



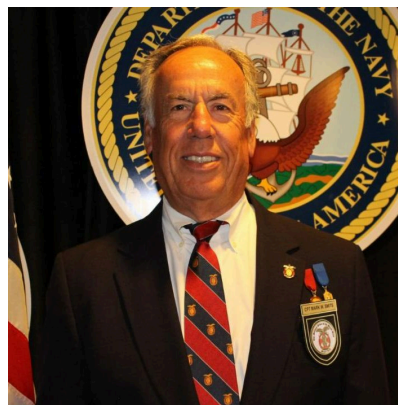
Dallas Chapter MOWW



Commander's Report

Attention Dallas Companions

I want to start by asking everyone to join me in paying tribute to our combined American Active Duty soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors and spacemen who are doing an amazing job defending the future of America through their participation in Operation Epic Fury. The weekend rescue of the F15 aircrew and the daring removal of the Venezuelan dictator are just two examples of the superiority, dedication, training and professionalism of our armed forces. Please give our military a hand.



We are also getting closer to the 250th birthday of America. Our historian has added more content to our America 250 web page. I'm also happy to report that the National Office now has a link to Ryan's virtual museum. This month, Ryan Sisak features the life and times of one of our former commanders, Col. Ron Forest. It is an outstanding piece, and I encourage everyone to visit the page to read the article and watch the video. Ryan has a special request during the month of May. He would like to sit down with as many of you as possible to record a very short video message from you regarding your service and your thoughts about the 250th birthday of America. Our goal would be to show the video at the June Change of Command Ceremony. If you want to participate, please see Ryan today.

Speaking of America 250, the San Diego Chapter has taken the lead in an initiative called Freedom Bells. On July 4, 2026, FreedomBells.org will count down to 12 noon local time, allowing Chapters, individuals, families, schools, and communities to toll bells together in a shared national moment proclaiming liberty. Whether gathered in a public ceremony, participating from home, or far from home, Freedom Bells makes it possible for everyone to take part in this historic moment. The staff will be reaching out to local communities, military organizations, municipalities and schools to pitch this activity. If you would like to help us, please see either Ramon or me after the meeting.

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 a few interesting events that I want to highlight in April:

- April is "Month of the Military Child" month and specifically, April 15 is "Purple Up! For Military Kids" day. This is important to me because I grew up an Army brat and I know all the benefits and sacrifices that come with that childhood. Please wear purple on April 15 to support all the kids who are growing up with military parents.
- April 5 is "Gold Star Spouses Day." Although we missed the date which was Sunday, it is not too late to say a quick prayer for all the spouses who sacrificed their

loved ones for America.

- There are two birthdays in April. The Air Force reserve was born on April 14, 1948 and the Army reserve was born on April 23 1908.
- Some significant military engagements were started and one ended in April. The US entered WWI on April 6, 1917, the Civil war started on April 12, 1861 and the Spanish American War started on April 25, 1898. Finally, we initiated a cease fire to Desert Storm on April 11, 1991.

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, in January 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. In fact, there are only 4 steps:

1. Click the red button
2. Fill in first name, last name, email and phone number
3. Click the event space and select from the drop down
4. Click enter

We've already recorded 100+ events. One item to note, you can record multiple events without having to back out of the dialog box – Ramon Ramos is going to show you a live entry to help you see how easy it is. If you have not added your participation, please do so ASAP. Your participation will be a huge help to allowing us to complete the annual Chapter Activity report.

In the past 60 days, the chapter is working to revive the old telephone tree that we used successfully for years to invite our companions to join us at our luncheons. The good news is that companion LT Philip Lindley USNR (fmr) has agreed to head up the effort. John Wagner is sharing his knowledge with us to help us launch the effort. With all of that said, the MOST important part of this effort involves you. We need at least 20 volunteers to help Philip with this effort. Please reach out to me at mmwsmits@aol.com if you can help.

Please accept this as a reminder that you are invited to attend the May luncheon on May 5, 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.

Here is the link to register:

<https://www.dallasmoww.org/product/luncheon-meeting/>

April Luncheon Recap

The Dallas Chapter met on April 7, 2026, at the Park City Club for its monthly luncheon, opening with an invocation by Rev. Dr. Todd Collier, the Pledge of Allegiance led by HPM Pat Teipel, and the reading of the Preamble by Adjutant CW3 Ramón E. Ramos. Commander CPT Mark W. Smits welcomed members and guests and presided over the meeting.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Phoenician Award, recognizing outstanding service and commitment to the chapter. Members also received several important updates, including progress on the Youth Leadership Conference, nominations for the 2026–2027 chapter officers, regional and National Defense Briefing Series activities, and a national security update.

The featured speaker, Colonel Angelia D. Farnell, USA (Ret), delivered an engaging presentation titled “Choices, Challenges, and Consequences: The 3-Cs of Service.” Her remarks emphasized leadership, decision-making, and the long-term impact of service, providing meaningful insights drawn from her military career and leadership experience.

The program concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, followed by the traditional raffle drawing and benediction.

As always, the luncheon provided an opportunity for fellowship, professional development, and continued dedication to the mission of the Military Order of the World Wars.

April Birthdays

Ms April C. Adams
LTC Urey W. Alexander, Jr. – USA (Ret)
LCDR Travis R. Allison – USN (Fmr)
BG Charles K. Aris – TXARNG
Capt Earl F. Barnette – USAF (Fmr)
LTC Gilbert A. Bernabe – USA (Ret)
CAPT Barry L. Brown – USNR
LTC Jesse T. Bullard – USA (Ret)
Lt Gen John H. Campbell – USAF (Ret)
Maj Christopher M. Carney – USAF (Ret)
CPT Chase B. Cappel – USA (Fmr)
LTC Michael Warren Colon – USA (Ret)
LTC Robert E. Davis – USA (Ret)
MAJ Paul J. Divis – USAR
Col Alan C. Dimiero – USAF (Ret)
COL Edward L. Elder – USAR (Ret)
Capt Edward J. Fitzmaurice, Jr. – USMC (Ret)

1LT Richard C. Foster – USA (Fmr)
Ms Anne R. Gentry
COL Robert L. Gill – USA (Ret)
ADM Bobby R. Inman – USN (Ret)
1LT David L. Iverson – USA (Fmr)
COL William C. Lee – USA (Ret)
Col John C. Moffett – USMC (Ret)
LTC Michel A. Minear – USA
Mrs Carolina J. Pace
1LT William F. Pry II – USA (Fmr)
Mr Christopher J. Rajala
Mr John W. Rajala
Mr Lamar D. Richardson
MAJ Paul H. Rittmuller – USA (Ret)
Maj Howard L. Roberts – USMC (Ret)
MG Keith L. Thurgood – USA (Ret)

Upcoming Programs

[Register to Attend](#)



May 5

Speaker Series Program

LTC Emily Griesser

Lt Col Griesser is the Chief of Psychological Applications assigned to the 3 Air Support Operations Group, Fort Cavazos, Texas. In this role, Lt Col Griesser is responsible for the development, oversight, and direction of mental health personnel across four geographically separated locations ensuring psychological support, consultation, and management to unit leadership, permanent party personnel, and their families to enhance mission effectiveness and ensure optimal readiness.

Lt Col Griesser's professional interests include executive coaching, cognitive and performance implications of health behaviors in the operational setting, and human factors consultation to units and commanders.

National Security and Homeland Security

THE IRAN WAR - OPERATION EPIC FURY

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

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

The US severed diplomatic relations with Iran in 1979 when Iranian student dissidents overtook the US Embassy in Tehran and held the embassy for over 444 days. Iran became a theocratic Islamic republic, and authoritarian dictatorship. Since that time, the US has

been in either direct or indirect conflict with Iran or its proxies – Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis, and other radical Islamic terrorist groups. In 1983, a Hezbollah terrorist killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers when he drove a truck bomb into the Marine barracks in Lebanon. Iran has killed over a thousand US servicemen in Iraq and Afghanistan. Iran has a mutual defense treaty with China, DPRK, and Russia. It provides drones to Russia for use in the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War and is China's main supplier of oil. DPRK provides missile and nuclear technology to Iran.

Shia Muslims engage in the doctrine of *taqiyya*. It is a tool of Iran's foreign policy - the deliberate masking of their beliefs when expressing the truth endangers their goals. Iran believes *taqiyya* is approved by Allah. For years, the West has tried to have reasonable negotiations with Iran, while Iran has continued to obfuscate, deceive, and lie about their nuclear and missile intentions. The West believed traditional military force or economic sanctions were proper steps to take with a sensible actor. Unfortunately, Iran is not a rational actor. While *taqiyya* appears to be a concession, it is actually a delaying strategy to conserve resources without compromising. It is a deliberate policy strategy of ambiguity. Another radical Islamic tactic is *maslaha*. It was implemented as an official Iranian state doctrine by Khomeini in 1988 to justify state violence. Any appearance of Iranian accommodations or negotiations are only tactical maneuvers. When Iranian negotiators bragged to US envoys about having 460 kg. of hidden 60% enriched uranium, American envoys realized it was enough fissile material to build 10-11 nuclear bombs within one week to 10 days, the time needed to enrich nuclear fuel to 90% (the level of enrichment needed to complete a nuclear bomb). The US took the Iranians at their word, and the Trump administration responded by attacking Iran's missile and nuclear facilities.

Operation Epic Fury's goals are to systematically destroy Iran's fissile material and ability to enrich uranium. Other US goals are to eliminate Iran's air force and navy, ballistic missiles, and launchers. Israel's goals were to attack the Iranian military and leadership capability. Israel also attacked Iranian military targets in coordination with US military leaders. Both the US and Israel are attacking command and control targets, defensive missile, and drone manufacturing facilities. Iran has retaliated by attacking Israeli and Gulf allies' civilians and commercial interests instead of military targets. NATO allies Spain and Italy have to date, restricted use of joint US bases for refueling and France has restricted US fly-over privileges. They may not want to upset the large Muslim migrant populations in their countries, despite the US and Israel destroying Iranian ballistic missiles which were capable of hitting each of their capitals. The US and NATO policy of no Iranian nukes is much more effective if it is enforced.

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