



**Newsletter for JUNE 2020**

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

*Header courtesy Eric Wand*

## **MOWW Officers & Staff**

108 Indo Dr., Shell Beach, CA 93449  
2020 - 2021

### **Chapter Commander**

Maj. James L. Murphy, USMC, (Ret)  
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### **Sr. Vice Commander**

Lt(jg) Joseph Brocato USN (fmr)

### **Jr Vice Commander**

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### **Adjutant**

Maj. James L. Murphy, USMC, (Ret)  
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### **Treasurer**

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### **Chaplain**

Maj. James L. Murphy, USMC, (Ret)  
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### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

Maj. James L. Murphy  
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### **Judge Advocate**

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LTC Angel Ortiz USA (NG)  
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## **Commanders Message**

"We're all in this together!" How many times in recent weeks have you heard these words? Really, together? I don't think so. I may ruffle a few feathers as I explore this comment, and to those folks, I'm sorry! With the pandemic created by the Chinese coronavirus infecting and killing tens of thousands around the world, the idea of "in this together" sounds nice. I have a positive attitude about just about everything and would like that attitude to reflect my outlook as we go through the issues surrounding lock-downs and such. Some of our political leaders have tried to exude a positive outlook as well. I have concluded that there are at least three different groups of people affecting our lives today: Of course the politicians who are really dictating our daily behavior and exerting authority often contrary to the human rights as identified in the Constitution; or by medical and scientific data, then there are the medical and scientific professionals who are trying to place a more rational attitude on this virus. In doing so, they have tried to communicate a realistic position as to projecting and what the near, short and longer term may bode. Then there are the rest of us: We are the folks, day after day, either are (so it seems) locked in our residences, or providing essential services to the multitude. As I write this, I read that over 36 million people are filing for unemployment payments; a number (percentage-wise) equal to those likewise out of work during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Are we really "in this together?" In the Marine Corps (and I know other services likewise), the term means something very specific. As a military unit, we identify targets/goals and we come together to achieve those goals. I think one of the mottos of the French Foreign Legion is "All for one, one for all." That certainly is true to those of us who've worn the uniform of our country. We bond and bind together; we look to our right and our left, and the term "I got your six" is also important as this tells a person that there is coverage (protection) all around. I think as this term is being bandied about it only means we all suffer the same! And of course nothing is farther from the truth! When the mayor of a big city claims she has the right and need to have her hair colored and styled so she will look nice to her constituents; and a governor arbitrarily orders that liquor stores and abortion clinics are "essential" while banning carpet sales and church services, something is not right.

San Luis Obispo County recently published an extensive paper identifying phases to bring our citizens out of quarantine. I have read every word and must report how impressed I was at the detail that the members put into this document. We are now carefully entering Phase 2. By the time you read this, many facilities will have begun opening for business. For a long time there will still be limitations on our movements; face masks (remember what I wrote about masks in last month's newsletter) will continue to be the norm, even though there are still some who don't think such restrictions apply to them; and of course "social distancing" just makes sense! The Center for Disease Control

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(CDC) continues to reevaluate some guidelines; just recently stating that the virus does not last as long on surfaces as earlier thought.

There is a lot of good news: While the coronavirus spreads quickly, the medical professionals have determined that the majority of those who come in contact with Covid-19 either will never experience any symptoms or if so will only be moderately affected. So statistically, if you do come in contact with a contaminated person, keep your distance and wash your hands regularly!

Finally: Our last “real” meeting was February, and then the dark clouds formed! So for the following four months our contacts have been limited. Many of us depend on email, and I strongly recommend this! Then an occasional phone call just to make sure others is fine. You know that our chapter is “dark” July and August. I’m not sure why and how this practice began, but long before my time with MOWW! There is, at this time, no way of predicting what our lives will be like after our dark months. But I would anticipate that September may bring us some much wished for and desired relief to allow us to again gather as a chapter. I will keep a close watch as the news develops, and if it appears that we may in fact be authorized to come back together as a chapter, I will tell you as soon as I can so you can be ready to again join with your friends and companions! Think about September 15 and be prepared! So stay optimistic, be smart, and stay safe!

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## Sergeant of Arms

### Tolerance

An interesting word! A parallel word would be tolerate. Each has a similar meaning: Basically to accept other thoughts or opinions on a variety of subjects: Politics, race, religion, virtually any issue that in today’s climate might cause physical violence, one person to another. Let me take a slightly different view and speak in **Praise of Intolerance**. Intolerance is a contrary word, and is good when it motivates and results in constructive action:

INTOLERANCE of racism, INTOLERANCE of senseless killing and murder, INTOLERANCE of those who damage, destroy or desecrate, churches and other places of worship, and cemeteries, INTOLERANCE of those who abuse drugs and alcohol, and drive and kill under the influence of them, INTOLERANCE of graffiti, INTOLERANCE of those who do not respect the rights and property of others, INTOLERANCE of thugs and gang violence, INTOLERANCE of dishonest politicians, INTOLERANCE of those who cannot respect the rights of others, INTOLERANCE of those who sire children and will not assume responsibility, INTOLERANCE of a legal system that values the criminal over the victim, INTOLERANCE of dishonesty: Lying, cheating, stealing, INTOLERANCE of those who abuse and take advantage of the welfare programs,

I am certain you may have some special “Intolerance” concerns that you can add to my list. Only by bringing these factors to light do we have the opportunity to reach and potentially fulfill our true potential as a society and honest citizens. We owe this to our children, our families and our nation.

## Adjutant’s Comments:

**It couldn’t be done”** You’ve heard these words: “It’s impossible, it can’t be done!” But have you just nodded your head and thought, “Maybe it can’t be done, but did anyone really try?” So you are the person who buckled down and with maybe a slight grin, maybe some concern, but hid your concern and started to tackle that thing that couldn’t be done. Others scoff, “Oh, you’ll never do that, no one else has ever done it!”

But you thought a while, maybe striped to your waist, and began what no one had done before. You started small, knowing each small step would lead you to your goal. There was no doubt of quitting; you may even had a little song to keep you moving to that target. People would wonder at your foolish acts, as you hear the ringing in your ears, “It can’t be done.” There are so many who would prophesy your failing, others to point out to you, one by one, the dangers that await you as you fail.

But with a grit and determination, you have what it takes to continue down that long, hard road, as you start to sing your own song as you have tackled the thing that can’t be done, and you know that you did it!

Thomas Edison was once asked about his successes as an inventor. He basically said that for every success he might have had a thousand or more failures, but for every failure he learned how to proceed until he succeeded. Take your lesson from such wisdom!

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### Article from Atascadero News

On Friday, May 12th in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day, scouts from Troop 51 gathered at the Atascadero American Heritage Monument in masks to lower the flags to half-staff in honor of the local, state, and federal peace officers who have died or have been disabled in the line of duty.

This was the first time the scouts have seen each other in person since the shelter-at-home orders were put in place back in the middle of March due to COVID-19. “It was hard for everyone not to shake hands or give each other hugs, but it felt great to be back together and doing service in the community” said Niclole Hider, a parent and Troop Committee Chair.

This year as scouts were lowering the flags, they noticed that both the American and Betsy Ross flags were beginning to look worn, so they respectively replaced them with a new set when they returned that evening.

“Troop 51 has the honor of the responsibility for the flags at the Monument in cooperation with the Vandenberg Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars who erected the Monument in 2013,” said Hider. *And the chapter is very pleased and fortunate that the troop has accepted this responsibility.*

In addition, they will be placing flags in front of downtown Atascadero businesses that support the Troops Flag Fundraiser. “We do this on four patriotic holidays: Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day,” Hider shared.

from David Frayer



Each year to honor and show respect, the troop meets at 8am on the 15th of May to share in a moment of pause for those being honored and then lower the flags to half-staff and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



As the flags become worn the troop takes them down and respectively folds the worn flags to be taken for repair. They then return that evening at 6pm to raise the flags and salute.



Once the flags have been mended, they will be used again in the future



New flags at full staff with 5 scouts and 2 scout leaders.

The troop repeated the ceremony again on Memorial Day May 25, 2020.

## Chaplains notes:

### Everything Good Comes from God

Trusting in the unconditional love of God: That is the way in which Jesus calls us. The more firmly you grasp this, the more readily you will be able to perceive why there is so much suspicion, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred, violence, and discord in our world. Jesus compares God's love to the light: *Though the light has come into the world people have preferred darkness to light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, to prevent those actions from being shown; but whoever does the right and true, comes out into the light, so that what is being done may plainly appear as done in God.*

Jesus sees the evil in this world as a lack of trust in God's love. He makes us see that as we persistently fall back on ourselves, rely more on ourselves than on God, and are inclined more to love self than love God. Leave the dark! Walk in the light, and then we will acknowledge everything good, beautiful, and true comes from God and is offered to us in love.

**Reflect:** “All that is good, all that is perfect, is given from above; it comes from the Father of light; with Him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow caused by evil and darkness.” (James 1-17)

During this terrible time of trial and tribulation, it is even more important that we offer our selves to God our father. Take time throughout your day to reflect and ponder; give hope and prayers to those who suffer, and strength to those who provide services and care. Without these dedicated citizens, we cannot continue our discipline to see this through.

**GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter**

*Military Order of World Wars*

*Executive Committee*

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Address correction requested

**Also check out our website at:  
<http://www.mowwvandenberg.org/MeetingsPage.htm>**

**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.