



# Dallas Military Order News



Volume 33, No. 1

Best Large Chapter in the Nation

July 2024



## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS & KEY DATES

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024: CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM LUNCHEON



Back by popular demand to celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Last year's program, consisting of several first-generation Americans (from all continents except Antarctica) expressing their appreciation and love of their freedom expressed in their American lives, was attended and met with rave reviews for timeliness, emotion and uplifting of spirit.

This upcoming program is one to invite guests and especially sons, daughters and grandchildren, who are out of school. Chapter guests for our luncheon this year hail from Iran, where our guest was stranded in a college in Texas, when the Iranian Revolution occurred; a pastor from the Bahamas with a worldwide ministry; West Point graduate, who, at age 3 left Vietnam as a "Boat Refugee;" immigrant from Taiwan, whose family escaped Communism under Mao Zedong; mainland China emigre, who narrowly escaped two terrorist attacks; and a Dallas area pastor from Ethiopia. This is a program not to miss.

Register at [dallasmoww.org](http://dallasmoww.org) to RSVP for you and your guests.

- ❖ July 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Independence Day
- ❖ July 28<sup>th</sup> National Defense Briefing Series

## COMMANDER'S REPORT



LT Natan Ton That

July 2024 is the first month of our new Operating Year (OY). It is an honor and privilege for me to continue to be commander of the Dallas Chapter of the MOWW for OY 2024-2025.

In June I had to take a trip to Vietnam because of my wife's family situation. I apologize for missing our June Installation and Awards Banquet Meeting.

While traveling in Vietnam, I received the sad news that our past chapter commander Colonel Ken Cordier passed away on June 18, 2024. He served in Vietnam and was a Prisoner of War (POW) in the horrible North Vietnam prison camps. Despite the unbelievable experience that he had to go through in the prisons of North Vietnam, he shared a few jokes about his years while in captivity. He was such a funny and thoughtful companion. I am fortunate to have known him and spent some unforgettable time with him.

Throughout my trip in Vietnam, I kept thinking of Colonel Ken Cordier and all our soldiers who served over there during the war. The combination of heat and humidity was unbelievable. There were days where my kids had to stay in an air-conditioned room for the entire time. It's mind-boggling to imagine that our Vietnam veterans, with all their military uniforms and gear on, had to fight the enemies in the jungles of Vietnam for weeks and sometimes for months in the heat, humidity and rain. Vietnam is such a beautiful country and it's unfortunate that America was sucked into a war that should never have happened. It's a tragedy that is still debated to this day. Despite being one of the most controversial wars in our history, our Vietnam veterans, such as Colonel Ken Cordier, fought gallantly for our country. They are the reason why I am here in America, enjoying the greatest freedom given to all individuals who are lucky to be called Americans. I, along with my family and the Vietnamese community here in America will forever be grateful and indebted to Colonel Ken Cordier and all our Vietnam veterans. I salute Colonel Ken Cordier and may you Rest in Peace in the Kingdom of God.

"It is better to serve than to be served."

*LT Natan Ton-That*

# DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



## Chaplain's Corner

*At the time of the founding of our country most of the civilized world was under the control of dukes, barons, princes and kings.*

*Our founding fathers decided that our next nation would be a republic where the people, the citizens would be supreme.*

*It was a new and ingenious concept with the reins of government divided into three branches, the executive, the legislative and the judicial.*

*They all three had a certain number of checks over the others and the constitution supreme above all three.*

*Up until now, despite occasional setbacks, it has worked to the envy of all other nations.*

*On the Fourth of July we celebrate our independence from any other ruling power. We are one nation under God dedicated to freedom for all citizens.*

*Let's not forget to thank the Lord for what American means to us.*

*Captain James Grogan, DDS*

*Chapter Chaplain*

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## Dallas Community Police Awards Committee



LT Chuck Daniels USN (FMR) presenting Detective Scott Bazan the June DCPAC Officer of the Month award.

## Officer Installation at June Banquet



From left to right: Adjutant CW3 Ramon Ramos, Chaplain CPT James Grogan, D.D.S., Treasurer Capt David Wallace, Surgeon CPT Fred Aurbach, D.D.S., Marshal HPM Pat Teipel, Region VIII Commander LT Charles Daniels, Installing Officer.

# DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## In Memoriam



## Annual MOWW Chapter Officer Installation Ceremony



From Left to Right - Photo 1: Treasurer Capt David Wallace Silver Patrick Henry awardee and Adjutant CW3 Ramon Ramos. Photo 2: Silver Patrick Henry awardee HPM Robert Epstein. Photo 3: Chaplain CPT James Grogan, D.D.S.



HPM Steve Suiter and his children after receiving the Silver Patrick Henry Award

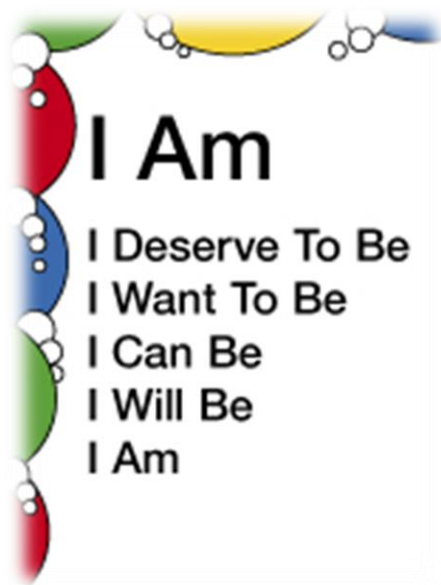
# DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



*The secret to Birthdays is to pick one you like and stick to it!" ...Snoopy*

- |         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 3 July  | CW3 Ronald Crenshaw     |
| 3 July  | MGen James Williams     |
| 4 July  | Col Reynaldo Rodriguez  |
| 4 July  | LTC Terrell Hoebeke     |
| 5 July  | Capt Michael Petridis   |
| 6 July  | LTC John Bickel         |
| 6 July  | LTG Rick Lynch          |
| 7 July  | COL Rodney P. Reed      |
| 10 July | Col Jack Bryan          |
| 10 July | LT Keith L. Griffiths   |
| 11 July | Capt Tomasz Nowak       |
| 12 July | Mr Robert O'Brien       |
| 13 July | Mr Richard Groesch III  |
| 13 July | HPM Jay Minton          |
| 14 July | LTC James Brown         |
| 15 July | COL George Germond      |
| 15 July | BG Terry L. Holden      |
| 16 July | CDR David Ayres         |
| 17 July | Col Richard C. Groesch  |
| 18 July | Ms Caroline Lambert     |
| 18 July | Miss Caroline Paleschic |
| 20 July | Capt James Coffee       |
| 23 July | HPM Valerie Bullock     |
| 23 July | Lt Col James W. Haskell |
| 23 July | CAPT Marc Liebman       |
| 24 July | LT Walter Laidlaw       |
| 24 July | MRS Diane L. Schmidt    |
| 26 July | LTC Bonnie Sweitzer     |
| 28 July | LCDR Jerril Burnett     |
| 28 July | MAJ Joseph K. Merton    |
| 29 July | Capt W. Lyle Mueller    |
| 29 July | CPT Mark W. Smits       |
| 30 July | COL Raymond L. Foster   |

## LIGHTEN UP



**"Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction.**

**It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation.**

**Those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again."**

**- President Ronald Reagan**



# NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT

## THE NEW RUSSIA, CHINA, IRAN, AND NORTH KOREAN ALLIANCE

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

The new Russia, China, Iran, and North Korean (DPRK) alliance affects US national security, because the alliance between these countries competes with the US and its allies with their combined petroleum energy reserves, technical abilities, military strength, and geographical size. Each of these countries oppose US freedoms, its economic policies, and military might, but together, they could unite to oppose the US-controlled world order.

Last week Vladimir Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years. Putin and Kim Jong-un signed a defense pact to come to the aid of each other's country if either were facing aggression. DPRK agreed to supply ammunition, three million artillery shells, and short-range missiles to Russia for their war against Ukraine. Russia will supply North Korea missile, satellite, space, and nuclear technology. Last March, Putin said that Russian and Chinese "national interests coincide." Russia and China are trying to integrate the Chinese BeiDou satellite navigation system with the Russian GLONASS satellite system to compete with the US Global Positioning System. Iran already has full access to the Chinese satellite system. Iran, Russia, and China recently conducted joint naval exercises in the Arabian Sea. If Iran develops nuclear weapons, it will be able to reach every Middle Eastern country, including Israel with its ballistic missiles. Iran's proxies – Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthi rebels of Yemen do most of the fighting against Israel, but Europe and the US are not out of its terrorist aspirations.

A nightmare scenario could occur if Russia and Iran coordinated an attack to disrupt sea traffic on multiple oceans. This would disrupt sea lanes and severely curtail oil, gas supplies, and supply chains, as 80-90 percent of the world's goods are transported by sea. A joint attack against Israel, Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states, or Eastern Europe, could involve the US in the largest war since WWII. Other possibilities include China attacking Taiwan, or the North Koreans invading South Korea. Another scenario would be if the DPRK exploded a nuclear bomb in orbit over the US to create an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP). An EMP would "fry" the computer electronics of modern computers – in planes, cars, trucks; electrical grids; stock markets; and banking systems. Our modern society would revert to a survival existence like the late 1800s. It is likely our freedoms and democracy would be lost. If the US was able to endure, it might have to fight on multiple continents and oceans to survive or defend its allies. It is no secret that Russia and China oppose the US-controlled world order as it now exists, and these countries have a history of exploiting weakness and indecision.

Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea are pariah states, and they form a formidable alliance against the US and its allies with their combined military and political power. Russia wants to reclaim territory lost after the Cold War and reinstate Union of Soviet Socialist Republics boundaries. Iran wants to dominate the Middle East with nuclear weapons. North Korea wants to defeat South Korea and control the Korean peninsula. China desires to become the geopolitical, military, and economic superpower of the world. Many intelligence analysts and policy makers are alarmed about these developments and agree that most of these problems are self-imposed by poor policies and decision-making by the US government. DOD, State Department, along with the White House deserve special criticism for the poor planning. The inadequate planning and execution of the Afghanistan withdrawal debacle led to a series of miscues, policy retrenchments, and poor decisions. The US must strengthen its economy and currency by reducing its \$35 Trillion (T) debt and \$1.6T deficit, by dramatically cutting wasteful spending. It should also control and protect its borders, restore its military, refill the depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve, support its allies, and deter its enemies. Strong US leadership is needed to

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# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Heritage Ranch Golf and Country  
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465 Scenic Ranch Cir, Fairview, TX

Check-in – 4:30 pm

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3541) for questions and sponsorship  
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## National Defense Briefing Series *CIA Paramilitary Operations* July 28, 2024



Rod Smith



J.R. Seeger

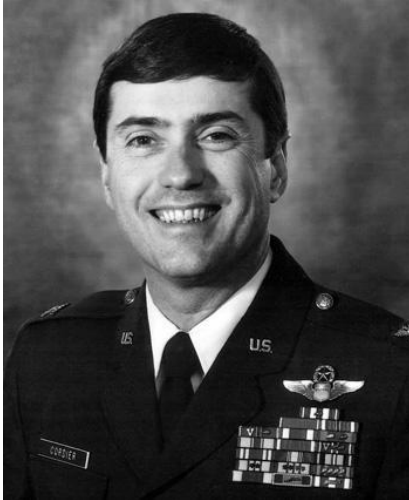
**Rod Smith** was an enlisted artilleryman with the First Marine Division in Vietnam. He spent eleven years as a federal prosecutor and joined the CIA in 1986. His last position was Chief of Special Activities Division, which provides trained paramilitary forces for operations around the world

**J.R. Seeger** has been an archeologist, a paratrooper, and a CIA case officer. He led Alpha Team, one of the first CIA teams into Afghanistan in the fall of 2001. JR is the author of the *Mike 4* novel series, based on his experiences.

**Rod and J.R.** will discuss CIA paramilitary authorities and operations, how CIA's paramilitary forces are organized, and how CIA and the U.S. military worked together in post-9/11 Afghanistan to attack the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Events to Honor Past Chapter Commander Colonel Kenneth Cordier USAF-Ret.



**Jul 12: Burial Service**

**Time: 1100**

**Location: DFW National  
Cemetery**

**Address: 2000 Mountain  
Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75211**

Past Commander Col. Cordier (Dallas Chapter MOWW) completed his final mission with us on June 18, 2024.

He was a well-known Vietnam veteran having survived over six years as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam prison camps. He remained on active duty and retired after a distinguished career. He is survived by his wife Barbie Cordier. Barbie and he attended the chapter's Installation Banquet on June 4, 2024.

On Friday July 12 at 1100 hours his burial service will be at DFW National Cemetery. Enter the cemetery at the main entrance off 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway (Tejas Blvd to Lone Star Circle). Autos may be lined up no later than 1045 in lane 1. You will be directed to the shelter in which the service will be held. Be aware there is very limited seating in the shelter.

Immediately after this service at Dallas Baptist University (entered back further off Mountain Creek Parkway) there will be a light lunch served in the Janette Sadler Room, which is located on the ground floor of the campus Pilgrim Chapel. All, who attend the burial service, are most cordially invited to be Barbie Cordier's guests.

On Saturday, July 13 1400-1600 hours, there will be a Celebration of Life program at Frontiers of Flight Museum 6911 Lemmon Ave Dallas second floor auditorium.

*Attire should be Dress Uniform with medals, or Suit, with full MOWW Ribbons and Medals*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ **Aug 6, 2024 Congressman Keith Self**: 3rd Congressional District of Texas.
- ❖ **Sep 3, 2024 Presentation by Janine Turner**: Founder of Constituting America.
- ❖ **Oct. 1, 2024 YLC Awards**: program for outstanding YLC students.

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# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

On April 19, 1951 General Douglas MacArthur, the former Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Japan during the Korean War, gave his Farewell Address to a joint session of the U. S. Congress. One of the iconic lines of that speech has resonated with me ever since. He declared, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."



This has reminded me recently that the Dallas Chapter MOWW has an "Old Soldier," LTC Don Munson, U.S. Army Retired (on the right), who has served his chapter for more than two decades. He is by all measures still robust and active and far from expiring, but, over the past few months, replacements for his myriads of responsibilities have been located. His past responsibilities have included Chapter Newsletter Editor, Youth Leadership Conferences coordinator, Patriotic Education Chair, Information and Publicity Outreach chair, Wreaths Across America coordinator and Girl Scout recognition coordinator. He has received every conceivable award and recognition permissible for a local chapter to bestow. He has bequeathed to the Dallas Chapter MOWW distinguished and continuous service for over two decades. LTC Munson has served at every level of the Dallas Chapter, including commander, as well as serving on the regional and national levels as well as General Staff Officer to the National Commander-in-Chief. His contributions to the chapter have left a legacy that will endure far into the pages of our chapter's history. Every Dallas Chapter Commander since 2008 has had the benefit of his wisdom and counsel, as he has served the Chapter as the Special Operations Advisor and Historian. However, his positive contributions go far beyond the confines of his chapter as there is not a single MOWW program that has not benefitted from his enthusiasm, effort and encouragement in his devotion to veterans, a Youth Leadership Conference directorship, ROTC and JROTC students, Scouting awards and Law Enforcement. His last chapter award was the chapter "Above and Beyond" Award. When a person has received every conceivable award, how may another appropriate recognition be bestowed?

The Dallas Chapter considered a statuette or paid trip to a sunny Caribbean Island. In the end the chapter commissioned a portrait by the premier and noted North Texas military portrait artist, former Air Force Sergeant Colin Kimball. The presentation was made at the June 4, 2024 Dallas Chapter annual officer installation banquet.

Beginning his career as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Tulane University, he went on to serve in steadily progressing levels of responsibility. LTC Munson has an incredibly distinguished active duty as well as retired service in a myriad of arenas. He is qualified as a Master Parachutist, Army Ranger, Pathfinder, Jumpmaster and Jungle Warfare Expert. He is authorized to wear the Parachutist badges from the armies of Germany, Belgium, Vietnam and Thailand. His wartime service in the First Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam resulted in several decorations of valor that include the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars with V device, eleven Air Medals and a Purple Heart. As a Department of Defense contractor, he served post-military positions as Advisors to the Crown Prince, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; to the Minister of Defense, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; to the Emirate of Kuwait; and to Ambassador Paul Bremer, interim President of the Republic of Iraq.

With his vigor, vitality and enthusiasm, we expect him to be around to advise several more chapter commanders. He is an "Old Soldier" who will never even "fade away" for his fellow Companions in the Dallas Chapter MOWW!

*CPT Allen Clark, Past Chapter Commander*