

Volume 27, No. 8

Forged under Fire; Still Serving Proudly

Dallas Military Order



Best Large Chapter **in the Nation**

February 2019



90 days until the 2019 Patriots Golf Tournament. Sign up now to honor a family member with a Memorial sign at one of the holes. Get your broker to sponsor a hole. Proceeds cover our activities throughout FY 2020.

This month's Program, February 2019

The Silent Service, the US Nuclear Submarine Fleet

Former LT (US Navy) Tom Meyer prefaced his presentation by sharing a brief video with us (click [HERE](#) if you missed it). It was the first time in over twenty years in which a civilian film crew was authorized to embark aboard a US Nuclear Submarine and record daily life aboard the boat. The video provides a fascinating insight into the world of the "iron men" who spend six months at a time in the pitch black of the ocean's deepest trenches in a 500-foot long, steel windowless tube, sleeping next to a nuclear reactor.



Tom Meyers, LT, US Navy

Tom served under the leadership of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the man credited with creating and controlling naval nuclear propulsion operations for three decades, as the Director of the Office of US Naval Reactors.

Tom is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, where he graduated with honors. Following seven years aboard Nuclear Ballistic Missile and Nuclear Attack Submarines, he attended Harvard University and received his MBA from the Harvard School of Business.



A rare meeting of the USS Nuclear Submarine **Dallas** (SBN 700) and USCG Cutter **Dallas** (WHEC 716)

Last month's Program, January 2019

US Market Overview: You Can't Take it with You

Jeff Butcher is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. According to Jeff, his greatest accomplishment while on active duty was to meet and marry Perpetual Companion, Captain Barbara (Carr) Butcher.



After brief stints working for Fina Oil as an analyst and for Texas Instruments, Raytheon, and Hewlett-Packard in a variety of Information Technology (IT) roles, he settled on his calling in life as a Financial Advisor.

Jeff Butcher offered sage financial advice, reminding investors of the value of diversification and long-term commitment

Jeff's presentation included a professional overview of the current state of the economy, complete with statistical analyses and predictions for the future. Fittingly, he offered numerous suggestions for ways in which *retirees* could maximize future earnings by taking advantage of tax-saving opportunities that are often overlooked due to misunderstandings or lack of input from a financial advisor or Certified Public Accountant.

Commander's In-Box



Mark Your Calendars

I encourage all Companions to join one of the many committees being formed to support the Second Annual Patriot Golf Tournament. This is the key fundraiser for the year. I urge you to contact Vice Commander Tommie Williams and volunteer to participate in some capacity.

The Tournament will tee off **Friday, 17 May 19**. Proceeds support the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, Inc. and a host of high school and college student programs that the Dallas Chapter supports.

Plans are underway to host the MOWW National Commander-in-Chief during the Region VIII Conference, scheduled for **Saturday, 13 Apr 19**.

Watch for the announcement of the 55th Annual North Texas Military Ball. It is one of the largest social events in Greater Dallas drawing thousands of guests each year. It will be held in the Hotel Sheraton, Dallas, on the evening of **Saturday, 4 May 19**. When you complete the registration form, indicate your preference to be seated with a table of MOWW Companions.



James B. Blunk
Dallas Chapter Commander

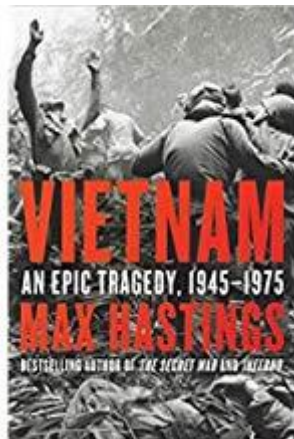
Military Book Club

Where were You in 1968 ?

Col. Paul Hendricks, President of the Dallas (*Seidel*) Chapter of the Air Force Association will be the Moderator at the next Book Club gathering. Attendance at the Book Club discussions continues to climb. Since the majority of those who attend are subject matter experts (by profession), the comments are both fascinating and bring back fond memories of youth well-spent serving in the uniform of the US Armed Forces.

The next scheduled meeting will discuss **Vietnam (1945 – 1975)** by New York Times Best-selling Author, **Max Hastings**, who has written an epic non-fiction account of the war. Hastings covers both the French and the American experiences, with equal candor.

Dallas Companions are invited to attend **all** Book Club meetings, especially this one on **Friday, 8 March 2019**.



Guest Speakers

Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better

5 Feb 19 – Tom Meyer, LT, US Navy (Fmr)
“The US Nuclear Submarine Fleet”

5 Mar 19 – Hon. Pete Sessions (R, TX)
“The State of the Union: An Insider’s View”

2 Apr 19 – Miguel Howe, Military Institute, Bush Library
“ENGAGE: The Pressing Policy Issues of the Day”

7 May 19 – Chief Justice Carolyn Wright, 5th Dist. C/A
“The Pathfinder Award: Women in Law”

5 Jun 19 – Jim Blunk, LTC, US Army (Ret)
“Installation of the FY 2020 Commander & Staff”

9 Jul 19 – Senator Robert Hall, (TX, District 2)
“The 86th Texas Congress: Leading the Nation”

Officer of the Month

Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 16 Jan 19, Dallas Past Commander Capt Paul Brown presented Dallas Police Officer **Michael Bono** (#10351), our Outstanding Service Citation for his selection as DPD's *Officer of the Month*.

His impact while serving as a member of the Central Business District, has been immediate and impressive. His arrests and valuable intelligence



collection contributed immeasurably to subsequent successes by the Narcotics Division, as well as the Gang and Robbery Units. He has been commended for his superlative leadership in sharing his knowledge and techniques with younger, less experienced officers.

Officer Bono is an inspiring example to others and another reason 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, 21 Feb 19, at 1:30 p.m.

KNOW YOUR COMPANIONS

Thomas E Meyer, Lieutenant, US Navy (Fmr)

Tom Meyer is a graduate of the US Naval Academy,



Annapolis, MD, where he graduated with honors. Following seven years aboard Nuclear Ballistic Missile and Nuclear Attack Submarines, he attended Harvard University and received his MBA from the Harvard School of Business with majors in Marketing and Fi-

nance.

Thomas Meyer is the founding President and Principal of Thomas E Meyer & Associates. He has been a business advisor and consultant for over 25 years. He is a Certified Gazelles International Coach and has provided mentoring to CEOs, Admirals, and Senior Level Executives in the US and China.

His clients have included EDS, Data Products Corp, AMTRAK, Olivetti, Clipsal (a major supplier of electrical products in Hong Kong), Hengan (a large manufacturer of paper products in China), and the US Navy.

He has extensive experience with managing Naval Enterprise improvement programs, including Recruiting and Training, Naval Aviation Pilot Training, Naval Surface Ship Maintenance, and Nuclear Submarine maintenance.

His Management experience includes CEO of an office products company, plus general management, financial management, and marketing roles with Hewlett-Packard and Harris (both are Fortune 500 companies).

Tom is an Independent Consultant to Booz-Allen Hamilton in the area of supply chain and process change implementation. He formerly was a Managing Director of BDO Seidman Consulting, LLC; Results Manager for Thomas Group, Inc. and; the Representative for Cassidy & Associates in Texas, providing clients with US Government financing and marketing to government agencies.

Xavier Herrera, CWO3, US Army (Ret)

Xavier Herrera was born 1959 in San Antonio



and is an 8th generation Texan. He grew up in Stockton, CA, until his family relocated to Houston. After a year at the University of Houston, he enlisted in the US Marine

Corps. Upon completion of boot camp, he was assigned as a Field Artillery Fire Direction Controlman.

During his military career, Xavier served at every level of Fire Direction from firing battery through Artillery Regiment. After two years as a Drill Instructor in San Diego, he became a Platoon Leader with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, then with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines afloat. In 1996, he was commissioned as a Target Acquisition Warrant Officer, serving with 5th Battalion, 11th Marines and the 1st Marine Division. He was Branch Chief and Chief US Marine Instructor at the US Army's Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, OK.

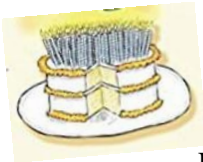
Xavier retired in May of 2004 and worked in Future Integration Developments, Fort Sill, OK. He completed his BS degree at Cameron University, OK. In 2006, he deployed to Iraq as the Liaison Officer for the USMC Warfighting Lab's Counter-Artillery Rocket Mortar Program, as a subject matter expert. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq for six years, and then, joined the US State Department's Diplomatic Security Service. In 2018, he returned home to become the Vice President of Combat Systems Development for Applied Sciences Corporation. In 2019, he will receive his Master of Science degree from the George Washington School of Business.

He and his wife, Yolanda Castellon, have two daughters, Nina & Alexandra, and a son, Xavier Jr.

Happy Birthday, Companions!

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes

“People who have the most birthdays – live the longest” 😊



- 1 February LT COL Bob Little
- 2 February BG Thomas Kula
- 2 February MR Steve Neumeier
- 3 February CPT Al Lisi, Jr
- 4 February COL James Vineyard
- 7 February MAJ Lannie Hughes
- 7 February MAJ GEN Harvey McCarter
- 7 February LTC Allen West
- 9 February LTC Edwin Dumas
- 9 February CAPT John Kutch
- 10 February MAJ William Coleman
- 15 February MAJ Robert Pierce, Jr
- 16 February COL Paul Beaty
- 16 February COL Ken Cordier
- 18 February CAPT David Darelus
- 18 February COL Roger Neumann
- 19 February LTC Thomas Donnelly
- 19 February CAPT Richard Lethe
- 20 February CAPT Claude Williams
- 21 February LTC Kenny Bierman
- 25 February LT Lewis Willis

27 February 1928 BGEN J.R. Brown

VALENTINE'S DAY



BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T QUITE COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.

Max: The four-legged lifesaver

For most, a dog's life is pretty easy; fetching balls, chasing squirrels, dreaming of that giant bone in the sky.



Corporal Max, DD N242

But for Max, life was a deadly challenge, living on the edge of disaster every day, for Max was an IED Detector Dog, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is credited with preventing the death of countless US Marines in combat.

Max was taught to stay, unleashed, 10 – 15 feet in front of the Marines in their mine-resistant armored vehicle, while searching for IED's and clearing the route of explosives.

Max could detect nine distinct different chemical odors that are most commonly used in Improvised Demolition devices. In 2018, Max received an Honorable Discharge and is now living a life of luxury in Weatherford, TX, fetching balls, chasing squirrels and reaping the rewards of a life well-lived.



Scouting

On track to exceed last year's record

Last year, Dallas Companion Bill Farmer received an MOWW National Citation for his efforts on behalf of the programs that support Boy and Girl Scouts of America. He is on pace to exceed last year's record-setting awards presentations.



A small sampling of the 51 Eagle Scouts of Circle 10 and the Lone Star Council, who have received MOWW Citations from Dallas Perpetual Companion Bill Farmer (*this month*) commending them for achieving Scouting's highest rank.

Note Valerie Tucker, the young lady in the front row. Valerie is the first female in Texas history to belong to a previously all-male Scout Troop.

Chapter Activities in the month of October



Upgrading to Perpetual, Capt. (USN) **Mark Liebman**, receives his National Citation from Dallas Chapter Commander LTC **Jim Blunk**, while Mark's sponsor, CPT **Allen Clark**, is standing by to affix his pocket name badge and lapel pin.



Sarah Spivey was the #1 Student at the 2018 Texas A&M YLC, which entitled her to be a Phoenician Essay contestant. Sarah's essay was #2 in the nation, which earned her a check for \$1,000 and an invitation from Perpetual Companion **Scott Murray** (left) to be on his popular radio program to talk about the Youth Leadership experience from her personal perspective.



Most Eagle Awards are self-explanatory. This one comes with a story, as told by Dallas Scout program Committee Chairman, **Bill Farmer**.

"This was my **400th** Scout Court of Honor Review. It was on the last month of the 100th year of Scouting. I reviewed Mike Mixon's Project, one year ago today.



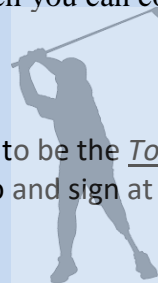
Bill continues:

"**Mike's** sister came home from college to surprise him and she brought **Bentley** her fish, so I had her sit with me on her brother's Review Board. To my knowledge, this is the first and only Eagle Honor Board - with a Fish on the Board."

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their chapter.

These are a few of the many ways in which you can contribute:

1. Volunteer to serve on a Committee.
2. Sponsor a Golfer (and/or *yourself*)
3. Sponsor a Foursome
4. Get a Sponsor to sponsor a Foursome (better yet, to be the *Tournament's Sponsor*)
5. Honor a family member or loved one with a photo and sign at one of the holes
6. Just write a check, dammit
7. All of the above





Struggling with Temptation

With every day, I drew steadily nearer to the truth; that man is not truly one, but truly two. It is the curse of mankind that these polar twins are bound together.

These words, of course, are taken from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

We see this same struggle in the writings of the Apostle Paul, "For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin." (Romans 7:22-23, NIV)

It is easy for us to think that we are unique in our struggle with temptation and sin. But the reality is that each of us sins, and each falls far short of God's glory. But He is a God of mercy, who desires to be in relationship with you. He is always willing to forgive if you sincerely ask Him for it.

Do not let shame or guilt keep you away from God's forgiveness.

Jamie Malakoff
Dallas Chapter Chaplain

Girl Scouts of North Texas

Gold Awards: Best of the Best

On Saturday, 13 Apr 19, Companions of the Dallas Chapter are invited to attend the Gold Award ceremony for more than 200 Girl Scouts who will receive the top rank in Girl Scouting.

Unlike their male counterparts, the Troops that comprise the North Texas Council of Girl Scouts do not receive their award immediately upon qualifying. Rather, the Council compiles all of the names who qualified during the previous 12 months, and then has a massive ceremony, inviting families, friends, dignitaries, and guests, which includes a four course Breakfast.



A small sampling of the more than 200 Girl Scouts of the Northeast Texas Council of GSA who are scheduled to receive Gold Awards, this year.

The highlight of the NETEX GSA ceremony is the announcement of the winners of Scholarship grants. The checks range from \$500 to \$2,000. Last year over \$25,000 was awarded to 30 lucky young ladies.

The Dallas Chapter has supported this program for the past 20 years and our loyalty is acknowledged during the ceremony when the Council CEO recognizes each of the MOWW members present, which invariably leads to a prolonged standing ovation.

Each Gold Award recipient receives an MOWW Citation that is included in her folder of accolades that include letters from the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas, numerous US and State Senators and Congressmen, as well as a host of celebrities.

Command and Staff, FY 2018

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