



The Dispatch



The Organization for All Military Veterans

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order (120)

Feb 2026

You are invited:

**February 1, Chapter Meeting 1230
National Security with,
Remembering Vietnam Nurses.
Catered Lunch**

**Presented by
Companion
Laura Kern
Come and
Support**



After a delicious repast you will meet Laura and hear the story of a Vietnam combat nurse

**February Mission:
National Security**

Convenient Meeting Links

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

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

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

January Puget Sound Chapter Report



Cadets from Stadium HS provided a great patriotic program on 11 January that included period uniforms.

Each student was awarded a certificate and 2 cadets received a Youth Merit Medal



Cadet marches in with WW I uniform



Navy/Marine uniforms shown by NJROTC cadets



Current Navy helicopter pilot uniform on the left as cadet in Marine attire on right reads her script



Scott (Patriot Member) stands with NJROTC cadet (R) in WWII denim uniform



Cadet in flight suit and boony hat



Commander's Corner: Captain Carrie Nielson, USN (Ret)

After some December nasty weather, I am grateful for some unseasonably pleasant weather this month. I had to shield my eyes against that bright globe in the sky as Ron and I explored the great outdoors yesterday. I hope all of you have also been able to take in some natural vitamin D this month.

A great big thank you to all our chapter members – and Mt Rainier MOAA Chapter members – who turned out in support of the Stadium High School NJROTC cadets and their excellent Patriotic Education program. I am confident you found it worth your time. The unit instructor collects military uniforms, and the cadets were dressed in uniforms from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and more recent conflicts, as they paid tribute to those who served in each of those eras and continue to serve. I always come away from our meetings featuring young people feeling especially inspired!

I got up early to attend the Wreaths Across America Wreath Clean Up Event at the Orting Veterans Cemetery at 0800 on January 10th. There was a slightly smaller crowd there compared to the wreath laying in December, and this was the real workday. All the wreaths are gathered up, disassembled into piles of ribbons, greenery, and metal frames, and loaded into trucks for appropriate disposal. Then a bit of raking and sweeping returns the cemetery to its pristine beauty. Luckily MOWW chapter member Judy Roberson was there with a team of JROTC Cadets, along with some Mt Rainier MOAA members, myself, representatives from REI and a local Carpenters Union and a few other organizations to accomplish this work – many hands make light work (blue sky and hot cocoa help too).

I have some requests. Please do come to our meetings. We have good food, great camaraderie and interesting programs every month. Please tell your friends, family, acquaintances about us, even invite them to attend meetings. What got you interested in MOWW? Share that with others. Remember, MOWW membership is now open to all veterans. Please seek out sponsors, participants, attendees for Washington State Patriotic Day. We want to keep making this event bigger and better. Do you have a bank, store, veteran friendly organization you think might support WSPD? Either ask them yourself, or send me an email and I will ask them. Do you know of a youth or adult organization that could march in the massing of the colors? Encourage them to do so. They could even win prize money. Details are on our MOWW Puget Sound website under WSPD.

February's meeting subject will be Remembering Vietnam, Part 1, with guest speaker Laura Kern. Be sure to RSVP and join us at Steilacoom Town Hall on **February 01**, gathering at 1230, call to order at 1300. **This is a week earlier than usual to avoid Super Bowl Sunday.

Remember my ABC's of chapter membership:

Attend Meetings! Great meals, speakers and company.

Be a Recruiter (remember all veterans are eligible to join now)!

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

Chaplain's Corner, LCDR Stephan, USN, Ret



I feel last month's Dispatch needs a follow up which includes an explanation of my visits to Madigan. I say visits (plural) because there were two just before Christmas when my article for the Dispatch was due.

The first was because of a fall on slippery wet moss on my driveway. My arm hurt so bad that I could not sleep. I drove myself to the Madigan ER and discovered that 2am is a good time to go to the ER -no waiting! They took me right in to one of their four person cubicles, examined my arm, took X-rays, determined it was broken and admitted me so I could be seen by an ortho doc in the morning.

The ortho doc confirmed it was, indeed, broken, but properly lined up so that it should heal in place without surgery. A cast was necessary to keep it that way. This was a first for me. Never in my 80 years have I ever broken a bone and needed a cast. Fortunately, it was my right arm, and I am left handed so I can still function. But do you have any idea how much you do that requires two hands? Just try buttoning your shirt or cutting meat with one hand. And forget about tying a necktie or your shoes with one hand. Yes, simple daily living has become a challenge.

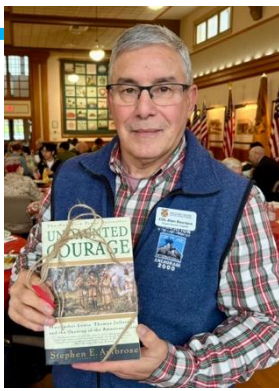
My second trip to Madigan occurred on Sunday, December 21st. I was leading worship at Patriots Landing. As I began to preach the sermon, I became light-headed and my speech was thick and slurred. It was a struggle to get through my sermon without passing out. A nurse in attendance said I turned grey in appearance. She got a wheelchair for me and took me out into the lobby area where the head nurse insisted on calling 911. The EMT's did a quick evaluation and determined that I needed to go to the Madigan ER for further evaluation. Upon arrival the nurse stuck me numerous times trying to find a vein to start an IV and to draw blood. You all know the drill. They proceeded to do numerous tests and scans including an endoscopy which revealed my condition was the result of internal bleeding. They stopped it by using clips which they said would eventually fall off and pass through my system. In addition, my blood count was not normal- high white cells and low red cells.

It was now December 22nd and they wanted to keep me for observation. I said OK for one day, but I did not want to spend Christmas in the hospital. I was discharged and went home on Dec. 23rd.

Maybe this is TMI (too much information) but it's my story and I'm sticking to it. I am most grateful to God for His healing touch upon me and to the expert and professional staff at Madigan for their outstanding care. I think this all supports the adage that, "Getting old ain't for sissies." I do think, however, that it is much more desirable than the alternative!

I am very glad to be back sharing my thoughts with you. May the Lord bless you with a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Chaplain Stephan



The January meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter was well attended by guests, companions, parents and cadets .



Puget Sound Chapter Staff Officers:

Commander: CAPT Carrie Nielson candnielson@comcast.net

Sr. Vice Commander COL Andy Leneweaver

Vice Commander COL Bill McClary

Adjutant: LTC Renee Buck renee.ihs@gmail.com

Historian: Open

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

Memorials: MG Coffey

Membership: Lt Col Muri

ROTC/JROTC: CDR Mandigo

NWYLC: Col Gibson/CDR Mandigo

Scouting: CDR Kirkland

WSPD: Maj Warren

Veteran Affairs: LT McConnel

Patriotic Ed: Col Gibson/CDR

IT Supervisor: Lt Col Snyder

Kirkland

Leg. Liaison: LTC Haskins

Homeland/Nat'l Security Security:

Capt Murphy/COL Johnson

Do you know a teen 18 years or younger who should be recognized for good works in the community? Read this please from Alan and nominate this young person a medal.

The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)

The Puget Sound Chapter

“2026 BRONZE PATRICK HENRY (BPH) MEDAL”

For outstanding youth patriotic activities in the community.

The Bronze Patrick Henry (BPH) Medal is MOWW’s Highest Youth Award.

The BPH recognizes Cumulative Youth Outstanding Patriotic Activities in the Community.

Qualifying activities include, but are not limited to: patriotic education, community service, scouting service, writing or musical contributions of a patriotic nature. The award is a BPH Medal accompanied by a BPH Citation. In today’s society, competition for Job Opportunities and College Admissions are dependent on a Youth’s Portfolio. MOWW is proud to provide Patriotic Awards of the highest stature to help today’s youth prepare for the future.

CRITERIA: Youth Award, nominated youth **must be 18 years of age or younger.**

PRESENTATION: BPH Presentations may be made one of 2 ways:

1. The nominated youth, parents & nominator are invited to attend the **MOWW Puget Sound BPH Presentation Brunch at 12:30pm, on Sunday, March 8th 2026 at The Steilacoom Town Hall, 1717 Lafayette Street, Steilacoom, WA 98388.**

(The Youth plus 2 guests will be at no cost. Additional guests/attendees will cost \$30.00 each which is the MOWW Companion Brunch Cost.)

OR IF THE YOUTH CANNOT ATTEND ON MARCH 8th:

1. The BPH Award Package may be mailed for presentation at a later date.
For MOWW Companions, the BPH Award may be presented at a future MOWW Meeting.

NOMINATOR - REQUESTED ACTION:

If the BPH Youth CAN attend the 8 March MOWW Brunch:

Provide the BPH Nomination Information by Friday, 13 February 2026.

Provide the BPH Citation in WORD by Friday, 20 February 2026.

Provide a list of attendees that will be at the Brunch by Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

If the BPH Youth CANNOT attend the 8 March MOWW Brunch:

Provide the BPH Nomination Information by Friday, 13 February 2026.

Provide an estimated date that the BPH will be presented. (For Companions, it may be at another MOWW Meeting)

Provide the BPH Citation in WORD not later than 3 weeks prior to the Presentation Date.

BPH NOMINATION INFORMATION

Youth's Name: _____ DOB: _____
Youth's School Name: _____ School Grade: _____
Nominator's Name: _____
Noninator's Email: _____ Nominator Cell Phone _____

Send all Bronze Patrick Henry (BPH) Action Information to:

CDR Alan M. Mandigo, USN (Ret)

Email: mowwrotc@outlook.com or cdamm@outlook.com

Cell: 253-241-9502

For additional information: email, call or text (please identify yourself in text)

BPH CITATION INFORMATION

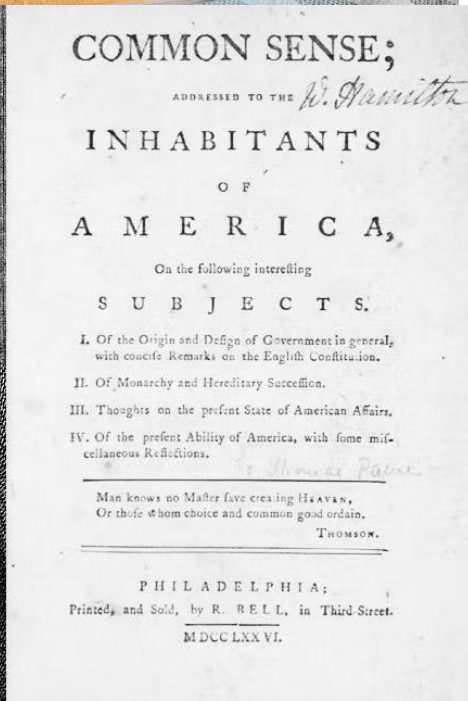
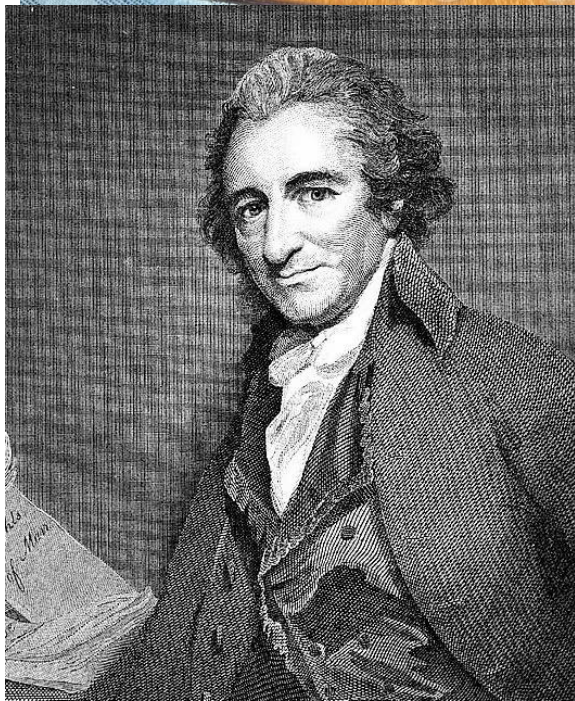
**Please provide VERY Specific Patriotic Service Examples
(BELOW are ONLY EXAMPLES, BE EXACT AND SPECIFIC).
The writeup must be in "WORD" and "EXACTLY" what you want
transferred to the formal BPH Citation Certificate.**

MALE CITATION EXAMPLE

XXX's patriotic dedication to the community is outstanding. As a Boy Scout, he has earned the rank of Star, was elected to the Order of the Arrow by his scouting peers who recognize him as an individual who exemplifies the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life and served as Patrol Leader for two, six months, terms organizing and mentoring the Scouts in his care. As an instrumental part of his Troop, he earned the Gold Journey to Excellence award in 2016. First completed over 62 hours of community service in Steilacoom and Du Pont since 2014 participating in "Scouting for Food", environmental restoration projects, camp improvement projects and Steilacoom City Clean Up. XXX is also a youth leader at Club Beyond on JBLM helping bring the gospel to military dependents and has served on staff for Young Life Club Malibu in B.C. Canada for Military week the past two years.

FEMALE CITATION EXAMPLE

XXX's visibly demonstrates the key values of a strong and solid American citizen and is recognized for her total commitment and dedication to XXX High School and the supporting community. Through her making-a-difference volunteer service accomplishments she exemplifies a high quality of citizenship, patriotic leadership, endless perseverance and effective fellow student mentorship. In service totaling more than 115 hours, she has been in charge of five food drives, 25 color guard details for school and patriotic military events and volunteered an additional 35 hours of detailed preparations for special student, family, and school activities conducted in her local community. Her patriotic and community service achievements together with her superb student leadership skills demonstrated as Company Commander of the XXX Junior ROTC makes her a standout among her peers.



In January 1776, an important patriot of the day, Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* was published. Written in clear, straightforward language accessible to ordinary people, *Common Sense* provided both the intellectual and moral justification for the Revolution. Also, Washington appointed William Marony as provost marshal—the army's chief of military police, and Congress commissioned Benedict Arnold as a brigadier general.



Pershing Minute

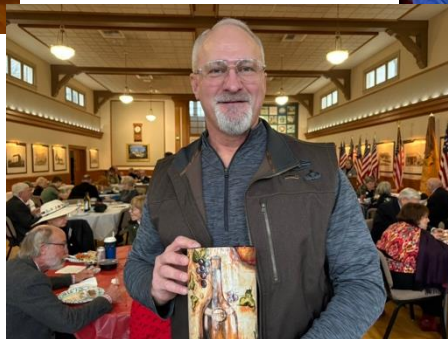
Continuing the life and times of John J Pershing, from the Philipenes.

Now Capt Pershing had to return the visit to the chief datto but went with only an interpreter and native scouts. When he arrived in the village the whole tribe had come to welcome him and he was the guest of honor at a feast. He reported "never have I tasted more delicious chicken, seasoned as it was with native herbs and the steaming rice. It was cooked to perfection, I was getting hungry".

Adjutant's Angle: Friendly reminder: no-shows reservations cost the chapter \$30 each. Emergencies and sickness are forgiven. Thanks for binging all the nice raffle prizes. Come and hear from Lura Kern on the 1st of February please.



The Puget Sound Chapter companions enjoying the thrill of winning the raffle



It is nobler to Serve Than to be Served

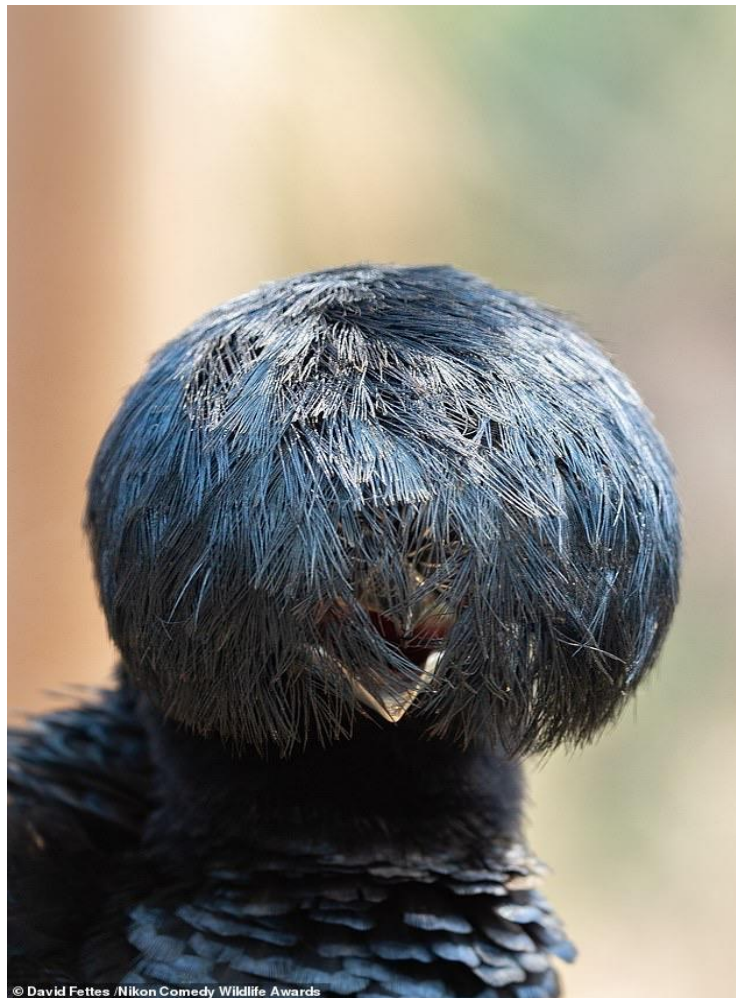
FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/groups/43888609799>

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

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

Animals are Great, Animals are Great!

Another Bad Hair Day!



© David Fettes /Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards

Convenient Links

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