



On January 27, 1973, the signing of the Paris Peace Accords "officially" ended the Vietnam War. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of American participation in the war. On **March 21, 2023**, a coalition of North Texas veterans' organizations will conduct a Commemorative Event in the Frontiers of Flight Museum (6911 Lemmon Avenue) to honor all those who served during the War ,including their families. The event is **free** and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. See the flyer on page 1 for details. .Plan to arrive early. This promises to be a Standing Room Only gathering.

### This Month's Program, March 2023

## "Growing Up behind the Iron Curtain"

**Iilir Ademaj** is a renowned expert on Conflict. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Law from University of Illinois, Chicago, and a Master degree specializing in Public Management and Leadership from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.



Iilir is a naturalized US citizen and scholar who is actively involved in educating youth about the evil of Totalitarian governments. He uses his personal experiences to explain life under Communism. At the same time, he proudly portrays Albania's history and breathtaking landscape, which features centuries of glorious Empires and wreckages of civilizations from Alexander the Great to Genghis Khan.

His former Homeland contains some of the most picturesque, untouched mountain ranges overlooking the bright turquoise blue of the Adriatic Sea.

He will share facts and figures concerning historical as well as contemporary information regarding the significance of the entire Balkan region and its role as a strategic buffer on the Eastern edge of NATO. In light of the ongoing war in Ukraine, his insights will shed light on Russia's continuing desire to one day control warm water ports in the Aegean Sea and eventually the Mediterranean.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

## 3 Million Veterans served in Vietnam (1965-1973)

**VIETNAM WAR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

The Paris Peace Accords were signed on January 27, 1973, marking the end of United States' participation in the Vietnam War and enabling the return of the 591 surviving Prisoners of War. In eight years of US fighting 58,000 US servicemen died and today nearly 1600 remain unaccounted for. Over 600,000 Vietnam Veterans are estimated to be alive today.

On **March 21**, combined veteran's organizations of the North Texas area will conduct a commemorative event to recognize and honor all those who served during the Vietnam War and their families. This free event is open to the public.

**Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas Love Field  
6911 Lemmon Ave, Dallas, TX**

The doors will open at 9:15 am and the ceremony will begin at 10 am.  
Refreshments provided by Dunkin' Donuts.

The National Anthem will be sung by Donald Jones, Dallas Opera.  
Invited speakers include Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, Congressman Keith Self, Honorable Allen Clark, and Natan Ton-That. Local artist Colin Kimball will display a collection of portraits of Texas Vietnam heroes. Commemorative lapel pins will be presented to Vietnam-era veterans (Nov 1955-May 1975) and surviving spouses.

*Note: The event may be Standing Room Only so if you are able, please make sure seats are available for those who need to sit. Valet parking will be available. You are welcome to visit the museum after the ceremony, but any valet-parked cars must be claimed promptly. Questions should be directed to Ric Hamer, 214-500-0951*

Logos include: Dallas Chapter MOWW, MOAA, Dunkin' Donuts, and various other military and community organizations.

Commander's Comments

**"It is Better to Serve..."**

Our Military Order is a Patriotic Veterans Service organization. We celebrate patriotism, the Constitution, our military services, statues, memorials, American history, our Republican form of government, and American culture! In addition to being our traditional **Valentine's Day** for our ladies, *we will have a special presentation from our HPM Companion Scott Murray!*



Our *Senior Vice Commander Allen Clark* urges members to become volunteers in one of our Outreach committees. These positions are critical to our missions, involve minimal time and effort, and are both personally rewarding and support the Youth of our communities.



Our chapter will only be as good as your participation will make it. Our Outreach programs are what distinguish us and have, for many years, caused us to be recognized as the top large MOWW chapter in the nation.

The first program happens in the Spring. *Perpetual Companion Mark Smits* is compiling a list of the 60 Dallas High Schools and 3 Universities that have Junior and Senior **ROTC** programs. Mark needs volunteers to assist in presenting the Cadets Superior Performance medals at their school's Awards Day ceremonies. If you would like to assist, please contact Mark, me, or any staff member.



Close on the heels of the end-of-the-school year comes the Summer Youth Leadership Conferences. *Former Chapter Commander Don Munson* will use Mark Smitts' list of school Contacts to get HS Principals or Counselors to provide the names of TOP Students for us to interview and select to attend. Our Goal is to sponsor **50** young men and women to attend one of the four YLC's held in Texas in June and July 2023.



Don cannot do it alone. Please contact him and volunteer to assist in selecting the *50 best candidates*.

***Without your dedication and help, our chapter's success could not occur!***

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

In keeping with our Preamble

**Chapter Programs Just Keep Getting Better**

**7 Mar 23 – Ilir Ademaj, Albanian-American  
"Life behind the Iron Curtain"**

**4 Apr 23 – Victor Lauersdorf, Maj, TXARNG  
"SitRep on the Middle East"**

**2 May 23 – Dr. Kyle Knapp, CPT, US Army  
"Veterans Benefits Assistance"**

Scouting Programs

**Dallas covers Scouts, nationwide.**

On Monday, Feb 20, 2023, William Farmer presented Scouting's highest accolade, the Eagle Scout award to Joshua Hornyak of Troop 2050 at *Alliance Ohio!*



Eagle Scout, Joshua Hornyak

Bill was contacted by an old friend, the Troop Scoutmaster, to recognize Joshua. In fact, as a member of three large Scouting Councils, Bill often receives requests from across the country to recognize Eagle Scouts who would otherwise not receive the recognition that they so richly deserve.

So far, in just this year alone, Bill has recognized Eagles in Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, California, and Africa!

Law and Order Programs

**Dallas Police Officer of the Month**

Texas Department (and former Dallas Chapter) Commander Chuck Daniels represented us at the Dallas County Police Awards Committee, last month, during the DCPAC Luncheon in Northeast Dallas.

This month's recipient was Officer Sara Sandoval. She is assigned to the Northwest Patrol Division and is the volunteer trumpet of the Department's Honor Guard. On the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack that killed five Dallas officers, she rendered TAPS during the Memorial ceremony in July.



Officer Sara Sandoval

In the past year, Officer Sandoval has answered 822 calls for service and made 66 arrests, 14 of which were for felony offenses. She is an outstanding teammate who regularly volunteers to help with extra patrol assignments. She is a superior example of why Dallas' police are among the finest in the country.

**National Defense Security Briefings**

**2 Apr 23 – “Global Power Competition”**  
**Admiral John Richardson (US Navy, Ret)**

**4 Jun 23 – “Season Two Wrap-up”**  
**Presentation of the Congressman Sam Johnson**  
**Defender of Freedom Award**

**Admiral John Richardson**, U.S. Navy (Ret.), US Naval Academy (Class of 1982), served as the 31<sup>st</sup> Chief of Naval Operations from 2015 until his retirement in 2019. He previously served as Director of the Navy’s Nuclear Reactor Program.



ADM John Richardson, CNO

During his career, he held command at every level of the submarine force. He holds Masters Degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the National War College. He serves on the board of Boeing and numerous other commercial and non-profit organizations.

ADM Richardson will address the threats to vital US national security interests posed by the challenge of China and the acute threat of a resurgent Russia. While US National Strategy integrates the traditional elements of national power, it is the military that is the ultimate guarantor of national security.

As the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Richardson helped shape the Navy we have today, and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he served as the naval advisor to the President of the US and Secretary of Defense.

The National Defense Security Briefings are sponsored by **Dallas Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars**, in cooperation with Dallas Chapters of the Air and Space Force Association, Navy League of the United States, Jewish War Veterans, and Association of the US Army.

These NDBS seminars are fundraisers that benefit the Outreach programs of all five sponsoring organizations. Support your chapter by bringing guests to hear from distinguished experts on these critically important national security topics.



**FREE Legal Representation**

Perpetual Companion John VanBuskirk, our chapter Judge Advocate, has been helping low income veterans and their families receive free legal representation since 2014. He is a volunteer in the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP). He is also co-chair of the Veterans Outreach Subcommittee on the Pro Bono Activities Committee of the Dallas Bar Association. The DVAP clinic is the largest legal clinic, serving as many as 79 veterans and family members. DVAP provides full representation in a variety of cases, including housing, employment, real property, wills, expunctions, non-disclosures, probate, bankruptcy, small business issues, veterans VA benefits, and more. The clinic cannot help with criminal cases, tickets, or fee-generating cases such as personal injury matters.



John VanBuskirk, JAG

Gold Star Families

**Fundraiser Golf Tournament**

Proceeds go to providing financial assistance to local Gold Star Families of fallen veterans.



# National Defense and Homeland Security

## Chinese Weather Balloons

By: LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

The Communist Chinese are reportedly upset about a USAF fighter jet shooting down one of their “weather balloons” that violated U S airspace and traversed the North American Continent.



Before it was shot down, it paused over strategic USAF intercontinental ballistic missile sites, a B-2 stealth bomber base, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and had a slant range to view the Pentagon. The Intelligence Community (IC) assessed



that the balloon was actually a sophisticated intelligence gathering apparatus that had an array of equipment appearing to have communication, photographic, listening, recording, signals intelligence, monitoring equipment, radar, and other intelligence gathering devices. SecDef Lloyd Austin said that measures were taken to reduce the effectiveness of the array of intelligence gathering equipment under the balloon.

The IC tracked the balloon from its Chinese launch site and tracked it for its entire flight. After the balloon launched from China, and crossed the Pacific, it first entered US airspace over Alaska, then Canada, before loitering over Idaho, Montana, Kansas, Missouri, and finally South Carolina. A photograph taken by a USAF U-2 pilot of the balloon shows an array of 16 rectangular shaped boxes the size of a jet airliner, hanging beneath a 200-foot-tall balloon flying at 60,000 feet.



Some senior officials believe the Chinese are probing US defenses and a USAF general from North American Aerospace Command (NORAD) stated it is opening a new warfare domain that the US did not anticipate, (suborbital, relatively slow-moving, stratospheric balloons).

An F-22 (Raptor) fighter jet used a AIM-9X (Sidewinder) missile to shoot down the balloon off the coast of South Carolina

within the 12-nautical mile US boundary limit.; however, many military and policy analysts are questioning why the US allowed this Chinese intelligence gathering balloon not be shot down when it entered Alaskan airspace or reentered US airspace over Idaho or Montana. It was reported that the Biden administration said it was to prevent injury to citizens on the ground, even though Alaska has a population of one person per square mile and Montana has a population of five people per square mile.



A growing concern for US policy makers is the expanding economic, political, and military alliance between Russia and Communist China. General Secretary XI on 21 February 2023 announced he would travel soon to Russia to meet with President Putin.



China is already purchasing enough Russian oil to counteract US and Western allies export ban on Russian oil. There is speculation from military analysts that China may soon begin assisting Russia with lethal aid, equipment, and arms for use against Ukraine. China has not condemned Russia for its invasion despite requests from the President. US companies should reduce their dependency on Chinese manufacturing and its supply chain. The adage ‘if we trade with them, they will democratize,’ has proven false.



China is not a US competitor; it is an adversary. As China seeks global domination and closer ties to Russia, perhaps the US should be more concerned about upgrading its military preparedness - recruiting, warfighting capabilities, and strategy, with less emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and other politically correct, but militarily divisive and morale eroding concepts. Our country’s focus should never include discrimination in its military, schools, and colleges. Merit should always be the primary criteria for promotions of the most competent.

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



- 1 March MG Michael Marchand
- 2 March LCDR Ralph Muse
- 3 March HPM Richard Bullock
- 3 March LT John Canales
- 4 March HPM Ashley Adams
- 4 March COL John Antal
- 4 March HPM Geoffrey Merton
- 5 March COL James Methered
- 6 March MAJ Edward Marty
- 8 March HPM Ned Butler III
- 8 March LT Lorelei Gaus
- 8 March MG Albert Zapanta
- 12 March Lt Col Michael Giles
- 12 March CWO3 Joseph Lynch
- 12 March LTC Jeffrey Spears
- 13 March DR Fred Aurbach
- 13 March CDR H.B. Germany
- 19 March LTC Don Nguyen
- 20 March CAPT Robert Elwell
- 21 March MAJ Billy Manning
- 22 March HON Pete Sessions
- 23 March CAPT BJ Bjorklund
- 23 March Col Ric Hamer
- 23 March LT Michael Sable
- 27 March CWO4 Monifa Rucker
- 28 March Lt Col Daniel Hagood
- 28 March HPM Shawn Hogan
- 28 March CPT Michael Metcalf
- 29 March CDR Sean Fox
- 31 March CAPT Richard Stewart



# Humor in Uniform



# Your Chapter in Action, February 2023

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

**Web Site:** Our chapter web site ([dallasmoww.org](http://dallasmoww.org)) has been completely redesigned by our webmaster **Steve**



**Suiter.** It now provides a newer and fresher overall appearance that demonstrates the goals and accomplishments of the Dallas chapter. The web site also now provides a platform to register for our banquets and luncheons. The entire Dallas staff provided direction and feedback that led to the excellent finished product.

**Adjutant: Brandon Hern** ([brandon@imctx.com](mailto:brandon@imctx.com))

**controls** all actions pertaining to membership. He uses the national web site ([www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org)) to enroll applicants who wish to become a Companion. All applications require a sponsor whose information is available in national records. Brandon also notifies national headquarters of any changes to Membership.



Families are eligible to become *Hereditary* members. Annual dues are currently \$40 per year for regular or hereditary membership. Perpetual (Lifetime) dues are \$350. Any individual supportive of our MOWW precepts may apply for *Patriot* affiliation. Forms to do so are available on the Dallas chapter website ([www.dallasmoww.org](http://www.dallasmoww.org)).

**Awards:** Under the supervision of **Charles Daniels**



Our Dallas chapter awards annually recognize a City of Dallas Police Officer. Patriot Tres Fife is initiating coordination with the Sheriff's Departments of Dallas and Collin County to present an annual award to deserving deputy sheriffs. 1LT Rick Herrick is initiating coordination with the City of Dallas Fire Department to honor deserving firefighters and paramedics.

**Communications** (Call Committee): **John Wagner**

([jwagner57@gmail.com](mailto:jwagner57@gmail.com)) oversees 22 Companions and Patriots, who have volunteered to send announcement messages before chapter events to obtain RSVPs for attendance. The callers are MAJ John Van Buskirk, CPT Robert Ganson, COL King Moss,



LTC Bryan Maupin, COL Jeff Gault, LtCol Michael Menefee, LT Walt Laidlaw, COL Gregory Tate, 1LT Rick Herrick, CPT Tom Jones, LCDR Christopher Cooper, CPT Michael Dundon, 1LT William Pry, 1LT Brandon Hern, LT Tom Meyer, CPT Fred Aurbach, 1LT Richard Foster, CPT Tom Garriss, HPM Sharon Sexton, Patriot "Trey" Fife, Patriot Phyllis Pugh.

**Hospitality:** Our Hospitality Committee Chair **Carolyn Foust-Walker** ([foustwalker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:foustwalker@sbcglobal.net))

and Linda Clark are the greeters for our functions. Carolyn and co-host Linda would like to initiate a first-time social event for our chapter ladies (Companions, Companion spouses, and Patriots) with a tea on Tuesday March 28, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. It will be strictly a social event. It will be held at her home in Prestonwood near the intersection of Beltline and Preston Road. Please RSVP directly to Carolyn and she will provide her home address.



**Marshal: Pat Teipel** is the Chapter Marshal. He mans



the sign-in table and is the one who assigns table seating, provides the tent name cards for the tables, puts together the name board for table seating, and oversees the luncheon raffles. When bringing a guest, please provide Pat the name and rank of your guest. Also give the name and rank to your phone caller. Pat also handles the raffle tickets, which are available from him at the sign-in table when you arrive. The proceeds from the raffle are donated to the Youth Leadership Programs. There will be two drawings each month, a bottle of wine and an autographed book, donated by a chapter member.

**Photographer:** Pat is ably assisted by our chapter

photographer **Doug Gagliano**, who also coordinates the audio/visual needs for our monthly Luncheon Speaker programs. As our Resident Tech Guru, Doug supervises the setup of the portable microphone, computer, projector and screen for video presentations.



**Neighborhood Watch:** **Robert Epstein** is the coordinator for our participation in this year's National Neighborhood Watch program. Bob will provide tips for us to protect our property and neighborhoods.



<https://www.nnw.org> contains valuable information and tips to help our membership maintain safety of our homes and neighborhoods. Another effort in which he is involved is the Civil Air Patrol Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) program as a resource for remote imaging, search and rescue and disaster recovery. That CAP website is: <https://ilwg.cap.gov>.

**Scouting:** **Bill Farmer** has performed a valuable service to the chapter by personally presenting 17 Eagle Scout awards, at numerous Council gatherings since 1 Jun 22.

Girl Scouts only receive their coveted Gold Awards, once a year, at a huge ceremony that brings together every GSA troop in Northeast Texas. Don Munson prepares and presents an average of 150 MOWW Gold Award Citations, annually.



**ROTC/JROTC:** Since June 1, 2022, chapter coordinator **Mark Smits** ([mmwsmits@aol.com](mailto:mmwsmits@aol.com)) has presented 49 JROTC awards to 49 different high schools and 3 Senior ROTC awards to students at Texas Tech University. Companions Bill Coleman, Fred Aurbach, Rick Herrick, Pat Teipel, Ivan Wong and Don Munson assisted the chapter efforts by being present at numerous high school award ceremonies. At the April 2022 luncheon, the chapter recognized 5 outstanding Cadets from the Dallas Independent School District along with their senior instructors. At the October luncheon, the chapter presented Bronze Patrick Henry Award to 8 area high schoolers for their outstanding efforts during JROTC summer camps, including the Youth Leadership Conferences.



**Treasurer:** **Bill Coleman** has loyally fulfilled the Treasurer responsibilities for seven long years. He finally has some backup. David Wallace has agreed to assume the Treasurer responsibilities, this spring, and Katherine Grogan has volunteered to assist in the Treasurer responsibilities. Checks and cash are still accepted at our Luncheons, however, we strongly encourage Companions to make use of our chapter web site ([www.dallasmoww.org](http://www.dallasmoww.org)) to register for the Luncheon. The site accepts PayPal or credit cards for payments.



**Youth Leadership Conferences:** **Don Munson** ([don.munson@tx.rr.com](mailto:don.munson@tx.rr.com)). Our chapter supports the four North Texas YLC programs by sponsored students at a cost of \$350 per student. We will set a goal of sending at least 50 students this year. We are hopeful members will step up to support this program. If any member has corporate contacts, please inquire about their interest in supporting our program. We would appreciate members who reside in proximity of local high schools to contact **Don Munson** and agree to interview and select the best and brightest to be YLC students. We need volunteers to contact Home Schoolers and area private schools to locate and interview there as well as.



**Programs:** It has been the policy of our most recent Chapter Commanders to assign the task of finding and scheduling Guest Speakers for our monthly Luncheons to the Junior Vice Commander. Our current JVC, LT **Natan Ton-That**, would like to hear from you. Each of you knows a person with personal or professional experience in a subject that would be of interest to our general membership. Give him a call (214-548-1179) or send him a text message with the person's name and contact information and Natan will take it from there.



**Notice:** Next Commander's Staff Meeting will be held Thursday, 16 MAR 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in the Frontiers of Flight Conference Room, 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX, adjacent to Love Field.

# Chapter Activity, February 2023



***As always, the monthly Chapter Luncheon began with an Invocation led by our Chaplain, Fred Aurbach. The Chapter Commander was assisted in the conduct of Opening Ceremonies by elements of his Staff: Junior Vice Commander Natan Ton That, Historian Don Munson, and Adjutant Brandon Hern.***



***Chapter Commander Michael Menefee then passed the microphone to our Companion and guest speaker, Scott Murray, who held the 124 members in attendance spellbound with his magnificent video, his vignettes from a Life well-lived, and his inspirational, extemporaneous stories of forty years spent working with the biggest names in Sports, politics, and entertainment.***





### Life is a Gift

Social media and pop culture often present life as carefree, joyful, and easy all the time. Of course, we know that our own lives are not like this. No person's is, in reality.

In the Christian calendar, Lent is a 40-day season to both reflect on the frailty of life (remembering that we were formed from dust) and to practice self-discipline, commemorating Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the desert at the outset of his ministry.

The truth is that life is not easy, nor is it always exciting or pleasurable. It is frail and it is often difficult.

But it is a sacred gift, given to each of us by God. May we honor him by the way we live.

God bless each of you!

*Jamie Malakoff*  
*Chapter Chaplain*



### Mark Your Calendar

#### Chapter Lunch, 7 Mar 23



Our Speaker will be Ilir Ademaj, who, coincidentally, will also be inducted as a Perpetual Companion.

Better yet, his wife, Diana, is also joining as a Perpetual Hereditary. "Two-fers" are Keepers. Welcome them into the fold.

#### Chapter Lunch, 8 Mar 23



Seidel Chapter (AFA) will meet in the Gleneagles Country Club (5401 W. Park Blvd,

Plano) on Wednesday, 8 Mar 23 at 11:30. The Speaker will be **Dr. Stephen Holt**. He will discuss the many VA programs designed for those in the 65+ year group. [Click HERE](#) for additional information.

You do not have to be a member of AFA to attend. This invitation is extended by Dallas Companion Col. Joe Cordina, currently the President of the Seidel Chapter.

#### 50<sup>th</sup> RVN Anniversary, 21 Mar 23



The public is invited to attend a commemorative ceremony to honor all those who served in the Republic of South Vietnam during the eight years of the War.

#### NDBS Dinner, 2 Apr 23



The third Briefing in this outstanding Series will be held at the Heritage Golf and Country Club (465 Scenic Ranch Circle) in McKinney. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

### Command and Staff, FY 2023

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