



JUNE 2025

Dallas Military Order News

BEST LARGE MOWW CHAPTER IN THE NATION



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This Month's Event



Change of Command and Awards Banquet

The Commander and Staff of the Dallas Chapter of MOWW invite the Companions, Patriots, and guests to attend the annual Dallas Chapter MOWW Change of Command and Awards Banquet. This is a formal evening event during which our new Commander and his staff are sworn into office.

In addition, there will be recognitions of our Companions who have contributed their time and talents, to ensure the continued success of our Chapter and our Order.

"So, polish your boots, don your Blues, bring your significant other, and get ready for the best Change of Command gathering in years."

- ❖ **When:** June 3rd, 2025
06:00 PM
- ❖ **Where:** Park City Club
5956 Sherry Lane, Dallas



COMMANDER'S REPORT



June 2025 marks the end of my term as your commander and the beginning of the new leadership after the Change of Command ceremony. The newly elected officers will be installed at our Change of Command and Awards Banquet on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. I would like to personally thank each of our Companions and Patriots for supporting our Chapter and the MOWW. I want to welcome our new Commander, CPT Mark Smits, and members of his staff.

During my service as commander, I was fortunate to have many of our wonderful past commanders guiding and mentoring me through some challenging endeavors.

I have confidence that these same past commanders will continue to support our new leadership team.

We are a Patriotic Veterans Service Organization, and we support national security and youth organizations dedicated to developing new leaders to serve our country and communities. To conclude my last commander's report:

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the largest MOWW chapter in the country and the veterans' communities in North Texas. God bless our Chapter, our Order, and our Country.

IT IS BETTER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED.

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DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

May Luncheon

Lt Col Steven LeMaire (left) spoke about the 344th Recruiting Squadron's activities which aim to inspire, engage and recruit America's best and brightest talent for shaping the Air and Space Force of tomorrow. He reported the challenges and opportunities of readiness of the U.S. Air Force and Space Force to deter war and protect the security of our nation.



MOWW Region VIII Conference 2025 TX



In San Antonio, Texas on May 2-4, 2025, CPT Mark Smits and MOWW Region VIII Commander LT Chuck Daniels represented the Dallas Chapter at the Region VIII Staff meeting. The highlight of the conference was a celebration of lost companions and the installation of new Region VIII Commander, MAJ Michael E. Belcher.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Dallas Chapter Commander & Staff for FY 2025

We welcome the new Command and Staff for FY 2025 (OY 2025-2026). These officers were nominated by the nominating committee headed by past commander CPT Allen Clark and were unanimously elected at our May Luncheon/Meeting. Please take time to meet and get to know each and everyone of them. They will continue the work that many past commanders and companions have started and will need all the support they can get.

Command and Staff, OY 2025-2026

CPT Mark Smits	Commander
CPT James Runzheimer	Senior Vice Commander
LTC Carl Wiley	Junior Vice Commander
CW3 Ramon Ramos	Adjutant
CPT Jeff Etter	Treasurer
MAJ John VanBuskirk	Judge Advocate
HP Pat Teipel	Marshall
DR/CPT Fred Aurbach	Surgeon
Dr. Todd Collier	Chaplain
Don Munson	Historian

In addition to the Officers, our Dallas Chapter has eight committees. The committees and the current chairpersons are listed below. If you would like to chair or serve on one of these committees, please let us know.

Committees, OY 2025-2026

1.	National Security Committee	Michael Menefee
2.	Homeland Security Committee	Robert Epstein
3.	Scouting Committee	Mark Smits
4.	Patriotic Education Committee	Greg Schmitz
5.	Information and Publicity Committee	Michelle Metzger
6.	Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee	Chuck Daniels
7.	Veteran Affairs Committee	VACANT
8.	ROTC/JROTC Committee	Mark Smits/Greg Schmitz

NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT

THE CHINESE ECONOMY AND THE EFFECTS OF A TRADE WAR WITH THE US

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

In 2021, Lithuania allowed The Republic of China, (Taiwan), to open a diplomatic office in Vilnius. The People's Republic of China (PRC, alias - Communist China) retaliated by immediately freezing trade with Lithuania. This was a clear economic message. The Chinese proved they were quite willing to use their significant economic power to force their diplomatic will on a smaller, less powerful country. This action resulted in delayed supply lines and affected other European countries who trade with Lithuania.

US and European business leaders who desired access to the Chinese markets, politicians on both sides of the aisle who believed the diplomats and B-school think-tank gurus who gave us the concept of, "if they trade with us, they will democratize" all supported moving our supply chain manufacturing offshore to third-world countries. They replaced understanding and wariness of communist ideology with naïve, egalitarian, and utopian thinking, wishing that the third-world countries would democratize and hoping they would not pollute. They forgot the lessons learned from the ancient Chinese general Sun Tzu and his ideas of war and greed. These leaders found out these third-world manufacturers polluted more and stole both US and Western technology. During the Communist Chinese Wuhan Stage IV Biolab virus outbreak, (COVID-19), the US found that its supply chain was broken, and it could no longer expect Chinese support. The Chinese had exploited the vulnerability of the American supply chain dilemma. As the most prolific polluters, China and India have aggravated the extent of ocean, air, and freshwater pollution and now the earth has a much more polluted environment. President Trump is trying to take advantage of the broken US supply chain. Since the US is now a consumer nation and the PRC is a manufacturing economy, the PRC economy is facing multiple problems brought about by their socialist market economy. Deflation is occurring as prices have fallen in China. Part of this problem has been brought about by fewer Chinese goods being exported to the US. Exports once destined for US consumers are now being rerouted back into the Chinese economy.

For one of the first times since WWII, President Trump is using the vast economic resources of the US to wield power instead of just using its overt military power. Using economic pressure, other than sanctions to affect diplomatic outcomes is generally a long-term approach. Internal political divisions within the US have made it difficult for it to use longer-term economic approaches, and sanctions have often been used; however, with changes in administrations, these policies frequently change. The US has been so divided politically, that many long-term policies were abandoned for shorter-term policies. Tariffs were not used because there was no consensus. Longer-term solutions are more difficult to enact because they sometimes take years to take effect. Using economic warfare against an adversary or ally rather than military power is a longer-term solution that may have better results than shorter term solutions, because they often address multi-year problems. Economic policies often require more thorough planning, management vision, and competence. President Trump also wishes to increase the US defense budget but is handcuffed by the albatross of US debt. US debt must be reduced, as the US economy is not sustainable at present debt levels. Willingness to use forceful military action as a backup plan gives US foreign policy more teeth. The Trump administration's trade war may offer potential if it stays focused and keeps the agenda. However, it will upset global supply chains, may harm political relations, and affect the global economy. The strategic need for the US to restart its manufacturing capacity is critical to supporting AI dominance and having a viable computer chip supply chain. Understanding the economic uncertainties, the strategic importance to strengthen US manufacturing and production, overrides those doubts. The Chinese tariff war should help the US improve its global trade imbalance, reduce its debt, and make the US safer and stronger in the future.

DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

2LT Thomas Max Nygaard with a Flag Presentation Ceremony



During our May 6 Luncheon, the Dallas chapter honored 2LT Thomas Max Nygaard with a Flag Presentation Ceremony for Alicia Formagus and family at the Park City club.

MOWW Member Thomas Max Nygaard, a man of great intellect, deep faith in his Lord Jesus Christ, and boundless charm, passed peacefully on February 6 at the age of 90, holding the hand of his beloved wife of 65 years, Shirley. Born in Haynesville, Louisiana, the son of a Danish immigrant, Max studied violin at Juilliard and in Copenhagen before a broken finger during his Air National Guard service ended his musical aspirations. He went on to earn a law degree from the University of Texas and built a successful career in Dallas as an independent oil and gas operator. With a rare gift for bridging worlds, Max could speak as comfortably with a roughneck on a rig as with the President of the United States.

In the late 1970s, Max rallied early support for Ronald Reagan's campaign in Texas and later served as a trusted advisor, authoring key white papers—most notably on revitalizing the Chrysler Corporation. He led numerous civic and cultural boards in Dallas, was devoted to his church, family, and community, and cherished his role as “Papa” to his grandchildren. Max lived a life marked by loyalty, wit, and vision—leaving behind a legacy of love, leadership, and enduring friendships. His daughter, MOWW Hereditary Member Alicia Formagus, will be presented with the flag honoring her father's service to our country. The video recording of the ceremony can also be accessed [here](#).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*"People who have the most birthdays –
Live the Longest"*

HAPPY
Birthday

1 June Lt Col Joe Banks
1 June CPT Robert Kurth
1 June Dale Monroe
1 June HPM Jennifer Nsakasalo
1 June CPT Andrew White
1 June HPM Steve Suiter
2 June HRM Jonathan Mueller
3 June LT William Skeeters
4 June CDR James Bittle
4 June Milan Georgia
5 June MS Sarah Bullock
5 June Col John Duncan
8 June Capt Paul Brown
9 June CPT Marshall Doke
9 June Meredith Walker
10 June LTC William Holton
11 June Juan Saldivar
11 June HPM Peter Schmidt
12 June LT George H. W. Bush (#41)
13 June HPM Aidan Schmidt
14 June LTC James Adams
15 June HPM Larry Franks
15 June Capt Harry Pierce
16 June HPM Richard Lewis
17 June HPM Harold Moore, IV
18 June Lt Col Earl Bullock
18 June Linda Vrecenar
19 June William Greenlee, MD
19 June HPM Valenia Merton



June Birthdays

19 June HPM Pat Teipel
19 June LTC Benson Wheeler
20 June CPT Allen Clark
21 June LT James Hopper
22 June CDR John Lopez
23 June HPM Amy Merbler
29 June CPT William Felini
30 June MAJ Jon Edmonson
30 June HPM Alex Eppley Schmidt

Let's cherish the Memories of the World Wars

June 6th marks the 81st Anniversary of the
Normandy Invasion, the beginning of the end of
World War II.

6 June 1944

D-Day



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ June 12, 2025 – [Military History Book Club – "The War in Bosnia Herzegovina"](#)
- ❖ July 1, 2025 – First Generation Americans Program
- ❖ July 16, 2025 – Texas A&M Youth Leadership Conference Awards Banquet
- ❖ July 27, 2025 – National Defense Briefing Series – "Great Power Competition"