



# The Dispatch



The Organization for Military Officers and Top 3 NCOs

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

## Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order (120)

Dec. 2024

**You are invited: Dec 14**  
**11:45 Army/Navy**  
**Football game,**  
**Steilacoom Tap Room**

**Outreach Program:**  
**Pearl Harbor**



Saturday 14 December  
the Puget Sound Chapter  
meeting will focus on the  
Army Navy football game  
with bonus National  
Security halftime  
program—Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance.  
Steilacoom Tap Room,  
1145. Bring snacks, pay  
as you go bar.

### 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

Coming to the Puget Sound Chapter in November all the way from Israel, Elie Pieprz gave us the lowdown on the Israel/US national security situation



Frank, Tom and Bob socialize at the November chapter meeting



Rick and Keith are enjoying the Puget Sound Chapter social time



Dick Muri talks to our chapter guest, Ft Lewis battalion commander LTC Drew Martin



Andy Leneweaver organized Veterans Day with BG Hilman as speaker



Cadet Camren Edwards welcomes guest speaker at the November Youth Leadership Seminar in Yakama, WA



Faye Doyle speaks to students about leadership in business at the Yakama YLS. CDR Kirkland oversaw the Yakima YLS in November.

## Commander Corner: Captain Carrie Nielson, USN, Ret

The year continues to fly by, and the holiday season is upon us. Wishing you all the best as you plan time with family and friends.

I want to thank all the chapter members who made November activities work out so well. Our chapter meeting in November was an outstanding joint meeting with the Mt Rainier MOAA chapter. Their members joined us at the Steilacoom Town Hall for a catered lunch and a fascinating Zoomed presentation by Elie Pieprz, Director of International Affairs, Israel Defense and Security Forum. He joined us live from Israel to provide a point of view to which we are not usually exposed. We also passed the hat and collected close to \$300 for Santa's Castle Sports Ball Drive. What a generous group! Also in November, Ron Kirkland and his fiancé, Faye, drove over to Yakima to support a Youth Leadership Seminar organized by our NWYLC graduate, Camren Edwards. NWYLC Foundation sponsored pizza and snacks. Camren seemed very pleased to receive an award from our chapter for the initiative and hard work he exhibited in putting together this new YLS. November also meant Veterans Day and several of our chapter members were engaged with ceremonies in recognition of this occasion throughout our region, including our Senior Vice Commander, Andy Leneweaver, leading events in Tacoma. It was a busy month!

In December instead of having a regular chapter meeting we will be having a chapter social gathering – watching the Army Navy football game at the Taproom in Steilacoom, just down the street from the Town Hall – Go Navy, Beat Army! Kick Off is at **noon on Saturday, 14 December**. If you would like to bring a little dessert or appetizer style dish to share, that is encouraged. We also ask that you buy at least one beverage to support the owner/host. If you plan to attend, RSVP on the website – space is limited. We are planning a short Pearl Harbor remembrance for half time, like last year. I hope to see many of you there. I also hope many of you will attend our MOAA partner organization's holiday gala on December 06. It is always a lovely event and it is an important fundraiser for them. December is also Wreaths Across America month. This year our MOWW chapter is supporting Mt Rainier MOAA's WAA sponsorship. They are on the WAA website, if you wish to make a donation, and they are planning to lay wreaths out at Orting Military Cemetery on 14 December if anyone wishes to join them that morning.

In January we will be back to our second Sunday chapter meetings. Our Washington State Patriotic Day is set for 22 March this year. The Northwest Youth Leadership Conference will be 22-26 June. Mark your calendars!

Remember my ABC's of chapter membership:

**A**ttend Meetings!

**B**e a Recruiter (remember senior enlisted are eligible to join now too)!

**J**oin a **C**ommittee!





## Chaplains Notes by LCDR Skip Stephan, USN

We have just entered a period of the year which many Christians refer to as Advent. Advent is derived from the Latin word for coming. It is a time to look forward to the coming of Christmas Day, the joyful commemoration of Christ's birth on earth. It is also a time to deepen our commitment to follow Christ and to live in hope of His return. Jesus tells us to do three things as part of our preparation. He tells us to watch, wait and stay awake.

When He tells us to be awake, He is telling us to be awake to the direction God is leading our lives. He wants us to be awake to the possibilities God places before us.

During World War II, a young soldier was in training at an army base in one of the bleakest and most remote parts of the California desert. He took his wife with him so they could spend time together before he went overseas. The only housing they could find was an old shack that had been abandoned by the Indians. For a few days the young woman found life in this bleak place tolerable, but then the newness wore off and she became miserable. The winds came up and the sandstorms struck. The temperature went up to 115 degrees. Soon the loneliness overwhelmed her, and when her husband was assigned to training deeper in the desert, she reached the end of her rope. She wrote her mother that she couldn't take it anymore and she was coming home. Her mother answered her immediately. The letter contained 2 lines.

Dear Daughter,

Two men sit in prison bars.

One sees mud, the other sees stars.

The young woman read the words repeatedly until she thought, "I wonder what the stars look like here." She went out of her shack, looked up at the night sky and discovered that in no place do the stars shine brighter than over the desert. She thrilled to the beauty of the night sky.

Inspired, she set out the next day to explore her community. She walked down the road to visit the Indians who lived in the shacks not far from her. She was sure they were unfriendly because she had never talked to them. She began talking with two women who were weaving baskets, and when they saw she was sincere and friendly, they became friendly. When she stopped thinking they were hostile, they stopped being hostile. In a short time, she too was learning the art of basket weaving.

Then one day some Indian boys brought her seashells they had found in the desert and they told her the legend of how the desert was once an ocean. She became fascinated with seashells and began to collect them. By the time her husband finished his tour of duty at that location, she had become an authority on the desert and had written a book about it. She fell in love with the desert and wept when it came time to say good-bye to her Indian friends.

We may not write a book. Perhaps our desert is an office full of grumblers or an apartment where we live alone surrounded by others who live alone. Or perhaps we are in a neighborhood where no one speaks to each other. But wherever God has planted you right now, He is also giving you signs of how to bloom and bring His love and healing into your desert. We see signs but aren't always awake to God's presence and purpose in their midst.

God always gives us signs of what He wants us to do if we are awake enough to see and heed them. Signs for our health, signs for our marriages, signs from our dreams, signs of Christ bringing His kingdom on earth.

During this time of Advent, may we watch, wait and be awake to heed these signs He sends to us as we prepare for His coming.

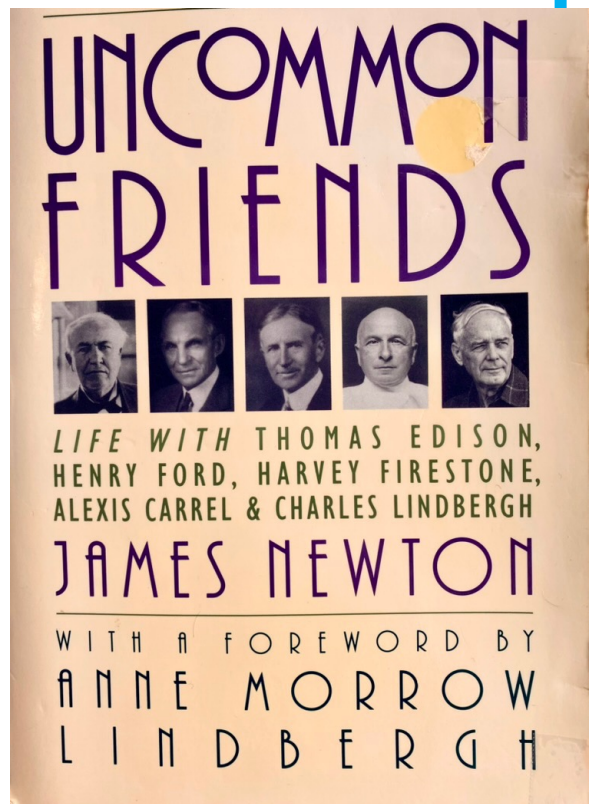


Winning at the Puget Sound Chapter November Meeting

## Book Reader

Twenty year old James Newton made friends with Thomas Edison in the 1930s. Something about Newton's personality attracted other famous people of the age, specifically Thery Ford, Harvey Firestone, Dr. Alexis Carrell, and Charles Lindbergh. James maintained these close friendships until their deaths, always keeping a detailed diary of conversations. A wonderful read and insight into each one of these significant doers in their different pioneering fields. It's as if you are there in the conversation with 5 great men.

**Uncommon Friends James Newton**



## Coming Chapter Events

| Date   | Outreach                           | Time          |
|--------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 10 Nov | National Security Outreach Program | 1230 Town Hal |
| 06 Dec | Christmas Gala MOAA/MOWW           | 1800 McChord  |
| 14 Dec | Army – Navy game                   | 1145 Tap Rm   |
| 12 Jan | Patriotic Education                | 1230 Town Hal |



## A Friendly Atmosphere at the Puget Sound Chapter November Meeting

### Puget Sound Chapter Staff Officers:

**Commander:** CAPT Carrie Nielson [candnielson@comcast.net](mailto:candnielson@comcast.net)

Sr. Vice Commander COL Andy Leneweaver

Vice Commander COL Bill McClary

Adjutant: Lt Col Annette Mummery

Chaplain: Skip Stephan

Marshall: Maj Warren 360 584-8414

Surgeon: Dr. Wheeler

Photographer: COL McClary

Finance: CDR Alan Mandigo

Historian: LTC Flint

Public Affairs: Col Gibson

Treasurer: Maj Mummery

Chapter Activities: LT McConnel

Hospitality: vacant

### Committee Chairs:

**Law and Order: vacant**

**Membership: Lt Col Muri**

**NWYLC: 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**



## Pershing Minute



When his assignment with the Buffalo Soldiers was over John became an assistant instructor in tactics, cavalry, and training at West Point. Here the LT was in his element, poised for even greater success than at the University of Nebraska, remember, he was revered by the cadets of the Pershing Rifles.

Instead, the cadets at West Point despised him. To them he was impossibly rigid, merciless, and always ready to lash out at the slightest infraction. He missed nothing and criticized every fault. Additionally, he seldom mixed with his command, they never saw the fun loving, hard drinking officer who once jumped out of the window to dodge police.



**Adjutant's Angle: The Raffle is On for January—keep those items warm! Magnetic nametags are available. Check chapter website to order.**

## Smiles at Puget Sound Chapter November Meeting



**It is nobler to Serve Than to be Served**

## Convenient Links

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

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

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

# Animals are Great, Animals are Great!

Even Fish Kiss and Makeup

