards presentation *sweep* by the Dallas Chapter. In addition to being recognized as the Best

Large Chapter in the Nation, for the 13th consecutive year, the chapter also reaped an armful of individual and chapter awards in numerous other categories.

Tops among the winners was Companion **Bill Farmer**. Bill's devotion to Scouting was rewarded this year, when he received the prestigious *National Citation for Distinguished and Exceptional Service*, signed by the Commander-in-Chief. He also won the Scouting award in recognition of the prodigious number of Courts of Honor that he attends.

Congratulations to the individual winners. The rest of the awards are simply testimony that we remain the "gold standard" by which all other chapters are measure.

James B. Blunk
Dallas Chapter Commander

National Convention, Columbus, GA

"It is nobler to serve, -- period"

In addition to electing LTC **Chuck Chamberlin** to lead the National Order in Fiscal Year 2020, the Dallas Chapter continues to be well represented in numerous other positions, providing leadership and setting the example.

Captain (USN) **Rollie Stevens** is Chairman of the Council of former Commander's-in-Chief, which includes fellow Dallas Companions Col. **Cliff Way**, and Capt **John Hayes**.



LTC **King Moss** and LTC **Don Munson** were re-elected to serve as National General Staff officers (both for the third consecutive year).

Munson also agreed to once again Chair the National Information & Publicity committee. He currently receives Newsletters from 50 MOWW Chapters which he deposits, monthly, into the National Newsletters Dropbox. Click [HERE](#) to visit the Newsletters Dropbox.

Guest Speakers

Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better

4 Sep 18 – Dallas Chapter Companions present:
"Bronze Patrick Henry YLC Awards"

2 Oct 18 – Dallas Chapter Companions present:
"Bronze Patrick Henry JROTC Awards"

6 Nov 18 – Dr. Sara Overall, Navarro College
"The War to End All Wars"

4 Dec 18 – Annual Dallas Christmas Banquet
"Keeping the Faith in trying times"

8 Jan 19 – Capt Tom Meyer, US Navy (Ret)
"The US Nuclear Submarine Fleet"

5 Feb 19 – Col Thomas Halley, Lockheed-Martin
"The Navy F-35C Joint Strike Fighter"

Officer of the Month

Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 6 Aug 18, Dallas Past Commander Capt Paul Brown presented Dallas Police Detective **Oscar Carrasco** (#7524), our Outstanding Service Citation for his selection as DPD's *Officer of the Month*.

While serving in the elite "Gang" Unit, he was chosen to be a Federal Task Force Officer, assigned to the FBI. During the next eight years, his investigations have enabled convictions of



Former Commander Paul Brown presented our Certificate of Commendation to Dallas Police Detective **Oscar Carrasco**

literally hundreds of international cartel members, ridding Dallas and Texas of one of its greatest criminal threats.

Detective Carrasco is an outstanding example of why the Dallas Police Department continues to be considered one of the finest in the Nation.

Attention Chapter Staff:

The Chapter Command and Staff meeting will be held in the Frontier of Flight Museum Conference Room, on Thursday, 20 SEP 18, at 1:30 p.m.

KNOW YOUR COMPANIONS

Gerald Vokolek, Lt. Colonel, US Army

LTC Gerald Vokolek was born on 27 July 1945, in



Queens, NY. He graduated from Hofstra University, Long Island, in June of 1966 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps.

LT Vokolek was called to active duty in November 1966 and assigned to FT Gordon, GA, and then to FT Monmouth, NJ, for

the Signal Officers Basic Course.

He is also a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, FT Leavenworth, KS.

His first troop assignment was as Commander of the Aviation Electronic Support Company (Prov), in Qui Nhon, Viet Nam, from July 1967 to Aug 1968.

Upon his return from Viet Nam, he served as the Operations Officer (S-3) of the 518th Maintenance Battalion, Jamaica, NY, and then as the S-2, S-3, and S-4 of the 364th General Support Group, FT Totten, NY.

After that, Gerald was transferred to the 63rd US Army Command (ARCOM), Los Angeles, CA. as a Signal Equipment Maintenance Officer. Subsequent assignments included: Assistant Inspector General of the 99th US ARCOM, in Oakdale, PA, and Assistant Chief of Staff, for the 103rd Corps Support Command, Des Moines, IA.

According to his biography, one of his best assignments was with the CAPSTONE program, a 5-week course designed to prepare new flag rank officers to work with foreign armed forces in Joint Commands.

Upon retiring, he pursued a 35-year career in the Retail field, while simultaneously having a 20-year career as a Real Estate broker and office owner.

Gerald currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Association Public Policy Transportation Committee. In addition, he is a Past Chairman and current member of the Collin County Planning Board.

Gerald and his wife, Veronica, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in August of this year. They have 2 daughters and 4 Grandchildren.

Keith Griffiths, 2Lt, US Army Reserves

Keith Griffiths, born on 10 July 1942. He is a native of



Wichita Falls, Texas, and has lived in Richardson and Plano, TX, since 1974. He graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in 1964 with a B.S. degree in history and from the University of North Texas, Denton, TX, in 1965 with a Master of Education degree in counseling & psychology.

chology.

Keith enlisted in the U. S. Army Reserve and was assigned to HHD 2d Brigade, 89th Division, in Denver CO in November 1965. After basic training at Fort Bliss, TX, and AIT at Fort Huachuca, AZ, he graduated from the Colorado National Guard Officer Candidate School in Denver, CO, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry.

His initial assignment was to the 490th Civil Affairs Company in Abilene, TX. He confessed that the unit was over strength on officers, so he and the chaplain and two field grade officers occupied a room, with the door shut, so no one would know that they had nothing to do!

Keith spent 33 years in the oil and gas business, where he founded and operated an exploration and production company that drilled and developed oil and gas properties in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana. During his time in the oil and gas business he was involved in such new innovations as horizontal drilling, 3-D seismic, and advanced fracturing techniques.

He was a Trustee and member of the Board of Development of Hardin-Simmons University for 15 years. He is listed in *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, 1989-2002, and *Who's Who in Exploration and Production*, 2005-2013. He was a member of the Midland Oil Industry Finance Committee, the Dallas Wildcatters Group, and the Dallas Petroleum Club.

Keith and his wife, Cherry, have five children and six grandchildren. He and Cherry love traveling and spending quality time with their children.

Happy Birthday, Companions

“Age only matters with Cheese”

- 1 September HPM John D. Lester
- 1 September CPT Weldon W. Nash, Jr
- 5 September WO Billy W. Franklin
- 7 September MS Kathleen L. Spangler
- 8 September LTC Jerry B. Jochum
- 8 September LT Derrick W. Watson
- 10 September Mr Spencer J. Adams
- 10 September COL Jeffrey W. Gault
- 13 September MRS Maurine P. Dickey
- 13 September Capt Curtis L. Frisbie
- 13 September COL Gary D. Jackson
- 15 September Capt H. Keith Barrett
- 16 September COL Donald G. Lincoln
- 16 September CPT Robert E. Sanders
- 17 September CPT Velpeau Hawes, Jr
- 17 September LTC Milton C. Henderson
- 17 September Mr John R. Warterfield
- 18 September LTC Kenneth W. Boatman
- 18 September Col Bennett W. Cervin
- 18 September LTC Kaaren J. Teuber
- 19 September CAPT David L. Love
- 19 September LTC Donald R. Willis
- 21 September LT James W. Crysdale
- 21 September Mr Aaron K. Schmidt
- 23 September LTC Thomas J. Galli
- 24 September MAJ James S. Angelino
- 28 September Mr Christopher G. Neumeier
- 29 September Mr Andrew Warner
- 30 September CPT James Grogan



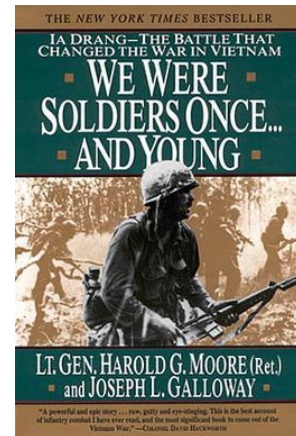
Patriotic Education

Military Book Club covers the “Ia Drang”

LTC Munson commanded a 7th Cavalry (Infantry) Company (1967) and an Air Cavalry Battalion Task Force (1968), in combat, during the Vietnam War. He later led Special Forces units conducting covert operations in Southeast Asia.

As a Military Advisor, LTC Munson participated in Operation Desert Storm, (1991), the Bosnian War (1995), and the liberation of Iraq (2003).

Munson will discuss the book, “*We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*”, by LTG Hal Moore and journalist Joe Galloway. All Companions are cordially invited to attend.



Canyon Creek Country Club (625 West Lookout Drive), Richardson, Monday, 24 Sep 18, at 7:15 a.m.

The fighting at LZ X-Ray is considered to be the battle that changed the war in Vietnam. The non-fiction, first person account tells the story of this *earliest* engagement between North Vietnamese regular forces and the US Army’s newly-formed Airmobile Division.

Scouting

Companion Bill Farmer breaks all records

Thus far, this year, Bill has continued to outstrip all previous records for numbers of Eagle Scout Citations presented (*in person*). He covers three North Texas **Councils** that include over 250 Scout Troops. In fact, last month, Bill presented an Eagle award to a Scout in up-state Ohio. Now that is serious commitment.



Joshua Smith,
Troop 531



Timothy Royal,
Troop 406



Ryan Karry,
Troop 496



Austin Summerfield, Troop 360, overcame a severe childhood handicap to earn his coveted Eagle award

Chapter Activities in the month of August



LTC George Vokolek, USA (Ret) and LTC Jim Small, USA (Ret) joined as Regular Companions. The Sponsor for both of these former officers is new member Keith Griffiths



HPM Maurine Dickey received a glass American Eagle from Commander Jim Blunk in recognition of her Distinguished and Exceptional service to the Dallas Chapter



Jim Blunk presented a Silver Patrick Henry award to LTC Alan Johnson for contributing his time, money, and talents to ensure the success of our 1st Annual Golf fundraiser



Jim presented an MOWW Outreach Service Award and blue-ribbon medal to former Chapter Commander, Capt Lyle Mueller, USMC, for his work with JROTC units throughout last school year.



Major General Gary Bunch, Director of the Texas A&M University YLC, brought a Special Guest, Kyle Kass, one of last year's top students and this year's top Counselors



Pictured above are a few of the Dallas Chapter Officers who were on hand to receive the **Best Large Chapter Award** during the Annual National MOWW Convention in Columbus, GA.

Left to right: LT Walt Laidlaw, Capt Rollie Stevens, LTC King Moss, LTC Don Munson, LTC Jim Blunk, and National Commander in Chief, COL Dave Gibson.

Next year's Convention will be held in Simi Valley, California at the **Ronald Regan Presidential Library**.



What will be your Dash?

The dates on your headstone refer to the years of your life; the date of your birth and the date of your death.

But, what matters most of all is the dash between those years, for the dash represents all the time that you spend alive on earth.

If you take the time to think about this, it forces you to consider: What are the things you would like to change?

You never know how much time is left. The time to begin planning to make those changes is **now**.

Slow down enough to evaluate what is true and real in your life. Identify that which is truly important -- and what is not.

Show greater appreciation of those in your life. Never hesitate to tell her you love her (or him).

Love the ones closest to you and reach out to those you have allowed to slip away from you. Treat others with respect. Smile more.

Remember that your dash may be shorter than you realize.

When your eulogy is being read, will you be proud of the things they say about how you lived *your dash*?

Jamie Malakoff

"The British Lion"

Commander Lawrence (Larry) Kryske, US Navy (Ret) is an internationally respected authority on the life and leadership of Sir Winston Churchill.

Larry served for three years on the Board of Directors of the International Churchill Society, and he shared the speaking platform (aboard the HMS Queen Mary) with Sir Martin Gilbert, who is the Official Biographer of Churchill.



Larry regaled the Chapter with little known - and several well-known - stories that revealed Churchill's wit, wisdom, and droll, but acerbic, sense of humor.

Larry has written four books on Churchill's lifetime of leadership in British society, first as a member of the Royal British Army and then for more than six decades in the political arena.

His books emphasize Churchill's guiding leadership tenets. Namely, his Vision, Courage, and Determination.

He has spent the past 35 years armed with Churchillian canons, teaching corporate executives how to succeed in business.

Commander

Jim Blunk
LTC, US Army
972-824-5812
blunkjames@yahoo.com



Senior Vice Commander

Tommie Williams
LT, US Marine Corps
972-955-8571
Tomwillia4@aol.com



Junior Vice Commander

Mark Kipphut
COL, US Air Force
520-668-2216
Mark_kipphut@msn.com



Adjutant

Quint Avenetti
CWO5, USMC
580-583-0000
quint.avenetti@sbcglobal.net



Treasurer

Bill Coleman
MAJ, US Army
214-771-1179
bill.coleman@php-agent.com



JAG

PJ Putnam
Capt, US Air Force
972-697-5546
pjputnam@TexasBizLawyer.com



Marshal

Tom Garriss
CPT, US Army
972-670-6175
tomgarriss@gmail.com



Surgeon

Fred Aurbach
CPT, US Army
214-793-2065
drfred@drfredaurbach.com



Chaplain

Jamie Malakoff
CPT, US Army
212-203-9260
jamie.malakoff@gmail.com



Special Operations

Don Munson
LTC, US Army
972-471-3499
don.munson@tx.rr.com

