



# The Dispatch



The Organization for Military Officers and Top 3 NCOs

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

## Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order (120) June 2025

**You are invited: June 8th**  
**1730 Town Hall,**  
**Steilacoom**



**Chapter  
celebration  
and  
Recognition  
Program**



Commander's Invitation  
You are invited—8 June  
1730 for 1800 dinner and  
Awards program featuring  
yearly chapter awards

**Mission:**  
**Thanking People Who**  
**Contribute to our Outreach**  
**Programs**

### Convenient Meeting Links

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

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

## May Puget Sound Chapter Report



The Puget Sound Chapter renewed its support to Homeless Veterans at the May 4th meeting, with guest speaker Melissa Weitzel from WA DVA

The audience loves what Melissa brought to the meeting



Navy Captain (L) and Puget Sound Chapter Commander congratulates Chris McManus as a new companion on 4 May, in Steilacoom, WA. In the background is Bill McClary (L) pinning the MOWW symbol onto Alan Bourque.

Alan Bourque (L) newest companion congratulates the other newest member Chris McManus



Jim Jones (L) and Ken Farmer have a friendly chat

Mary (L) and Diane share a joke at the drinks table



Faye and Ron Kirkland lead the way for a delicious dinner prior to the start of the homeless Veterans program

## Commander's Corner: CAPT Carrie Neilson, USN (Ret)

What an amazing time of year! I hope you are all out enjoying the beauty of the Pacific Northwest in May. The rhododendrons, azaleas and so many other plants are just ablaze with color. It is also a special month in which to recognize our entire military family. May is Military Appreciation Month. May 09 was Military Spouse Appreciation Day and May 17 was Armed Forces Day and the month culminates on May 26 with Memorial Day.

If you have never visited the state capitol, and would like to check out the Legislative Building rotunda, there is a Memorial Day ceremony held at 10am in that location on 26 May. Even more exciting for our chapter, at 11am on 26 May at War Memorial Park, Tacoma, you can attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day Service organized by Andy Leneweaver and his colleagues, members of the Tacoma Historical Society and American Legion.

A big thank you to all companions who contributed to the fundraiser supporting our annual donation of \$1,000 in gift cards for the WDVA veterans homes. Melissa Weitzel, the Program Manager for the VA Funded Transitional Housing Programs in Pierce and Kitsap counties, was our guest speaker for May and accepted the gift cards on behalf of the program. She gave a wonderful speech – her passion for helping veterans in need of assistance to improve their lives was very apparent and she was grateful for our support. The May meeting was also time for officer elections. Primarily our officer positions run for two years and most of our officers had agreed to continue for their second year, but we did have two positions that needed filling. Our nominating committee announced the full slate of elected-position officers for 2025-26, entertained nominations from the floor and then it was moved, seconded and we unanimously voted to accept the slate of new officers. Please note that we still do need a new Historian, so if you are interested in filling this position, contact me to discuss.

I urge you all to attend our June meeting at 1730, meal served at 1815, on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Steilacoom Town Hall. We will be recognizing the contributions of our past chapter commanders and I will be presenting awards to some of our hardworking companions.

Our biggest event of the year will be coming up at the end of June: Northwest Youth Leadership Conference. For your consideration: (1) if you would like to attend the banquets at the beginning and end of the conference, get in touch with Diane Gibson to make your reservation now, (2) we are always open for donations, expenses go up every year, so if you have a bit of a tax windfall or are otherwise feeling generous, consider donating to NWYLC Foundation – it is a 501c3.

Remember my ABC's of chapter membership:

**Attend Meetings!** Great meals, speakers and company.

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

**Join a Committee!** Help find sponsors, partners and participants for WSPD&NWYLC.



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

In John 13:34 Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

The command is new not only in its purpose, but also in its manner or intent. Jesus said, "Love as I have loved you." That's new. The old command says "Love your neighbor more than yourself: as Jesus did. Love, even if it means your own death.

A young man joined the Marines and was sent to Vietnam. His name was Jonas, and his immediate family was somewhat indifferent to him. But those who knew him outside that immediate family loved Jonas very much because of his enormous consideration for other people. One of his cousins remembered that if his dad said he needed something at the store, it was not the cousin who would volunteer to go, but Jonas who would leap at the opportunity. He was that kind of young man. In Vietnam, an enemy grenade landed in the middle of his outfit. Jonas leaped upon the grenade in order to save the lives of his friends. In dying, he gave his life for those he loved. In so doing he lived out Jesus' new commandment to "love as I have loved."

Chances are we will not have the opportunity to give our life by falling on a grenade to save our friend's life. But what we can do is just about as hard. We can give up our own will to Him. Only as we put to death what Paul calls our flesh- our selfish desires that seek our own glory and comfort- can we do God's will.

So we have two love commandments- an old one and a new one. The old applies to all people, but the new- is an intensified love- a love focused directly at the disciples- and all who are followers of Jesus.

Our relationship with one another is to be a witness to the world of what true love is. We are not just to open our doors and windows and shout out what love is. Rather, we are to open our lives and let the world look in and see true love at work in us.

We are not simply to preach, but to practice love- and not as the world knows love to be, but a love born out of the experience of being loved by the Lord of love.





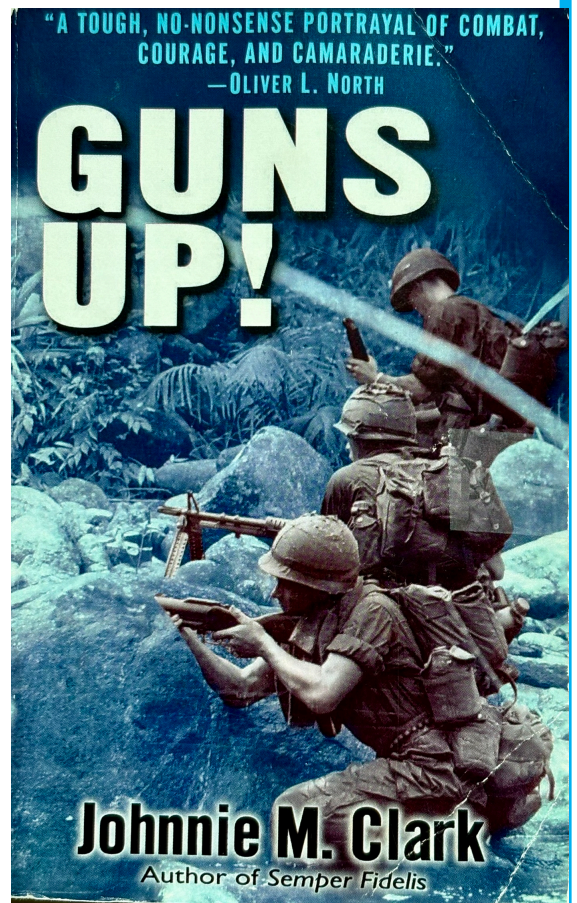
The Puget Sound Chapter uses the raffle as a way to defray the cost of guests' lunches awards, donations. Companions bring useful and interesting gift items that are popular with attendees. The raffle adds a light-hearted feature to each meeting.

## Book Reader

A gut-wrenching firsthand account of the war that is a classic in the annals of Viet Nam literature by a Marine who lived on the front lines.

"Guns Up" was the battle cry that sent Marine gunners forward with their M-60 firepower to mow down the enemy. Johnnie Clark heard that the lifespan of a machine gunner was about 7-10 seconds upon meeting the enemy. He was only 18 years old when sent to Hue during the Tet offensive, but grew up fast when faced with the cold, hard facts of Marines in battle. Guns Up is a fast read that brings you inside the minds and hearts of the highly dedicated young men who served in Viet Nam's worst combat zones

**Guns Up Johnnie M. Clark**



## Coming Chapter Events

Date	Outreach	Time
June 8	Awards Dinner	1800 Town Hall
June 22-26	NW Youth Leadership Conf.	Pacific L. U.
July TBD	Picnic with Homeless Vets	Retsil, WA





## Winners!



## 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

**Treasurer:** Maj Mummery

**Surgeon:** Dr. Wheeler

**Chapter Activities:** LT McConnel

**Finance:** Maj Mummery

**Hospitality:** vacant

## Committee Chairs:

**Law and Order:** LTC Still

**Membership:** Lt Col Muri

**NWYLC:** Col Gibson/CDR Mandigo

**WSPD:** Maj Warren

**Patriotic Ed:** Col Gibson/CDR

**Kirkland**

**Homeland Security:** Capt Murphy

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

**Memorials:** MG Coffey

**ROTC/JROTC:** CDR Mandigo

**Scouting:** CDR Kirkland

**Veteran Affairs:** LT McConnel

**IT Supervisor:** Lt Col Snyder

**Leg. Liaison:** LTC Haskins

**Northwest Leadership Conference is** coming, 22 to 26 June at PLU. Companions are encouraged to attend the opening and/or closing dinners. These are at 6:00/1800 in the Scandinavian Center, lower level of University Center, 12180 So Park Avenue, Tacoma. Cost for each dinner is \$30. Please make reservations at the Puget Sound Chapter website. Under the NWYLC tab, will be a drop-down menu for the dinner reservations. This is the only way to make a reservation and pay. Alan Mandigo will receive payments at the May 4<sup>th</sup> & June 8<sup>th</sup> chapter meetings. No payment the evenings of event. Reservations will close on June 15<sup>th</sup>. <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/north-west-youth-leadership-conference/>



\*\*\*\*\*

## Remembering 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War



## 18th Annual Day of Remembrance Memorial Day Service

War Memorial Park  
6<sup>th</sup> Av & MacArthur St  
Tacoma, Washington  
May 26, 2025, 11:00 am

Presented by  
Tacoma Historical Society and  
Edward B. Rhodes-Parkland  
American Legion Post 2



Colors Presented by  
South Vietnam Veterans  
Color Guard  
Vietnamese Cultural Center

Guest Speaker  
Lt Col (Ret) Hank Cramer  
Son of the first Army KIA  
In Vietnam





# **Puget Sound Chapter Military Order of World Wars**

## **Elected Officers for 2025/2026**

<b>Commander</b>	<b>CAPT Carrie Nielson</b>
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>	<b>COL Andy Leneweaver</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>COL Bill McClary</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>**LTC Renee Buck</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Maj David Mummery</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>LCDR Skip Stephan</b>
<b>Surgeon</b>	<b>COL (Dr.) Bruce Wheeler</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Marshall</b>	<b>Maj Keith Warren</b>
<b>Public Affairs</b>	<b>Col David Gibson</b>



**Tues-Sat | 5-9 August, 2025**  
**Desert Diamond Casino, Tucson, AZ**

**[MOWW.org/Convention](http://MOWW.org/Convention)**



## Pershing Minute

The Americans became stalled in the high grass in front of the heavily fortified blockhouse on San Juan Hill. Attack seemed suicidal and retreat was not much better. Colonel Roosevelt thought they would be slaughtered where they stood unless they took action. Seeing that he was the highest-ranking officer in sight, Roosevelt gave the order to advance on foot.

Next door, the dismounted 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was ordered to advance when Lt Ord asked Gen Hawkins for permission to charge. Hawkins answered, "I will not give permission and I will not refuse it, God bless and good luck"

▼ **Adjutant's Angle:** Thank you for the numerous raffle items contributed for a worthy cause during our meetings. Name tags can be found on the chapter's website.



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

**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!

**Mother's Day in the Big City**



## Convenient Links

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

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

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