



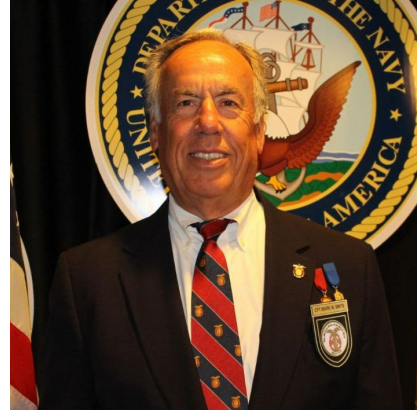
Dallas Chapter MOWW



Commander's Report

Attention Dallas Companions

While this is my October message, it is appropriate to begin preparations for the annual celebration on November 11, when Americans honor our veterans. I take great pride in having served our nation and in our chapter's ongoing commitment to organizing the annual Veterans Day parades in Dallas and Arlington. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all chapter members who work diligently to ensure that our communities remember and honor the dedication and sacrifices made by our veterans. Our continued support of these parades significantly contributes to their ongoing success.



This year, I have been invited to speak at the opening of the new Veteran's Plaza in Coppell on November 11. It is a distinct honor to participate in this meaningful event and represent our community at such an important occasion.

When our communities celebrate veterans, they are, in essence, celebrating America itself. The country we know today has been profoundly shaped by the service of its veterans over the past 250 years. Through these celebrations, we recognize not only the individuals but also the enduring values they embody—service, patriotism, commitment to community, and leadership.

Although Webster defines a veteran as a “former member of the armed forces,” I believe this definition does not fully encompass the weight of their contributions. As Abraham Lincoln described, a veteran is one “who has borne the battle.” The exceptional character of our nation is greatly attributed to those men and women who have taken up this responsibility.

As we prepare for Veteran's Day 2025, let us stand united and take pride in our shared contributions to America. Let us also reaffirm our commitment to the preamble of the MOWW and to all the virtues and principles upheld within that pledge.

October Luncheon Recap

The Dallas Chapter gathered on October 7th for another inspiring luncheon filled with updates, recognition, and an engaging speaker who connected military leadership to corporate success.

The meeting opened with the invocation by Pastor LTC Marci Miller, USA (Ret), followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by HPM Pat Teipel, and the Preamble recited by LTC Greg Schmitz, USA (Ret). Commander CPT Mark W. Smits, USA (Fmr) welcomed members and guests before introducing an informative lineup of presentations.

Highlights included:

- **2025 Veterans Day Parade Update** – MG Al Zapanta, USA (Ret), and HPM Pat Teipel shared plans for this year's parade and the chapter's continued participation.
- **Implementing U.S. Arms Control Agreements** – a joint presentation by LTC Gil Bernabe, USA (Ret), and COL Ron Forest, USA (Ret), offering valuable insights on global arms policy and the importance of international cooperation.
- **Special Veteran Recognition** – SGT Ken Watterson (Ret), was honored for his remarkable service and ongoing dedication to veterans.
- **YLC and JROTC Awards** – presented by CDR CPT Mark W. Smits, USA (Fmr), and LTC Greg Schmitz, USA (Ret), recognizing outstanding cadets including Joanna Ezepue, Lincoln Kohlhausen, Grady Wyse and Ruby Chabot for their leadership and commitment to excellence.

The featured program, "From United States Air Force Captain to Corporate Executive," was delivered by Mr. Matthew E. Byrd. Introduced by Junior Vice Commander LTC Carl D. Wiley, USA (Ret), Mr. Byrd shared lessons from his transition from military service to the corporate world, highlighting the values of discipline, adaptability, and leadership that continue to define his success. He shared of his experience flying different airplanes including the F-16 and the stealth bomber, as well as some harrowing stories from his service.



The luncheon concluded with a lively raffle drawing led by HPM Pat Teipel and a benediction from Pastor LTC Marci Miller, USA (Ret).

It was a day of thoughtful reflection and celebration, exemplifying the chapter's ongoing mission to honor service, foster leadership, and uphold the values of the Military Order of the World Wars.

More Luncheon Photos





October Birthdays

COL Michael T. Anderson – USA (Ret)
 LTC Lawrence L. Anderson – USA (Fmr)
 Capt John B. Belvin III – USAF (Fmr)
 Ms Katherine L. Blair
 CPT Jeffery D. Butcher – USA (Fmr)
 Lt Col Martie J. Cencki – USA (Ret)
 LTC Michael S. Christians – USAR
 Col Joseph L. Cordina – USAF (Ret)
 LTC Kelly E. DeWitt – USA (Ret)
 Ms Joanne Epply-Schmidt
 Ms Tracy K. Fisher
 LT Thomas E. Hartin – USA (Fmr)
 Capt John Michael Hayes – USAF (Fmr)
 Mr Mark R. Johnston – USNR
 Ms Catherine A. Lee

Mr Kenneth A. Mayfield
 CPT James M. Malakoff – USA (Fmr)
 LtCol Michael W. Menefee – USMC (Ret)
 Mrs Mary S. Moore
 Mr Jeremy C. Moore
 Mr Scott H. Morris
 COL Larry N. Patterson – USA (Ret)
 LCDR Ben J. Petrick – USN (Ret)
 Capt David Pickett – USMC (Ret)
 VADM David B. Robinson – USN (Ret)
 LT Ricardo S. Sanchez – USA (Ret)
 Mr Frank S. Sutherland-Hall
 LT Eric Stroud – USNR (Fmr)
 Mr Clifford D. Way
 LCDR Larry C. Wilcock – USN (Ret)

Upcoming Programs

Register to Attend



November 5

CDR CPT Mark W. Smits, USA (Fmr)

"Leadership and Service Beyond the Uniform"

After hearing Matt Byrd last month, I know I have a high bar to clear! For those unfamiliar with my background—I earned an Army ROTC scholarship to Texas A&M, graduating as a Distinguished Military Graduate and George C. Marshall Award recipient. Commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I served four years at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, leaving active duty as a Captain.

After 35 years in corporate leadership, Missy and I now run a vineyard, mentor young leaders, and focus on giving back. My talk will explore leadership, purpose, and service beyond the uniform.

National Security and Homeland Security

RUSSIA COLLUSION HOAX AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

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

[Download a PDF copy of the article here](#)

At the end of July 2025, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard and DCI John Ratcliffe released documents providing a direct whistleblower account from the Intelligence Community (IC) exposing serious issues involving the manufacturing and manipulation of false intelligence. The documents exposed the activities of former DNI James Clapper and former CIA Director John Brennan. It also mentioned a supervisor who tried to pressure the whistleblower to endorse key findings from an Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) requested by former President Barack Obama. The altered 2017 ICA falsely assessed that the Russian government supported Candidate Donald Trump over Candidate Hillary Clinton, and the Russians interfered with the 2016 presidential election. President Obama knew the 2017 ICA and the Steele dossier contained false information. Former 2016 presidential candidate, Secretary Clinton, was so distraught over losing the election to Candidate Trump, that she serially repeated in multiple interviews and speaking events that Russia had interfered in the US election, knowing this Russian interference allegation was false. Although Russia has historically tried to influence US elections and other democratic elections in the West, using social media, disinformation, hacking, and stolen information, Secretary Clinton and her team could not believe her rejection by the American electorate and electing President Trump.

Recently released classified documents prove the Russians favored Secretary Clinton but were trying to undermine the confidence of the American voters, not trying to swing the election in either political party's favor. These classified documents further show the Russians were unsuccessful in undermining the confidence in the US voting system and did not hack the 2016 election. In December, after the election, DNI Clapper pulled the ICA that refuted the Russia Hoax. Within days after the ICA was pulled, President Obama met with DNI Clapper, FBI Director Comey, DCI Brennan and other officials to plan a new ICA on "Russia election meddling." On 9 December, newly released documents show DNI Clapper's executive assistant emailed IC leaders to create a new ICA requested by President Obama to discuss the actions and tools the Russians used in the 2016 election. Obama administration officials used their media contacts to plant false stories in The Washington Post and The New York Times outlining the false Russia Collusion story including the now debunked Steele dossier, which was later found to be a Clinton campaign political dirty trick which was proven to be false also. The old media news outlets covered these imaginary revelations as if they were factual. Both The Washington Post and The New York Times won Pulitzer Prizes for their fictional coverage, which they have not yet returned.

This altered intelligence caused many of Trump's senior officials to declare bankruptcy and almost destroyed the first term of his presidency. Criminal and unethical behavior by senior intelligence officers and government leaders cannot be tolerated. FBI Director Comey has now been criminally indicted, and formal criminal investigations have been opened against former DNI Clapper and DCI Brennan. Others may face criminal charges for trying to undermine and destroy a newly elected president and cause great harm to the country. Modifying the 2016 ICA to fit their false political narrative, gave deceitful credence to a fictitious story about the incoming Trump administration and further divided an already fractured public. Intelligence officers responsible for altering and weaponizing intelligence, to bias the public to believe in the phony Russian Collusion Hoax and Steele dossier, should be prosecuted.

Information for this article was gathered from Open Sources – media, published articles, websites, graphs, charts, and 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. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect official policy or positions of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) or the Dallas Chapter of MOWW.

Other Announcements

Implementing U.S. Arms Control Agreements



A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES



EDITED BY
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with

Peter W. Pandolfi and Herbert L. Cork



Foreword by
Colonel Robert R. Ulin, U.S. Army, Ret.
Founder and Director
The Simons Center for Ethical Leadership
and Interagency Cooperation

Thank you to companions Dr. Gil Bernabe and Col. Ron Forest for introducing us to the fascinating book they co-authored telling the story of the creation and conduct of an inspection process to validate the implementation of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

As a reminder, this book is available on [Amazon for a cost of \\$23.99](#).

I would encourage all our companions to support Dr. Bernabe by purchasing this outstanding slice of history.

Buy the Book

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