



Dallas Military Order News



Volume 32, No. 7

Best Large Chapter in the Nation

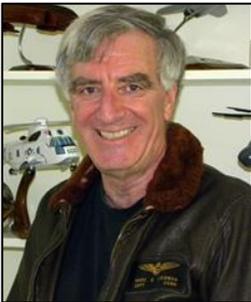
January 2024



Health problems have resulted in Chapter Commander Allen Clark feeling the necessity to step aside and allow Senior Vice Commander, **LT Natan Ton-That**, to assume the command of our Chapter for the remainder of FY 2024. Following the conclusion of our annual Christmas Gala, Allen assembled his Staff and formally installed Natan as the 72nd Commander of the Dallas Chapter. Elections will be held in May to select our Commander for FY 2025, with Natan as the most likely candidate to be chosen in order to permit him to serve a complete twelve-month tenure of office.

This Month's Program "Israeli-Hamas SitRep"

Marc Liebman is a Subject Matter Expert on conflict in the Middle East. He has presented his analysis of events that have led to the current fighting between the Israeli Defense Force and the armed elements of the Palestine forces of Gaza to numerous government agencies, active duty and veterans organizations.



CAPT Marc Liebman

Marc provides facts on why many of the Palestinian claims about Israel and the West Bank are false. As of December 2023, Iran is supporting terrorist organizations in over 25 countries and using them as proxies to attack its enemies. Marc will explain the history of the U.S. relationship with the Islamic Republic since 1980, which has essentially been an undeclared war. He asks questions that world leaders need to answer to stamp out Islamic terrorism.

Marc is a combat veteran of Vietnam, the Tanker Wars of the 1980's, and Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He retired from the Navy as a Captain after 26 years of service. He is a Naval Aviator with just under 6,000 hours of flight time in helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

The Commander's Report

"It is better to serve than to be served."

Welcome to 2024! The Luncheon on 2 January will be my first chapter meeting as your new Commander. First, and foremost, I want to thank Allen Clark for his devotion to the chapter and the ideals of our Order. Join me in sending a prayer to him and his precious wife, Linda, as they fight to overcome the vicissitudes of declining health.



LT Natan Ton That

Allow me to summarize our progress in December and outline some goals for the coming months. More than a dozen Dallas Chapter Companions attended the National Defense Briefing series presentation. I urge all of you to continue to support this magnificent program. In addition to an excellent social gathering, it has been a windfall *fundraising* event for us which will allow us to continue to conduct Outreach activities in our community.

On 16 December, 21 Companions, family and friends assembled at the offices of Fields Wealth Management (FWM), an affiliate of *Ameriprise* in Hurst, TX, from which we mounted a van that transported the group to the DFW National cemetery to participate in laying Wreaths,

Commander's Report (continued)

on the headstones of over 600 fallen servicemen and women. Charla Fields, the owner of FWM, treated us to a light breakfast and a gave us a delightful opportunity to support Wreaths across America - sans traffic.

We were pleased to have Companion Bill Farmer join us so soon after the loss of his beloved wife, Claire. Former chapter commander Michael Menefee (LtCol, USMC) surprised Bill by presenting him with an MOWW award for his 62 years of Scouting excellence.

Pray for peace in the Middle East, as well as for all who are impacted by the current world conflicts.

LT Natan Ton-That

Dallas Chapter Commander

Last Month's Program, Dec 2023

Toys for Tots

According to my historical records, the Dallas Chapter began collecting Toys for Tots during our annual Christmas Banquet - in 2008. We have continued to do so for the past fifteen years. Over that period, you and your predecessor



Bringing joy to children

Companions have donated more than 750 toys, games, and stuffed animals (with an estimated value of \$18,500.00) to brighten the lives of countless children during this season of giving.

It's just another of the thousands of reasons that I am proud to be a member of this amazing Chapter.

Companion Down

The Chapter extends its prayers.

Our Chaplain reported that Patriot Rob O'Brien was seriously injured in a car accident. He was exiting a fast food driveway when two drag racers hit his car, demolishing all three vehicles. Rob has undergone four surgeries, to date. He is currently recovering but faces numerous additional operations and long term physical therapy.



Patriot Rob O'Brien

Chapter Committee Reports

1. Patriotic Education (Greg Schmitz). The chapter plans to send over 50 local area High School juniors to our Youth Leadership Conferences in June and July of 2024.



2. Reserve Officer Training (Mark Smits). The chapter will present Senior & Junior ROTC medals to over 70 Top Cadets by the end of the current school year, May 2024.



3. Scouting (Bill Farmer). The chapter will have presented 140 GSA Gold Awards and between 20 and 24 BSA Eagle awards by June 2024.



4. Veterans Affairs (Allen Clark). The chapter has invited Chris Cassady, the CEO of the Medal of Honor Museum, to speak to us in May 2024.



5. Law and Order (Chuck Daniels). The chapter presented our Certificate of Appreciation to the Dallas Officer of the Month at the December supper meeting of the Dallas Police Community Awards Committee.



6. National Security (Michael Menefee). Michael continues to submit articles for publication in the Chapter Newsletter. See this month's article on page 4.



7. Homeland Security (Bob Epstein). Bob will present a brief overview of the National DHS "Active Shooter" program to elevate everyone's awareness of this ugly threat.



8. Information & Publicity (Martha Cenkei). Marti is currently sharing News Releases of our activities with local newspapers spotlighting Companions, students, and cadets who have been recognized by the chapter.



Upcoming Luncheon Speakers

Chapter Programs Just Keep Getting Better

**2 Jan 24 – “Iran - The Terrorist’s go-to Partner”
Capt (USN) Marc Liebman, prolific military Author**

**6 Feb 24 – “Issues at the Border”
Hon. Keith Self, US Representative (TX, Dist. 3)**

**5 Mar 24 – “SitRep on China”
Viet Luong, Major General, US Army (Ret)**

When Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, many military analysts blamed Iran for instigating the event. Tehran says it does not intervene in decision-making of other countries ‘including Palestine.’ Senior Hamas officials claim, “It was a surprise to everyone, including Iran.”

Iran rejected as unfounded the allegations it had a role in the massive assault on Israel by the Palestinian Islamist terror group Hamas. A senior Hamas official echoed the point, asserting that Iran was not given a heads up before the Friday morning attack was launched.



“We did not inform Iran that an operation would happen at dawn on Oct. 7, he added. “After the operation began, we informed Iran.”

Hundreds of Palestinian terrorists from the Iran-backed Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, infiltrated Israel at dawn under the cover of a massive rocket barrage. Gunmen roamed through communities and areas in southern Israel, killing at least 700 people and kidnapping over 100 others who were taken to Gaza as captives. Over 2,000 people in Israel were injured.

Israel responded with airstrikes across Gaza targeting terrorist infrastructure.

Wreaths Across America

Take a bow, Companions! Each wreath that you purchased for placement at headstones in the DFW National cemetery has added \$2.00 to our fundraising efforts. During our January luncheon, Companion Larry Allen (no, not the former All-Pro Dallas Cowboy) will present a check to the chapter to assist us in covering the expenses of our many Youth Outreach programs.



National Defense Briefing Series

Click [HERE](#) to view NDBS Seasons 1 & 2

**20 Jan 2024 – “Defender of Freedom Award”
Named in honor of late Congressman Sam Johnson**

**20 Jan 2024 – The evening will also include a
“Fireside Chat” between two distinguished VIP’s.**

**Stay tuned for the future Line-up of Distinguished Speakers
in this outstanding National Defense Briefing series.**

The 2024 Recipient of the Defender of Freedom award is Darcy Anderson. He serves as the Vice Chairman of Hillwood Management, working closely with Ross Perot Jr. on the Perot family’s real estate, oil and gas and investment businesses.



Darcy graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1978 and completed five years of active duty in the United States Army.

Bringing joy to children

He is an advisor to the West Point Society of North Texas, a past Board Member of the West Point Association of Graduates and a member of the Service Academy Selection Boards for Congressman Marc Veasey and Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne. He also serves as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for North Texas. He serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce; the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America – Circle Ten Council in Dallas; and is a member of the Board of Directors for Comfort Systems USA. He also serves on the Texas Veterans Network Steering Committee.

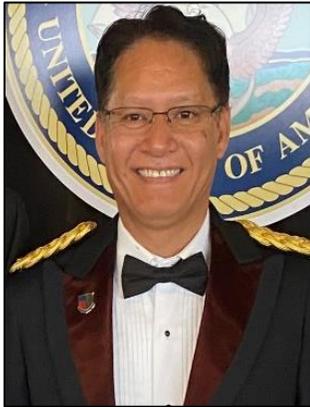
As a complement to the award ceremony, there will be a “Fireside Chat” between Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchinson** and General **Mike Scaparrotti** (former Commander of the US European Command).



Check in begins at 6:00. The program starts at 6:30 pm.

Know Your Companions

Natan Ton-That, LT, US Army



Our new Commander, Natan Ton-That, was born in Da Nang, in Central Vietnam, on *Veterans Day*, November 11, 1967. His name means: “A Gift from God.” His father was a chief mechanic for the US Navy Seabees in Da Nang.

After the fall of the Republic of South Vietnam on April 30th, 1975, the local Communist leaders in Da Nang, who knew of his father’s connections to the US military,

confiscated his business, his property, his money, his tools, and his permit to travel.

After 3 years under gruesome rule by the North Vietnamese Communists, his father planned an expensive and dangerous escape to freedom, by boat. By the grace of God, the dozen families in the boat survived a vicious monsoon storm in the South China Sea and were rescued by Chinese fishermen, who transported them to Hong Kong.

With the assistance of the Catholic Church, his family located a distant relative living in America, who agreed to be their sponsor. After spending more than six months in a refugee camp in Hong Kong, they arrived in Denver, Colorado. Two weeks later, his father was offered work as an airplane mechanic, in Wichita, Kansas.

Kansas became home, starting in 1979. Natan completed primary and secondary school education there, and then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Wichita State University. While taking courses to earn a Master’s degree, he volunteered for the Peace Corps to “*repay America*.” He spent two years in Hungary with the Peace Corps, and then returned to Kansas and completed his Master’s program earning a degree in History.

In the winter of 1995, Natan enlisted in the US Army Reserves. After completion of Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, he received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant.

He was inducted into the Dallas Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars in 2020. His work ethic and enthusiasm became immediately apparent to the officers of the chapter. He was elected to be the Junior Vice Commander in his second year as a Companion. This month, he will be installed as our Senior Vice Commander in preparation for becoming the Commander of the Best Chapter in the Nation, in 2024.

Martha Cenkci, Lt Col, US Air Force

Martie Cenkci is a freelance writer and former federal government Public Affairs Officer, who served in both active-duty U.S. Air Force and Department of the Army civilian public affairs positions spanning a 40-year worldwide career. She has held a variety of positions in organizations within the Department of Defense.



These have included Chief of Public Affairs for both the

Air Force and the Army Intelligence commands; chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Logistics Group, Ankara, Turkey; and the Public Affairs Plans Officer for the Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars” program), the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. She was also the Deputy Public Affairs Officer for U.S. Forces Korea; director of Public Affairs for the Defense Logistics Agency; and the chief of Public Affairs for the Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dallas, Texas.

A native of Austin, she holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Arts from Webster University, St. Louis. She is also a graduate of several Military Professional Education schools, including Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Ms. Cenkci was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1978 and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In addition to numerous military and civilian performance awards, she has earned a variety of public affairs awards. These include the Secretary of the Air Force Special Achievement Award for first online Air Force magazine; Best Newspaper, U.S. Air Force; Best Public Affairs Program, Tactical Air Command; Air Force Systems Command Field Grade Public Affairs Officer of the Year; First Place, Commentary, USACE Media Contest, the Pegasus Award from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Dallas, for the Best Media Relations Program, and the Bronze de Fleury Medal, awarded by the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment for superior support.

She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Society of the Descendants of Washington’s Army at Valley Forge.

She is married to Mr. Kemal Cenkci and has one son and two granddaughters.

National Defense Report

IRAN IS A THREAT TO THE US AND THE WEST

By LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

After the American Embassy takeover in Teheran on 04 November 1979, the US has had almost no relations with Iran. On 07 April 1980, the US severed all diplomatic relations with Iran. Iran is a radical Muslim theocracy with desires to become the Middle Eastern nuclear superpower. It is the third largest producer of oil and the fifth largest producer of natural gas. Iran has the second largest natural gas reserves in the world and approximately 18% of the world's oil reserves. It sells much of its oil to China. Currently, Iran's nuclear enrichment is over 60 percent, and it appears to be accelerating. At 90 percent, they become nuclear weapons capable as they already have a delivery system of thousands of short and medium range missiles. It will be a calamity for the world if Iran is allowed to develop nuclear weapons.



Iran supports three proxy organizations currently fighting Israel and its allies. Hamas is the radical Iranian proxy organization that governs the Gaza Strip which attacked Israel on 07 October. Hezbollah is the radical Iranian backed paramilitary organization from Lebanon which is sending rockets and artillery shells into northern Israel. The Houthis of Yemen have united with Hamas and Hezbollah to oppose Israel by attacking commercial vessels in the Red Sea. As Israel's ally, the US is also threatened by Iran and its proxies. Today, Iran, China, Russia, and North Korea make-up a malevolent foursome of US adversaries. These countries oppose the US militarily, economically, and diplomatically.

Dictators, radical Islamists, terrorists, and communists take advantage of weakness, and to them, our military and government appear weak. They use appeasement and negotiation as opportunities to exploit Western governments. Poor policy decisions have compounded many of the US foreign policy results.

One of these issues is the way the US distributes foreign aid. Some unaccounted-for US weapons used in the 07 October attack came from Ukraine. The US has given more than \$5.2 billion through USAID since 1994 to the Palestine Authority and still gives \$600 million to the Palestine Authority annually. Many intelligence analysts assess the Palestine Authority is either a terrorist organization or supportive of radical Islamic terrorism. Critics also cite the recent “six-billion-dollar ransom” paid to Iran, will cause more hostages to be kidnapped and will allow funds required for other issues to be used for Iran to conduct proxy wars and terrorism. Additionally, there have been over 108 attacks on US bases, facilities, and ships since the 07 October attack. Analysts cite increasing Iranian attacks on US interests as an indicator of the lack of effect of the US retaliation to date. The US is not protecting its borders and Special Interest Alien Apprehensions are rising steeply, increasing the probability of a terrorist attack. As of 22 December 2023, the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve had only 26 days of oil reserves.



The US should adopt a much more severe response to Iran not only because Iran trained the Hamas terrorists who killed 32 Americans and claimed 12 American hostages, but the current strategy is not effective. Both the US and Israel had intelligence failures during this current crisis. Critics of the US Intelligence Community (IC) say the IC has not been focusing enough on issues related to national security. Increasing military and economic sanctions of Iranian oil and natural gas, missile, and nuclear components may yield better results. The anti-Israel marching slogan from “the river to the sea” means from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Iran and its proxies desire to establish a Muslim state where Israel is today by eliminating Israel. They reject any compromise with either Israel or the US.



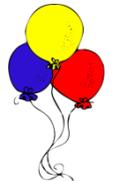
Information for this article was gathered from Open Sources – books, media, published articles, websites, graphs, charts, and the general knowledge of the author. There is no classified information in this article, no known quotations from any source, and this article does not have footnotes or endnotes due to its brevity. Any 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.

Lighten Up

Happy Birthday

"The secret to Birthdays is to pick one you like and stick to it!" ...Snoopy

2 January	CPT Allan Backof
2 January	LtCol Jeffrey Hauser
4 January	HRM Jessica Cafferata
8 January	CPT John Wagner
9 January	MAJ John Van Buskirk
10 January	CDR Jerry Rucker
11 January	LTC Shane Ousey
12 January	CPT Boyd Branch
12 January	COL Virgil Williams
16 January	LTC King Moss
17 January	Maj Gen Robert McDonald
18 January	CDR Henry Coates
20 January	HPM Mark Munson
20 January	CPT Richard Wegner
22 January	CPT Steven Poole
23 January	LTC James Small
28 January	MR Walter Applewhite
31 January	MR Joe Applewhite
31 January	COL Joe Sasser
31 January	HPM Jean Sheflett-Kenas



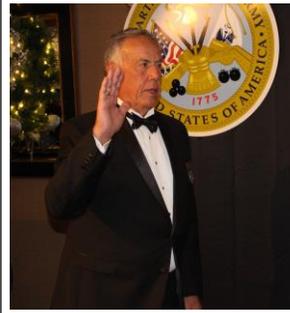
Your Dallas Chapter, DEC 2023



Allen Clark delivered an emotional testimonial on Service and then installed Senior Vice Commander, Natan Ton-That to finish his remaining term of office.



Prior to relinquishing his command, Allen presented awards and MOWW coins of Excellence to Trey Fife, Dave Wallace, and Steve Suiter.



Allen awarded Larry Allen a coin of Excellence for his work with Wreaths across America. Junior Vice Mark Smits was then installed as Senior Vice Commander



Chapter Surgeon Fred Aurbach introduced the talented couple from his church, who are both professional singers, to lead us in Christmas carols.

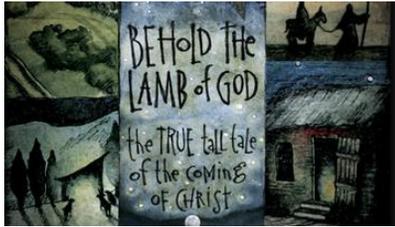


Allen's staff assembled after the Christmas Banquet in a show of solidarity for Allen as he stepped down from Command. Later, Region VIII Commander Chuck Daniels took the opportunity to pledge his support to Natan.



Prior to their departure for the evening, Allen and his soulmate, Linda, posed for a classic photo. As one of Allen's role models once reminded the US Congress, "Old Soldiers never die; they just fade away."

The Chaplain's Corner



Behold the New has come.

The arrival of the New Year brings a great opportunity to renew our faith and stir within us a love of God.

It's an excellent time to recognize the joy of our salvation as a new creation in Christ. Regardless of what 2023 brought you, success, fulfillment, and joy, or you faced grief, setbacks, struggle, or failure, you can still look ahead to the new year with Hope.

In 1 Corinthians (5:17) the bible tells us "The old has passed away, behold the new has come."

Let's enter the year 2024 with a thankful attitude and start this year with peace in our hearts and love for our neighbor as for ourselves.

Let's release all resentment and bitterness and frustration of the past year so that we can enter the new year knowing God loves us and wants the best for us.

We can pray and focus on healing for ourselves through renewing our minds so that we can bring the light of hope into our own lives and to the world.

In Philippians (4:13) we are promised that we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

Happy New Year!

James Grogan
Chapter Chaplain

Mark Your Calendar

January Events

Chapter Lunch, 2 Jan 24



Marc Liebman speaks on "IRAN – The Terrorists go-to partner."

[Click HERE](#) to register.

NDBS Luncheon, 20 Jan 24



Congressman Sam Johnson "Defender of Freedom award, with a "Fireside Chat" between Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and GEN Mike Scaparrotti (USMA, Class of 1978).

Future Events

Chapter Lunch, 5 Feb 24



US Rep. Keith Self has been invited to speak address "Issues at the open southern Border.

[Click HERE](#) to register.

ROTC Awards, Apr/May 24



Companions will present Senior and Junior ROTC medals to outstanding Cadets at the end of their academic year. Cadets in Senior ROTC programs receive either gold, silver, or bronze medals.

YLC Interviews, Apr/May 24



Companions will interview over 250 students in order find the 50 best to attend our Youth Leadership Conferences

Museum Opening, 17 Mar 25



Ribbon cutting and Grand Opening of the Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, next to World Series Champions Texas Rangers ballpark.

Command and Staff, FY 2024

Commander
Natan Ton-That
LT, US Army
214-548-1179



Senior Vice Commander
Mark Smits
CPT, US Army
972-342-8904



Junior Vice Commander
Currently open, awaiting a volunteer.

If not you, who?
If not now, when?

Adjutant
Brandon Hern
LT, US Army
214-901-4874



Treasurer
David Wallace
Capt, US Air Force
571-379-0256



Judge Advocate
John VanBuskirk
MAJ, US Army
214-321-5101



Marshal
Pat Teipel
Perpetual Hereditary
469-583-8714



Surgeon
Fred Aurbach
CPT (Dr), US Army
214-793-2065



Chaplain
James Grogan
CPT (Dr), US Army
469-585-9622



Special Operations
Don Munson
LTC, US Army
972-971-1413



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