



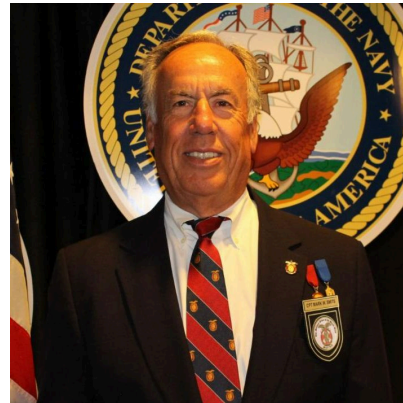
## Dallas Chapter MOWW



### Commander's Report

#### Attention Dallas Companions

I am proud of the momentum that our chapter continues to develop. We had a phenomenal February luncheon. Our keynote speaker, PFC Robert Epstein, warned us about the current US naval preparatory status. We also were visited by the US Cheerleaders and their director, Jessica Kahlil. As always, we were very happy that over 70 of our members decided to spend some of your time with us in February.



I am happy to report that our chapter is performing at an extremely high level as I speak to you today. If you've kept up with my email blasts, you already know that we secured an important sponsor for the 2026 Texas A&M YLC. Many thanks go out to HEB's Operation Appreciation – the grocery store's charitable arm supporting veterans and first responders. HEB has sent us a check for \$3000.

I also received a report from the national office regarding recruiting performance over the past five years. No other chapter has outperformed the Dallas Chapter. In the past five years, we have recruited 96 new companions. The next closest chapter is the Puget Sound chapter with 85. With that said, we are on pace to add over 30 new companions in this administration. Let's keep up the great work.

I also want to thank all the companions that took the time to make entries on the attendance tracker feature of the website. As you'll remember, last month I asked everyone to go to the upper right-hand corner of the home page to click on the red button that allows you to record your participation in past events. Capturing this information should only take seconds of your time and it will allow us to get an accurate count of our attendance at these events. We've already recorded 50+ events. One item to note, you can record multiple events without having to back out of the dialog box – if you have questions, see Steve Suiter or myself. If you have not added your participation, please do so ASAP.

Finally, please follow the link on the website to our historian, Ryan Sisak's America 250 web page to see his newest addition to our library. This month he features the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, who was responsible for inserting our operators during Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela.

As I've done in previous months, I would like to use this platform to highlight a handful of significant military historical events that happened during the current month of our luncheon. I found two interesting events that happened in February:

- A group of veteran officers formed "American Officers of the Great War" (AOGW) in late 1918. The AOGW was incorporated on 27 January 1919, in Washington, DC. This organization evolved into the MOWW. Happy birthday to the MOWW

- The battle of Iwo Jima began on February 19, 1945 when US Marines invaded the heavily fortified island, facing fierce Japanese resistance in one of the Pacific War's bloodiest fights. The battle lasted until March 26 with nearly 27,000 American casualties.

Speaking of the battle of Iwo Jima, Larry Allen asked me to pass this special invitation to the chapter.

Each March since 1995 veterans, historians, and bereaved family members from both USA and Japan gather for one day on the island formerly known as Iwo Jima, now Iwo To, to honor the valor and sacrifice from servicemen on both sides of the battle.

The 81st Anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima has a scheduled tour from March 25-30th. If you so desire to be a part of this historic event, we need your commitment before February 27th.

Note: Your passport must not expire for at least 6 months after the tour.  
The budget and expenses (approximate)

- \$3,185 Basic Reunion of Honor
- \$75 Symposium Day
- \$1,300 - 4-night stay at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Guam
- \$2,500 Airfare (from US to Guam)
- \$25 IJAA Membership Application (Associate Member)

For a packet to be filled out contact any of the following people:  
Tim Gutierrez – (214) 274-8261 – [tim.gutierrez@apsalliance.com](mailto:tim.gutierrez@apsalliance.com)  
Pam Lawrence – (571) 569-4522 – [plawrence@iwojimaassociation.org](mailto:plawrence@iwojimaassociation.org)  
Lt. Col. Raul Sifuentes- (703) 212-8128 – [rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org](mailto:rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org)

Special Note:

Corporal Don Graves, one of the last survivors of Iwo Jima, will be on this tour. I'm sure he'll have a lot to share with us. So, please join us at this historic event. Make your reservations now and be a part of history.

- Finally, Operation Homecoming repatriated 591 US POWs from North Vietnam starting on February 12, 1973, following the Paris Peace Accords. The entire country celebrated the return of these American heroes.

The chapter also approved two proposed amendments to our chapter's bylaws. These amendments became a permanent part of our bylaws with a two-thirds majority approval vote. Here is a basic overview of the two amendments. Proposed Amendment 3 adds two endowment funds to our Exhibit A. The first Endowment fund is the Peggy Pardue Wagner Endowment Fund, and the second Endowment Fund is the Michael W Menefee Fund. Both funds became a permanent part of Exhibit A.

The second proposal changed Amendment 4 article III of our by-laws to allow any US veteran of any rank who demonstrates high moral character and who has served honorably in the US military to be eligible for membership. This change will allow our bylaws to align with the changes incorporated into the MOWW constitution as of August 20, 2025.

Both proposals passed.

I also want to invite you to attend the March luncheon on March 3, 2026. The luncheon will start at 11:15 at the Park City Club at 5956 Sherry Lane in Dallas. We have an excellent schedule planned for the luncheon.

I will not be able to attend the luncheon in March. I will be on a river cruise in Egypt on a trip that has been in the planning for over 3 years. Our senior vice commander,

James Runzheimer, will handle the meeting. One of the key features of the luncheon will be the induction of a number of new chapter members.

That is all for now. Best wishes to all.

Capt Mark W Smits (fmr)  
Commander  
Dallas Chapter

## February Luncheon Recap

The Dallas Chapter gathered on February 3 for a well-attended luncheon marked by recognition, updates, and a dynamic speaker program. The meeting was called to order by Adjutant CW3 Ramón E. Ramos, USA (Fmr), with the invocation offered by Rev. Dr. Todd Collier and the Pledge of Allegiance led by HPM Pat Teipel. The preamble was delivered by Past CDR 2LT Natan Ton-that, USAR (Fmr).

A special recognition was presented to HPM Philip “Pat” A. Teipel in appreciation for his dedicated service. Commander Mark W. Smits provided chapter remarks and presented a chapter gift to Larry Allen. Former CDR LT Chuck Daniels, USN (Fmr), delivered the National Defense Briefing Series update.

Members also received an informative update from Jessica A.M. Kafali, Dallas Division Director for the USA Cheerleaders Foundation.

The featured presentation, “Epstein’s: From Civil War Battlefields to Rockets, Missiles, and the Future of War,” was delivered by Mr. Robert “Bob” Epstein. His engaging remarks connected generations of military service with modern national defense challenges, followed by thoughtful questions from the audience. The meeting concluded with fellowship and renewed commitment to service.

## February Luncheon Photos



## February Birthdays

COL Paul S. Beaty – USA (Ret)  
MAJ William M. Coleman – USA (Ret)  
LTC Thomas B. Donnelly – USA (Ret)  
CPT Michael J. Dundon – USA (Fmr)

CPT Alfred M. Lisi, Jr. – USA (Fmr)  
Lt Col Robert D. Little, Jr. – USAF (Ret)  
COL Roger L. Neumann – USA (Ret)  
Mr. Stephen M. Neumeier

LTC Edwin H. Dumas – USA (Ret)  
1LT Richard F. Herrick – USA (Fmr)  
COL David T. Howe – USAF (Ret)  
MAJ Lannie R. Hughes – USA (Fmr)  
CAPT John M. Kutch – USPHS  
BG Thomas W. Kula – USA (Ret)

MAJ Robert J. Pierce, Jr. – USA (Ret)  
Capt P. J. Putnam – USAF (Fmr)  
COL James R. Vineyard – USAF (Ret)  
LTC Allen B. West – USA (Ret)  
1LT Lewis E. Willis – USA (Fmr)

## Upcoming Programs

[Register to Attend](#)



**March 3**

Speaker Series Program

**Ret. Brigadier General John E. Novalis**

John Novalis is a retired Brigadier General from Williamsport, Pennsylvania and a 1987 graduate of the United States Military Academy and an Army Aviation Officer. He currently resides in Keller, Texas and works for Bell as Director, Advanced Programs Sales and Strategy. Leads strategic campaigns focused on adjacent market opportunities, military training opportunities, HSVTOL, DoD Science and Technology efforts and FVL sustainment.

His most recent position prior to Bell was serving as a Highly Qualified Expert for the Department of Defense coaching and teaching senior leaders in the art and science of mission command and leadership fundamentals. Prior he was a Middle East expert and Senior Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton. His last military duties included the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Multinational Corps Northeast (NATO) located in Szczecin, Poland where he directed Joint Operations for the NATO Corps and maintained U.S. strategic imperatives across North-Eastern Europe. Prior he was the Assistant Deputy Commander .– Sustainment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Assistant Land Force Commander - Sustainment and Training, Operation Resolute Support, Iraq, where he managed theater logistics, sustainment, and base development.

## National Security and Homeland Security

### OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE

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

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

On 03 January 2026, OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE began as a surgical raid with lightning speed at 0201 hours Venezuelan time. This complex operation took weeks of preparation and coordination between intelligence, law enforcement, and each of the six military branches. Its aim was to strike swiftly to subdue Venezuelan defenses and capture the illegitimate President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores to face US federal criminal charges of narcoterrorism. The raid included precise air strikes involving 150 US aircraft. Navy, Marine, and Air Force fighter aircraft including F/A-18 E/Fs, F-22As, F-35A/Cs, were used in the raid, along with USAF tankers, USN/USMC fighter bombers EA-18Gs, and USAF B-1Bs, were used to destroy Venezuelan air defenses - antiaircraft, radar sites, and port facilities. USAF RQ-170 drones were used, and one-way drones were used

for the first time in a live operation to attack Venezuelan military bases and telecommunication antennas. AH-1Z, AH-64E, CH-47F, CH-53E, CH-53K, MH-6M, MH-47F, MH-60M, UH-1Y, UH-60M, helicopters from the US Navy, Marines, and Army were used in support, along with US Army helicopters from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment were used to carry the Delta Force soldiers and other elite forces to support the capture operations of the president and his wife. Cyber Command and Space Command provided intelligence support. CIA operatives were already on the ground providing direct intelligence, while NSA and NGA provided added intelligence support. The Southern District of New York had indicted Maduro and his wife on cocaine importation conspiracy and other drug trafficking charges. An FBI hostage rescue team formerly arrested the Maduro family at the compound in Caracas.

One helicopter was damaged by Venezuelan ground forces but was able to continue its mission. No Americans were killed but seven soldiers were injured in the law enforcement raid. Enemy casualties included 32 Cuban soldiers and intelligence service personnel were killed. Press reports indicate that 24 Venezuelan soldiers and two civilians were also killed. While the results of the raid will take longer to evaluate, this raid demonstrates to third world countries that Russian and Chinese air defense anti-aircraft and radar systems are ineffective against US military countermeasures.

The US military is the strongest, most capable, and has the greatest reach of any military in the world. This complex and successful raid sent a military and economic message to US enemies, adversaries, and allies. Chinese and Russian military forces cannot compete with the US economically or militarily, as US technology, equipment, training, and intelligence make US forces superior. Drug cartels from Nicaragua, Columbia, and Mexico should be concerned, as Maduro's cartel was toppled even with Cuban, Russian, and Chinese equipment and military support. This raid stops Venezuelan oil reserves from being used by China and Cuba. Venezuela's socialist government stole these oil resources from the Venezuelan people and US oil companies. As the Venezuelan economy is restored, Cuba's dictatorship is threatened, and Russian and Chinese influence in South America is diminished. Allies may consider deeper relations with the US, while enemies and adversaries may become wary of taking actions against either the US or its allies. OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE sends a message to China, Russia, despots, narcoterrorists, criminal cartels, and radical Islamic terrorists that if they take actions against US or Western interests the US may retaliate, as the US has regained military supremacy to match its global economic dominance.

*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.*

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