



The Dispatch



The Organization for All Military Veterans

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

Puget Sound Chapter The Military Order (120)

Jan 2026

You are invited:

**January 11, Chapter Meeting 1230
Patriotic Education with cadets
from Stadium HS,
Steilacoom Town Hall
Catered Lunch**

Support the
JROTC
Cadets Who
Provide our
Program

After a delicious repast you
will meet high school
cadets who will entertain

**Jauary Mission:
Patriotic Education**



Convenient Meeting Links

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

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

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

Dec. Puget Sound Chapter Report



Christmas Gala was a fun way to start the holiday season



Betty and Ed dance the night away at the Christmas Gala at McChord AFB Club on 5 December, the Puget Sound Chapter was well represented



The Puget Sound Chapter, led by chapter commander Nielson personally provided that our wreaths were laid with respect on graves at Orting cemetery on 13 December

Army/Navy game party on 13 December was enjoyable



A casual setting allowed companions and guests to root for their team



Tailgate party food was plentiful as people watched to the end to see if Army would pull it out



A bonus halftime show, by Andy Leneweaver, about America 250 gave a patriotic flavor to our meeting



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

As I gather with family around a Christmas tree and think of all I have to be thankful for, I send out wishes to all of you for health and happiness as we enter a new year. I do hope everyone is avoiding damage from all the heavy wind and rain and flooding around the area. If you are suffering any damage, please let us know if we can help in any way and please know there are resources available, like service relief funds, MOAA Relief Fund, etc, if you, or any veteran you know needs assistance due to weather catastrophe.

Ron and I had a lovely time at the Mt. Rainier MOAA Chapter Holiday Gala December 5th at the McChord Club. We enjoyed a nice dinner, dancing, dessert auction, heads or tails game and visiting with old and new friends--good fun by all.

I got up early to attend the Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Orting Veterans Cemetery at 0900 on December 13th. There was a large crowd there with several veterans and community organizations represented, included Orting Town Council, Pierce County, Mt Rainier MOAA Chapter, and our MOWW Chapter, to name just a few. Collectively more than enough wreaths had been sponsored to decorate every grave. They put together a very nice ceremony with pledge of allegiance, national anthem, recognition for veterans of each service and conflict, thanking the different contributing organizations and then everyone present helped to lay the wreaths at each grave. Within five minutes, the wreath laying was complete and the cemetery looked beautiful. What a stirring sight!

Next, I drove to Steilacoom to attend our Army-Navy football game social gathering at the Steilacoom Taproom. A big thank you to the proprietor for opening this establishment just for our party. I believe everyone had a great time visiting, eating potluck game food, drinking beverages purchased at the bar and cheering on their favorite team. Andy Leneweaver presented a great America 250 talk during half time to keep the crowd motivated. I am thrilled to report that my Navy team came from behind to achieve victory! Sorry Army, next year.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to Santa's Castle and to Wreaths Across America. The Castle served a record number of families this year. The cost of living is only getting higher and our military families are not making a lot of money, so a little help at Christmas time is greatly appreciated. The wreath-adorned graves were a beautiful sight at Orting. If you want to assist in the removal event, it is scheduled for 0800-1400, **10 January 2026** at the Washington Soldier's Home Cemetery in Orting. Please bring rakes, gloves and dress warmly. They will provide hot cocoa, coffee, bottled water, and other refreshments. We will be loading the wreaths in a box truck for disposal and raking and cleaning up the cemetery grounds.

January's meeting subject will be Patriotic Education with guest presenters from Stadium High School JROTC program. This is always a good time, so be sure to RSVP and join us at Steilacoom Town Hall on **January 11**, gathering at 1230, call to order at 1300. Bring a friend!

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)!

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

Chaplain's Corner, LCDR Stephan, USN, Ret



Temporary suspension of Skip Stephan's Chaplain's Corner due to Skip's stay at Madigan Regional Hospital Medical Center. Prayers are requested for Skip's speedy recovery back to normal.

Byline: Excerpt from former National Chaplain General, Cheryl Brady.

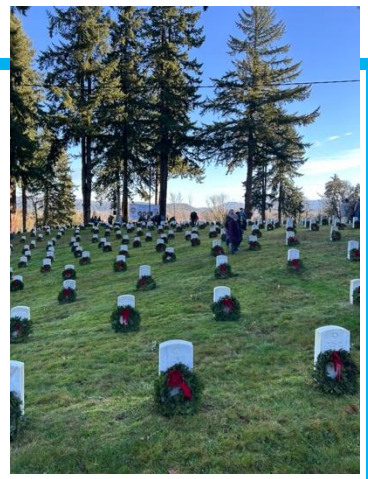
God's love has no limits on its jurisdiction. God loves the whole world, "every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9). God acted first by sending His only begotten Son into the world to die for our sins so that in dying and being raised from the dead we could have life in Him through His victory over death and the grave. This life is eternal life for every born-again believer. It is a oneness with God through faith in Jesus that can never be lost or broken.

The Christmas holiday is the time of year when Christians the world over celebrate the birth of Jesus, remembering God's love in action. Mary was chosen by God to bring forth His Son into the world when the fullness of the time had come (Luke 1:26-31; Gal. 4:4). Her conception was a divine, spiritual miracle (v.35). Jesus' birthplace, Bethlehem, was as told by the prophet Micah (5:2). Every detail of Jesus' birth was by divine design, led by the power of love.

If anyone wants to know what love is, look to Jesus. If you want to know what love is not, look to the world. God's love in Jesus is a divine love. It is a love that is for everybody (John 3:16). However, the life of Jesus is only for those in whose heart the love of God has been poured out in by the Holy Spirit who is given to believers (Rom 5:5). This heart of love is reserved only for those who have the Son, those who have believed in God by believing in His Son (John 14:1). God's love is inclusive; it extends to every sinner. The life of Jesus is exclusive, given only to those who by grace through faith receive the love God has for us in Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord: "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

How will you love this Christmas as you celebrate God's love for us in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Will you love like Jesus has loved you? What about the days after Christmas, how will you love? When we divorce love from the way we live as followers of Christ, we separate God's character from our lives. Love has everything to do with it.



December was a busy month for the Puget Sound Chapter with the Christmas Gala, Wreaths Across America, Army/Navy game and America 250.



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



HAPPY NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION

2026

2026
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

The Puget Sound Chapter wishes each companion and friend a happy New Year as we focus on supporting Law and Order, Scouting, Patriotic Education, National Security, Homeland Security, ROTC and JROTC



Happy
New Year!
2026



Happy
new year
2026





Oxen pulling canons in the snow



COL Henry Knox

On December 3rd, John Paul Jones raised the 13-stripe Grand Union Flag over the **Alfred** marking the first time an American flag was flown over an American warship.

After arriving at Fort Ticonderoga, then Colonel Henry Knox made the decision to move the captured British canon 300 miles to Boston. And on December 8th, he departed Fort Ticonderoga with what he referred to as “his Noble Train of Artillery” using 40 sleds drawn by 80 oxen.



Pershing Minute

Continuing the life and times of John J Pershing, from the Phillipenes. The “datto” stayed for 3 days, each filled with long meetings where the chieftain asked about America and the Army’s intentions. Would Pershing make them wear hats like soldiers, would women have to wear skirts, would they be forced to eat pork—Captain Pershing answered that the Americans were not there to impose our customs, but to improve education, communications, and trade. The visit was the turning point for relations with many of the Moro tribes.

Adjutant’s Angle: Come and support cadets from Stadium High School NJROTC, with their program on recognizing veterans—from WW I to present day, on 11 January at 1230 at the Town Hall. Raffle in January will support chapter outreach programs

The Puget Sound Chapter, partnering with the MOAA Rainier Chapter, placed Wreaths on grave sites of Veterans. This was done at the Orting VA Cemetery on 13 December at 0900. Chapter commander CAPT Carrie Nielson in action on the right.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=B9M2L5MJN82D4



It is nobler to Serve Than to be Served

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

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

Animals are Great, Animals are Great!

Bad Hair Day!



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