



The Dispatch



The Organization for Military Officers

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order

May 2023

You are invited: May 18,
1800, Steilacoom Town
Hall

Veteran
Outreach



Puget Sound Chapter
Commander invites you to
dinner and the Woman's
Memorial Program on **18
May (1800 evening)** Come
and celebrate Women's
Memorial in Washington
DC, presented by
President Phyllis Wilson,
President.

Pease RSVP

Convenient Meeting Links

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

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

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

April Puget Sound Chapter Report

16 April 2023, Commander Ed Murphy welcomes First Responders to be recognized for good work.



Paramedic Cody Shea, Tacoma Fire, Department, is awarded the the chapter's thanks for a job well done



Corporal Jackson (C), military police, FT Lewis is awarded the chapter's First Responder award. Note his wife and 3-week old twins included



Cody Shea has produced a valuable video about PTSD in the First Responder career field



Commander Murphy welcomes Counselor Bernice, from the WA State Homeless Veteran facility to the April meeting

Bernice explains how our chapter has helped clients with our gift cards



Andreas tells about his journey with homelessness and how he has been helped to recover

Commander's Corner: Capt Ed Murphy

LIFE LESSONS – THEY JUST KEEP COMING If you missed the April Chapter meeting you missed a good one, an unexpectedly good one. It's not that I expected the meeting to be 'not good', I just didn't expect the little gem that we received in it.

The April meeting is devoted to the recognition of our community's first responders, Law Enforcement and Emergency. At our April 2023 meeting, we honored fine people for their accomplishments. At this meeting we were updated by our friends at the Washington State Veterans Home over at Retsil, WA. It turned out that 'update' meant clarifying for us the purpose of the Vets Home and the way in which the staff and residents work together to achieve that purpose. Two residents were chosen to bring us this update, Andreas and Carl, and they did a superb job, not with numbers or bullets on a chart but by telling their story, the 'Gem'. Here it is.

Andreas spent a career in the Navy then retired and continued in the field of Law Enforcement where a growing addiction to alcohol led to the crumbling of his marriage and family, and ultimately the forced removal from his home. This man had chalked up a considerable list of successes in his life but now saw that life in a shambles. He turned to the VA, came to Retsil, and tried to restart his life. To use his words as I recall them, 'I didn't fit.' Maybe it was his manner, maybe it was his background but residents steered clear of this Law Enforcement professional.

Carl, the other principal in this story, while not a career criminal, had spent a lot of his life in that world. He had racked up a fairly lengthy rap sheet and had spent time in prison. Somewhere in there though, he had served honorably in the military. Later in life when he finally hit what he thought was bottom he also turned to the VA, came to Retsil and, you guessed it, crossed paths with Andreas. This is the gem part of the story. Carl, who had the record, took an interest in Andreas the Law Enforcement professional and reached out to him, giving him support at a point where Andreas desperately needed it. It worked, and now these two are telling THEIR story...together.

This was the update we received at our meeting, Andreas and Carl, telling us how they are helping each other to put their lives back together. It is the story of what the VA does every day and a story of which we in the Puget Sound Chapter are a functioning part. I can tell you that when they were done you could have heard a pin drop. It was a special moment; a tribute to the VA professionals and a moment of great satisfaction to a Chapter that has supported them over the years.

And the lesson: Life is filled with ironies. No matter what our accomplishments, the vicissitudes of life may leave us shipwrecked and in desperate need of the help of others. And those others might not be exactly the kind of people we would have chosen to call on for help. But at Retsil (and Orting) those barriers are being torn down and lives are being rebuilt every day, sometimes in the most unusual ways. We of the MOWW Puget Sound Chapter are grateful to be a part of that effort.

P.S. Thanks to all who contributed to the \$1000.00 gift we sent off with the VA folks after our meeting. The hat we passed came back with a very generous contribution from all in attendance. Keep supporting the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference in June. I ask you to fund a student please.



Note: May dinner meeting, 16th, at Steilacoom Town Hall. Dinner will be catered. Business casual or tie. Don't delay, book today.



Chapter Chaplain's Notes—LCDR Chaplain Skip Stephan

The inspiration for my article this month came from a meeting I had with Chris Engh at New Tacoma Cemeteries.

It is said there are two things in life that cannot be avoided, death and taxes. We have no problem talking about taxes but we do not like to talk about death. Why is that? Perhaps it is because death is the end of life as we know it. Fortunately we have assurance from Jesus recorded in the 14th chapter of the Gospel of John where He says, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

Both my parents told me what they wanted done after they died. I was glad they did because it made it much easier for me when that time came. As a result, I wanted to do the same for my sons. So I decided it was time to have "the end of life talk" with Scott and Eric. They were both more receptive than I anticipated and asked many questions that I could not adequately answer. "Who do we call? Then what do we do?" In order to make sure they got the correct information, I felt the best course of action was to go into the office and talk with someone who dealt with this regularly, hence my meeting with Chris.

He pulled my file and confirmed that I had done a pretty good job of taking care of final arrangements, however, there were a couple of items that needed attention. I owed for a second grave marker foundation as only one was prepaid. A copy of my DD-214 was not in my file. As you are aware, the DD-214 is the most important single document for a veteran. It verifies active military service and is required to obtain all veteran burial benefits including: a standard government headstone or marker, a presidential memorial certificate, a one-time burial allowance and a U.S. flag. We concluded our meeting with a walk to the actual grave sites.

My sons and I agreed that this was a very productive experience. It generated a number of other questions. Do I have a will? Where is it? Where is the key to the safe deposit box? How do they get access to it? What bank is it located in? What kind of service do I want and what do I want included? What music? What scriptures? Where do I want the service to be held and who do I want to officiate? Can your family answer these questions? Have you told them what your final desires are? It is always easier if these matters are decided in advance rather than at the time of death.

If you are reluctant to have "the final talk" with them, at least put this information in writing, tell them you have done so and where it is located. It is the very least thing you can do for them.

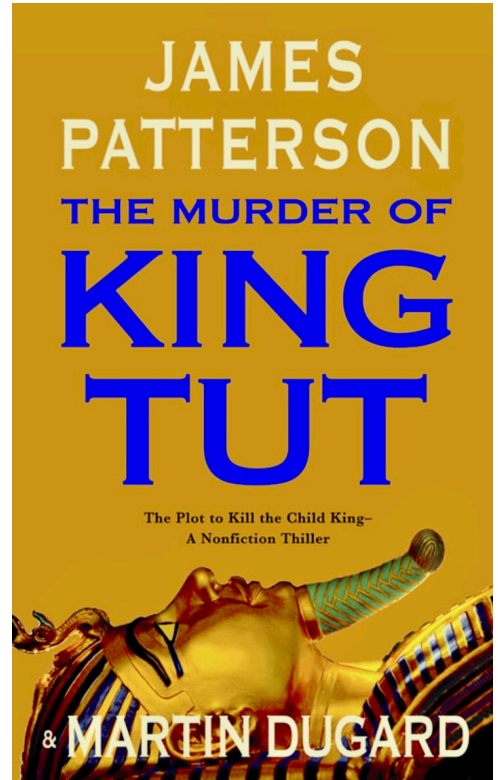
Get Ready for the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference
Please sponsor a scholarship for a student

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

Book Reader

The Pharaoh of Egypt was only 18 years old when he mysteriously died. Patterson and Dugard expose their credible theory that the boy king was murdered by a key advisor in the palace. How and why is for you to discover. The authors have done much research to give a true picture of life 4000 years ago. Learn about ancient King Tut, and why he had to die.

The Murder of King, Tut Martin Dugard and James Patterson



Coming Chapter Events

Date	Outreach	Time/Date
18 May	Women's Memorial, WA DC	1800 Town Hall
10 June	Awards/Installation Meeting	TBD
25-30 June	Northwest Youth Leadership Conf.	PLU
July	Picnic with Homeless Veterans	TBD

▲ **Adjutant Angle: Thanks to all who helped make the April meeting a success. Magnetic nametags are available. Check the website to order. We have a donation jar for beverages at our meetings. Bring cash for this. Set up of tables and chairs, starts at 4:00pm on May 18, please come help and stay to clear up after dinner. Focus is to support NWYLC, 25-30 June. Please sponsor a scholarship, \$500—or what you can afford. Join us for opening and/or closing banquets and meet your student. 6:00pm, \$30, Scandinavian Center PLU. Call for Reservation by 20 June. 360-789-2598.**

Humor in Uniform

Enlisted men: Never volunteer for any duty, no matter how enticing. At formation a sergeant asked, "How many of you like music?" Three of us raised our hands. "Good you three report to the orderly room. You're going to move a piano into the day room"

16th annual Tacoma Memorial Day Service

11:00am, May 29th
Tacoma's War Memorial Park
7201 Sixth Avenue
(Sixth Avenue and MacArthur Street)
Tacoma, WA 98406
andyleneweaver@outlook.com

The event is free and open to everyone. This year we will feature an All-City Junior ROTC Color Guard, representing all the JROTC units in the Tacoma School District, a brass ensemble from the 133rd Army Band from the Washington National Guard, a wreath laying by American Legion Post 2 in Spanaway, and a keynote speaker (TBD). Also, this is the only Memorial Day event within the city limits of Tacoma.

Puget Sound Chapter Staff Officers:

Commander: Capt Ed Murphy santos8@comcast.net

Sr. Vice Commander CAPT Carrie Nielson candrnielson@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: vacant

IT Supervisor: Lt Col Snyder



New Pershing Quiz

Pershing is back! What President sent birthday greetings to Pershing on his 85th anniversary?

hootdgibson@gmail.com

Lovely Ladies at the Puget Sound Chapter Meeting



Convenient Links

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

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

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



Chapter Treasurer for 10 years and Chapter Awards Committee for 14 years (jobs he still holds). And all this same while he held the positions of WA State CDR, Region XV CDR, and National ROTC Committee Chair, the last of which he still holds. Not done yet. Alan has been an integral part of the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference since 1998 and currently serves as Registrar and Treasurer. He also supplies the cadet manpower for Washington State Patriotic Day and was WSPD Treasurer until last year.



I don't know about you but just reading that last paragraph leaves me breathless, and not just from the poor punctuation. My personal belief is that the invitation he gave us to the JROTC Awards Package Mailing Party (Annie's idea after watching him put packages together for years) was a silent scream for help from someone who never learned to say no. (Know anybody else like that?) Having said that let me hasten to acknowledge that Alan is one of the chief reasons, maybe THE chief reason, why the Puget Sound Chapter is still Kicking (and growing) when all the others up this way are gone. Alan Mandigo has set the bar high, for himself and for others and I'm grateful to be on the same team with him.



Alan and Annie, speaking for all of us who got to be part of the team that day, thanks again for the great hospitality, the insight into your part of the Chapter effort and the chance to give you a hand, and to share the warmth of your home. Spring will never be the same. Oh, and I hope this will get me an invite back next year.

Ed Murphy



PUYALLUP



REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, MAY 28TH AT 2 P.M.
PIONEER PARK PAVILION, PUYALLUP

The official Puyallup community observance
An indoor event - For all ages
Free parking



Sponsored by the City of Puyallup, Puyallup Valley VFW Post 2224, Puyallup American Legion
Post 67, Fleet Reserve Assoc., Mt. Rainier Branch 104

**PUYALLUP'S
ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY
OBSERVANCE
SET FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28TH IN
THE
PIONEER PARK PAVILION**

Puyallup will hold its annual Memorial Day Observance on **Sunday, May 28th**, at **2 p.m. in the Pavilion in Pioneer Park.**

Michelle Black, a Gold Star Wife, is the guest speaker. Black is the widow of Army Staff Sergeant Bryan Black, a Special Forces soldier killed in an ambush of his unit in Niger, Africa in 2017. She is the author of the book, "Sacrifice: A Gold Star Widow's Fight for the Truth". She has related her story in national publications and on various TV programs about her effort to fully learn of the circumstances surrounding her husband's death.

The program includes presentation of wreaths to be placed at the War Memorial in the park, along with the reading of Puyallup's fallen in conflicts from World War I to the present. The Clan Gordon Pipe Band will also perform and include playing the hymn, "Amazing Grace".

The event is free, indoors and is appropriate for all ages. There is ample free parking at the downtown Puyallup Park Pavilion.