



Newsletter for APRIL 2020

Website: [MOWW VANDENBERG.ORG](http://MOWW.VANDENBERG.ORG)

Header courtesy Eric Wand

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2020 - 2021

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Commanders Message

What trying times we live in! While we wonder what the future holds, we sit and idle our time, knowing what we are obligated to do. How many of us have sat, in some god-forsaken place, far from home, whiling the time, waiting for those special words "Time to saddle up!" Our long wait was coming to an end, those many months away from our family and loved ones would soon be behind us!

Now, here among our friends and family, we sit and wait, much the same. We wait, as we have done so many times in our past, for that break, that change, that relief. But we have endured, and we shall do so again. Yes, we're certainly not the young studs we were then, but we have been trained and are disciplined to support those around us until again we shall see that bright light of relief!

Yes, we are of that time in our lives when, according to those skilled medical professionals, we are most susceptible to the ills of this COVID-19. While we find it frustrating and tiresome to do so, we must and will exercise the same cautions we did when in a foreign country. ***Be careful, be cautious, be aware, and take no unnecessary risks!***



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Adjutant's Comments:

The year began with such high expectations! The outstanding tribute to our WW II veterans in January! Then our very fine February meeting when our guest was Supervisor Debbie Arnold! Many have been active in our events over these past years.

Now, it seems that all has come to a halt! The March meeting was canceled when Dr Sam Blakeslee had to cancel due to the COVID-19 scourge. I have had to either cancel or postpone the annual Grizzly Academy Youth Leadership Conference. We have had the honor of conducting these conferences for many, many years! The Grizzly cadets are high school age and with few exceptions, come from the inner cities and have faced severe life altering experiences as they attempt to grapple with improving their futures. These conferences have given every cadet who's attended a new outlook on their lives, and a deep motivation for continued self-improvement.

I suspect the annual Lost at Sea Ceremony will also be placed on hold. The April meeting honoring of the ROTC graduates, the May Law enforcement tribute. ... the balance of the year's previously planned events are all on hold! There is no way we can do other than place the programs in limbo and hope relief comes!

In the meantime, I expect to continue providing you information concerning our chapter and what we can mutually expect through these newsletters. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, it is far better to err on the side of caution than to be reckless and stupid! As we look back on our years of military service, we have taken risks, but we knew those in advance. Now we can minimize risks and potential hazards as we face the unknown. ***Be strong, be safe, be careful!***

Sergeant of Arms

So many of our military are being impacted by the coronavirus! (COVID-19). The Marine Corps has basically closed down Parris Island Recruit Depot! The captain of an aircraft carrier is calling for assistance as a number of his crew have tested positive to this virus! Commanders are given greater latitude in dealing, day-to-day, with such matters as personal hygiene!

Two USNS hospital ships were quickly restored to active service. (Normally bringing a ship into service would take months. Both were sailing to their assigned stations in less than two weeks! This is a significant tribute to those who brought these floating hospitals on line!) One ship is now in New York harbor, the other here in California. Each is fully equipped with a 1,000 bed facility, a number of operating rooms, and a complete host of amenities. It is intended that these ships will be treating non-COVID-19 patients, and others in need of medical care, while facilities ashore will be able to treat those infected with the virus.

The Army Corps of Engineers is, while the above is going on, preparing to erect a number of portable hospitals in these most critical areas, specifically New York City and surrounding locations as well as here in California, and possibly in Washington State.

We know of a number of cruise ships, basically trapped at sea, and with an exception, are not allowed to dock because of passengers who've been exposed.

As someone far more skilled than I once said, "These are the times that try men's souls." Some wonder as we stress controlling and compacting the virus while the so-called "regular" influenza is killing tens of thousands every year. The reason should be clear: This virus has already killed thousands worldwide with estimates that here in the United States we may realize 100,000 or more deaths before the worst is over. It is the rapidity of the spread that has made this a true pandemic. A major issue is that a human can be infected and not show symptoms for two weeks or more, and during that period of time can unknowingly infect more and more people! It is for this main reason that "social distancing", that is keeping a safe distance from EVERYONE is critical. That's why we are encouraged to remain cloistered for maybe another month (or more)!

Is a note elsewhere in this newsletter: Be sensible, be cautious, be careful, and minimize your risks. We shall overcome! We shall persevere; we will win this war, as we have done so many times in our history!

Chaplains notes:

There are two most important times in the Christian life: The birth of Jesus and his resurrection.

Jesus spent his early years, with a few exceptions, as the son of a carpenter. It was only about his 30th year when his cousin John baptized him that he began his ministry. For only about three years Jesus performed his duties, healing, preaching, and administering.

Then his foes, those who so feared him, brought about his final hours. While those around him pleaded for him to save himself, he knew he was ordained to suffer upon the cross. So it was on that fateful Friday, that he faced that future which he knew would happen. The story of his agony upon the cross is well known as he hung between the two thieves.

Then his body was placed in a cave (a tomb) where, according to tradition, he would be wrapped and anointed in oil. But when the women came to care for his body, he was not there! "Why do you seek the dead among the living?" Mary realized that her Jesus was gone! On that third day, he arose! And he came to live with his friends for more than another month, before God again called him to be with Him in heaven.

This event is the significant realization of Christianity! Jesus has died, Jesus has raised, Jesus will come again! On this is the true Christian faith!

Often, on Easter Day it is common to hear: "He is risen!" And to be greeted by "He is risen, indeed!"

GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

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Address correction requested

Daffodils from Commander Jim's Garden!



MOWW Preamble

To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;

To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;

Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our national government and the Constitution of the United States;

To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;

To promote the cultivation of military, naval, and air science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United states of America;

To acquire and preserve records of individual services;

To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars; and

To transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our country we unite to establish . . .

The Military Order of the World Wars.