Puget Sound Chapter ★ of the ★ Military Order

An Organization for All Military Veterans



You are invited!

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

November 8, 2026 at 1230, Steilacoom Town Hall

General Lanza will talk about the Pacific Area of Operation and explain the current situation, plus how JBLM fits into the big picture.



Goal: National Security

Mission: Meet LTG Lanza

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, USA (Ret)

1. To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces. 2. … a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America…3. To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations…

These excerpts reflect three of the nine goals in the MOWW Preamble which we can put into practice in November. Our first opportunity is the fall National Security meeting on November 8th. Our friends from the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA will join us to **foster fraternal relations** and learn about our **National Security**.

Our guest, LTG Steven Lanza, USA (Ret.), will discuss Taiwan and the U.S. role there. General Lanza's well-regarded knowledge of the United States Indo-Pacific Command AOR should make for an enlightening meeting!

If you live outside the area or can't attend in person, we'll try to offer a virtual option. Details will follow.

This will be a great opportunity to introduce someone new to the MOWW—bring a friend and help make this our biggest meeting of the year!

Veterans Day offers a chance to **encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations** by promoting, attending, or — as I do — conducting events that celebrate and honor all Veterans. For information on the many events across our Chapter's service area, visit your state's Veterans website: Washington: https://dva.wa.gov/calendar, Oregon: https://www.oregon.gov/odva/connect/pages/events.aspx, Idaho: https://veterans.idaho.gov/events/, Montana: https://veterans.mt.gov/Events/, Alaska: https://veterans.alaska.gov/calendar/.

December offers more opportunities to **foster fraternal relations** and **to encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations…** Attend the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA's annual Christmas Gala on Sunday December 6th and our Chapter Social/Army-Navy Game watch party on December 12th. You can also help the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA lay wreaths at the Orting Veterans Home Cemetery for Wreaths Across America, tentatively scheduled for December 19th.

All Companions — not just Army and Navy fans — are welcome at our Chapter Social/ Army-Navy Game watch party on December 12th. Dick and Mary Muri will host this year's gathering at their lovely home. This fun social event always features an interesting halftime presentation! Reserve early…first 50 can attend.

There are many ways to fulfill your commitment to the MOWW Preamble beyond our monthly in-person meetings. You choose your level of participation — the key is to get involved!

Oct. Puget Sound Chapter Report



Dan Still (L) our Law and Order committee chair, presents the first--place plaque for a heroic rescue of a child, to Police Officer Brian She, Tacoma Police for his great response.



Dan Green (L) companion, Police Chief Jackson next, Dean Smith, next and companion, and Police Officer _____ chat before the meeting on October 11 about first responder subjects



Dan Still (L) chats with Deputy Police Chief _____ who came to support Brian She. This was a great outreach program that the Puget Sound Chapter backs



Chief of police Jackson, Tacoma Police Force, gave the companions and guests of the Puget Sound Chapter insights into the excellent status of the Tacoma law and order.



Police officers enjoy the raffle at the the Puget Sound Chapter meeting in October. They appreciate a little down time at the lunch and program at Steilacoom Town Hall



Brian She, winner of the MOWW #1 Law and Order award for saving a child from drowning has a big smile winning a new pair of socks at the raffle

Chaplain's Corner

LCDR Skip Stephan, USN (Retired)

As many of you are aware, my beloved wife, Jeannine, passed peacefully from this life to the next in the Comfort Care Unit of Madigan Army Medical Center on the morning of Sept. 27, 2026. We would have been married 56 years on Oct. 31st.

People have been very kind and caring, asking how am I doing? I usually respond, "As well as I can, given the situation." But it got me to thinking, just what does that mean? How am I handling the situation and the grieving process? As a result I decided to make a list of things I have done, which I would like to share with you.

How I Am Handling Grieving

Pray
Go to church, lead worship & preach a sermon.
Receive comfort from congregation members.
Hug and love her Golden Retriever, Pearl.
Attend a Kiwanis meeting and receive comfort from members.
Turn on the TV and turn up the volume to fill the emptiness.
Attend an MOWW meeting & receive comfort.
Preside over an SAR meeting & receive comfort from compatriots
Attend performances of Les Mis at TMP & Arsenic & Old Lace at TLT.
Write up a history of Jeannine's significant life accomplishments.
Plan a funeral according to her wishes.
Install a brand new flagpole in the front yard in her memory.
Sit down and write up a list like this.

As you can see from the above list, for me, the answer is not to sit around like a couch potato feeling sorry for myself, but rather to stay busy and continue to participate in all my regular activities.

The reality is that although my loved one is gone and I will miss her dearly, life for the rest of us goes on. I am grateful that her pain and suffering are gone. I find comfort in the many happy memories we have made over the years that cannot be taken from me.

And most of all I find comfort in the promise of our Lord that He has given her a new perfect body and received her into His Heavenly Kingdom where I will ultimately be re-united with her at that banquet which has no end. Thanks and Praise be to God!

November National Security Meeting

MOWW
MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS
Puget Sound Chapter

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
Mount Rainier Chapter

Present a
NATIONAL SECURITY BRIEFING

TAIWAN



Stephen R. Lanza

Lieutenant General, US Army Retired

November 8, 2026

Gathering at 1230 hours (12:30 p.m.)
Starting at 1300 hours (1:00 p.m.)

Steilacoom Town Hall

1717 Lafayette Street,
Steilacoom, WA 98388

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

Come to the Tacoma War Memorial on Veterans Day

1100 On 11 November at Tacoma War Memorable Park



Sign up for the Christmas Gala by the deadline, you'll be Glad you did

From MOAA Seasons Greeting

2026 MOAA Christmas Gala And Fundraiser

Sunday December 6th, 2026

Tacoma Country Club

3204 Country Club Rd SW, Lakewood, WA

4:00 - 5:00 PM

No Host Cocktails and Social Hour

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dinner, Music/Dancing, Fun

Music by DJ Jan Peterson/ Proceeds to our Scholarships
Dessert Auction, Heads/Tails Raffle with check or cash

Gentlemen – Coat and Tie
Ladies – Festive or Formal
Appropriate Military Attire

$75.00 Per Person (Includes Tax and Tip),
Reservation and Prepayment due by November 23rd, 2026

Payment: Online Credit Card (Need email address for link), or Mail Check (Make payable to MOAA)

Please make payment and reservation by November 23rd, 2026.

Address: MOAA, P.O. Box 99212,
Lakewood, WA 98496-0212

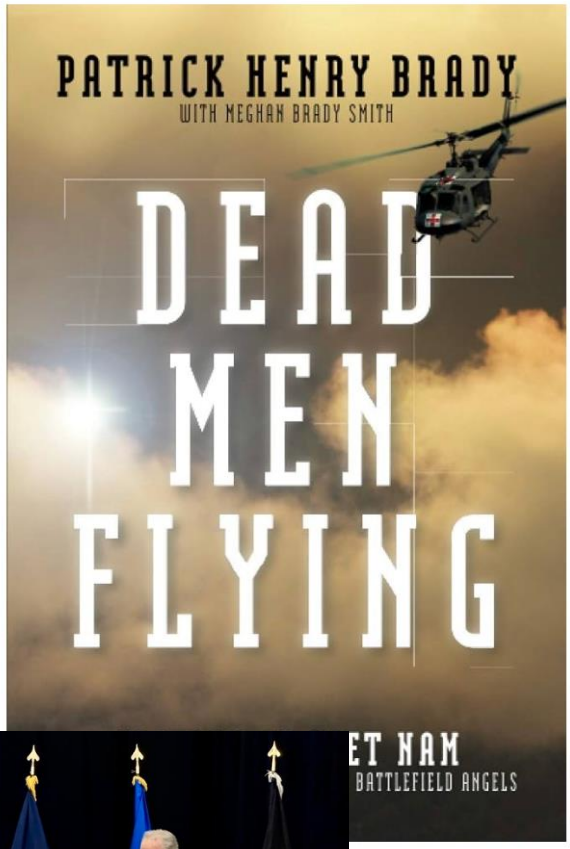
POC: Ray Dotson: 253 209 8274

E-mail: searayd@gmail.com

Book Reader

Dust Off helicopters and the crew members who got the wounded soldiers from the hot-LZ to the hospital so they could live. They were sometimes thought of as crazy because of the chances they took but saved thousands. Pat Brady was a Major when he won the Congressional Medal of Honor on his second tour as a “HUEY” pilot. He spoke at the MOWW National Convention this August in San Antonio, and signed his book for Andy Leneweaver. A great read about Vietnam you will find educational and entertaining.

Dead Med Flying Patrick Brady





Puget Sound Coming Events

Date	Event	Time/Place
November 8	National Security	1230 Town Hall
November 11	Veterans Day	1100 Tacoma War
December 6	Christmas Gala	1600 Tacoma CC
December 12	Army/Navy Game	1130 Muri’s

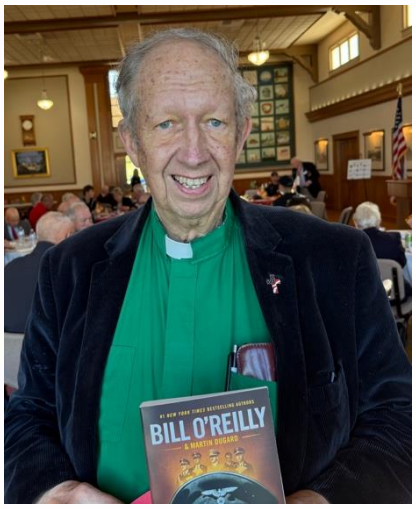
Santa's Castle

Santa's Castle

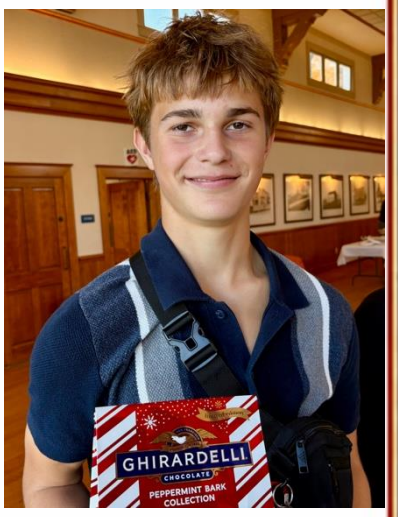
The mission of Santa's Castle is to ease holiday stress by providing new toys, board games and books to military families in the Pacific Northwest who are experiencing financial hardships. In 2024 they served 1,913 families with 4,040 children, distributing $791,928 worth of toys, books, games, bikes and stocking stuffers to make Christmas brighter for our Service Members and their families. Santa's Castle is located at 2094 Bitar Ave, JBLM, WA, should you wish to stop by and learn more. Every year the Olympia Area MOAA Chapter runs a fundraising drive and a Sports Ball Drive, collecting new sports balls to donate to Santa's Castle for distribution to our Pacific Northwest military families. Our MOWW chapter supports MOAA's effort by encouraging members to either bring new sports balls to the November chapter meeting or throw in some money when we "pass the hat" in support of this great cause at the November meeting. See you there!
Thanks, Carrie



More About First Responder Meeting





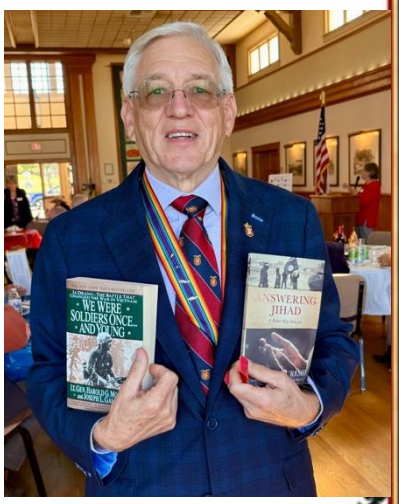








The raffle was kind to everyone, seems like everyone who purchased a ticket was sussessful at the Puget Sound Chapter meeting in October. Join the winners in November, buy a ticket and get your picture in the Dispatch for posterity



Companion Information

November Birthdays		
LT Gaylen D. Swearingen, USN (Fmr)	Nov.	1
COL Michael K. Johnson, USA (Ret)	Nov.	1
MAJ Emilly M. Stoffel, USA (Ret)	Nov.	1
LTG Phillip E. Oates, USA (Ret)	Nov.	2
LtCol Jeramy W. Brady, USMC (Ret)	Nov.	2
PO3 Kimberly R. Schuler, USN (Fmr)	Nov.	3
CDR Raymond B. Corrigan, USN (Ret)	Nov.	4
OTA2 Ronald L. Nielson, USN (Fmr)	Nov.	4
Mr. Corby Somerville	Nov.	6
LtCol Richard M. Sander, USMC (Ret)	Nov.	7
Capt Charles E. Blagg, USAF (Fmr)	Nov.	7
MAJ Joaquin F. Reis, USA (Ret)	Nov.	7
COL Kathleen E. Page, USA (Ret)	Nov.	8
Mrs. Diane S. Gibson	Nov.	8
SSgt Zachary M. Elmore, USMC	Nov.	10
WO1 Jeffrey C. Brink, USARNG	Nov.	12
Mr. Christian M. Doyle	Nov.	14
Lt Col Wendell A. Dutt, USAF (Ret) *	Nov.	15
CPT Orville M. Rice, USA (Ret)	Nov.	15
BG Norman A. Hoffman, USA (Ret)	Nov.	15
Col Dean A. Smith, USAF (Ret)	Nov.	15
MAJ Eric M. McAtee, USAR (Ret)	Nov.	15
Mr. Conner M. Doyle	Nov.	16
MG Thomas F. Cole, USA (Ret) *	Nov.	17
Mr. Allen R. Sandico	Nov.	18
Ms. Susan S. McConnel	Nov.	19
LTC Gillian S. Boice, USA (Ret)	Nov.	21
Mr. Kenneth B. Gorton, Jr.	Nov.	22
COL Edward R. Gear, USA (Ret)	Nov.	23
BG James V. Torgerson, USA (Ret)	Nov.	24
COL William A. Leneweaver, USA (Ret)	Nov.	26
MAJ J. Greg McClendon, USA (Ret)	Nov.	27
Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret)	Nov.	30

*With special wishes to our nonagenarians: MG Cole and LtCol Dutt

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that Jeannine, my dear wife of 56 years, passed from this life to her Heavenly home on September 27 at 7:05 am. Her funeral has been set for 11:00 am on October 31, 2026 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 10333 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood. Howard Stephan



The Battle of Fort Washington November 1776 the colonial army lost an important battle at Washington Heights, to the British and Hession forces. COL Magaw and General Green had built a hastily constructed Earthwork on the highest point of Manhattan to control the Hudson River alongside Ft Lee on the Jersey side. 8000 British and Hession troops attacked the 3000-man American garrison—COL Magaw surrendered the fort. The Americans suffered 59 killed, 96 wounded and 2837 captured, where many Americans died in the harsh British prison.



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 told Senator Millard that he was worried that he only 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”.

The couple’s plan for a June wedding was complicated when the Secretary of War, Howard Taft, summoned Pershing to say he was recommending him as military attaché to Japan. The Tokyo ambassador had requested a bachelor who played bridge. Pershing didn’t play bridge and furthermore he’d just gotten engaged. Taft said, “You’re not married now, are you?” “No” Pershing said. “You have the appointment” declared Taft, “What you do afterwards is your business”

<u>Adjutant’s Angle:</u> The raffle helps the chapter stay afloat financially, is fun, and provides some light-hearted diversion. Thanks for bringing the good raffle items for the monthly meeting. Maybe a few less books. Renee Buck is our adjutant and is willing to help with and answer questions you may have about membership or how the Puget Sound Chapter works. Just in! A new triblute to our teamwork with the WDVA and homeless vet partnership—10 minutes.

https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/wdva-video/

Staff and Committees

Staff

Commander: COL Andy Leneweaver
Sr. Vice Commander: COL Bill McClary
Vice Commander: Col Alan Bourque
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 McConnel
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 McConnel
IT Supervisors: Lt Col Snyder/CDR McManus
Leg. Liaison: LTC Haskins

Contact Staff

Thanks for the Shower

