



Header courtesy Eric Wand

**Newsletter for December 2018**

**Website: MOWVANDENBERG.ORG**

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## Chapter Luncheon

We are pleased to announce that this years annual Christmas Program will again be held at the Camp San Luis Obispo newly renovated Officers Club. The Questa College North County Chorus will provide the entertainment with lively music, traditional songs and Christmas carols. Companions and attending MOAA members are urged to invite family and friends and to make reservations as early as possible. The event takes place on Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 starting at 11:30 am with a social meet and greet. Lunch and entertainment will take place from 12:15 pm to around 14:00 pm. Since this is a festive event, we are encouraging all military to wear their Dress Mess or Class A uniform. Otherwise suit with tie. Of course the ladies will know their appropriate wear. **The cost is \$25 per person payable by check or cash at the door (no credit cards).** The menu will be prime rib or salmon, or both with all the trimmings. Also vegetarian by special request. A no host bar will be available with beer and wine. **Reservations must be made NLT COB Tuesday, December 4th by contacting:**



**Major Jim Murphy at 805-528-7565 or**  
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## Sr. Vice Commander: LT Ron Janney USNR (fmr).

**November 2018 Joint Meeting of MOAA & MOWW . . .** the joint meeting of the MOAA and MOWW had the distinct pleasure of hearing the inaugural performance of "Normandy" by the Questa College North County Chorus. There were 30 members of the chorus present and their music was powerful and a real pleasure to listen to.

On July 4, 2019 the North County Chorus will perform at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy landings by Allied Armed Forces. Dr. Ron Kean was requested by Cassandra Tarantino, Choral Director at

Cuesta College to compose a special song to sing in France. Dr. Kean took the words from a poem by Cyril Crain titled "Normandy" and created the music for the Chorus and with a flute.

Cyril Crain served with the 19 Beach Signal Section of the combined Operations Command and was part of the first D-Day assault wave on Juno Beach at Berneires-sur-Mer. He wrote this poem about Normandy and Dr. Kean put it to music:

Come and stand in memory Of men who fought and died They gave their lives in Normandy wealth Remember them with pride.	Soldiers, Airman, sailors Airborne and Marines Who in civvy life were tailors And men who worked machines.	British and Canadian And men from USA Forces from the Common- wealth They all were there that day.
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To Juno, Sword and Utah Beaches of renown Also Gold and Omaha That's where the ramps went down.	The battle raged in Normandy Many lives were lost The war must end in victory And this must be the cost.	When my life is over And I reach the other side I'll meet my friends from Norman- dy And shake their hands with pride.
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The chorus started their performance with the Armed Forces Medley of all Services, sang "Normandy" under the special direction of Dr. Kean, and ended with their signature performance of "Set Me as a Seal" with Cassandra directing.

The Chorus is also raising funds for their planned trip to Normandy



## Sergeant-At-Arms Remarks: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

Last month I offered some very valid ((I think reasons why our system of having young men and women in the military instead of us old farts.) Here's the rest of my reasoning:

If you can remember back that far, I ended with the following: "If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank and serial number would be a real brainteaser." Now the rest of the justification:

Boot camp would be easier for us old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and never saw a single 20-foot wall with a rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy, too. . . I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18 year old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple of million pissed off old farts with bad attitudes and automatic weapons, who know that the best years of their lives are already behind them. HEY! How about recruiting women over 50. . . in menopause!! You think MEN have attitudes?? Ohhhhh my God!! If nothing else, put them on border patrol. They'd have it secured the first night!



### **Chaplains Corner, James Murphy**

Why December 25? For many centuries the western societies have celebrated Jesus' birth on this date. However my research shows something different! It wasn't until about the 4<sup>th</sup> century that this date was acknowledged as the "proper" date. In fact, the date of his birth was all over the place with some day in March generally considered correct. However the Pagans came along! The seasons played an important role as well. There's more, but space is limited! Regardless, we now have an established date!

If you have the opportunity to visit an observatory about this time of the year, you may hear the story of the Star! Yes, scientists claim there really was a star that shone and lead the Magi and the shepherds to that grotto in Bethlehem. It wasn't a barn, but a cave where Mary gave birth. This is one of the two most significant dates in the Christian calendar. Jesus didn't begin his true ministry for another (almost) 30 years, but today there are more Christians (many different sects!) in the world than any other. We offer thanks, we offer appreciation, and we offer gifts, all in acknowledgement of the birth of a little boy who changed the world! So I offer this to my friends: Your gift does not have to be physical or tangible. Give a smile; give way to another, offer to help when you see the need. Give the love that is in your heart, and keep the spirit of Christmas all year long!

I pray God bless you in ways you never even dreamed!



### **Adjutant: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)**

I don't have a source for this; I once thought it was attributed to Abraham Lincoln, and could very well have been him. On the other hand, this kind of sounds like our current president! Whatever, I think it contains a sound philosophy of life for each of us.

"If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how---the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

**GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter**

***Military Order of World Wars***

Executive Committee

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Address correction requested

**Mark Your Calendar**

Tue. Dec. 4th - MOWW/MOAA  
COMBINED EXCOM

**Tue. Dec. 11th - MOWW/MOAA  
JOINT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Jan, 9th - MOWW EXCOM  
Jan. 17th - LUNCHEON MTG.

**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.