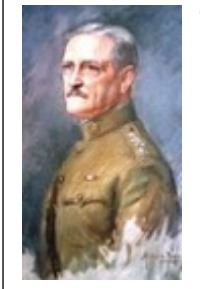




# The Dispatch



The Organization for Military Officers and Top 3 NCOs

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

## Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order (120)

Feb 2025

**You are invited: Feb. 2**  
**1230 Town Hall,**  
**Steilacoom**

**National  
Security**



### Commander's Invitation

You are invited—2 Feb  
National Security with  
active duty LTC Drew  
Martin, commander,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 358<sup>th</sup> Field  
Artillery Regiment

**Mission:**  
**Trained units ready to fight  
and win**

LTC Drew Martin discusses artillery with Mayor Muri

### Convenient Meeting Links

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

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

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

# Jauary Puget Sound Chapter Report



Navy (L) and Army (R) cadets brief the Puget Sound Chapter companions on Jan.12



Peninsula and Steilacoom high schools brought their JROTC teams to provide an excellent patriotic program at the Steilacoom town hall on Sunday the 12th

Companions visited with cadets as all enjoyed a delicious lunch prior to the patriotic program presentation



The NJROTC color guard presented the US and MOWW flags with precision

New Patriot Member Scott Davis received his pin and a Silver Patrick Henry medal for patriotic efforts



Scott chats with a Peninsula NJROTC cadet after the program

Ed Murphy bestows an Outreach Service Medal to Mike Johnson for his services to the Chapter



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

Well, we have survived January, the month some describe as the longest and toughest month of the year and are poised to step into February, the shortest and some might say sweetest month, since it contains Valentines Day. So far, so good.

Wow! I certainly hope everyone who attended enjoyed our action-packed January meeting. We welcomed a new Patriot member to our chapter, Scott Davis, a true patriot who served in the Navy, has a private military museum in one room of his home and decorates his whole neighborhood with American and service flags each Veterans and Memorial Day. The subject for the meeting was Patriotic Education. We were blessed with not one, but two groups of cadets from Peninsula and Steilacoom High Schools who provided excellent presentations for the meeting. One of the Steilacoom cadets gave the invocation and a team of cadets from Peninsula presented the colors. It is always energizing and inspiring when we have young people join our meetings, and this was no exception. I am sure chapter members and JROTC Instructors Victor McGee and Rob Stockton are very proud of their students. The cadets were our guests, and I am very pleased with the generosity of our chapter members in supporting our "take a cadet to lunch" program this month.

While I am still reflecting on how much I enjoyed visiting with and listening to the presentations by our JROTC cadet guests, it is already time to urge you all to attend our February meeting. Our speaker will be LTC Drew Martin from JBLM. LTC Martin's unit trains other units when they are preparing to deploy to hot spots around the globe. This should be VERY interesting, so I urge you to make your reservation now via the chapter website. The meeting will be 02 February, gathering at 12:30, call to order at 1:00, eating shortly afterwards. \*\*Note this is earlier in the month than usual, as we wanted to avoid Superbowl Sunday. \*\*

I hope your calendars are marked for our Washington State Patriotic Day, which is set for 22 March this year. The Northwest Youth Leadership Conference will be 22-26 June.

Remember my ABC's of chapter membership:

**A**ttend Meetings! Great meals, speakers and company.

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

Join a **C**ommittee! Help find sponsors, partners and participants for WSPD.

## Chaplain's Corner, LCDR Stephan, USN, Ret

As I write this article Donald Trump has just taken the following oath of office as President of the United States: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States of America, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." And then he added the phrase "so help me God."

These four little words are not in the Constitution, but for most Americans, they might as well be. "So, help me God" has been as much a part of the oath as the other 35 words, ever since George Washington first said them 228 years ago.

But did Washington really say, "so help me God"? There is no evidence that he did. That story did not even exist until 1854, sixty-five years after Washington's inauguration. If it were not for Rufus Griswold, we would not have the story at all.

Rufus Griswold was a mid-nineteenth-century literary critic and editor. In 1854, he published *The Republican Court: or American Society in the Days of Washington*. The book contained this account of the first president's inauguration: "A gesture of the Chancellor arrested the attention of the immense assembly, and he pronounced slowly and distinctly the words of the oath. The Bible was raised, and as the President bowed to kiss its sacred pages, he said audibly, 'I swear,' and then added, with fervor, his eyes closed, that his whole soul might be absorbed in the supplication, "So help me God!"

Before 1854, there are no accounts of Washington saying "so help me God at the end of the oath. Griswold told the story and by the end of the 1850s, it had been repeated so much that the numbers grew, and it became widely accepted.

The Second Great Awakening in the first half of the nineteenth century brought about a rise in public piety and a desire to see religious values reflected in the nation's culture and institutions.

In this context, "so help me God" quickly became the traditional story, so accepted that no one thought to question it.

Franklin Roosevelt said it in 1933, as has every president since. But before 1933, only four: Arthur, Taft, Harding, and Coolidge said it.

When President Trump said "so help me God" it was not unprecedented, but it was unpresidential, at least in terms of how many presidents have said it.



AJROTC cadets confer with General Cole



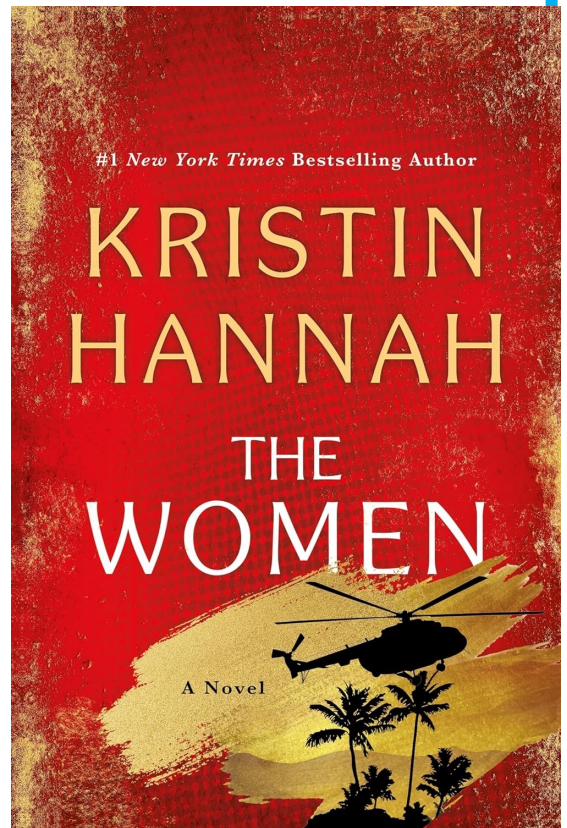
Former Navy man Scott Davis talks with NJROTC cadets

## Book Reader

By Laura Kern

Fifty-two years after the last nurse left Vietnam there has finally been a fair and accurate book written about the true story lived by many of the nurses. The in-country portion of the book is as accurate as can be portrayed without shocking many readers not used to the rigors and sights of combat nursing. The aftermath of lives torn apart by exposure to the devastation of war is all encompassing. Not everything in the book happened to all nurses, but everything has been experienced by some nurses.

At 21 years old and responsible for men's lives coming home to angry, abusive crowds and a VA system that thought they never saw "combat", and therefore did not need help, Kristen Hannah has covered the nurse's contribution in a positive way. This book has finally given some of us the courage and permission to tell our story to those who have read the book. Ms. Hannah has shed light on the forgotten angels, those who were wounded will never forget them. [The Women](#)  
**Kristin Hannah**



## Coming Chapter Events

Date	Outreach	Time
Feb 2	National Security	1230 Town Hall
Mar 9	Bronze Patrick Henry	1230 Town Hall
Apr 9	Law and Order	1230 Town Hall



**Look!**  
**LTC Cheryl Brady,**  
**our Chapter's**  
**prior Chaplain, is**  
**awarded a US**  
**Flag flown over**  
**the Capitol, by the**  
**Honorable Jeff**  
**Session, for her**  
**good work in**  
**Nacogdoches, TX**

### 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

Historian: LTC Flint

Chaplain: LCDR Skip Stephan

Public Affairs: Col Gibson

Marshall: Maj Warren 360 584-8414  
 Mummery

Treasurer: Maj

Surgeon: Dr. Wheeler

Chapter Activities: LT McConnel

Finance: Maj Mummery

Hospitality: vacant

### Committee Chairs:

**Law and Order: LTC Still**

**Nat'l Security: LTG Dayton/Johnson**

**Membership: Lt Col Muri**

**Memorials: MG Coffey**

**NWYLC: Col Gibson/CDR Mandigo**

**ROTC/JROTC: CDR Mandigo**

**WSPD: Maj Warren**

**Scouting: CDR Kirkland**

**Patriotic Ed: Col Gibson/CDR**

**Veteran Affairs: LT McConnel**

**Kirkland**

**IT Supervisor: Lt Col Snyder**

**Homeland Security: Capt Murphy**

**Leg. Liaison: LTC Haskins**

## Pershing Minute



LT Pershing was not having much fun at West Point, and there was a war in Cuba brewing—the first in a generation. Trouble was, all Military Academy instructors were locked into their crucial job with cadets. Every officer angled to get around this directive. John contacted everyone he knew, then he asked an acquaintance, assistant secretary of war, by writing “May I be relieved from here? I could no more keep out of the field than I could fly.” It worked and the LT was returned to his command as quartermaster of the Buffalo Soldier Regiment. LT Pershing joined the Tenth Cav camped at Chickamauga National Park in GA, where the ever-observant young officer saw a sad situation—unreliable supplies of bad food, tainted water and miserable living conditions.

**Adjutant's angle: Magnetic nametags are available. Check chapter website to order. Thanks for the many raffle items for the cadets**

## Happy People at January's Puget Sound Chapter 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!

OKkkkk--I heard you the first time!



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