



Puget Sound Chapter

— ★ of the ★ —

Military Order



*An Organization for
All Military Veterans*



You are invited!

13 September, at 1630 at the Steilacoom Town Hall

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING



Goal: Veterans

Mission: Combat Nurses:

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>

Commander's Corner

COL Andy Leneweaver (Ret)

It's hard to believe the summer of 2026 is already ending. Around Puget Sound, we've enjoyed warm days, cool nights, and little rain. Fall seems ready to arrive soon...

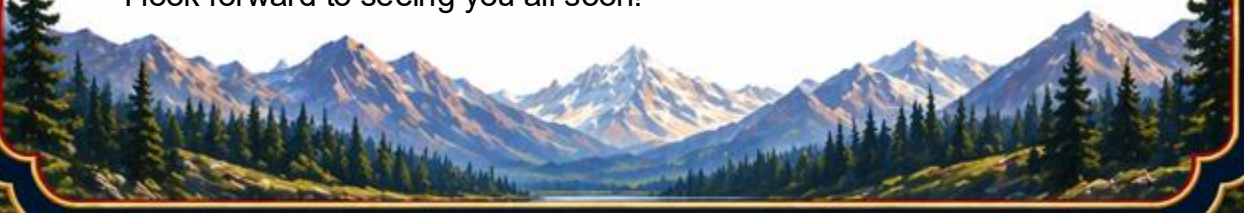
The Puget Sound Chapter had an outstanding year at convention. For the third consecutive year, we were recognized as the Pershing Large Chapter of the Year, earning \$500 to support the chapter's good works. We also placed first in ROTC/JROTC, second in Newsletter, Patriotic Education, and Public Safety/Law & Order, and third in National Security. Our nominee, TPD Officer Brian She, received the top Public Safety Service Award. It was truly an excellent year! In addition to these honors, we heard from outstanding guest speakers, learned from fellow Companions, and conducted the business of the Order. Key convention decisions included electing a new CINC, Marlon Ruiz, along with most of our senior national leadership; updating the membership section of the Order's Constitution — thanks in large part to our own Past Commander Carrie Nielson! — and formally authorizing virtual meetings.

Back home, we held our chapter picnic on August 23rd at Dick and Mary Muri's home in Steilacoom. We enjoyed great weather, delicious food, and a strong turnout of Companions on a warm summer evening. I shared a debrief of the national convention highlights, and we reminded everyone that the event also served as a fundraiser for NWYLC. A few of this year's NWYLC attendees spoke about their meaningful experiences there. NWYLC remains a premier leadership, team building, and growth program for our future leaders. The fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising a record amount. Thank you for your generous donations—we are well on our way.

September is shaping up to be a busy month. On September 11, 2026, the nation will mark the 25th anniversary of the 2001 attacks with Patriot Day remembrance events. On September 13th, we will hold our meeting and continue our Nurses of Vietnam program, featuring our own Leslie Watts. We will gather at 1630, with the call to order at 1700. On September 17th, we look forward to the Orting Veterans Home Picnic and Fishing Derby at 1130. Mark your calendars and cheer on Ed Murphy as he defends his title as Fishing Derby Champion!

The rest of our fall schedule is filled with great food, wonderful Companions, and excellent programs. On October 4th, LTG Steven Lanza, USA (Ret.), will present on national security. On November 8th, we will hold a joint meeting with the Mt. Rainier Chapter of MOAA and recognize TPD Officer Brian She, the National MOWW Public Safety/Law and Order Service Award recipient. Finally, our Chapter Social and Army-Navy Game watch party will be on December 12th.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!



August Puget Sound Chapter Report



Andy Leneweaver displays the Pershing top chapter award for the Puget Sound Chapter at San Antonio, TX. This award means our chapter is #1 in the United States.

At the August 23 picnic Andy L gives the Pershing Trophy to Carrie Nielson since has been the Chapter commander for the last 2 years so attendees get a first hand view



Alan Mandigo snags the #1 award for JROT/JROTC Puget Sound Chapter support to these budding high school and college students close to us and beyon.

Steve Lanza (USA, Ret) welcomes the top 2 students from the recent graduation of the Northwest Youth Leadership at PLU. Maggie and Isaac told their stories about success at the conference.



Cadet Isaac from Mt Tahoma AJROTC gained valuable insights into leadership, patriotism, and civics. Very enthusiastic about he whole experience



Maggie, from Bellarmine Prep, was the #1 student graduating with 78 other high school students from the 34th annual Northwest Youth Leadership Conference.

Chapter Chaplain's Notes by LCDR Skip Stephan, USNR-Ret.

As we enter the month of September, we move from the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer into the invigorating days of Autumn. I personally look forward to the season of Autumn with its cooler days and cool, crisp nights. I also look forward to the things that only occur in Autumn; the changing colors of the trees, the shortening of the days and the anticipation of Halloween (my 56th anniversary) and Thanksgiving.

The one thing that I do not look forward to is the preponderance of political signs that will proliferate along our streets and at every street corner. We will be inundated with countless signs trying to convince us into voting for a specific candidate. In addition to this, we will be barraged by political ads on TV with each candidate attempting to prove that he or she is the best and the most qualified for the office. Some will do this by extolling their own virtues and accomplishments and some by degrading and ostracizing their opponents. One thing is sure. There will be no shortage of boasting and pride.

Jesus has some words for this situation. He states the pathway simply: "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11). In one of His parables recorded in Luke 14:7-14, He tells of a man who attends a banquet and sits in a place of honor, only to be told to move to a lower place.

Jesus demonstrated humility as He knelt before His disciples, washing their feet, which was a servant's duty. He chose this pathway as He climbed on a donkey, rather than a chariot, on Palm Sunday. He proved His power as He voluntarily allowed Himself to be crucified in the most despised form of death- the cross and then rose victorious as King of Kings.

For most of us, the sacrifice is too risky. We have grown up believing "Good guys finish last" and "He who hesitates is lost." We spend many dollars each year choosing the world's pathway to greatness- Knowledge, Position, Popularity, and Possessions, until one day we are humbled by life and told to take the lower seat at the end of the table.

And so, as Jesus shares in the parable- often when we choose the seat at the head of the table, we must learn humility the hard way by being moved down to the other end.

But the good news is that it doesn't need to be that way. We have a choice today to walk Christ's path of greatness. But the strange thing about this is that once we begin to walk His path, we are happy just to be invited to the banquet with Him. It really doesn't matter where we sit. I would gladly sit in the seat at the end of the table where Jesus sat...wouldn't you?



Chapter Moments



Puget Sound Chapter companions enjoy the camaraderie with guests on a beautiful Sunday in August. BBQ, prizes, and emphasis on youth support and education



Coming Real Soon

Puget Sound Chapter Companions support Homeless Veterans at Port Orchard and Orting. At Orting we fish and eat compliments of our VA host. Come join the fun and enjoy.

MOWW & THP

ANNUAL FISHING DERBY & BARBECUE!

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH @ 12PM

WA SOLDIERS HOME FISH POND



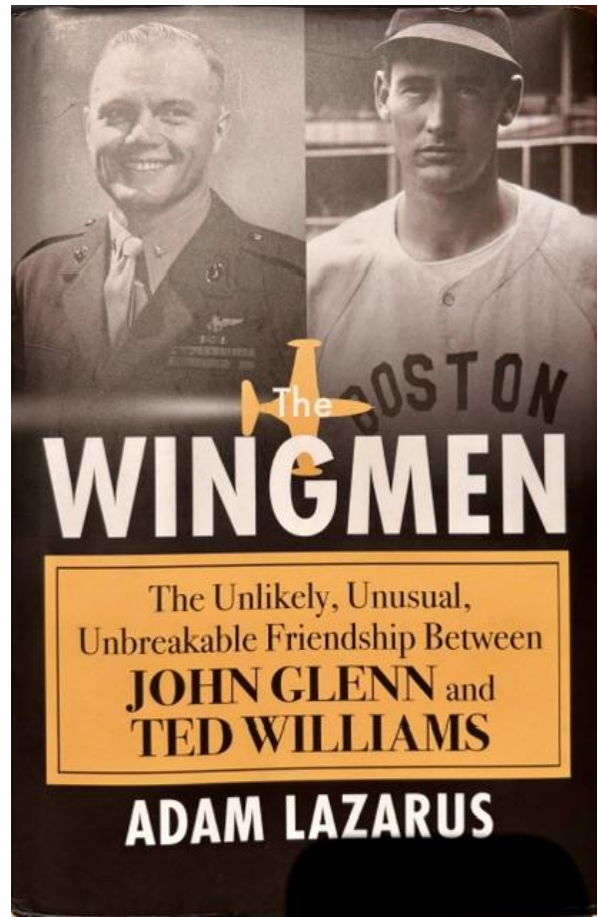
FOOD • FISH • TROPHIES • GOOD VIBES

1301 ORTING KAPOWSIN HWY E ORTING, WA 98360

Book Reader

The Wingmen is a the unlikely, unusual, unbreakable friendship between John Glenn and Ted Williams. But they shared the essential traits of bravery, loyalty, devotion to excellence, and despite political difference, authentic patriotism. These two men flew with each other during the Korean War and develop a lasting camaraderie that never wavered, even when Glenn went on with his USMC/Astronaut career and Ted Williams went back superior batting and hitting for the Red Sox. A good tale of friendship.

The Wingmen by Adam Lazarus



Puget Sound Coming Events

Date	Event	Time/Place
September 13	National Security	1630 Steilacoom TH
September 17	Fishing Derby with Vets	12PM Orting
October 11	TBD	1630 Steilacoom TH

September Birthdays

Thanks, Andy for putting together our monthly birthdays starting with September. If you see any changes necessary, please let us know so we can correct.

Name	City	State	
Mr. Kyle B. Ashcraft	ANCHORAGE	AK	
Mr. James C. Ball	TACOMA	WA	
LTC William L. Boice, USA (Ret)	STUART	FL	
Maj Craig A. Cederberg, USAF ANG	ANCHORAGE	AK	
CDR Kenneth E. Davidson, Jr., USN (Ret)	STEILACOOM	WA	
Ms. Kristina E. Doyle	BUCKLEY	WA	
CDR James A. Hall, USN (Ret)	OAK HARBOR	WA	
Col Richard R. Riddick, USAF (Ret)	UNIVERSITY PLACE	WA	
Mrs. Susan A. Jones	TACOMA	WA	
LtCol Larry A. Kaufman, Sr., USMC (Ret)	SALEM	OR	
CPT Laura A. Kern, USA (Fmr)	OLYMPIA	WA	
COL Stephen B. Kern, MD, USA (Ret)	OLYMPIA	WA	
MAJ Ronald K. Knapp, USA (Ret)	LACEY	WA	
Col Robert I. Lawrence, USAF (Ret)	LAKEWOOD	WA	
Mr. Jeffrey P. Lewis	TUKWILA	WA	
MG Raymond F. Rees, USA ARNG	HELIX	OR	
Mr. S. Ross Shoemaker	OYSTERVILLE	WA	
Capt Steven Vuleta, USMC	Puyallup	WA	

****America 250***

In September 1776, the Continental Army won the Battle of Harlem Heights in September, marking a vital morale boost for Washington's army. American forces as they successfully drove back British light infantry in upper Manhattan. The victory restored confidence after earlier defeats like the Battle of Long Island.



General George Washington needed to know British troop plans in New York. Captain Nathan Hale volunteered for the dangerous scouting mission in September. Disguised as a schoolmaster, Hale crossed behind enemy lines September 21, 1776. British soldiers caught Hale trying to cross back with hidden documents. General William Howe ordered his execution without a formal trial. Hale was hanged in New York City at age 21. His last words were famous: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"



See more at the MOWW website

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

Pershing Minute



Wedding Bells. John was worried that he earned \$2600 annually--\$65K today, while Frankie had income of \$10K per year—a ¼ million today. Frankie gushed in a letter, “here I am just urging and urging you to marry me. It seems I have done nothing else since last February, and I am getting discouraged with you. I am going to bend all my efforts to fall in love with every attractive man I meet”.

Adjutant's Angle:

Two big events in September, first our Viet Nam nurse series featuring Leslie Watts on the 13th at 1630 at Town Hall—note the new time. Also, bring raffle prizes, please, like we have done in the past. This makes the meeting fun. Then the Homeless Veterans picnic at Orting at noon (see flyer at page 6). Go directly to the fishing pond near the tiny houses. They feed us well and we bring cookies and brownies



Puget Sound Companions having fun and speaking at the MOWW convention in San Antonio



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

Not very nice!



© Antoine Rezer/Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards

