



The Dispatch



The Organization for All Military Veterans

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org>

Puget Sound Chapter March 2026 The Military Order (120)

You are invited:

**March 8, Chapter Meeting 1230
Patriotic Education with, Bronze
Patrick Henry Medal Program**

Attention
Daylight
Savings Time
Starts 8
March Also



Take a youngster to Lunch

After a delicious catered lunch you will see what good young people we have doing good things in our community

March 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/>

February Puget Sound Chapter Report

Laura Kern, Vietnam nurse, gave a riveting account on 1 February regarding her experience at a frontline army hospital receiving soldiers within 5 minutes of being wounded.



General Cole (L) introduces the guest of honor and speaker at the Steilacoom Town Hall to a big turnout that included many nurses.



Meet our newest companions, Bob Williams DDS (L) and SSgt Jeffrey Brink who are receiving their MOWW pins



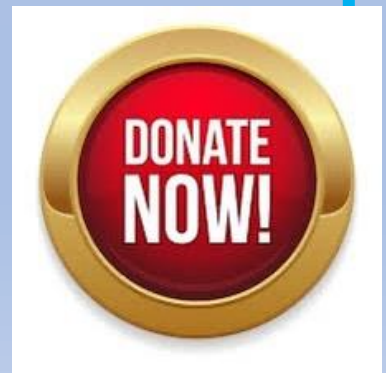
Also meet Mrs. Jeri Williams along with Brink family, and 2 wonderful children



Jack Mason (C) is honored with a Silver Patrick Henry Award at the February Meeting for his generous support of the Northwest Youth Leadership Conference each year



The Puget Sound Chapter folks donate to the Homeless Veterans facility in Port Orchard and Orting each year to help residents buy personal items not covered by the state VA system. The QR code on left is the way to help a veteran.



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

I hope everyone has had a pleasant February. With Valentines Day and Presidents Day, it seemed to go quickly. Now we get to step into March with Daylight Savings (08 March), St. Patrick's Day (17 March) and the official first day of Spring (20 March). We are almost there!

A great big thank you to all our chapter members who show up early and stay late to help set up and clean up and all those who play their parts, visible and behind the scenes, to make our chapter meetings run smoothly. Our February meeting was a most excellent event with great companionship, tasty food, and especially with our most impressive guest speaker, chapter companion Laura Kern, who told us about her life altering experience as an Army nurse in Vietnam. This is the first of three presentations we will have from chapter members sharing their Vietnam experience over the next year. This presentation was moving, fascinating, and given that as of last year, it has been fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War, it is about time we talk about it.

March's meeting subject will be Youth Achievement – Bronze Patrick Henry Medal presentations. We will have a number of young people and their sponsors and/or family members joining us for this meeting, so please consider "taking a guest to lunch" when you pay for your meal to help the chapter cover the cost for this lunch meeting. My husband tells me his favorite meetings are our January and March meetings because it is so inspiring to meet these young people when they join us, and to hear about the great work they are doing. Be sure to RSVP and join us at Steilacoom Town Hall on **March 08**, gathering at 1230, call to order at 1300. We really need to receive your RSVP's by noon on Thursday to we can get a good count to our caterer, thank you.

Also in March, we have a free event to tell you about and a really big chapter event (also free) that I especially hope many of you will attend (and some will work). On March 14 1100-1400 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds the Kitsap County Chamber is holding a Military Appreciation Day for those who wish to attend. If anyone does, maybe you can take some WSPD flyers and pass them out. On March 21 we will hold Washington State Patriotic Day 2026 at Pioneer Middle School in Dupont. The program starts at 1400, and we will have static displays and food trucks, so you will want to show up early. I especially like the I Corps band. We will even have a special America250 moment in the program.

Let's focus on WSPD now: seek out sponsors, participants, attendees. Do you have a bank, store, veteran friendly organization that 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 win prize money. Details are on our MOWW Puget Sound website under WSPD.

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



For most people of Irish descent March is a special month as it provides an opportunity to celebrate their heritage by observing St. Patrick's Day. It also gives those of us who are not Irish an excuse to wear green and drink green beer. That was in reference to my college days. I don't drink much green beer these days.

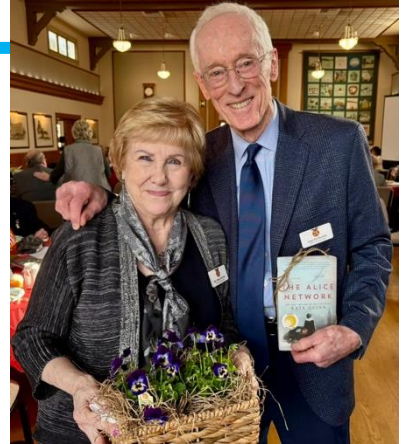
March 17th is the day designated to honor St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of the Irish. He is best known for driving the snakes out of Ireland, however, this is thought to be a legend rather than an actual fact. Since there are no snakes in Ireland and snakes often symbolize the devil and evil, many believe the "snakes" were a metaphor representing his work of driving the idol-worshipping Druid cult out of the country.

Patrick endured enslavement, torture and imprisonment as he journeyed throughout Ireland sharing Christ until his death on March 17, 461AD

Later, Irish mythologic creatures known as leprechauns would creep into the holiday celebrations, as well as the shamrock, believed to have been used by Patrick to illustrate the Holy Trinity as he preached and taught.

We may never be enslaved, imprisoned or beaten as was Patrick, because of our faith in Christ, but some may make fun of us for believing in Jesus' promise of heaven and placing our faith in a God they do not see with their eyes and cannot touch with their hands.

Stand firm in Christ and stand strong for Him as you tell others about the greatest gift we can ever be given- salvation through Jesus!



The February meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter was well attended by 60 people and look who was winning

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

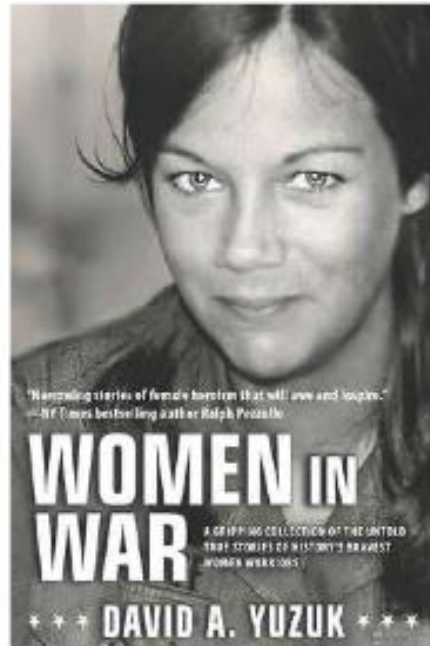
Homeland/Nat'l Security Security:

Capt Murphy/COL Johnson

Puget Sound Chapter is launching a MOWW Military History Book Club

Ed Murphy and Renee Buck as volunteer organizers have selected the book introduced by our February speaker for the first book. This book should be widely available for about \$17 new through Amazon or local bookstores, and may be available through the library.

If you have already read this one or it's not available, you can choose to read another on a similar subject for a more diverse conversation at the gathering where we will discuss our reading and share relevant professional or personal experience related to the topic. Or you could report on a recent read you feel would be of interest to the group.



Participants are not limited to chapter members and are encouraged to invite friends and colleagues to future meetings, helping the group grow organically. The Group may also use these gatherings to:

- **Share information about upcoming local events that support military veterans, active-duty service members, and law enforcement professionals**
- **Highlight opportunities for community engagement, briefings, or service-oriented activities**
- **Foster awareness of other military-supporting organizations, as appropriate**
- **Or to share publicly available information on military advocacy and education programs offered by partner organizations.**

Any such engagement should remain nonpartisan and voluntary, consistent with MOWW policies and guidelines.

We want this book club to be interactive. To kick it off we will have a **Zoom Organizational Meeting March 10, 2026 at 7PM** to assess interests and decide on logistics: Frequency of gathering, location - Zoom hybrid, day and time, etc. Email Renee (renee.ih@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom invite.

Companions, here are the new chapter bylaws for you to look at and suggest changes or comment. Please read through and send feedback to Adjutant Renee at renee.ih@gmail.com by 30 March

Thank you

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x_bfUvQxGfC9UofDQzvhFjQ8TnO5NWkk/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110366364856478678881&rtpof=true&sd=true



Look at these Bronze Patrick Henry Medal recipients, would you buy a young person a lunch on 8 March? Come and meet this year's group of youngsters.





In March 4, 1776, troops from the [Continental Army](#) under [George Washington](#)'s command occupied [Dorchester Heights](#), a series of low hills with a commanding view of [Boston](#) and its [harbor](#), and mounted powerful cannons there threatening the city and the Navy ships in the harbor. General [William Howe](#), commander of the British forces occupying Boston, planned an attack to dislodge them. However, a snowstorm prevented its execution, so Howe withdrew instead. The revolutionaries now fully controlled all thirteen colonies and were ready to declare independence. There still were many Colonial Loyalists, but they were no longer in control anywhere by Summer 1776, and all of the Royal officials had fled.



Pershing Minute

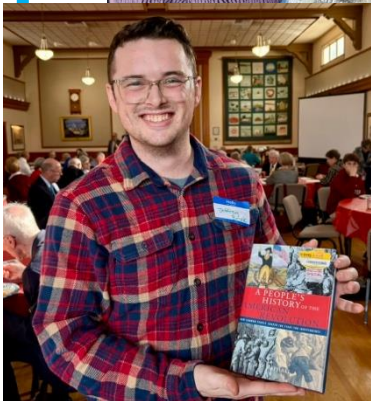
Continuing the life and times of John J Pershing, from the Philipenes.

As you remember, Pershing was pacifying the Muslim tribes in the Philippines) There were 3 tribal chiefs, or dattos who would not cooperate with CAPT Pershing and he needed to confront them or loose the progress and trust he had made on the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines. Their fortified camps, or cottas featured motes, huge earthen walls 20' high that had held off the Spanish for 300 years.

Adjutant's Angle: Friendly reminder: no-shows reservations cost the chapter \$30 each. Emergencies and sickness are forgiven. Reservation due at 1200, 5 March. Take a youngster to lunch please



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!

Listen here, bub!



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