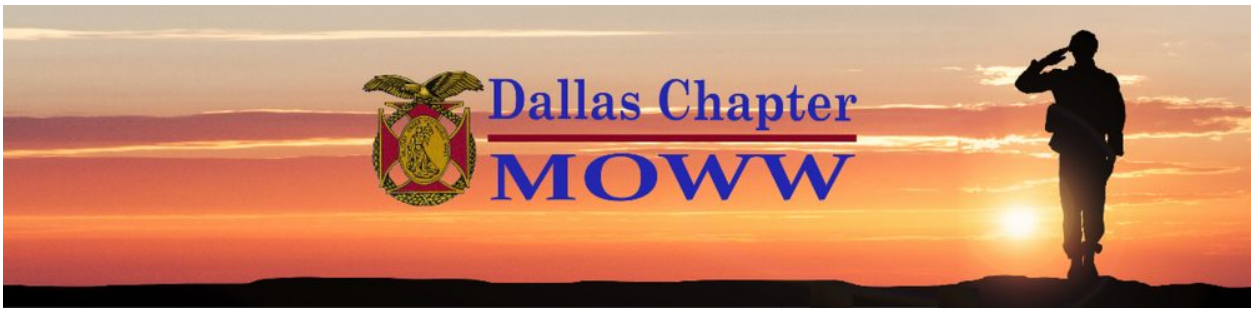


Commander's Report



Capt James Runzheimer (Fmr), Commander, Dallas Chapter

Attention Dallas Companions

A Call to Toll the Freedom Bells - July 4, 2026

The chapter is coordinating with the national MOWW office on America 250 celebrations in 2026. The Dallas Chapter has taken a leading role through its virtual library honoring the heroes and history of America's armed forces over 250 years.

Freedom Bells is a national program in which chapters across the country hold bell-ringing ceremonies at noon on July 4 for the nation's 250th birthday.

The Dallas ceremony will be held at:

Bella Donna Chapel, Adriatica Village
6641 Mediterranean Dr., McKinney, TX 75072
July 4, 2026 | 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM





Bella Donna Chapel and a colonial color guard at a bell tower

The program will include patriotic music and readings, culminating in the tolling of the bell at 12 noon local time from the chapel bell tower. The ceremony will be videotaped and shared with the national office, and it is

open to everyone beyond the chapel.

We need 13 volunteers of any age to give brief historical readings and Constitution excerpts, and to present 13 colonial phrases while ringing a small hand bell. Please confirm by **Friday, June 19, 2026** with:

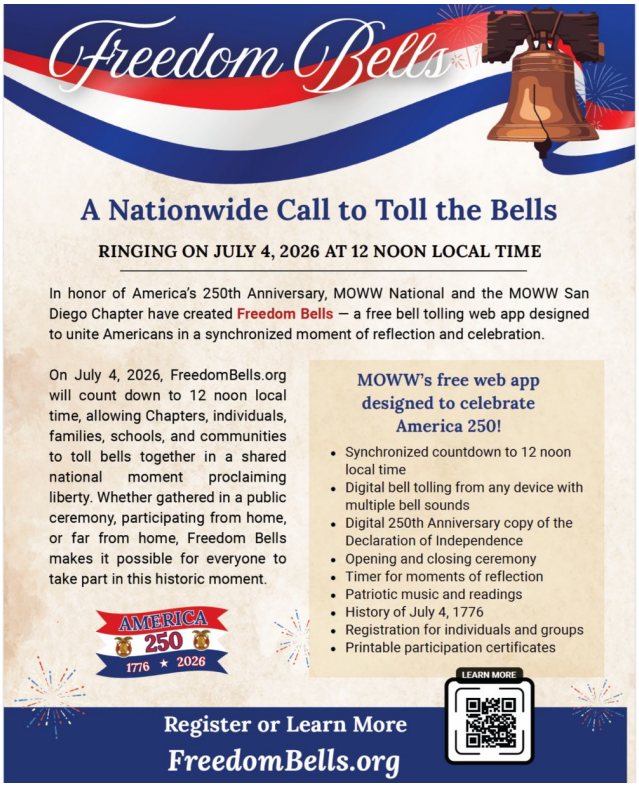
Ramon Ramos - reramos5420@icloud.com
Michelle Metzger - michelle@brightercomms.com

The agenda will be shared. National information is on the flyer below.

Freedom Bells is a free bell-tolling web app created by MOWW National and the MOWW San Diego Chapter. It features a synchronized countdown to noon local time, digital bell tolling, a digital 250th Anniversary copy of the Declaration of Independence, an opening and closing ceremony, a reflection timer, patriotic music and readings, the history of July 4, 1776, registration, and printable participation certificates. Learn more at **FreedomBells.org**.

That is all for now. Best wishes to all.

James Runzheimer Capt (Fmr)
Commander
Dallas Chapter
runz-law@att.net | 817-917-2208



Change of Command Banquet Recap

A Message from Outgoing Commander Capt Mark W Smits (Fmr)

Thank you to everyone who participated in the June Change of Command Banquet. I passed the keys of the Dallas Chapter to our new commander, Capt. James Runzheimer.







Change of Command Banquet, June 2, 2026, Park City Club

"It is hard to believe a full year has passed since those keys were entrusted to me. This has been a rewarding year filled with accomplishments, lasting friendships, and meaningful service. From the start, my goal was to strengthen the chapter's performance during my command, and I am proud to say we achieved that together."

Mark Twain once said, "All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure."

"Mr. Twain, the confidence remains - but I am not quite as ignorant as I was a year ago. Perhaps that is why these commands last only one year. I may simply know too much now to say yes again!"

Year in review. Based on the national performance-review reports completed in May, the chapter:

- Recruited **35 new companions** - more new members than the total membership of 10 other chapters
- Funded **55 YLC students**, up from 35 last year, thanks to generous donations including major support from Walter Laidlaw and HEB
- Participated in **44 veteran events** in 12 months
- Took part in more than **16 Law and Order events** and more than **92 national security events**
- Held **12 monthly events** with an average attendance of 65

I also want to thank my wife, Missy, for her support throughout the year.

Capt Mark W Smits (fmr)
Outgoing Commander
mmwsmits@aol.com | 972-342-8901

Tribute to D-Day - June 6, 1944

On June 6, 1944, as dawn broke over the cold waters of the English Channel, thousands of young American men stood shoulder to shoulder aboard landing craft, facing a storm not of nature, but of war. They were farmers, students, mechanics, and sons - ordinary men called to do something extraordinary. Ahead of them lay the heavily fortified shores of Normandy. Behind them lay the hope of a free world.

As the ramps dropped and machine gun fire tore through the surf, these men did not turn back. They pressed forward through chaos, fear, and unimaginable loss. They climbed cliffs, crossed open beaches under relentless fire, and fought inch by inch to gain a foothold in enemy-held Europe. Their courage was not loud or boastful - it was steady, determined, and unbreakable.

They did not fight for glory. They fought for each other. For their families back home. For the simple but powerful idea that freedom is worth defending, no matter the cost.

The beaches of Normandy - Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword - became sacred ground that day. Each step forward was paid for with sacrifice. Each gain was a testament to grit and resolve. And from that sacrifice came momentum that would help end tyranny in Europe.

We remember these men not just for what they did, but for what they stood for. Duty. Honor. Country. Their legacy is written in the freedom we enjoy today, and it is carried forward every time we choose courage over comfort and service over self.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan delivered a stirring tribute marking the 40th anniversary of the taking of Point du Hoc, led by Texas A&M legend Col. James Earl Rudder. If you have time, you can listen to the speech: *Normandy Speech: Ceremony Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, D-Day 6/6/84*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEIqdcHbc8I

On this day, we pause to honor those who stormed the beaches of Normandy. We remember their sacrifice. We uphold their legacy. And we ensure that their story is never forgotten.

The War on Fraud

By LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

Today, the US debt exceeds $39.244 trillion, and the US federal deficit is approximately $1.652 trillion. Both the federal deficit and the interest on the debt are considerably greater than the budget for the Department of War. These massive numbers threaten US national security and the government safety net for many US citizens. Medicare and Medicaid are the largest government budget items followed by Social Security (SS), and the Department of War. Medicare, Medicaid, and SS are under extreme fiscal pressure. Contributing to these massive numbers are tremendous amounts of government fraud, waste, and abuse, in multiple states by politicians charged with overseeing them. Fraud is a creative misdirection and criminal diversion of taxpayer funds to organized crime groups – Asian and Latin American transnational cartels, gangs, criminal syndicates, foreign governments, NGOs, and others pretending to be legitimate organizations. Fraud is not limited to organizations, as many illegal aliens and citizens also take part in fraud. Some of the ways individual fraudsters try to steal money from taxpayers are - counterfeiting, embezzlement, tax evasion, government contracting, and bribery. Other types of fraud include illegal gambling, mail fraud, mortgage fraud, small business loan fraud, student aid fraud, wire fraud, and multiple other imaginative ways to commit theft.

Illegal aliens increase the costs of law enforcement, public education, medical care, housing and public assistance (food stamps, Medicaid), while lowering the wages and the number of jobs for unskilled workers. Illegals directly account for over $1 billion in Medicaid fraud and $100 billion in misspending per year. Medicaid was intended to be a safety net for poor US citizens but is now a public welfare program which illegals have access through clerical loopholes and incompetence. Forbes states Medicare/Medicaid fraud amounts exceed $100 billion each year. Scams include fake emails, unnecessary equipment, nonexistent services, telemedicine abuse, and identity theft. Medicare pays three to ten percent extra per year for fraud. Agriculture Secretary Rollins reviewed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit rolls and found 186,000 dead people collected benefits, 200,000 people used dead persons SSNs, and 500,000 ineligible people were collecting SNAP benefits.

US federal benefit programs - SS, Medicare, and Medicaid are already strained from government overspending. Several financial outlets report the SS trust fund may run dry in 2032 if changes are not made, which could result in a $500/month cut for retirees. A $500/month cut in benefits would result in a 24 percent cut in benefits to large numbers of US retirees. Los Angeles had 800 hospices which collected over $1.4 billion from Medicare. CMS Administrator Dr. Oz said there was no statistical way that LA could support 800 hospices, and estimated Medicaid fraud to exceed $100 billion. The IRS, DOJ, FBI and other government agencies enforce laws and arrest fraudsters, but the fraud is massive. Failure to reduce fraud and waste threatens the national security and internal stability of the US, as it severely damages the economy, dollar, SS, Medicare and Medicaid.

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.

Upcoming Programs

July 4, 2026 | 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Freedom Bells Ceremony

Bella Donna Chapel, Adriatica Village, 6641 Mediterranean Dr., McKinney, TX 75072. Bell tolling at 12 noon local time. Volunteers needed - see the Commander's Report; confirm by June 19.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

11:15 AM to 1:00 PM

First Generation Americans Luncheon Speaker Series

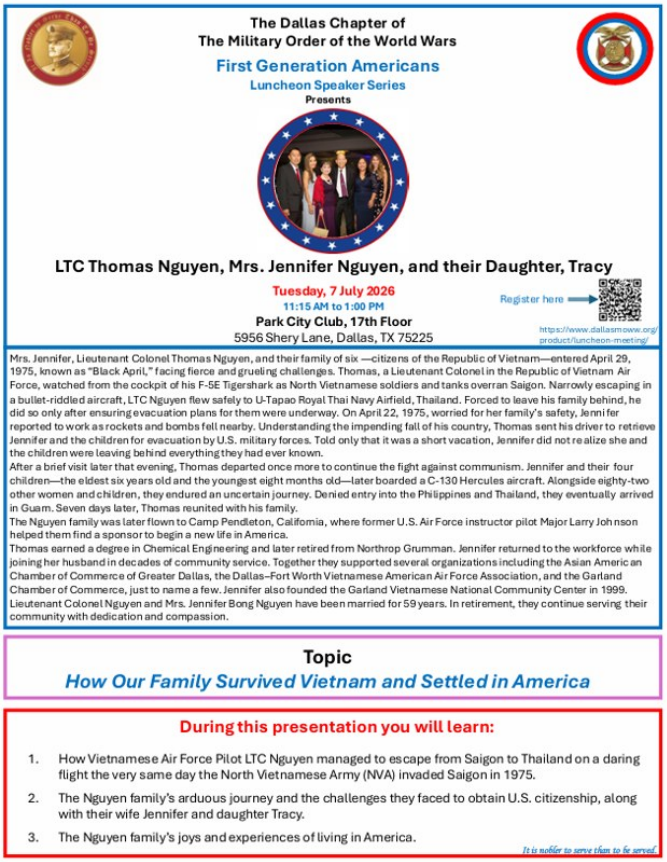
Park City Club, 17th Floor
5956 Sherry Lane, Dallas, TX 75225

LTC Thomas Nguyen, his wife Jennifer, and daughter Tracy: *How Our Family Survived Vietnam and Settled in America*.

On April 29, 1975, known as "Black April," LTC Nguyen, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Republic of Vietnam Air Force, flew an F-5E Tigershark safely to U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield, Thailand. His wife Jennifer and their four children (the eldest six, the youngest eight months) were later flown to Camp Pendleton, California. Thomas earned a degree in Chemical Engineering and retired from Northrop Grumman. The couple has been married 59 years.

Attendees will learn: (1) how he escaped from Saigon to Thailand the same day the NVA invaded Saigon in 1975; (2) the family's journey to obtain U.S. citizenship; and (3) their experiences living in America.

Register to Attend



August 5

6:00 PM

Exclusive Wine Tasting Event

Home of Ernest and Ashley Horany
9735 Maplehill Dr, Dallas, TX 75238

$75 each. Six tastings by award-winning Descarado Winery plus heavy appetizers. Space is limited. Benefiting the Army Scholarship Foundation and MOWW Dallas (Jeff Gault and ASF).

Event Details



August 12-16, 2026

National MOWW Convention

The Westin Riverwalk, 420 W. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205, Ph: (210) 224-6500. As one of the host chapters, the Dallas Chapter welcomes companions to attend all or part of the meeting and to help staff the evening Social Room.

June Birthdays

June 1 Lt Col Joe Banks
June 1 CPT Robert Kurth
June 1 Dale Monroe
June 1 HPM Jennifer Nsakasalo
June 1 CPT Andrew White
June 1 HPM Steve Suiter
June 2 HRM Jonathan Mueller
June 3 LT William Skeeters
June 4 CDR James Bittle
June 4 Milan Georgia
June 5 MS Sarah Bullock
June 5 Col John Duncan
June 8 Capt Paul Brown
June 9 CPT Marshall Doke
June 9 Meredith Walker
June 10 LTC William Holton
June 11 Juan Saldivar
June 11 HPM Peter Schmidt
June 12 LT George H. W. Bush (#41)
June 13 HPM Aidan Schmidt
June 14 LTC James Adams
June 15 HPM Larry Franks
June 15 Capt Harry Pierce
June 16 HPM Richard Lewis
June 17 HPM Harold Moore, IV
June 18 Lt Col Earl Bullock
June 18 Linda Vrecenar
June 19 William Greenlee, MD
June 19 HPM Valenia Merton
June 19 HPM Pat Teipel
June 19 LTC Benson Wheeler
June 20 CPT Allen Clark
June 21 LT James Hopper
June 22 CDR John Lopez
June 23 HPM Amy Merbler
June 29 CPT William Felini
June 30 MAJ Jon Edmonson
June 30 HPM Alex Eppley Schmidt

Dallas Chapter MOWW | MOWW | Dallas, TX 75225 US