



The Dispatch



The Organization for Military Officers

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

Puget Sound Chapter February 2023 The Military Order

You are invited: February 12th,
Steilacoom Town Hall, **1230**, catered
lunch and program

**Veteran's
Outreach
Program**



Puget Sound Chapter
Commander invites you to
the Veteran Outreach
Program on 12 January
where you will hear John
Natterstad, United States
Army Volunteer Reserves
National Commander,
United States Volunteers -
Joint Services Command

Convenient Meeting Links

RSVP <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/monthly-meeting-rsvp/>

PAY Online <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/monthly-meeting-payment/>

ZOOM <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/zoom/>

November Puget Sound Chapter Report



Army AJROTC cadets present an excellent patriotic program on 6 January to the Puget Sound Chapter at Steilacoom Town Hall. This is the full year for the Steilacoom AJROTC unit.



Meet our newest companion, Lt Col Larissa Ruiz who joined the team On January 8. Larissa is the senior Instructor at Foss HS AFJROTC



Lt Col Keith Snyder is awarded the Silver Patrick Henry Medal for all the work he has done for the Puget Sound Chapter. Thanks to Keith the chapter's IT operates at a very high level.



The Todd Beamer AFJROTC cadet commander (C) receives a check CDR Mandigo for the unit's purchase of a Space Command flag



CDR Mandigo presents the Youth Merit Medal to Cadet Young (C) for her outstanding work for the Todd Beamer High School Major Jones, AFJROTC Senior Instructor looks on.

Steilacoom HS Cadet Commander(C) accepts the MOWW certificate of appreciation for their production of the January program, as senior instructor LTC Victor McGee



Commander's Corner: Capt Ed Murphy

THE COST OF CONFLICT: Like many of you I love the study of history. Even a history textbook can keep me going for hours. So it was a special treat to sit in the audience and listen to John Jensen tune us in real time to the newscasts reporting the Pearl Harbor attack. The anger and fear riding on the announcers' words were palpable and conveyed, as only words spoken at the time could, the true emotion of the moment.

The announcers delivering those first reports, however, knew only that war was ahead. They knew nothing of the true calamity that would ensue. We, on the other hand, looking back from the perspective of 80+ years, may tend to focus on the triumphs, leaving in the background the immense tragedy which produced them. As I listened, my mind of course first focused on the crucible of Honolulu, Hickam, Ford Island, and Pearl Harbor. But it didn't take long for me to fast forward to Tokyo Bay, The Missouri, Sept 1945. Yeah, they sucker punched us but in the end we won. Lost in between were four years of total war and the loss experienced by so many to secure our victory.

I read Leon Uris' first book, "Battle Cry" a long time ago but the scene that still stands out in my memory takes place probably not long after Pearl Harbor, at Penn Station in Baltimore. The parents of a young Leon are standing on the train platform with him as he prepares to board a train for Parris Island. They are giving this most precious possession to their Country; will they ever see him again. Having two sons of my own I can't begin to imagine what those parents felt that day. It ended well for them, but I believe the anguish of such experiences never entirely passes.

At that same station, at about the same time, and perhaps on the same platform, a virtually identical scene was playing out. This young man's name was Sam Jeeter, age 17, an uncle to me by marriage. He was saying goodbye to his parents as he stepped on the train, also going to Parris Island. Sam was destined to take part in many of the amphibious operations of the Pacific war and as luck would have it, he wound up on Iwo Jima. Two days before the island was secured, he was killed trying to rescue 4 wounded Marines. He got three of them and the Silver Star for his trouble. His mother died about ten years later and my own feeling is that her death was premature and brought on by a broken heart.

So, what's my point? Just this: Victories are to be celebrated but we should never forget and never let our community forget what it has taken to achieve them. Thanks for listening.



Note: February lunch meeting, 1230, at Steilacoom Town Hall. Lunch will be catered. Business casual or tie. Don't delay book today.

Chapter Chaplain's Notes—Chaplain Skip Stephan



There is an interesting legend about the origin of Valentine's Day. It begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve Roman gods, and he had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ, and not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested, imprisoned, and sentenced to be executed.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life, a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked if his daughter, Julia might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a very pretty, young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia said one day.

"Yes, my child. He hears each one," he replied.

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you have told me about." "God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe," Julia said intensely. "I do." She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly, there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see!"

"Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed as he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his execution Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God, and he signed it "From Your Valentine."

His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D. near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome.

It is said that Julia herself planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave.

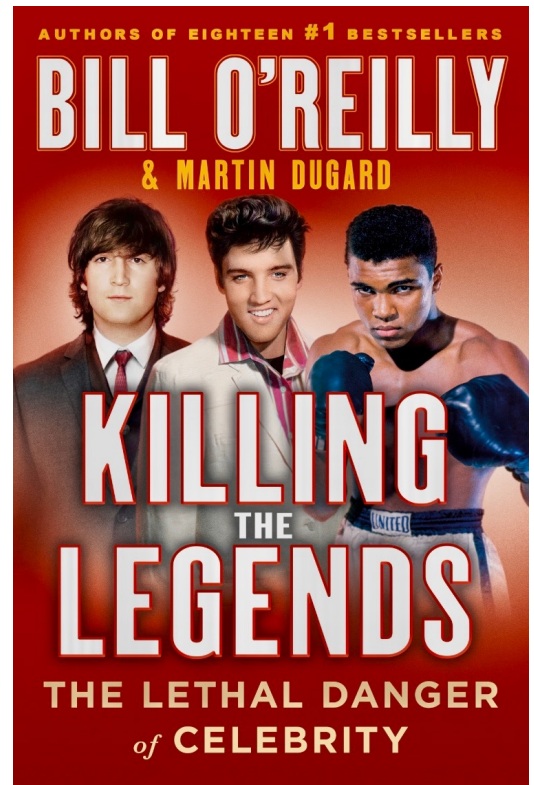
Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, St. Valentine's Day, messages of affection are exchanged around the world.

Help Needed

A couple Companions or young people to handle Zoom duty during meetings. We will train you. With enough people you would only have to do it quarterly. Really, you younger members...help us out. Email Keith Snyder at 737ip@comcast.net.

Book Reader

The King is dead. The Walrus is shot. The Greatest is no more. Elvis Presley, John Lennon, and Muhammad Ali; these three icons changed not only the worlds of music, film, and sports, but the world itself. Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard explore the lives, legacies, and tragic deaths of three of the most famous people of the 20th century. Immense success, then failures that forced them to change; each faced the challenge of growing old but were vulnerable to the demands of those in their innermost circles. **Killing the Legends** O'Reilly and Dugard



Coming Chapter Events

Date	Outreach	Time/Date
12 Feb	Valentine Meeting	1230 Town Hall
4 Mar	Wash State Patriot Davy	1400 Pioneer MS
12Mar	Bronze Patrick Henry Award	1230 Town Hall
2 April	First Responder Outreach	1230 Town Hall

▲ **Adjutant Angle:** Thanks for the generous help clearing up after the January meeting. Many hands make quick work. Magnetic name tags are still available. Check the website to order. We have a donation jar for beverages at our meetings. Please bring cash for this. **Set up of tables and chairs, starts at 11:00am on 12 February, please come help.** In March we will have recipients of Bronze Patrick Henry medals. Plan on “taking a student to lunch.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BIG SISTER AND A BIG BROTHER...



Puget Sound Chapter Staff Officers:

Commander: Capt Ed Murphy santos8@comcast.net

Sr. Vice Commander CAPT Carrie Nielson candnielson@comcast.net

Vice Commander: COL Andy Leneweaver

Adjutant: Diane Gibson 360 789-2598 digib63@gmail.com

Chaplain: Skip Stephan

Historian: CW4 Jory

Marshall: Maj Warren 360 584-8414

Public Affairs: Col Gibson

Surgeon: BG Stanley Flemming

Treasurer: CDR Mandigo

Asst. Treas. MAJ Victor Hogan

Chapter Activities: LT McConnel

Finance: CDR Alan Mandigo

Hospitality: vacant

Committee Chairs:

Law and Order: vacant

Membership: Lt Col Muri

NWLC: Col Gibson/CDR Mandigo

WSPD: Maj Warren

Patriotic Ed: Col Gibson/CDR
Kirkland

Homeland Security: LTC Mummery

Nat'l Security: MG Coffey

Memorials: MG Coffey

ROTC/JROTC: CDR Mandigo

Scouting: CDR Kirkland

Veteran Affairs: LTC Haskins

IT Supervisor: Lt Col Snyder



New Pershing Quiz

Pershing volunteered his services after Pearl Harbor. Who responded to him immediately? Email me at hootdgibson@gmail.com

Everyone's a Big Winner at the Puget Sound Chapter Meetings



Convenient Links

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/groups/43888609799>

WSPD <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/wspd-home/>

NWYLC <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/north-west-youth-leadership-conference/>