

The Military Order of the World Wars

*Celebrating
Our Freedoms*



Header courtesy Eric Wand

Newsletter for February 2018

Website: MOWVANDENBERG.ORG

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Chapter Luncheon

World War II Aviation in San Luis Obispo County

Our guest speaker for the February Luncheon meeting is Mr. Jim Gregory, a local resident of Arroyo Grande, an author and noted public speaker, Jim has written a number of books on the topic of local aviation history and aviators. He will be speaking of the wartime training programs when Cal Poly had its own air strip (the hanger is still there!) and Santa Maria's Hancock field. He will have two of his military books on the general subject of World War II aviation in our area for purchase for those interested: The subject of one deals with Arroyo Grande, another on California's Civil War heritage. Jim will be providing an overview of early aviation in our area, WW II training here, and specifically individual fighter and bomber pilots, as well as aircrews, POWs and WASPs (Women Air Force Service Pilots.) This is an event that is sure to interest anyone with a desire to know of our local history during this critical time in our country. For more about Jim go to www.arroyograndehistory.com.

Our Meetings

Are held at the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge #322,
Grazier Room, 222 Elks Lane

EXCOM (Exec Committee): 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 am

LUNCHEON MEETING: 3rd Wednesday at 11:30 am
\$20/person includes tax & gratuity

RSVP Please by the prior Sunday (at the latest)

Jim Murphy 805. 528. 7565 or

jlmurphy@calpoly.edu

Lou Stout

805. 994. 7051 or

louisstout35@gmail.com

*We must convey expected attendance by 1000 hrs. to the Elks
Lodge on Monday prior to the luncheon*

Commander'S Message: LTC Louis Stout, USA (Ret)

Fellow Companions and Friends,

As we all know, Mother Nature has been very tough on our Central California Coast during the past few months. Many of our neighbors have lost everything including family members, friends, their homes and life possessions to the fires and following floods. They will not recover for years. Our prayers are with them.

Captain Gary Hale with the SLO Fire Department (who was deployed for over two weeks on the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties) was scheduled to be the main speaker but was unavailable as he is supporting the ongoing Search and Rescue operations in Montecito .

Jason Beres, a Fire Prevention Officer with the San Luis Obispo Fire Department was our guest speaker subbing for Capt Hale. Jason did address the group in October 2015; he is also a BM2 in the US Navy (Former).

Jason gave an overview of the fire and flood activities in the Santa Barbara area as best he understood. He gave a good discussion of fire/disaster preparedness with some cogent handouts including:

Fire Safe Landscaping, i.e - clear hazardous vegetation at least 100 ft. from our houses.

Post "Vail of Life" info on the refrigerator for Responders.

Maintain Family Disaster Supplies Calendar.

Implement New Requirments and Updates for Smoke Alarm.

Review facts on Carbon Monoxide Devices.

Selected PDF's of documents Jason provided are attached to this Newsletter and/or at;

<http://mowwvandenber.org/MeetingsPage/htm>

Chaplains Corner

The below 12 short stories are in lieu of a more somber religious message. Six presented in this newsletter and six last month. I think each has a moral to tell, and I hope you agree! (While I use the first person, I'm really citing another person. Continued from January newsletter.

7. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

8. Today, in the cutest voice, my 8 year old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "Amy, why do you want to save the planet?" "Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

9 Today, when I witnessed a 27 year old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2 year old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

10. Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving, he said, "I hope you feel better soon."

11. Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an email that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in ten years.

12. Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share."

UNIQUE HISTORICAL EVENT

USS Little Rock (CLG 4) and (LCS 9)

Throughout the history of the US Navy, there have many times when a ship was named after another ship that had either been sunk, or decommissioned. For a few examples, the Bonhomme Richard was a frigate commanded by John Paul Jones that gained fame in the early years of this nation. In 1864, plans were made to construct a screw frigate, but the ship was never built. Many years later, there was a ship of the same name during World War II that started out as an aircraft carrier (CV 31) and later as an attack carrier (CVA 31). Prior to that ship, there were plans to name a different carrier the Bonhomme Richard, but that ship was renamed the USS Yorktown, following the sinking of the first Yorktown. There is currently an amphibious assault ship named the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6).

The same can be related about the USS Chicago (CA 29), a cruiser that was in the Battle of Savo Island, the worst defeat in the history of the US Navy. It was sunk a few months later during the Battle of Rennel Island on 30 January 1943. The next Chicago was another cruiser in 1945 (CA 136 and later renumbered CG 136). Long before, there had been a cruiser in 1885 designated as (CA 14). There is currently a nuclear submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721).

All of the above mentioned ships, as well as many others, were ships that were named after another ship that had either been sunk or had faded into history many years before. On December 16 of 2017, an event occurred for the first time in history. A new type of combatant, the USS Little Rock (LCS 9) was moored at the pier at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park in Buffalo, New York. It is a Freedom class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and had sailed from its port of construction in Marinette, Wisconsin to be commissioned next to its namesake, the USS Little Rock (CL 92/CLG 4). The cruiser Little Rock is the only Guided Missile Light Cruiser on display in the United States, and was one of the Cleveland class. The Cleveland class with 29 ships was the largest, or most abundant class of light cruisers. [NOTE: The ships in the Cleveland class are light cruisers, but the class is the largest. Heavy cruisers are larger ships.] There may never again be an event in the US Navy where a new ship is next to its namesake during the commissioning, and this was the first.

The ceremony was conducted during a heavy snowstorm, which could be expected in Buffalo in December. A former shipmate sent me a video of the event. For me, it was the first time that I ever saw Navy personnel wearing official earmuffs. There were officials from Little Rock, Arkansas along with those from Buffalo, and representatives of the US Navy. One could see how cold it was by the breath of those who spoke. There are videos, and images on the Internet by Googling "Little Rock Commissioning". After the ceremony, the new Little Rock sailed away from its namesake into the St Lawrence Seaway and headed to Montreal, Canada where it became icebound as of January 23. After participating in the frigid ceremony, and then being locked in ice in Montreal, I am sure that the crew will be happy to arrive at the new homeport of Mayport, Florida.

As I reported in our Newsletter of June 2015, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park is the home not only to the cruiser USS Little Rock, but also the destroyer USS The Sullivans (DD 537) and the submarine USS Croaker (SS 246). The destroyer is named after the five Sullivan brothers who served onboard the USS Juneau, and were all killed during the Battle of Guadalcanal on 13 November 1942 (Friday the 13th). The Croaker is a World War II Gato class submarine that saw action in the Pacific. There is also a museum and several USMC vehicles, as well as aircraft at the park. If you happen to be in the Buffalo area, it is well worth your time to visit the park. If you are there during the summertime, go onboard my old ship "The Rock."
Ron Janey

Adjutant: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

Adjutant's Notes

I want to extend a very special thanks to all who responded so quickly and favorably to my comments regarding our local MOWW chapter dues! And of course to those that are still remiss, it's not too late! When you come to our next monthly meeting, please take a moment and give our treasurer Bonnie \$15 for your annual dues, (of course Perpetual members are not under such obligation; you just might want to kick in a little something out of the kindness of your heart!

We have a strong chapter but you will realize that most of the burden of chapter duties rest on the shoulders of just a few. In the coming months someone may tap you on your shoulder and ask if you'd take on one of the many administrative chores we are obligated to provide to our community. In the near future I'll specifically identify most of these tasks and hope you find an interest in serving the chapter as you've done for your country in the past.

GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

108 Indio Drive

Shell Beach, CA 9349

Address correction requested

Mark Your Calendar

Fri. Feb. 9th - MOAA Luncheon

Wed, Feb. 14th - MOWW EXCOM

Wed. Feb. 14th - Valentines Day

Wed. Feb. 24 - MOWW Luncheon

Wed. Mar. 14th - MOWW EXCOM

Wed. Mar. 21st - MOWW Luncheon

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.

Pictures from January Luncheon 2018



Maj Dan Dow
welcoming Group



Lt Ron Janney
introducing Jason Beres



Commander Lou
presenting Certificate to Jason

