



120

# Puget Sound Chapter — ★ of the ★ — Military Order



*An Organization for  
All Military Veterans*



*You are invited!*

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

23 August, 1630 at the Muri's: 31 Silverbeach Dr, Steilacoom



**Goal: Hear YLC Students**

**Mission: YLC Support:**

Book your reservation now at:

<https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/muri-picnic/>

### 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>



# Commander's Corner

## COL Andy Leneweaver (Ret)

♪ Summertime, summertime, sum-sum-summertime ♪ I hope everyone is enjoying summer and staying cool as we reach the end of the “dog days” of summer. But there is still more summer—and more heat—to come!

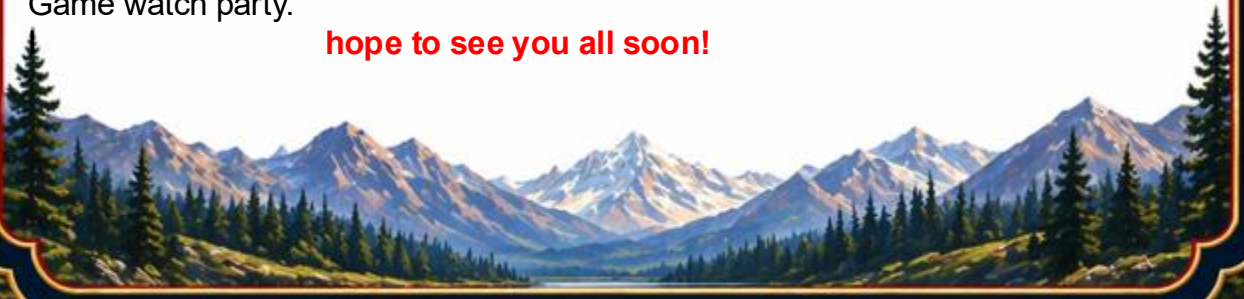
We had a great time at the Retsil Veterans' Home picnic despite the rain. Thank you to everyone who attended. We enjoyed fantastic views, delicious food, and the opportunity to visit with, listen to, and learn from clients of the WDVA transitional housing programs. Once again, Chapter Companion Bruce Stalk and his band played some awesome tunes. Now we look forward to our Picnic and Fishing Derby with Transitional Housing clients at the Orting Veterans Home on September 17 at 1100. Mark your calendars and come see if Ed Murphy can land a marlin this year!

This year, Ron and Faye Kirkland, Dave and Diane Gibson, Carrie and Ron Neilson, and I will represent our chapter at the national convention in San Antonio, August 11–16. Author and Stoicism expert Ryan Holiday will be the keynote speaker, and we'll take part in presentations, discussions, and idea-sharing on how to strengthen membership, outreach, and fundraising to benefit the Military Order, our members, veterans, and youth education nationwide. I'll also help the Education and Training Committee conduct “Why do you come to the convention?” interviews to encourage more Companions to attend next year—in Chicago, BTW, so mark your calendars! The seven of us attending this year will be eager to share what we learn.

Our first opportunity to share those lessons will be the Chapter's annual picnic from 4:30–8:00 PM on August 23 at Dick and Mary Muri's home in Steilacoom. The event will be catered and will include a fundraiser for NWYLC and a debrief from the national convention. A couple of this year's NWYLC students will also speak about their experience and the program's lasting impact on them. The leadership, team-building, and personal growth NWYLC offers our future leaders is well worth a \$50 per month (\$600 per year) scholarship contribution—but more support from more people is always better! Think about friends or relatives you might invite to introduce them to MOWW and NWYLC. The warmth of our annual picnic at the Muris' home makes it the perfect introduction. Be sure to RSVP today on our website.

Finally, our fall schedule is filled with great food, great Companionship, and great programs. Highlights include a national security presentation with LTG Steven Lanza, USA (Ret.); the second installment of our Nurses of Vietnam program featuring our own Leslie Watts; recognition of the National MOWW Public Safety/Law and Order awardee nominated by our Chapter; and our Chapter Social/Army-Navy Game watch party.

**hope to see you all soon!**





# July Puget Sound Chapter Report



Region Commander Carrie Nielsen and chapter commander Andy Leneweaver surround DVA Director Melissa at the annual Homeless Veterans picnic in Port Orchard

The band strikes up good music to make the picnic festive and upbeat for homeless veterans on Thursday July 16 with a beautiful view of the Puget Sound and Bremerton Ship Yard



What a deal, residents of the DVA homeless veterans facility prepare a great lunch each year for Puget Sound Chapter members—we bring the desert.

Keith Warren is a member of the “clean plate club” just before he licks off the remainder of his dessert.



Andy interacts with a resident of the VA Homeless Veterans facility that gets vets back on their feet and into the community

Even the deer come out to enjoy the picnic and meet residents and companions





# Chapter Moments



Puget Sound Chapter companions enjoy the camaraderie with residents living at the VA and getting back on their feet. Andy presents the MOWW 250 coin to Malissa and staff members as a token of good teamwork





**Coming Soon**

# MOWW & THP

## ANNUAL FISHING DERBY & BARBECUE!

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 12PM

WA SOLDIERS HOME FISH POND



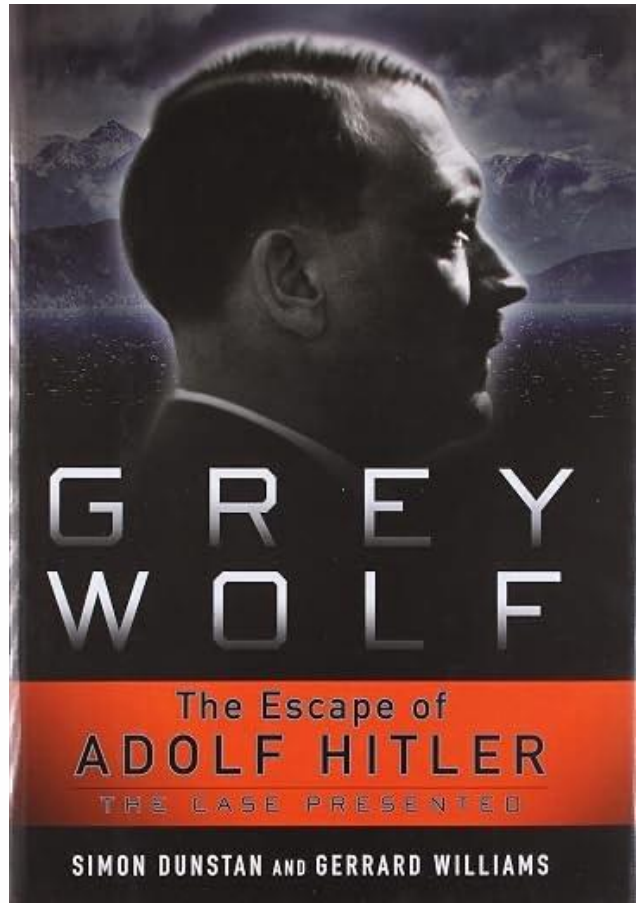
FOOD • FISH • TROPHIES • GOOD VIBES

1301 ORTING KAPOWSIN HWY E ORTING, WA 98360

# Book Reader

Did Hitler—Code Name “Gray Wolf”—really die in 1957? In 1945 gripping new evidence shows what could have happened ... When Truman asked Stalin in 1945 whether Hitler was dead, Stalin replied bluntly, “No.” As late as 1952, Eisenhower declared: “We have been unable to unearth one bit of tangible evidence of Hitler’s death.” What really happened? Simon Dunstan and Gerrard Williams have compiled extensive evidence--some recently declassified--that Hitler actually fled Berlin and took refuge in a remote Nazi enclave in Argentina.

**Gray Wolf, The Escape of Adolf Hitler.** Simon Dunstan and Gerrard Williams



## Puget Sound Coming Events

| Date         | Event                   | Time/Place         |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| August 23    | Youth Leadership Picnic | 1630 Muri's House  |
| September 13 | National Security       | 1730 Steilacoom TH |
| October 11   | TBD                     | 1630 Steilacoom TH |



**A big success--the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Youth Leadership Conference 21-25 June 2026.  
Thanks for you support to make it happen.**



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's legacy program.





# 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](mailto:cdramm@outlook.com) or  
[nwylc1991@gmail.com](mailto:nwylc1991@gmail.com)

### 2027 NORTHWEST YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NWYLC)

#### DONATION INFORMATION

The 35<sup>th</sup> NWYLC will be held in June 2027 at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). The Total Cost Per-Student for the 2026 NWYLC, for 78 students, was \$575.00. The total cost for the Conference was over \$55,000.00

**With 95% of the students being on scholarship, donations are needed and greatly appreciated.**

**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.

**The Full Tuition Requested Donation for 2027 is \$575.00, 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](mailto: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\***



## **The United States Declares Independence**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** — Congress ratified the [Declaration of Independence](#) from Great Britain 12-0, with New York abstaining. This founding document, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, remains a cornerstone of American political philosophy and tradition.

-General William Howe started disembarking 10,000 troops on Staten Island in preparation for offensive operations against General George Washington and the Continental Army, stationed on Long Island.

-The Declaration of Independence was read in public to the assembled Continental Army in New York. The New York Provincial Congress then initiated work on a new constitution while the statue of King George III at Bowling Green was pulled down, taken to Connecticut, and melted into 40,000 musket balls.

**See more at the MOWW website**

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



# Pershing Minute



**Wedding Bellis.** The romance between Frankie and Blackjack continued. His closest friends knew he was capable of affection but this stern taskmaster who had wooed more than his share of ladies over the years was now 43 years old and was head over heels in love with a rich college graduate 20 years his junior. But he was smitten and so was Frankie.

**Adjutant's Angle: Don't miss the big annual chapter picnic at Dick and Mary's house overlooking Puget Sound. Meet YLC students who graduated in June. \$40 gets you BBQ and dinks—RSVP with link on Page One of the Dispatch.**



Companion Alan Bourque Keith W. and others were busy guys presenting MOWW awards to cadets in 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.

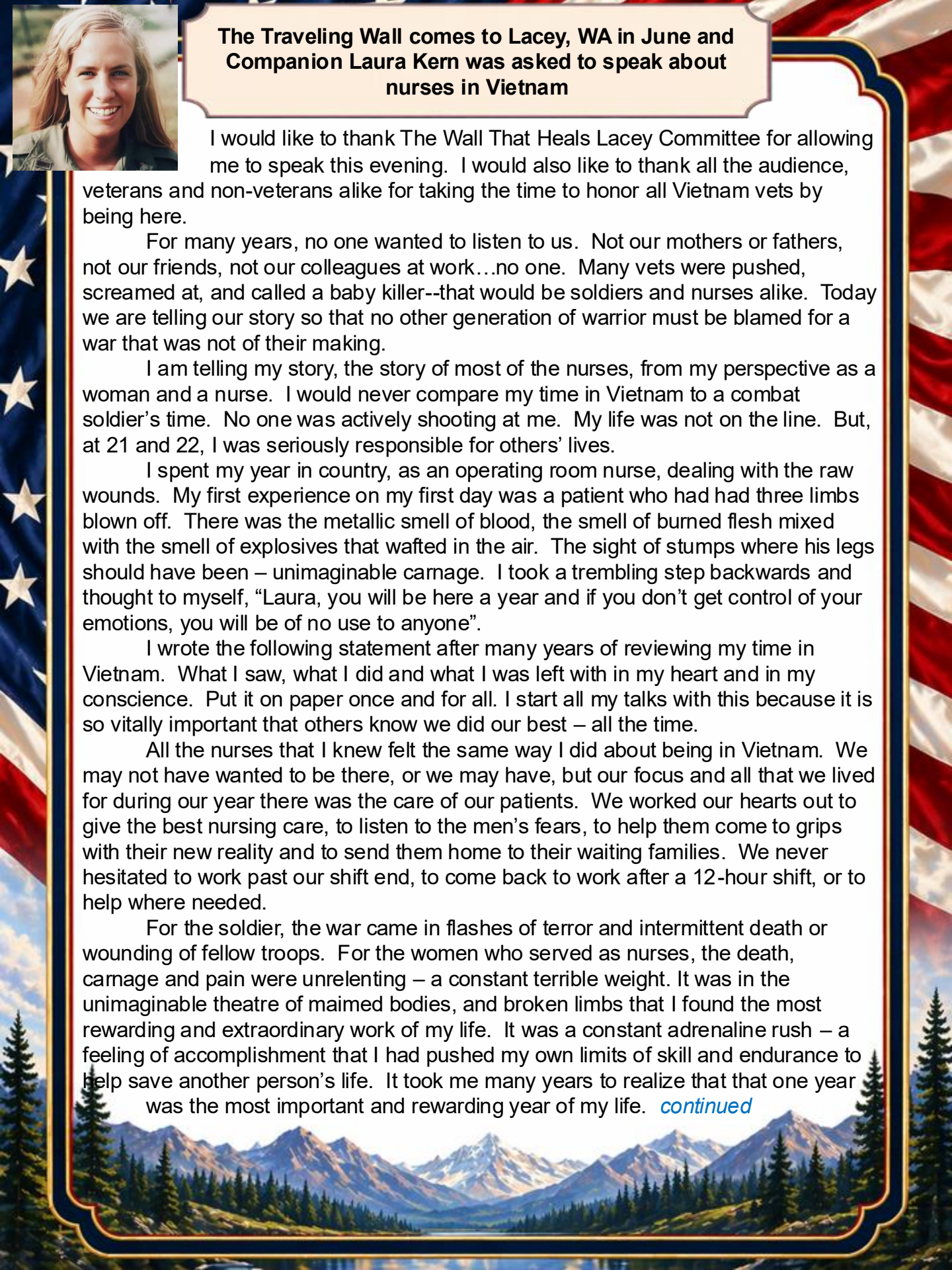
I am telling my story, the story of most of the nurses, from my perspective as a woman and a nurse. I would never compare my time in Vietnam to a combat soldier's time. No one was actively shooting at me. My life was not on the line. But, at 21 and 22, I was seriously responsible for others' lives.

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".

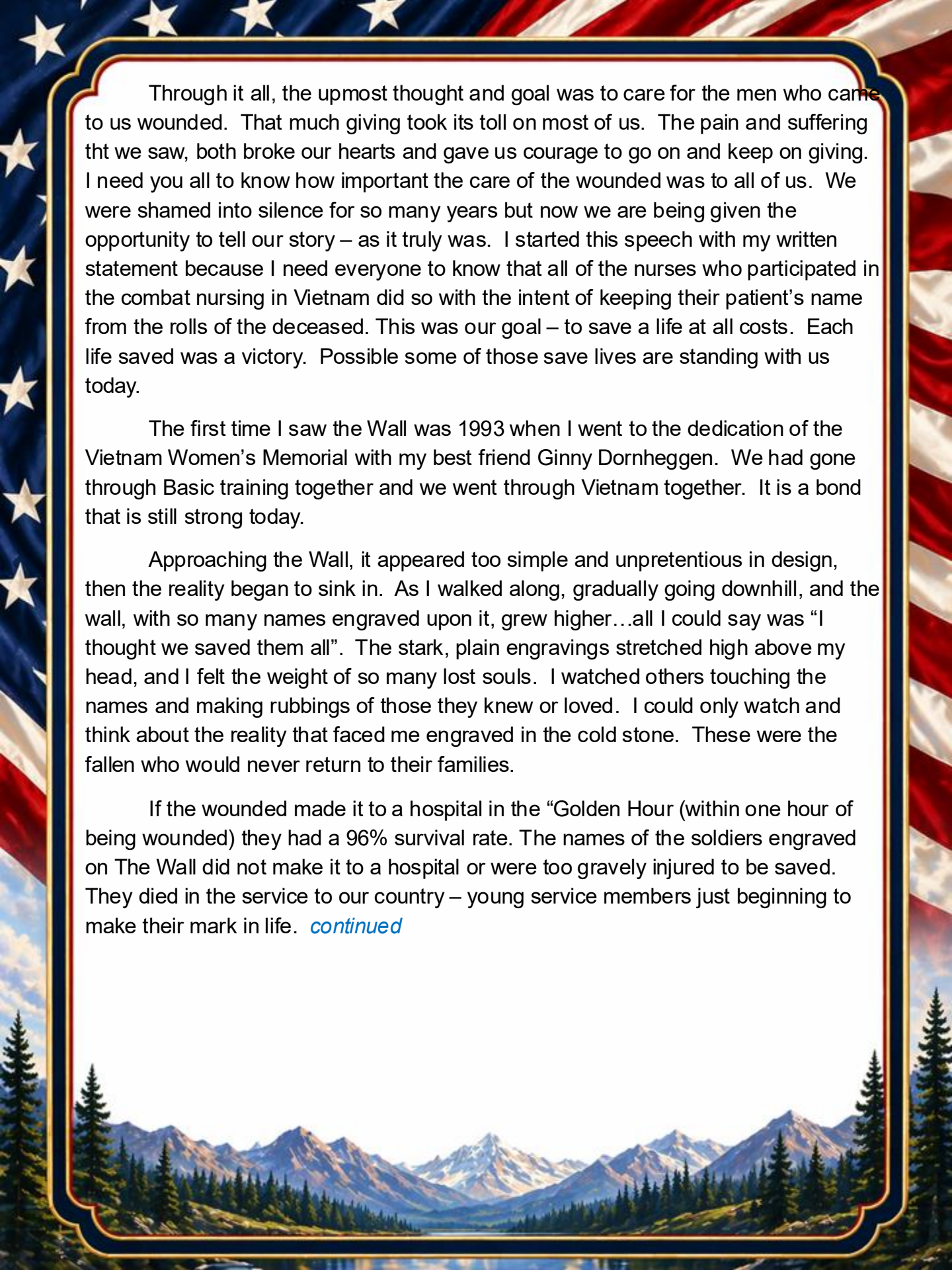
I wrote the following statement after many years of reviewing my time in Vietnam. What I saw, what I did and what I was left with in my heart and in my conscience. Put it on paper once and for all. I start all my talks with this because it is so vitally important that others know we did our best – all 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 page features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is framed by a decorative border with a scalloped edge.

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 happening in July. 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:** COL Andy Leneweaver  
**Sr. Vice Commander:** COL Bill McClary  
**Vice Commander:** COL Alan Bourque  
**Adjutant:** LTC Buck  
**Chaplain:** LDCR Stephan  
**Finance:** Maj Mummery  
**Treasurer:** Maj Mummery  
**Marshall:** Maj Warren  
**Historian:** OPEN  
**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

## Ribbons Explained!



"This one is for keeping all the other ones  
so neatly arranged."