



120

Puget Sound Chapter — ★ of the ★ — Military Order



*An Organization for
All Military Veterans*



You are invited!

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

PICNIC with Homeless Veterans

July, 16, 2026 at 1130



Goal: Support Vets

Mission: mingle and listen:

Book your reservation now at:

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

Convenient Links

Website: <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/>

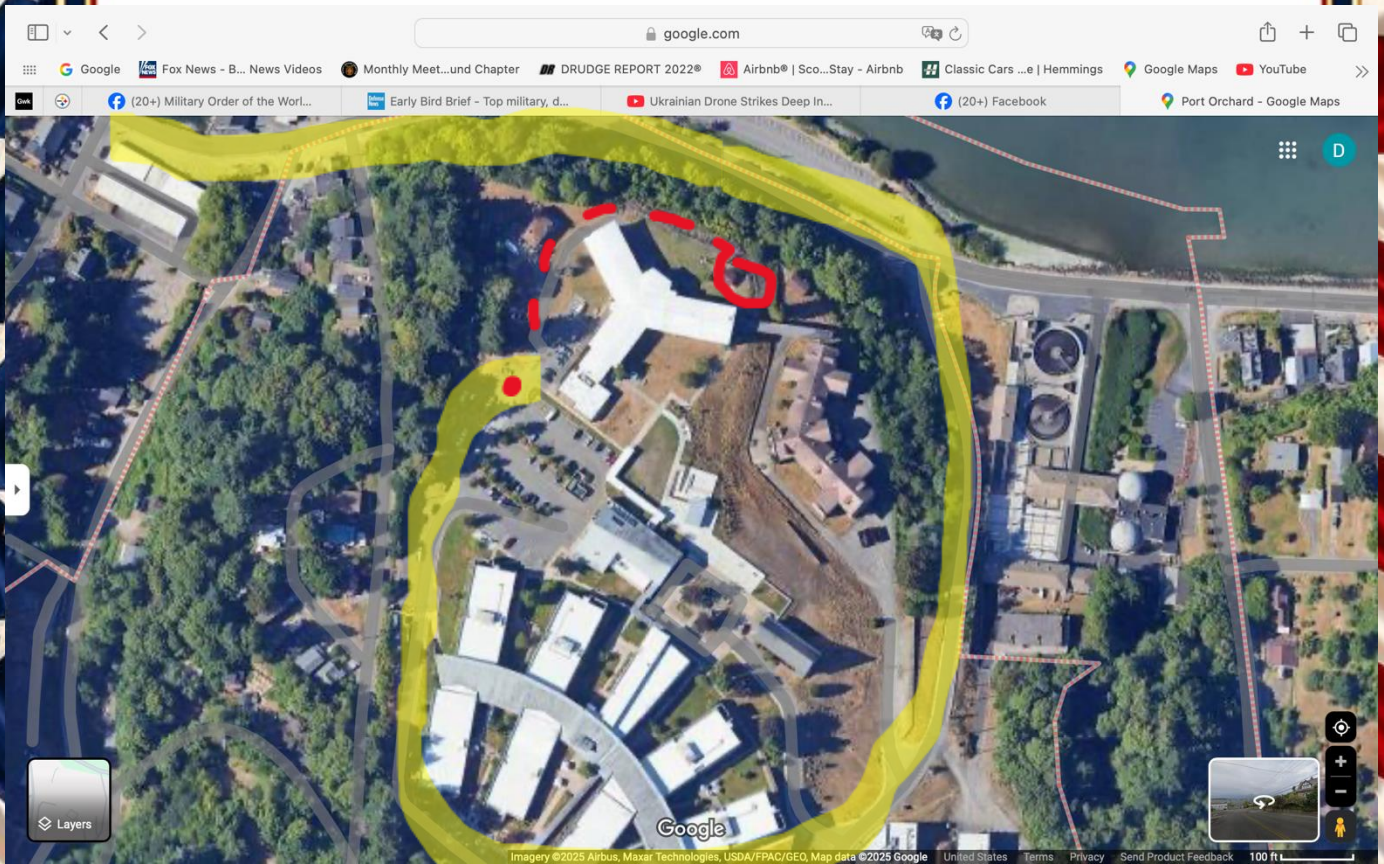
Private Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/43888609799>

Public Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584157637537>

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

★ **NWYLC:** <https://tinyurl.com/NWYLC-Page> ★

Come to the picnic with our homeless vets on July 16



Department of Veterans Affairs
1141 Beach Dr E, Port Orchard,
WA 98366

Turn into WA DVA, up the hill and
follow road past main building to
parking area at red dot. Walk
around building to pavilion circled
in red.

Commander's Corner

CAPT Carrie Nielson, USN (Ret)

Greetings Companions and welcome to Operating Year 2026! I am honored to have been elected as your Commander and hope I can do the Dispatch Commander's Corner as well as CAPT Nielson has done for the past two years.

Hopefully, all who attended the June meeting enjoyed it. We had an excellent meal, great company, and we took the opportunity to recognize those who had gone above and beyond to make this year run smoothly with some MOWW awards. We inducted four new members and saw the installation of the new Commander and Staff heralding the successful completion of CAPT Nielson's tenure as our Commander. Thank you, CAPT Nielson, for a job well done!

We also witnessed CAPT Nielson's installation as our new Region XIV Commander and listened as retiring Regional Commander CDR (R) Ted Parson shared comments and MOWW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and MOWW Commander-in-Chief candidate, LtCol (R) Marlon Ruiz remarked on what is special about the MOWW, our choice, after our military service has ended, to continue to serve our youth, our fellow veterans and our nation.

On June 24, we closed the 2026 Northwest Youth Leadership Conference and wished the students safe travels home. It was a terrific event, with outstanding students, dedicated counselors, and exceptional speakers. Despite the heat, everyone adapted without incident, the JBLM and capitol tours went smoothly, and the students proved eager and engaged. As Commander, I was honored to open the conference at the Dress for Success banquet and judge the project presentations. NWYLC remains a high-value outreach effort for our chapter.

I am looking forward to attending the national convention in early August in San Antonio, TX. It's an opportunity to meet Companions from around the Country, exchange ideas, and learn how we can strengthen membership, outreach and fundraising to benefit the Military Order, our members, veterans and youth education nationwide.

We have much to look forward to this summer. It is picnic time. We will gather at Retsil Veterans Home in Port Orchard on July 16 starting at 1130 to meet, socialize with and learn about the veterans in the Transitional Housing Program. The program will provide the main course, but Chapter companions are encouraged to bring desserts.

We will hold our chapter picnic from 5:00 to 8:00pm on August 23 at Dick and Mary Muri's home in Steilacoom. It will be catered, with a fundraiser for NWYLC. At least one of the NWYLC students will tell us about their experience at the conference to help us better understand the value. We'll also have a debrief of national convention.

As a reminder to the staff, our next staff meeting is July 21st at 7:00pm on Zoom. Your budget requests are due, and we'll discuss the draft Chapter Action Plan. And the August staff meeting will be August 18th.

Finally, I look forward to serving as your Commander in the coming program year. I cannot do it without your help and involvement, and our Committee Chairs welcome your support. Please share your interests and consider where you can help—
many hands make light work!

May Puget Sound Chapter Report



Carrie Nielsen moves from Puget Sound Chapter Commander to Region IV Commander on 14 June's installation. Welcome Carrie to your new position



Andrew Leneweaver takes the oath of office as the new Puget Sound Chapter Commander in Steilacoom, WA. Andy moves from Senior Vice Commander to Commander for the next 2 years.



Say hello to our new chapter companions, from the left Steve Vuleta, Gordy Strang, Kim Schuler, and Amy Day. We are excited that you chose the Puget Sound Chapter .

This is what 90 teens look like at Ft Lewis main gate where CAPT Lewis and Sgt Ordway reside



Keith Warren conducts the historic flag program at Pacific Lutheran University

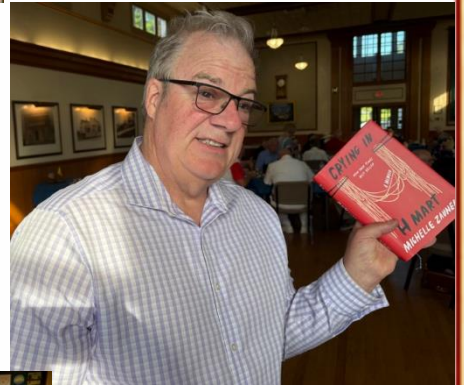
The Top Student, Maggie Brinlee is celebrated at the Patriotic Awards Banquet on 24 June at PLU



Chapter Moments



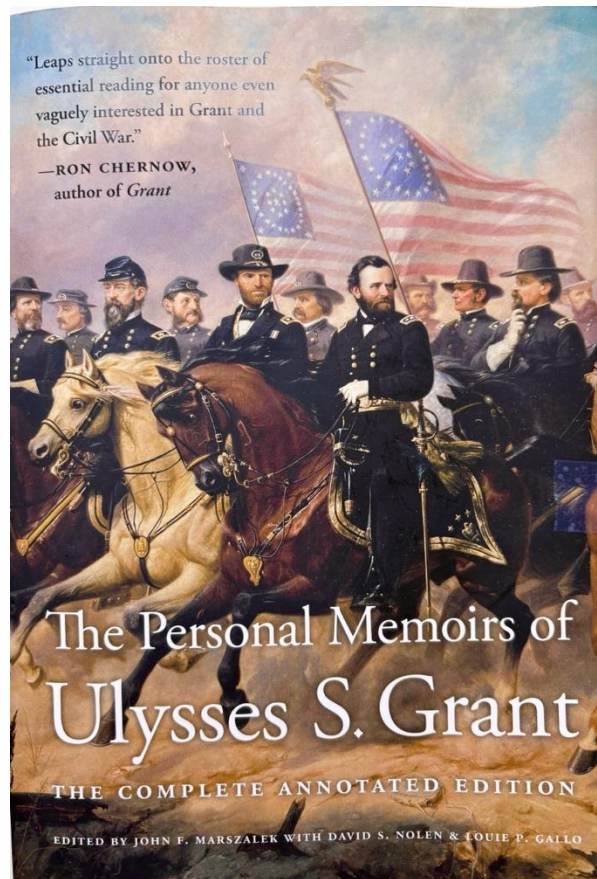
Puget Sound Chapter guests and companions gather on 14 June for awards, fun, and prizes at Steilacoom for a beautiful evening meeting



Book Reader

The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S Grant is a must read for Civil War buffs because it was handwritten by Grant, as he was dying from throat cancer, after his presidency. Swindled out of his life savings, he was desperate to make money for his wife and family before he passed. His plain writing style is very readable as he describes every battle and tactic he used in the war. Grant's memoirs completed just in time, sold door-to-door by former Union soldiers, were a huge hit with Americans and solidified his legacy both monetarily and historically.

The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S Grant US Grant



Puget Sound Coming Events

Date	Event	Time/Place
July 16	Homeless Vet Picnic	1200 Port Orchard
August 23	Youth Leadership Picnic	1600 Muri's House
September 13	National Security	1730 Steilacoom TH

The 34th Annual Northwest Youth Leadership Conference 21-25 June 2026



78 students from 5 states attended the 5 day and 4 night leadership conference at PLU to boost young folk's ability to lead and thrive in high school and beyond. This is the Puget Sound Chapter legacy.



Helping Northwest Youth Leadership Conference



N W Y L C NORTHWEST YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TREASURER

CDR Alan M. Mandigo, USN (Ret)

4610 29th Avenue NE

Tacoma, WA 98422

Cell: 253-241-9502

email: cdramm@outlook.com or nwylc1991@gmail.com

2026 NORTHWEST YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NWYLC)

DONATION INFORMATION

1. The 34th NWYLC will be held June 21st to 25th 2026 at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU).
2. The Total Cost Per-Student for the 2025 NWYLC, for 78 students, was \$550.00. The total cost for the Conference was over \$50,000.00
3. **With 90% of the students being on scholarship, donations are needed and greatly appreciated.**
4. **Donations may be made in any amount.** All Donators (no matter the amount) are assigned a student to sponsor and receive a "Thank You Letter" from the student after the conference is complete.
5. **The Full Tuition Requested Donation for 2026 is \$550.00, but any amount helps.**

"HOW TO MAKE A DONATION"

By check made out to the "NWYLC Foundation" and mail to the above address.

OR

Pay by PayPal to: nwylc1991@gmail.com, adding in the PayPal Transaction Fees would be appreciated.

NWYLC Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization,
EIN: 91-1724086. Donation Receipts will be provided.

A.M. Mandigo

CDR Alan M. Mandigo, USN (Ret), Treasurer

****America 250***



June 14 marks the 251st anniversary of the Continental Army, but there was little time to celebrate.

As Washington prepared New York for a possible invasion, he reinforced Henry Knox's artillery command. Throughout the spring, calls for independence grew across the thirteen colonies. On June 7, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a resolution for independence, seconded by John Adams, but Congress delayed action for three weeks while delegates sought instructions from their home governments. By this day 250 years ago, Connecticut had become the third colony to authorize support for independence, with New Hampshire and Delaware following the next day. As momentum grew, Congress appointed a committee of five in late June to draft a declaration, though Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the first version.

Congress formally took up the question on July 1, 1776. After debate, and with one vote per colony, nine colonies voted for independence, while Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted no, New York abstained, and Delaware was split. July 2 and after further debate, twelve of the thirteen colonies voted for independence, with only New York abstaining. On July 4, Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence.

See more at the MOWW website

<https://moww.org/america250/>

Pershing Minute



Four days later Frankie wrote, “Had dinner with the Millards to see John Pershing. It was just great. Have lost my heart”. One year later Pershing asked Senator Warren for his daughter’s hand in marriage. The senator already had seen it was love at first sight.

Adjutant’s Angle: Don’t miss the picnic at Port Orchard with our homeless veterans at the WA DVA facility. Free picnic and music so we can buck up the resident. Bring desert please.



Companions
present MOWW
awards to cadets
in May and June at
various high
schools around the
Puget Sound
Region





The Traveling Wall comes to Lacey, WA in June and Companion Laura Kern was asked to speak about nurses in Vietnam

I would like to thank The Wall That Heals Lacey Committee for allowing me to speak this evening. I would also like to thank all the audience, veterans and non-veterans alike for taking the time to honor all Vietnam vets by being here.

For many years, no one wanted to listen to us. Not our mothers or fathers, not our friends, not our colleagues at work...no one. Many vets were pushed, screamed at, and called a baby killer--that would be soldiers and nurses alike. Today we are telling our story so that no other generation of warrior must be blamed for a war that was not of their making.

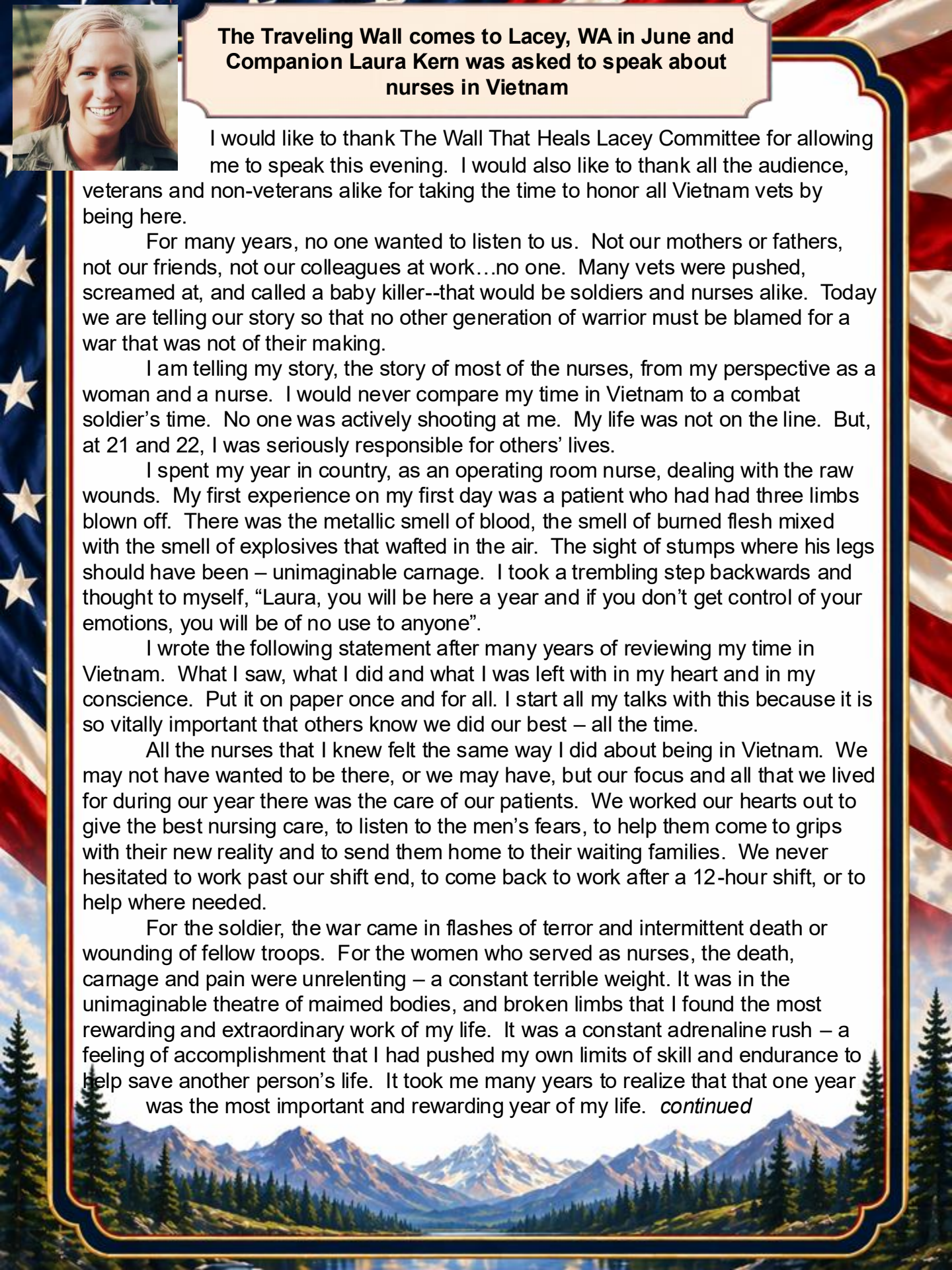
I am telling my story, the story of most of the nurses, from my perspective as a woman and a nurse. I would never compare my time in Vietnam to a combat soldier's time. No one was actively shooting at me. My life was not on the line. But, at 21 and 22, I was seriously responsible for others' lives.

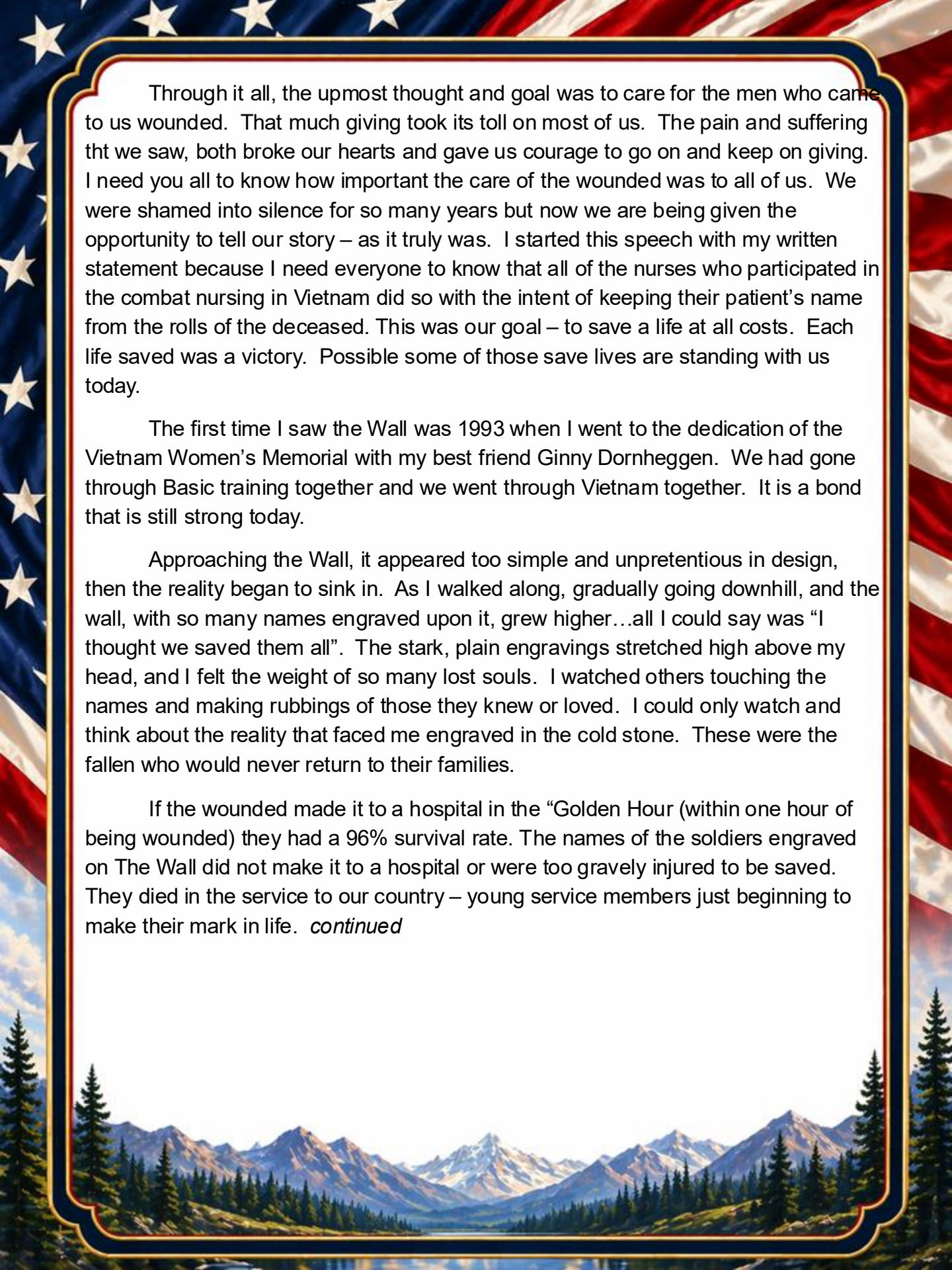
I spent my year in country, as an operating room nurse, dealing with the raw wounds. My first experience on my first day was a patient who had had three limbs blown off. There was the metallic smell of blood, the smell of burned flesh mixed with the smell of explosives that wafted in the air. The sight of stumps where his legs should have been – unimaginable carnage. I took a trembling step backwards and thought to myself, "Laura, you will be here a year and if you don't get control of your emotions, you will be of no use to anyone".

I wrote the following statement after many years of reviewing my time in Vietnam. What I saw, what I did and what I was left with in my heart and in my conscience. Put it on paper once and for all. I start all my talks with this because it is so vitally important that others know we did our best – all the time.

All the nurses that I knew felt the same way I did about being in Vietnam. We may not have wanted to be there, or we may have, but our focus and all that we lived for during our year there was the care of our patients. We worked our hearts out to give the best nursing care, to listen to the men's fears, to help them come to grips with their new reality and to send them home to their waiting families. We never hesitated to work past our shift end, to come back to work after a 12-hour shift, or to help where needed.

For the soldier, the war came in flashes of terror and intermittent death or wounding of fellow troops. For the women who served as nurses, the death, carnage and pain were unrelenting – a constant terrible weight. It was in the unimaginable theatre of maimed bodies, and broken limbs that I found the most rewarding and extraordinary work of my life. It was a constant adrenaline rush – a feeling of accomplishment that I had pushed my own limits of skill and endurance to help save another person's life. It took me many years to realize that that one year was the most important and rewarding year of my life. *continued*



The background of the entire page is a close-up of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is framed by a decorative border that incorporates the flag's colors and stars.

Through it all, the upmost thought and goal was to care for the men who came to us wounded. That much giving took its toll on most of us. The pain and suffering tht we saw, both broke our hearts and gave us courage to go on and keep on giving. I need you all to know how important the care of the wounded was to all of us. We were shamed into silence for so many years but now we are being given the opportunity to tell our story – as it truly was. I started this speech with my written statement because I need everyone to know that all of the nurses who participated in the combat nursing in Vietnam did so with the intent of keeping their patient's name from the rolls of the deceased. This was our goal – to save a life at all costs. Each life saved was a victory. Possible some of those save lives are standing with us today.

The first time I saw the Wall was 1993 when I went to the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial with my best friend Ginny Dornheggen. We had gone through Basic training together and we went through Vietnam together. It is a bond that is still strong today.

Approaching the Wall, it appeared too simple and unpretentious in design, then the reality began to sink in. As I walked along, gradually going downhill, and the wall, with so many names engraved upon it, grew higher...all I could say was "I thought we saved them all". The stark, plain engravings stretched high above my head, and I felt the weight of so many lost souls. I watched others touching the names and making rubbings of those they knew or loved. I could only watch and think about the reality that faced me engraved in the cold stone. These were the fallen who would never return to their families.

If the wounded made it to a hospital in the "Golden Hour (within one hour of being wounded) they had a 96% survival rate. The names of the soldiers engraved on The Wall did not make it to a hospital or were too gravely injured to be saved. They died in the service to our country – young service members just beginning to make their mark in life. *continued*



The travelling Wall has arrived in Lacey to bring this part of our history to young and old alike who may have never seen or learned about this tribute to those young service members whose names can be so clearly read. It has come to bring this powerful, simple, black piece of rock that has spoken to the millions who have seen it and been so moved by its quiet, potent message. Honor these names, remember that each one was a person who went to Vietnam to serve their country. Honor these names, each one who had family and loved ones waiting for them to return. Honor these names, each one who had hopes and dreams for their future that might have been. Honor these names for the many lives that were changed forever on a day in Vietnam.

The most important thing you can do after you visit this traveling Wall is to tell others about it. Tell them about the names engraved on the stone that spoke to you – the silent conversation between the living and the fallen. Use this understanding to reach out to Vietnam Veterans who may have never been thanked for their service. Tell them that their service mattered and that it and they are not forgotten. Let them hear those healing words – Welcome Home. You are remembered. You are honored. You will never be forgotten.

[Note from Region XIV Commander, CAPT Carrie Nielson](#)

Passing along to you this very nice 5-minute video of the National Youth Civics Summit. Please share it with your chapter companions and anyone else you think might be moved by it to the point of wishing to contribute to our Patriotic Education outreach programs, and perhaps specifically to the National Youth Civics Summit. The Civics Summit is an excellent program. The Puget Sound Chapter has been able to send NWYLC graduates to each of the first two summits, and they have returned with glowing reviews. The Summit committee is struggling to achieve adequate funding and is asking that those chapters that send students consider contributing, rather like committing to paying for your student to attend. The NWYLC Foundation has been experiencing successful fundraising the past few years and has voted to commit to pay for their attending students into the future.



THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



MOWW

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

AUGUST 11-16, 2026 | THE WESTIN RIVERWALK | SAN ANTONIO, TX

Fiesta San Antonio - Promoting Our Community Outreach Mission



LEADERSHIP.
SERVICE.
FELLOWSHIP.
ALL COME
TOGETHER HERE.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER & SPECIAL GUEST

Ryan Holiday

#1 New York Times Bestselling Author
& Founder of The Daily Stoic

AUGUST 13, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
NAVARRO BALLROOM | WESTIN RIVERWALK

Join us for a week of
fellowship, professional
development, and leadership
engagement as we conduct
the important business of
our Order.



FEATURED TOURS

TOUR 1: FREDRICKSBURG

Explore historic downtown Fredericksburg in the heart of Texas Wine Country. Visit the National Museum of the Pacific War, LBJ State Park, and enjoy shopping, wineries, distilleries, and farm-to-table dining.



TOUR 2: TOUR OF SAN ANTONIO

Discover the rich culture and history of downtown San Antonio—from The Pearl and Market Square to the Texas Ranger Museum, Japanese Tea Garden, and the iconic Alamo, on a guided Old Town Trolley.



DINNER & RIVERWALK CRUISE

Friday evening offers a memorable River Walk experience, featuring dinner at Boudro's Texas Bistro followed by a scenic Go Rio boat cruise through downtown San Antonio.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PANEL

MOWW's veteran-led panel will share best practices and insights from our youth leadership conferences and seminars, highlighting the program's impact on developing the next generation of leaders.

AUGUST 13, 2026 | 1:00 PM | NAVARRO BALLROOM | WESTIN RIVERWALK

[MOWW.ORG/CONVENTION](https://moww.org/convention)



Staff and Committees

Staff

Commander: CAPT Carrie Nielson
Sr. Vice Commander: COL Andy Leneweaver
Vice Commander: COL Bill McClary
Adjutant: LTC Buck
Historian: OPEN
Chaplain: LDCR Stephan
Finance: Maj Mummery
Treasurer: Maj Mummery
Marshall: Maj Warren
Surgeon: Doctor (COL) Wheeler
Public Affairs: Col Gibson
VA Activities: LT McConnell
Hospitality: OPEN

Committees

Law and Order: LTC Still
Membership: Lt Col Muri
NWYLC: Col Gibson/CDR Mandigo
WSPD: Maj Warren
Patriotic Ed: Col Gibson/CDR Kirkland
Homeland/Nat'l Security Security: Capt Murphy/COL Johnson
Memorials: OPEN
ROTC/JROTC: CDR Mandigo
Scouting: CDR Kirkland
Veteran Affairs: LT McConnell
IT Supervisors: Lt Col Snyder/CDR McManus
Leg. Liaison: LTC Haskins

Contact Staff



Animals are Great

I don't Believe That!

