



JANUARY 2025

Dallas Military Order News

BEST LARGE MOWW CHAPTER IN THE NATION



Volume 33, No. 7

This Month's Speaker



Marcelyn Atwood, PMP Colonel (Ret)

Three Generations of Women Military Aviators

The first untethered hot air balloon lifted off in 1783 followed by the first woman to fly it in the next year. Aviation itself, flying an airplane does not necessarily discriminate with the pilot at the controls.

The first woman to receive her pilot's license was Raymonde de Laroche in 1911 just 8 years after the Wright Brothers proved sustained flight was possible.

While women have always been involved with aviation, it took several decades before they were allowed by law to fly anything in the military inventory. In recent history, women now fly and serve in all aircraft in military service.

Do not miss the story of the Three Generations of Women Military Aviators!

- ❖ **When:** January 7th, 2025
11:15 AM -1.00 PM
- ❖ **Where:** Park City Club 5956
Sherry Lane, Dallas



COMMANDER'S REPORT



Happy New Year and Happy Hanukkah! Yes, Hanukkah began on Christmas Day, 2024 and it does not end until January 2, 2025, at sunset. 2024 was a very busy and productive year for the MOWW. At the national level we passed the amendment to the constitution to expand membership to include non-commissioned officers from E7 through E9. After years of cancellations due to weather conditions, the Greater Dallas Veterans Foundation organized a successful Greater Dallas Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2024, at Fair Park, Dallas. Our MOWW companions also participated in the Inaugural Texas Veterans Day Parade in Arlington, Texas on November 11, 2024. We close out the year with the help from the Ladies for Liberty at our Christmas Banquet at Park City Club.

Our 2025 will be another interesting and busy year for our chapter. I will serve the final six months of my tenure as your Chapter Commander. Besides serving our youths, veterans and law enforcement activities we will also focus on two main goals: **Recruiting** and **Fundraising**, with the help of our newly redesigned website. Also, mark your calendar for these important upcoming events. We are looking forward to participating in the National Medal of Honor Museum's Grand Opening on March 25, 2025. On the 16th of April we will have our first fundraising golf tournament in years. The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War will be April 30, 2024. The Mayor of Arlington Jim Ross and I are discussing with the Medal of Honor Museum to see if we can hold a 50th anniversary of the end of the VN War commemorative event there to honor our Vietnam veterans. The "A Salute to Vietnam Veterans" will have the cooperation from the Vietnamese community in Arlington, Texas.

I look forward to serving our chapter with the coming new year.

LT Natan Ton-That

DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

December Christmas Luncheon

Dallas MOWW Commander 2LT Natan Ton-that, USAR (Fmr) welcomes all participants.



NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS CHANGING WARFARE AND THE US ECONOMY

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformational force for America's economy and is altering the way we live and how the US military conducts warfare presently and in the future. AI is machine technology that involves the theory and computer systems which perform tasks normally required by humans. It makes high speed complex decision-making computations, but also may involve visual, speech, and language discernment. AI imitates human intelligence and performs tasks faster and sometimes solves problems based on information it gathers. By analyzing enormous amounts of data, it reduces response times for cybersecurity, business, and defense applications. AI is changing drone technology, robotics, stealth technology, telecommunications, and cyber security so rapidly it is changing modern warfare. It requires copious amounts of electricity and energy to power the computers, and the data it collects, processes, and stores in increasingly larger data farms.

China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are some of the state actors engaging in a race to improve and increase their AI capabilities. Each of these state actors is developing AI to attack or harm US – computer systems, power plants, pipelines, ships, troops, cities, and ports. China has used AI to attack US telecommunications, and Russia has interfered with our elections. Both US and Chinese military officials have voiced apprehension that increased use of AI systems could lead to accidental unintended conflicts increasing the risks of escalation. China recently developed unmanned military drones which can launch missiles without human control. These military drones include a stealth battle drone and an unmanned drone bomber. China's latest military drone is the Wing Loong I-D. It is armed with a BA-7 laser-guided missile. This air to surface missile is believed to be one of the world's most powerful anti-tank missiles. Military officials believe that these drones, and drones which have not yet been developed, could lead to an AI race to further develop drone warfare and may increase the likelihood of military conflict, or unintentional war. The Chinese may have also developed two sixth-generation stealth fighters which likely contain AI technology. Russia has increased attacks on Ukraine's energy sources using drones, and Ukrainian drones recently penetrated Russian airspace in Moscow. Drones allow smaller states, criminal syndicates, and terrorists to attack, surveil, and reconnoiter larger states, borders, and militaries using relatively low-cost drones, or drone swarms to overpower defensive technologies.

AI advancement is rapidly changing the world we live in, but it has risks to society if it is not controlled. It is altering the way we pay our bills, shop, and how we go to war. The world needs guardrails in the development of AI technology without sacrificing innovation. AI technology is increasing so rapidly that defensive warfare may not be able to keep up with AI threats. Representative governments must counter the nefarious actions of authoritarian governments like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea by controlling AI development. US universities, technology, and defense firms need to redouble their efforts to safeguard the security of this technology and prevent adversaries – state actors, criminal syndicates, or radical Islamist terrorists, from having access to it. US national security depends upon the US and its allies making certain that American technology stays in US hands. To maintain its position as the foremost economic superpower, the US must preserve its telecommunications security and dominant AI leadership position. The future of US and global security may be determined by the decisions leaders make to ensure the development of AI and preventing bad actors access to it.

DALLAS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Every year, millions of Americans gather to pay tribute to the soldiers who have passed away, show appreciation for those who are still serving and their families, and educate the younger generation about the value of freedom. This event is held in local, state, and national cemeteries across all 50 states, with the most recent one having taken place at 3,702 locations as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

Last year, on the 14th of December MOWW companions and volunteers assembled at the Arlington, Texas cemetery, to honor the fallen, by laying wreaths on many soldiers' headstones.



From Left to Right - Photo 1: Natan's children and General Campbell. Photo 2: Arlington Councilman Long Pham, Commander Natan Ton-that and son Timothy.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*"People who have the most birthdays –
Live the Longest"*



- 2 January CPT Allan Backof
- 2 January LtCol Jeffrey Hauser
- 4 January HRM Jessica Cafferata
- 8 January CPT John Wagner
- 9 January MAJ John Van Buskirk
- 10 January CDR Jerry Rucker
- 11 January LTC Shane Ousey
- 12 January CPT Boyd Branch
- 12 January COL Virgil Williams
- 16 January LTC King Moss
- 17 January Maj Gen Robert McDonald
- 18 January CDR Henry Coates
- 20 January HPM Mark Munson
- 20 January CPT Richard Wegner
- 22 January CPT Steven Poole
- 23 January LTC James Small
- 28 January MR Walter Applewhite
- 30 January Barbara C. Butcher
- 31 January MR Joe Applewhite
- 31 January Shane P. Ousey
- 31 January COL Joe Sasser
- 31 January HPM Jean Sheflett-Kenas



~ Lighten Up ~



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military History Book Club

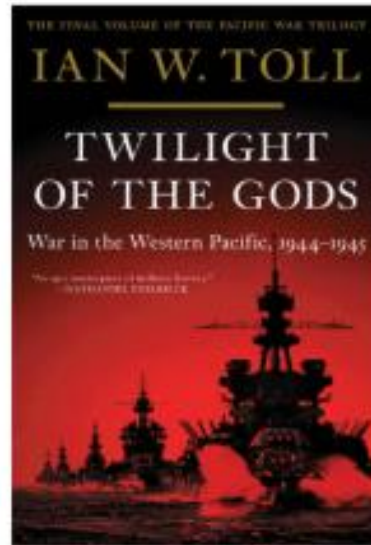


Military History Book Club

Twilight of the Gods

War in the Western Pacific,

1944 – 1945 By Ian Toll



Date: January 9th, 2025

Time: 07:30 AM - 09:00 AM

Venue: Prestonwood CC, 15909 Preston Road, Dallas, TX

The discussion will be moderated by Robert Epstein: Texas Gard – Military Police Brigade; Civil Air Patrol University Instructor Marc Liebman, Captain, U.S. Navy (retired), Naval Aviator, award-winning author and historian. *Twilight of the Gods* brings to life the last year of the war in the Pacific when the U.S. Navy won the largest naval battle in history. Ian Toll's narrative of combat in the air, at sea and on land are gripping as ever. He reconstructs the Japanese and American home fronts and takes the reader into the halls of power in Washington and Tokyo where diplomacy and strategy were debated.

RSVP: macabee1948@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ January 7th, 2025 – MOWW January Luncheon
- ❖ January 9th, 2025 – Military History Book Club
- ❖ February 8th, 2025 – 80 Years of the Dallas Navy League
- ❖ April 16th, 2025 – MOWW Golf Challenge