



Military Order News



Volume 26, No. 12

Best Large Chapter in the Nation

June 2018



Memorial Day offered a golden opportunity to teach 50 young Boy Scouts lessons in Citizenship. Former Chapter Commander Paul Brown was asked by the City of Dallas Mayor's Office to address the Scouts, who had gathered to support the Memorial Day activities of the "Carry the Load" event at Riverchon Park. (Note - Paul's MOWW Cap and his MOWW Commander's ribbon and crest).

This Month's Program, JUNE 2018

"The Military Order of GA John Pershing"

This year's **Installation Banquet** will commemorate the **100th Anniversary** of the end of *The Great War to end all wars*.

Germany's all out gamble for victory in 1918, began with the launch of the Spring offensive on the Western Front, a five-hour, 6,000 gun artillery bombardment, after which 65 German Divisions attacked the British along a 60-mile front. It is almost unfathomable to imagine such size and scope, considering today's military posture. And then, at last, it was over. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, The Great War officially ended.

The total number of military and civilian casualties was more than **41 million**. There were over 18 million deaths and 23 million wounded, ranking it among the deadliest conflicts in human history.

In 1919, "5-star" General of the Armies John Pershing created the **Military Order of the Great War** as a fraternity for officers who were veterans of the first World War, modeled after the European Military Order of Foreign Wars.

Pershing wore four **gold** stars - to distinguish himself from 4-star Generals, who wear four **silver** stars.



**General of the Armies,
John J. Pershing**

Commander's Corner

"Deepest and Most Sincere Thanks"



On the eve of the Installation of Officers for FY 2019, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to all the Companions who have worked so hard to ensure that ours remains the **Best Large Chapter in the Military Order**. Special thanks to my Staff, who commit untold hours "behind the scene" attending to the myriad details that make my job look easy.

I am pleased to report that the Chapter met or exceeded all the Goals that challenged us twelve months ago. I recently submitted our entry in the Best Chapter Awards competition and was proud to list all our activities and accomplishments. The report reflects a Team Effort that allowed us to achieve such outstanding results and I am eternally grateful to each one of you who stepped forward to volunteer your time and talents.

Our **Installation Banquet**, on Tuesday evening, **5 Jun 18** will give me the opportunity to present some end-of-the-year Citations, a small gesture of my appreciation for your outstanding performance.

LTC James B. Blunk, US Army

Dallas Chapter, Commander

Installation Banquet, 5 June 2018

General Pershing is coming to Dallas

Those of you who missed the National Convention in Billings, Montana, last August, missed one of the most memorable after-dinner presentations of a lifetime.

David Shuey, has made a mini-career out of his uncanny resemblance to former General of the Armies, John J. Pershing. Having conducted years of research into the life and times of G/A Pershing, David then devoted his time and efforts into finding exact replicas of the general's uniform, down to his World War I awards and insignia.



General of the Armies, John Joseph Pershing

David will join us this Tuesday at our Installation Banquet and has agreed to share with us a few vignettes from the general's distinguished career which touched the lives of six US Presidents, and such famous junior officers as Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, and George Patton, Jr.

Youth Leadership Conferences

“To promote and foster patriotic education...”

Under the supervision of the Texas Patriotic Education Foundation, Inc. and the Dallas Chapter, the 14 chapters of MOWW Region 8 have selected over 325 students (from high schools throughout Texas) to attend one of the annual Southwest Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC).

The process begins with on-site interviews to select the best and brightest of more than 500 candidates. The Top Students from 2017 will return in 2018 as Counselors to mentor this year's YLC participants. Six of the students we recognized last September were Valedictorians of their graduating classes, in May. *Our selection process works!*

This year will be the first time that one of the MOWW YLCs will be conducted on the campus of a local university, (the University of Texas, Dallas).



At the end of the Conference, students write letters to their “sponsors” commenting on the Conference. For many, it is the first time in their lives to spend the summer away from home.

Guest Speakers

Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better

5 Jun 18 – LTC Jim Blunk, Chapter Commander
“Installation of Incoming Command & Staff”

3 Jul 18 – BG Paul Owen, CDR, SW Engineer Division
“Our Most Precious Natural Resource”

7 Aug 18 – Larry Kryske, NY Times Bestselling Author
“Churchill - from Warrior to War Leader”

4 Sep 18 – Dallas Chapter Companions present:
“Bronze Patrick Henry YLC Awards”

2 Oct 18 – Dallas Chapter Companions present:
“Bronze Patrick Henry JROTC Awards”

6 Nov 18 – Dr. Sara Overall, Navarro College
“The War to End All Wars”

Officer of the Month

Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 14 May 18, Dallas Veterans Day Parade Chairman Pat Teipel presented Dallas Police Officer **Senior Corporal Brewster Billings** (#7626), our Outstanding Service Citation for his selection as DPD's **Officer of the Month**.

While serving in the Assault Unit of the Crimes against Persons Division. Sr Cpl Songer has received more than 60 Commendations for his



service as a Perpetual Companion Pat Teipel presented our Certificate of Commendation to Dallas Patrol officer, our Certificate of Commendation to Dallas field training Police Sr. Corporal **Brewster Billings**. officer and lead detective in both property and violent crimes. He is the most proactive officer on the force. Officer Billings is a sterling example of why the Dallas Police Department is one of the finest in the Nation.

Attention Chapter Staff:

The Chapter Command and Staff meeting will be held in the Frontier of Flight Museum Conference Room, on Thursday, 21 JUN 18, at 1:30 p.m.

KNOW YOUR COMPANIONS

Gerald Vokolek, Lt. Colonel, US Army

LTC Gerald Vokolek was born on 27 July 1945, in



Queens, NY. He graduated from Hofstra University, Long Island, in June of 1966 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps.

LT Vokolek was called to active duty in November 1966 and assigned to FT Gordon, GA, and then to FT Monmouth, NJ, for

the Signal Officers Basic Course.

He is also a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, FT Leavenworth, KS.

His first troop assignment was as Commander of the Aviation Electronic Support Company (Prov), in Qui Nhon, Viet Nam, from July 1967 to Aug 1968.

Upon his return from Viet Nam, he served as the Operations Officer (S-3) of the 518th Maintenance Battalion, Jamaica, NY, and then as the S-2, S-3, and S-4 of the 364th General Support Group, FT Totten, NY.

After that, Gerald was transferred to the 63rd US Army Command (ARCOM), Los Angeles, CA. as a Signal Equipment Maintenance Officer. Subsequent assignments included: Assistant Inspector General of the 99th US ARCOM, in Oakdale, PA, and Assistant Chief of Staff, for the 103rd Corps Support Command, Des Moines, IA.

According to his biography, one of his best assignments was with the CAPSTONE program, a 5-week course designed to prepare new flag rank officers to work with foreign armed forces in Joint Commands.

Upon retiring, he pursued a 35-year career in the Retail field, while simultaneously having a 20-year career as a Real Estate broker and office owner.

Gerald currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Association Public Policy Transportation Committee. In addition, he is a Past Chairman and current member of the Collin County Planning Board.

Gerald and his wife, Veronica, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in August of this year. They have 2 daughters and 4 Grandchildren.

Keith Griffiths, 2Lt, US Army Reserves

Keith Griffiths, born on 10 July 1942. He is a native of



Wichita Falls, Texas, and has lived in Richardson and Plano, TX, since 1974. He graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in 1964 with a B.S. degree in history and from the University of North Texas, Denton, TX, in 1965 with a Master of Education degree in counseling & psychology.

chology.

Keith enlisted in the U. S. Army Reserve and was assigned to HHD 2d Brigade, 89th Division, in Denver CO in November 1965. After basic training at Fort Bliss, TX, and AIT at Fort Huachuca, AZ, he graduated from the Colorado National Guard Officer Candidate School in Denver, CO, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry.

His initial assignment was to the 490th Civil Affairs Company in Abilene, TX. He confessed that the unit was over strength on officers, so he and the chaplain and two field grade officers occupied a room, with the door shut, so no one would know that they had nothing to do!

Keith spent 33 years in the oil and gas business, where he founded and operated an exploration and production company that drilled and developed oil and gas properties in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana. During his time in the oil and gas business he was involved in such new innovations as horizontal drilling, 3-D seismic, and advanced fracturing techniques.

He was a Trustee and member of the Board of Development of Hardin-Simmons University for 15 years. He is listed in *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, 1989-2002, and *Who's Who in Exploration and Production*, 2005-2013. He was a member of the Midland Oil Industry Finance Committee, the Dallas Wildcatters Group, and the Dallas Petroleum Club.

Keith and his wife, Cherry, have five children and six grandchildren. He and Cherry love traveling and spending quality time with their children.

Happy Birthday, Companions

“To some it’s a number; to others a gift”

- 1 June Lt Col Joe Banks
- 1 June HPM Jennifer Nsakshalov
- 1 June CPT Andrew White
- 2 June HRM Jonathan Mueller
- 3 June LT William Skeeters
- 3 June COL Christopher Talcott
- 4 June CDR James Bittle
- 5 June MS Sarah Bullock
- 5 June Col John Duncan
- 8 June Capt Paul Brown
- 9 June CPT Marshall Doke
- 10 June LTC William Holton
- 11 June HPM Peter Schmidt
- 13 Jun HPM Aidan Schmidt
- 14 June LTC James Adams
- 15 June HPM Larry Franks
- 15 June Capt Harry Pierce
- 16 June LTC Walt Capps
- 16 June HPM Richard Lewis
- 17 June HPM Harold Moore, IV
- 18 June Lt Col Earl Bullock
- 19 June HPM Valenia Merton
- 19 June HPM Pat Teipel
- 19 June LTC Benson Wheeler
- 20 June CPT Allen Clark
- 20 June Lt Col Kevin Hanford
- 21 June LT James Hopper
- 22 June CDR John Lopez
- 23 June HPM Amy Merbler
- 26 June HPM John Cain
- 29 June CPT William Felini
- 30 June MAJ Jon Edmonson
- 30 June HPM Alex Eppley Schmidt

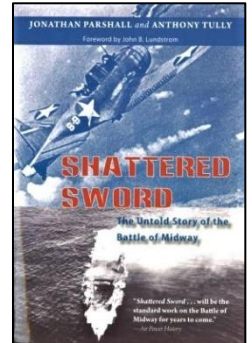


Patriotic Education

Book Club features Author Marc Liebman

For several months, Perpetual Companion Bob Epstein, has sponsored a Breakfast featuring guest authors, who discuss a “Military Book of the Month”.

This month’s selection is “*Shattered Sword: The Untold Story of the Battle of Midway*”. The guest moderator is Dallas Companion (and prolific author) Marc Liebman.



You are cordially invited to get out of bed, get in your car, and join the round table discussion that follows each speaker’s comments on the author’s historical accuracy.

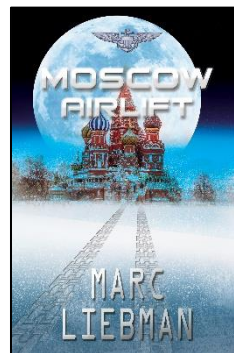
The food is excellent (and free), the discussions are lively, and you will expand your knowledge of some of the most fascinating military subject in history.

Canyon Creek Country Club (625 West Lookout Drive), Richardson, Monday, 4 Jun 18, at 7:15 a.m.

Patriotic Education

Do You Know these Dallas Chapter Authors?

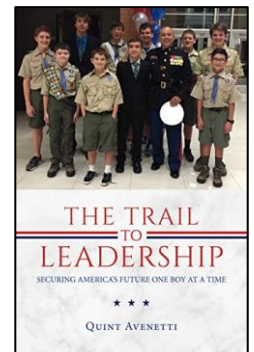
In this year alone, we have heard from two Chapter Companions who are “*published authors*”.



Since then, two more Companions have been successful in seeing their literary efforts go to press.

Foremost among them is **Marc Liebman**, retired US Navy Captain, whose latest work, “*Moscow Airlift*” hit the shelves on 1 June. That is the sixth in his **Josh Haman** series. The seventh, and final, in the series is scheduled to be released in November 2018.

CWO5 **Quint Avenetti**’ s book is available on Amazon, “*The Trail to Leadership: Securing America’s Future One Boy at a Time*”. Buy one for your son and another for yourself.



CPT **Allen Clark** is putting finishing touches on his book, tentatively titled: “**Soldiers Blood and Bloodied Wars**”. Allen is hoping to have his book ready by the first of the New Year.

LTC **Don Munson** recently appeared in Officer Review magazine with a brief article entitled: “*It was a dark and stormy night*”. reminiscing on a combat experience in Viet Nam. Copies available, upon request.

Chapter Activities in the month of May



Capt James Belvin, USAF (Fmr) joined as a **Perpetual**. His Sponsor, former Commander **Capt Paul Brown**, pinned his lapel insignia and presented his pocket badge



CAPT Richard Stewart, USN (Ret) also joined as a **Perpetual**. His Sponsor, **Col Ron Forest** has recruited 36 Companions for the Dallas Chapter.



LT Keith Griffitts, USAR (Fmr) was the 3rd **Perpetual** to be inducted in May. His Sponsor is **Dr. Fred Aurbach**. Filling in for Fred was Chapter Commander **LTC Jim Blunk**



COL Ben Cervin (r) had the honor of pinning our newest Companion, **LT Jack Coleman, USN (Fmr)**, former Flag Lieutenant to the Commander of US Seventh Fleet



LTC King Moss presented a **JROTC Certificate** and **MOWW medal set** to **Cadet Connor Chilton, Forney HS**, one of the **58** high school **JROTC's** we supported this year.



Officers and Ladies from the 14 chapters that constitute **Region 8** of the Military Order of World Wars, held their annual Region Conference in the Omni West, Dallas hotel, during the weekend of 10-12 May 2018. **National Commander-in-Chief Col David Gibson** (seventh from the right, standing) and his wife, **Diane**, were honored Guests of the Region.



Memorial Day evokes especially powerful emotions in veterans. Why, we may ask, would God allow my brother or daughter, father, or friend, to be taken from me in defense of our country? More pointedly, we may ask God, "Where were You?"

In such times, it helps to remember that we are not alone in asking. In Psalm 13, King David, asks "*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long will I have sorrow in my heart?*"

It is no accident that these words are enshrined in Holy Scripture. God desires our honesty, especially when - we are angry, sorrowful, or in despair. In truth, God never leaves our side. He says, "*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.*" (Is. 55:9, NIV)

As humans, we do not see the whole picture as God does. We can only put our trust in Him, knowing that He loves us more deeply and completely than we can imagine. David himself comes around to this acknowledgement, writing "*But I trust in your un-failing love, and my heart rejoices in your salvation.*" God has His purpose for each of our lives, and we can be sure that none of us will be taken before these purposes are fulfilled. If Memorial Day has resurrected in you sorrow for a lost veteran, I pray that you will bind this eternal truth on your heart.

Jamie Malakoff

Last Month's Program, May 2018

"Defending the Force"

Craig Vanbeeber oversees the largest of the four weapons systems divisions of Lockheed Martin. His *Missiles & Fire Control (MFC)* Division oversees more than 70 weapons systems, including air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, naval rockets and missiles, fire control and fire sensor systems, missile launchers, missile defense systems, and anti-tank weapons. MFC is not only the largest division, it is coincidentally, the largest profit center. Aircraft may cost more per unit, but the profit margin, per plane, is miniscule, by comparison.



Craig Vanbeeber briefed the chapter on the missiles and fire control systems of Lockheed Martin. MFC is the largest division of Lockheed

Craig invited the Companions of the Chapter to come to his facility, located in Grand Prairie, to see first-hand the innovative and incredibly sophisticated weapons systems that Lockheed is fielding.

According to Craig, the workforce at Lockheed Martin never loses sight of the need for their systems to be the best in the world. In combat, there are no prizes for Second Place.

Command and Staff, FY 2018

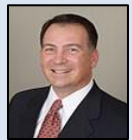
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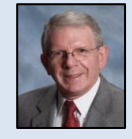
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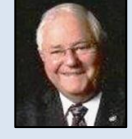
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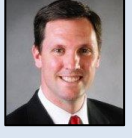
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