



Forged under Fire

Dallas Military Order News



Volume 30, No. 5

Best Large Chapter in the Nation

November 2021



Every year for the past 21 years, the Dallas Chapter has provided the Chairperson for the Greater Dallas Veterans Day Parade. This year is no exception as Perpetual Companion **Doug Gagliano** has devoted hundreds of hours in preparation for this premier event, traditionally held at Dallas City Hall. As has been true for so many such events during the Covid-19 crisis, this year will be different. In lieu of gathering thousands at City Hall and encouraging thousands more to march in the parade, a small contingent will meet at the Frontiers of Flight Museum to conduct an Eleventh-Hour ceremony.

This Month's Speaker, October 2021

"Combating Human Trafficking"

Jeremy Mahugh spent 10 years in US Special Operations, training and deploying as a Navy SEAL Sniper.



After his time in the military, Jeremy returned to the Middle East as an operative for a National Level Intelligence agency for an additional five years. More than seventeen deployments later, Jeremy returned home.

With a wide range of training in Special Operations, experience in the Intelligence Community, and time spent in the political arena,

Jeremy tells people that every job he has held has only been to prepare him for the work that he is currently doing. He is the Senior Vice President and Co-founder of: **Deliver Fund.**

Deliver Fund is made up of former special operations and intelligence operatives and is dedicated to stopping human trafficking, the modern-day form of slavery, which is rampant within the heartland of America, often ensnaring young innocents in their early teens, who are virtually powerless to resist and afraid to seek help.

Commander's Comments

The Commander's Report

Companions, our chapter is involved with multiple events. We still have two staff vacancies and 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 (on page 8).

Hereditary Perpetual Companion, Steve Suiter, our Webmaster, has made many updates to our website. Please visit our website to view the updated information – www.dallasmoww.org.

Upcoming military events in November/December include: the **Sky Ball** (4 NOV); **Fort Worth Chapter's 41st Annual Massing of the Colors** (07 NOV); **246th Birthday of the US Marine Corps** (10 NOV); and **Veterans Day** (11 NOV); in December, our **Christmas Banquet** (07 DEC) and **Wreaths Across America** (17 DEC).

Thank each of you for your arduous work and dedication to our chapter! I am extremely proud to serve you 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*



★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★
VETERANS DAY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Last Month's Speaker, October 2021

Operation Renewed Strength

LTC Reyno Arredondo (USMA, 1993) is currently working on a doctorate degree from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. During covert operations in multiple theatres of operations, primarily in Central Command, he conducted counterintelligence interrogations, which led to the capture or elimination of fifteen high level terrorist leaders and crippled their organizations.



LTC Reyno Arredondo

He is currently the G-2 (Intelligence Officer) of the 13th Sustainment Command, 3rd Armored Corps, at Fort Hood.

Veteran's Day, 11 Nov 21

Veterans Day Parade is moved to Love Field

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 Veteran's Day commemoration.

The Parade Committee has opted to execute **Plan B**, an *indoor* Eleventh-Hour ceremony, to be held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, on Thursday, **11 November 2021**.

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 necessarily smaller number of guests.



In Honor of the Horse Soldiers

Although the Museum offers a spacious venue, it will be impossible to accommodate all the citizens who might wish to attend. Parade planners have asked local radio and television stations to take

this opportunity to provide the Dallas community with live broadcasts of the **Eleventh-Hour** activities.

(FYI, the term Eleventh Hour comes from the traditional recognition that **World War I** officially ended on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, in 1918).

Salute to Veterans, 10 Nov 21

17th Annual Dinner to honor Veterans

The Rotary Club of Dallas will host a Dinner, the evening prior to Veterans Day, featuring keynote speaker, **Ross Perot, Jr.** proceeds support the DFW USO and Military Service initiatives of the George W. Bush Institute.

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

Joint Services Military "Sky Ball," 4 Nov 21

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 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.

National Security

Quarterly National Security Briefings

The *third* briefing in the 4-part series will held on **December 5**, at the Heritage Ranch Country Club in McKinney and is expected to draw an even larger crowd than the first two.



This *third* briefing will be held on **4 December 2021**,

and will feature presentations by two distinguished military leaders, led by General Tom Hobbins.

former Commander of US Air Forces in Europe,



Gen Tom Hobbins

and by Lieutenant General Steve Shepro, former Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee, now with the SMU Tower Center's Council on Foreign Relations.



Lt Gen Steve Shepro

They will discuss **Europe and Russia**.

The series is jointly sponsored by the **Dallas Chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars**, the Dallas Council of the Navy League of the United States, the Seidel Chapter of the Air Force Association, and the Dallas Chapter of Jewish War Veterans.



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

In keeping with our Preamble

Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better

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 – MAJ Marshall Miles, US Army (Ret)
“The Elegance of Ruthlessness”

1 Mar 22 – ADM Patrick Walsh, US Navy (Ret)
“China and the future of Taiwan”

5 Apr 22 – BG Christopher Beck, US Army (ACE)
“Flood Control in North Texas”

National Defense

Analysis of the Pacific Rim

Mark your calendar for March 2022. Former Commander of the Pacific Fleet (and Vice Chief of Naval Operations)



Fleet Admiral Pat Walsh and the Prime Minister of Japan

Admiral **Patrick Walsh** has accepted our offer to speak to the chapter on one of the most volatile regions in the world today. The sale of US nuclear submarines to Australia is just one example of strategic military thinking regarding the rising power of the Chinese and the

current vulnerability of our Asian and Pacific allies.

Dallas Does it again

15th 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 once again. So for those of you who missed the announcement in October, read on.

During 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**, signifying the Best Large Chapter in the Nation.

Take a bow Companions. It is official, you are the Best.



Law and Order

Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 23 Oct 21, Dallas Police Officer Paul Campopiano (#7182), received our Outstanding Service Citation for his selection as DPD's **Officer of the Month**. He is currently assigned to the Uniform Crime Reporting Division, where he is the unit trainer. His natural leadership ability mixed with his superb subject matter expertise resulted in the UCR team successfully submitting crime statistics for an entire year in less than 6 weeks. He went far beyond expectations and much of the credit the UCR receives reflects his admirable leadership skills. He is an outstanding example of why the Dallas Police Department is one of the Finest in the Nation.



Officer Paul Campopiano and his wife pose with Chuck

Congressional Recognition

Chuck Daniels in the Spotlight

Our immediate Past Chapter Commander, Chuck Daniels, received a prestigious Congressional Commendation from his US House of Representatives Congressman, **Van Taylor**, at a patriotic ceremony held at the Heritage Country Club, in McKinney.



LT (USN) Chuck Daniels

Chuck continues to serve our chapter and our national Military Order in his current capacity as the Texas Department Commander for Region 8.

Congratulations, Chuck. Richly earned and well deserved.

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 twenty-seven 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](#).

Know Your Companions

(Inductions are accelerating following *Coronavirus Interruptus*)

Don LaGrange, LTC, US Army (Ret)

LTC Don LaGrange graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1998, with a BS degree in Economics. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. He later earned a Master's degree in Psychology from the University of Texas, in Austin. He also attended the US Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS, and



the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, NY.

He began his military career as a Platoon Leader in the 545th Military Police Company, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX, and deployed to Bosnia with the unit in 2011. Upon promotion, he was assigned to the 94th MP Battalion, 8th US Army, in Korea and was later forward deployed in support of both US and South Korean personnel.

Don next commanded the 249th MP Confinement Facility, in Seoul, ROK, before becoming the Operations Officer of the 19th MP Criminal Investigation Battalion.

Returning home, he spent 3 years as an Assistant Professor on the faculty of his alma mater, USMA, after which he was the Executive Officer of 91st MP Battalion, Fort Drum, NY. He then deployed to Afghanistan, where he assumed command of the Kandahar Detention Site, the largest such facility in the country.

Stateside again, he was assigned as Deputy Director for Law Enforcement and Emergency Services for Fort Drum. He then became the Provost Marshal of the 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, CO. The Division Commander selected him to be the Officer-in-Charge of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center responsible for deploying units to military exercises in Europe. His final assignment, prior to his retirement was as Deputy Commander of the 42nd MP Brigade, Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA.

Currently, he is the Founder and CEO of LaGrange Financial Group and a certified Wealth Advisor with the firm of Murphy & Sylvest Wealth Management.

Don and his wife, Amy, live in Rockwall, TX.

Mark Smits, Captain, US Army (Fmr)

CPT Mark Smits graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's degree in Building Construction the designation of Distinguished Military Student, which earned him a Regular Army commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.



Upon graduation from the Engineer Officers' Basic course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Mark served for four years on

active duty, eventually earning the rank of Captain.

Following his resignation from the Army, he became Sales Manager for Abbott Diagnostics. Within three years, he was promoted to Vice President of US Services and Support. In 2008, he became Vice President of Strategic Marketing for Fisher Healthcare.

Three years later, he assumed the position of Vice President for Sales and Marketing with NeoGenomics Laboratories. Two years later, he moved to San Diego, where he was the Vice President of Marketing for Quidel, Inc.

In 2015, he returned to Texas and became a small business owner of Smits Ranch, in the city of Milano, TX. He retired from corporate America in 2015. Since his retirement, Smits planted a vineyard, learned how to make wine commercially and is now the proud owner of Descarado Winery.

Mark and his wife, Missy, have four adult children, all of whom graduated from Coppell High School. Their daughter, Meghan Tidwell, is an Elementary School teacher. Their sons, Patrick and Bryan, are regional managers for medical sales companies. Third son, Kevin, obtained his firefighter certification from Texas A&M University.

Over the years, Mark has been active in the Coppell Aggie Club and is currently the Club President. He has also served as President of the Coppell Cowboy Basketball Booster Club. Mark and Missy live in Coppell, Texas.

The Balkanization of America

National Security issues

ENGLISH AND BALKANIZATION OF AMERICA

By LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

Most Americans consider English is the national language. They may be surprised to learn that only 58% of US residents speak English well and over 37.6 million speak Spanish at home. This is disturbing when English is required for US citizenship. According to 2017 data, 32% of naturalized citizens are not functionally literate in English. Many people would attribute this situation to very lax, almost non-existent, enforcement of illegal immigration policies, open border policies, and the reduction of manpower within US Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).



Additionally, many socialist politicians and billionaires, believe in open borders and are globalists. George Soros supports open borders as a step toward a one-world government run by billionaire oligarchs like him. Soros is an atheist, who believes the Bill of Rights, Constitution, and Declaration of Independence should be scrapped. He believes there is no ultimate truth, and these founding documents contain primitive beliefs - *country, family, right, or wrong*. His open border movement is in over fifty countries, and his efforts has contributed to the current US border crisis. Soros and other billionaires underwrite many Marxist, anti-American, and socialist organizations. Soros supports Esperanto as a one-world language and wants to politically and socially re-engineer American society. He believes the US should not be a superpower, and Americans should be subjected to the will and desires of the world. Soros supports illegal immigration to devalue citizenship, patriotism, and voting in the US.



English is a globally unifying language because reading, speaking, and writing it leads to higher incomes and a higher standard of living. It is the language of international civil aviation, business, commerce, science, and medicine.

English is the most widely spoken language in the world, and adapts more quickly to new scientific, technology, and business terminology. Having English as our country's one language has helped our country lead in innovation from its start through the 20th century. Our laws and founding documents are in English.

It is a military advantage to speak one language, especially, English. Unfortunately, the US is rapidly approaching a point where English will no longer be the dominant spoken language. There has been no success to legislatively defend English as the national language. The US is one of the few countries in the world which does not have an official language.



If the US were to become a two language or multi-language country, like Canada, it appears that our country may Balkanize or subdivide. For centuries, the Balkans have been an area of conflict. These countries do not share common ethnicity, history, language, culture, or religion.



The US has accepted people from all countries with many different languages; however, before we pull ourselves apart, we should accept that diversity for diversity's sake is not ideal. If everyone is pulling the wagon in a different direction, the wagon does not move. Our country was founded by Western Europeans mostly of English descent, who came to America for religious, economic, and political freedom. Most of our immigrants assimilated the culture, values, and language to become Americans. Speaking English is a uniting aspect of our diverse culture and ethnicity and is one of the many traditions we need to preserve to maintain our country's values, culture, economic and military strength.



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.



- 1 November HPM Angela Ward
- 2 November COL Earl Buys
- 3 November HPM Adele Chamberlin
- 3 November LTC Earl Dunnington
- 5 November HPM Georgeann Moss
- 7 November Lt Col David Portillo
- 7 November COL Anthony Wood
- 9 November LT Raymond Adams
- 9 November CPT Ronald Williams
- 11 November  HPM Joseph Latimer
- 14 November CW3 James Hume
- 14 November MAJ Cedric Ingram,
- 15 November Lt Col Phil Hardin
- 18 November HPM Nicholas Paleschic
- 19 November HPM Katherine Merbler
- 20 November HPM Martha Nelson
- 21 November CPT Dennis Sheridan
- 21 November MAJ Thomas Stanzel
- 22 November COL Larry Greene
- 23 November MAJ Jimmy Cox
- 25 November HPM Janie Paleschic
- 25 November CAPT Rollie Stevens



Your Chapter in Action, October 2021.



1 - Past Dallas Chapter Commander (and currently Texas Department Commander for Region 8), LT (USN) Chuck Daniels presented a Bronze Patrick Henry to Karter Stanton (center), seen here with her parents and her School Counselor. Karter was chosen as the Number One Student at the Youth Leadership Conference held at Schreiner University, in Kerrville. She was sponsored by the Dallas Chapter.

2 - LTC Reyno Arredondo is flanked by Chapter Commander Col Michael Menefee (I) and fellow USMA alum, CPT Allen Clark, after receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding review of intelligence operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Allen Clark's stirring introduction of Reyno reminded us of what an incredible Land of Opportunity we live in.

3 - LTC Martha (Marti) Cencki, US Army (Ret) is our newest Perpetual Companion. Her Sponsor, LTC Don Munson (I) met Marti four years ago, while coordinating with her to schedule her boss to speak to the Chapter. Her boss was the Commander of the Southwest Division of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). She has been instrumental in assisting him to convince the last three Commanders (BG Tom Kula, BG David Hill, and BG Paul Owen) to become *Perpetual Companions* of the Dallas Chapter. Don is now in the process of signing up the current ACE Division Commander, BG Christopher Beck.

Notice: Next Commander's Staff Meeting will be held Thursday, 18 Nov 2021 at 1:00 p.m., in the Frontiers of Flight Conference Room, 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX, adjacent to Love Field.



The Fruit of Your Labor

From beauty products to social media trends, to getting into the right school, or getting the right job, we can be bombarded with what is needed for a happy, fulfilling life.

But just as a car cannot operate effectively in water because that was not its creator's intent, so too, we cannot find true fulfillment in the temporal or material alone.

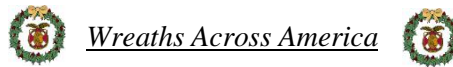
From the Garden of Eden to the Tower of Babel to present day, man has sought to emancipate himself from God's authority and serve as his own master.

History, however, has always shown this to be a futile effort. So where then do we turn to live in accordance with our Creator's design? Let us look to the Psalmist,

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. You shall eat the fruit of your labor; blessings will be yours and it shall be well with you." (Psalm 128)

May each of us, by God's grace, walk in obedience and live by truth.

Jamie Malakoff
Chapter Chaplain



Blessed are the Peacekeepers

Our Chapter is already one quarter of the way to our goal of **two hundred Christmas Wreaths** to adorn the headstones of the servicemen and women who rest for eternity at the DFW National Veterans Cemetery.

Please take a moment to pledge to purchase as many wreaths as you can afford. **Every donor to date has funded at least three.**

Despite rampant inflation, 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, who will place the wreaths, contribute their time and efforts, *pro bono*.

To pledge a purchase, 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 season.

And then plan to join a dozen or more of your chapter Companions **on 18 Dec 21 to lay the wreaths** at our designated section in the DFW cemetery.

It is a wholesome family event. Add this to your list of Christmas traditions that is both fun, inspiring, and a valuable teaching moment for children of all ages.

Don is planning a **post-wreath laying tailgate party** to celebrate with eggnog and other exotic libations. Homemade cookies are gratefully accepted.



Command and Staff, FY 2021

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