Puget Sound Chapter ★ of the ★ Military Order

An Organization for All Military Veterans



You are invited!

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

October 11, 2026 at 1230, Steilacoom Town Hall



On December 20, 2025, Police Patrol Officer Brian She responded to a missing two-year old child. Hear, celebrate!

Goal: Law and Order **Mission**: Meet Police Patrol Officer Brian She

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)

The fall in the Puget Sound Chapter started in a big way with the second installment of our Vietnam Nurses series when Leslie Watts told us her Vietnam service story. I found it to be a great addition to the story Laura Kern told us. One of the things I learned: I never knew the Army allowed married couples to deploy together during that war. Typical for the Army, accommodating them as a married couple left a lot to be desired. Ah," Army life!"

Our meeting was followed by another outstanding Picnic and Fishing Derby with the Transitional Housing Clients at the Orting Veterans Home. Thank you to all the Companions who came out. I know the clients appreciated our taking an interest in their lives. Be on the lookout at our meetings for additional ways to show you care. More to come on this.

October signals the return to our noontime meetings, filled with great food, wonderful Companions, and excellent programs! On October 11th, we'll gather at 12:30 and start promptly at 1:00. Our program will center around honoring TPD Officer Brian She, the National MOWW Public Safety/Law and Order Service Award recipient, and hearing about Public Safety/Law and Order in our communities.

Our friends in the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA have invited us to celebrate fall at their annual Oktoberfest, October 18th from 2:00 – 5:00 at Bruno's on Bridgeport Way in Lakewood. For more information, please contact Roland Krebs at krebsrc@yahoo.com or RSVP to Doug Kotrba dougkotrba@comcast.net.

Speaking of the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA, they will be joining us on November 8th for our fall National Security meeting. Our guest will be LTG Steven Lanza, USA (Ret.), who will speak about Taiwan and the role of the U.S. there. General Lanza is well respected for his knowledge of the United States Indo-Pacific Command AOR and should provide an enlightening meeting!

Rounding out the fall will be our Chapter Social and Army-Navy Game watch party on December 12th, hosted by Dick and Mary Muri at their lovely home. This is open to all Companions – not just Army and Navy fans! This has been a fun social event, and we always have an interesting presentation at half-time!

We've also been invited to join the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA at their annual Christmas Gala – this year at the Tacoma Golf and Country Club. Look for more details to come. And once again this year, our Chapter will be helping the Mt Rainier Chapter of the MOAA with Wreaths Across America.

I'm excited to be an MOWW Companion in the Puget Sound Chapter, and I hope you are too. Fulfilling our Preamble's commitments takes all of us, so please ask how you can help. You choose your level of participation—the important thing is to get involved!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Oct. Puget Sound Chapter Report



COL Leslie Watts USA (Ret) told the Puget Sound Chapter about her experience as a nurse in the field hospital near Saigon South Vietnam during the war



Leslie brought her son, husband, and a neighbor couple to hear her story, many of the details of which, had not been heard before. The audience wanted to ask many more questions.



See Leslie receive her award and medal for a job well done in carrying on the series of Vietnam nurses in actions who saved soldiers and civilians



WO 1 Jeff Brink (white shirs) and Faye Kirkland 2nd from RT) receive pins and certificates of membership



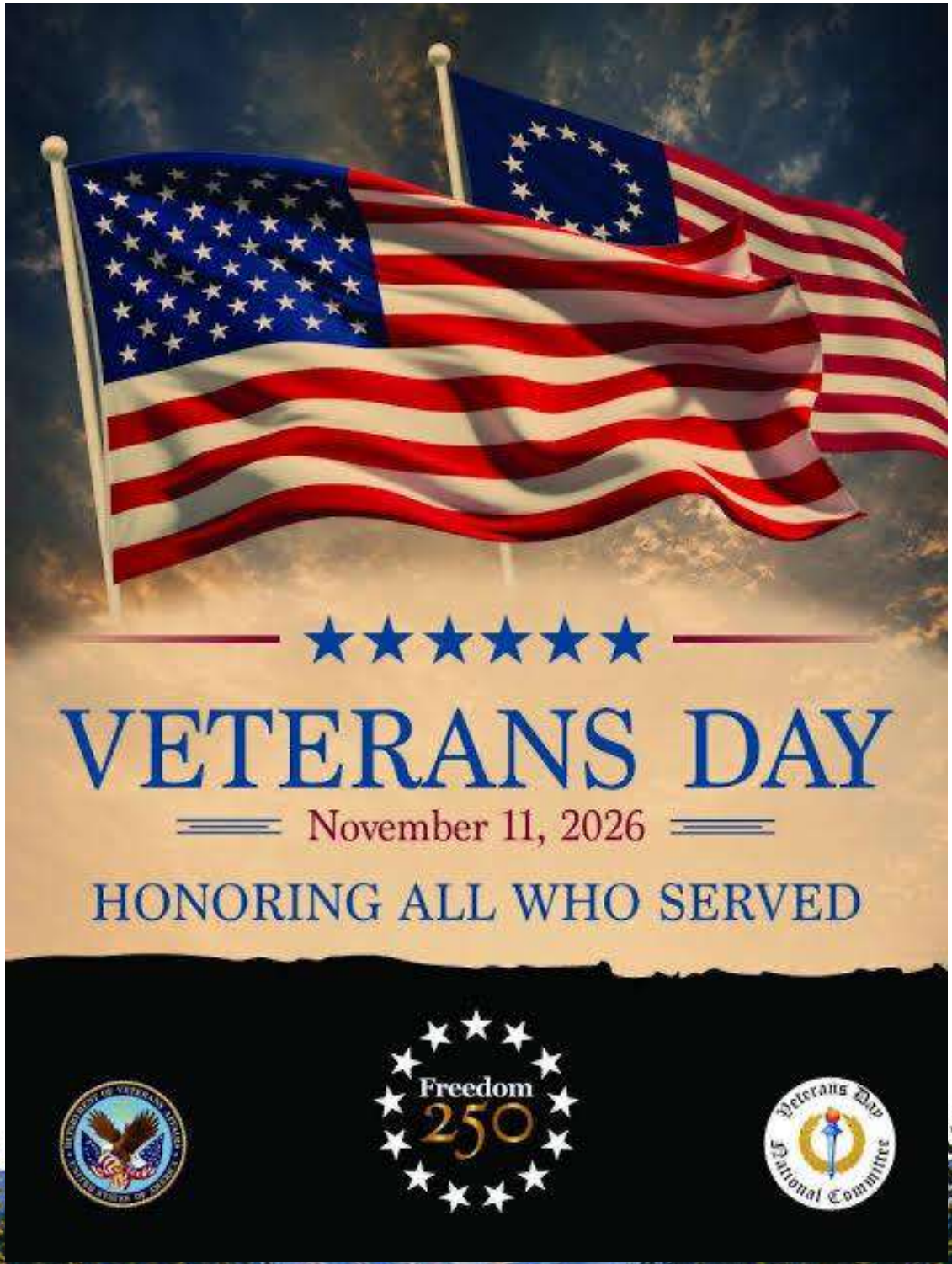
Ned Kaiser and Jeff Brink are both Northwest Youth Leadership Conference permanent staff members who are also companions of the chapter



Four days later homeless veterans and Companions are at Orting Soldiers home for a picnic at the yearly fishing derby. This event provides time for residents to interact with chapter compsniond

Come to the Tacoma War Memorial on Veterans Day

1100 On 8 November at Tacoma War Memorable Park



Chaplain's Corner

LCDR Skip Stephan, USN (Retired)

A woman was sitting in the lobby of the Union Depot waiting for a train. As she sat there she saw a young girl, about 15 years old, sitting alone in a corner of the depot. Then she saw a mother with two crying children and an armload of packages enter the train station and sit down across from the young girl. Before the woman could get settled into her seat, the teen-age girl hopped up and ran over to her. "Can I take care of your two children while you go to get something to eat?" she asked. "You look a little tired and the next train isn't due for a while, so why don't you let me help you? I'm very good with children." Somewhat surprised by this unexpected, kind and generous offer, the mother said, "Oh, thank you! That would be wonderful." And she left the two girls in the care of this anonymous and generous baby sitter. A little later the mother returned, looking relaxed and refreshed. "Thank you so much," she said.

"Are you catching the next train?" asked the young girl. "Yes," the lady replied, "as soon as I can get everything together." "Let me help you." the girl responded. And then she gathered all of the lady's packages and headed towards the train. After they boarded, she waved good-bye. Then she turned and went back into the train station and sat down.

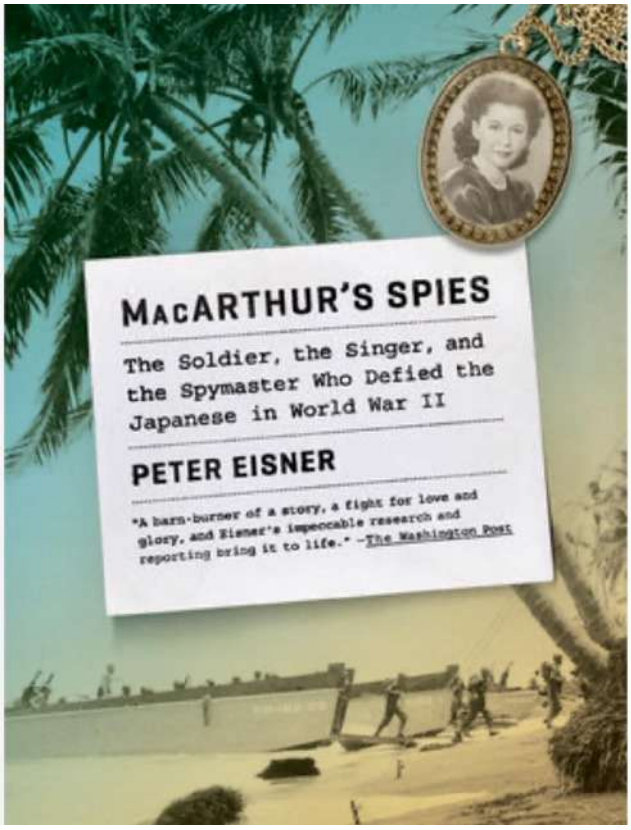
She wasn't seated more than ten minutes when she spotted another mother with children. She walked over to her and volunteered to baby-sit once again. After a while that mother boarded her train. Then the drifting helper found another mother and did the same thing. By this time the observer was puzzled, so she approached the young girl and said, "I'm curious. I've been watching you for over an hour now and you've spent the entire time helping these young mothers and their children. Why are you doing this?"

The girl replied, "I was one of five children. My dad was in the Army and we were always traveling and moving from one place to another. My mom got so tired carrying the packages and suitcases and caring for all of us, I would help her and I remember her saying to me, 'You are so good with children.' My dad went to war and he never came back, so that left my mom alone. She just recently died, so I thought that maybe I could do something for others because she said I was so good with children. I thought there would be a lot of mothers here who would be tired, so that's why I come to the Train Depot! It really helps people and it makes me feel good too."

Jesus taught us to serve others out of devotion to Him and not for a reward. This young girl was doing exactly what He is telling all of us who are His followers to do. May we go and do likewise.

Book Reader

MacArthur's Spies reads like *Casablanca* set in the Pacific, filled with brave and daring characters caught up in the intrigue of war—and the best part is that it's all true! Japanese troops marched into Manila unopposed by U.S. forces. Manila was a strategic port, a romantic American outpost and a jewel of a city. Tokyo saw its conquest of the Philippines as the key in its plan to control all of Asia. Thousands of soldiers surrendered and were sent on the notorious eighty-mile Bataan Death March. But many more Filipinos and Americans refused to surrender and hid in the hills above Bataan and Manila. The story of three of them, and how they successfully foiled the Japanese for more than two years, sabotaging Japanese efforts and preparing the way for MacArthur's return.



MacArthur's Spies. Peter Eisner

Puget Sound Coming Events

Date	Event	Time/Place
October 11	Chapter Meeting	Tacoma War Mem.
November 11	Chapter Meeting	1230 Town Hall
November 11	Veterans Day	1100 Tacoma War

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. This year's Santa's Castle Open House is Thursday, September 24, 1100-1800. Stop by, check it out, bring an unwrapped toy to help fill Santa's sleigh. Santa's Castle is located at 2094 Bitar Ave, JBLM, WA.
Thanks,
Carrie



More About Orting Picnic September 17th









A beautiful day talking with other vets not so fortunate as ourselves at the WA DVA. Why? This is one of our chapter's outreach. If you have not been to the July or September gathering, plan on talking with homeless veterans next year. You will be amazed.









Companion Information

Name	Address city	State	Date of Birth	Age
Mr. Michael S. Ahrenius	FRIDAY HARBOR	WA	3-Oct-52	74
CDR Timothy J. Allen, USN (Ret)	RAYMOND	WA	22-Oct-66	60
LTC Christopher R. Bailey, USA (Ret)	LAKEWOOD	WA	21-Oct-73	53
A1C Samuel H. Bassett, USAF	APO	AE	26-Oct-98	28
LTC Lawrence W. Bittner, USA (Ret)	PRINCETON	TX	23-Oct-62	64
Ms. Rebecca A. Caddy	ELLENSBURG	WA	12-Oct-70	56
Ms. Mary Campbell	TACOMA	WA	24-Oct-39	87
MAJ Jonathan W.G. DeFabio, USA ARNG	PORT REPUBLIC	VA	5-Oct-84	42
LCDR Adam T. Faulk, USN (Ret)	STEILACOOM	WA	16-Oct-74	52
Mr. Terry R. Fisher	GOODYEAR	AZ	18-Oct-45	81
COL Robert S. Forbes, USA (Ret)	DUPONT	WA	20-Oct-59	67
Mr. Alexander Francis	AUSTIN	TX	1-Oct-78	48
MG Peter C. Franklin, USA (Ret)	STEILACOOM	WA	26-Oct-49	77
Maj Daniel A. Gibbon, USMC	STEILACOOM	WA	5-Oct-82	44
MAJ Myles S. Grant II, USA (Ret)	LACEY	WA	10-Oct-63	63
Lt Col Jimmie D. Jones, USAF (Ret)	TACOMA	WA	24-Oct-43	83
COL Stephen M. Kaplachinski, USA	STEILACOOM	WA	8-Oct-74	52
CDR Mark L. Mintz, USNR (Ret)	LA PINE	OR	28-Oct-53	73
Mrs. Mary L. Muri	STEILACOOM	WA	11-Oct-57	69
Capt Edward J. Murphy, USAF (Fmr)	SEATTLE	WA	10-Oct-40	86
Mr. Don M. Perez	CORONADO	CA	30-Oct-48	78
Mr. Raul B. Perez, Jr.	BOCA RATON	FL	22-Oct-46	80
COL Beverly R. Scott, USA (Ret)	STEILACOOM	WA	6-Oct-58	68
CWO4 Monte L. Simpson, USCG (Ret)	Bremerton	WA	28-Oct-46	80
CW4 Douglas A. Stearns, USA (Ret)	Cheyenne	WY	20-Oct-59	67
Lt Col Renee M. Swanson, USAF (Ret)	LAKEWOOD	WA	21-Oct-53	73
COL Richard G. Thomas, Jr., USA (Ret)	TACOMA	WA	22-Oct-56	70
Lt Col John E. Trombley, USAFR	WEST FARGO	ND	18-Oct-52	74
MAJ Brian R. Vowinkel, USA (Fmr)	CLYDE HILL	WA	25-Oct-68	58

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



Battle of Valcour Island (October 11, 1776): British naval forces defeated Benedict Arnold's makeshift American fleet on Lake Champlain, halting the northern British invasion from Canada for the year

Battle of White Plains (October 28, 1776): British and Hessian troops under General William Howe attacked and forced General George Washington's army to retreat from higher ground, leading Washington to move his forces into New Jersey.





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.

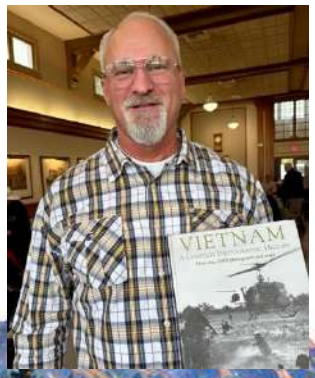
The romance between Frankie and Blackjack continued. His closest friends knew he was capable of affection but this stern taskmaster who had wooed more than his share of ladies over the years was now 43 years old and was head over heels in love with a rich college graduate 20 years his junior. But he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

Adjutant’s Angle: Thanks for bringing the good raffle items for the monthly meeting that make it fun. Maybe a few less books











Many happy raffle winners at the Sep. meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter in Steilacoom Town Hall

The Puget Sound Chapter is invited to join the Oktoberfest

Mount Rainier Chapter MOAA Welcomes You to Oktoberfest!



Join us at Bruno's European Restaurant at 10902 Bridgeport Way

18 October, doors open at 2:00 – 5:00 PM.
Nothing tastes better in Oktober than Bratwurst, Schnitzel, German Potato and Cucumber Salads, Spätzle and Red Cabbage.
Just $50 per person, pay as you go bar, cash only.
RSVP Today!

Doug Kotrba dougkotrba@comcast.net or 53 531 6701
INFO: Roland Krebs krebsrc@yahoo.com or 253 589 9816

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 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

Great Support?

