

A MILITARY OFFICERS' PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION  
CENTRAL COAST OF CALIFORNIA  
CHARTERED 1990



# The Military Order of the World Wars

Celebrating  
Our Freedoms

GENERAL HOYT S.  
VANDENBERG  
CHAPTER  
#213



## Newsletter for January 2018

Header courtesy Eric Wand  
**Website: MOWWVANDEMBERG.ORG**

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MAJ Dan Dow, USAR

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Lt Col Angel Ortiz, USA, Lt(Jg)Joe Brocato USN  
(ret), COL Loren Weeks, USA (Ret)

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### A "Must Keep" Resolution for the New Year . . . Resolve to Bring in a New Member

*With the new year comes the inevitable resolutions.*

Well, "For the Good of the Chapter" each one of us must take this resolution to heart and make the commitment to bring in a new member this year - each one, reach one. Without new members, our numbers dwindle and the enthusiasm wains.

Our Vandenberg Chapter has so much going on, and does so much good in the community, that it deserves every member's efforts to help grow our ranks. **Think**. . .who would enjoy the opportunity to serve? **Act**. . .ask that prospective member to our next lunch meeting. We'll even cover your costs.

### Chapter Luncheon, Lt Ronald Janney USNR (fmr)

#### 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*

For our January meeting we have invited members of local fire departments as our guest speakers. Jason Beres, a Fire Prevention Officer with the San Luis Obispo Fire Department will be one of them. Jason was our guest speaker at the October 2015 meeting, and is also a BM2 in the US Navy (Former). He is also arranging to have Captain Gary Hale with the SLO Fire Department be the main speaker. Captain Hale was deployed for over two weeks on the Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. He was involved the wildland fires, and was very involved in protecting structures during that catastrophe. Jason will also try to have a Cal Poly Hotshot at the meeting. The Hotshots are Cal Poly students majoring in Forestry and they go out in the field to fight wildland fires. The student he is inviting was deployed during the recent major fires.

We will also be preparing to honor law enforcement at the May meeting, as we do every year. May is Law Enforcement Month, and we have traditionally honored someone as Officer or Law Enforcement Employee of the Year. This year we will change our focus to honor a Department, rather than a specific employee.

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

### **Fellow Companions and Friends**

The 2017 Annual Christmas Gala held at the newly renovated Camp San Luis Obispo Officers Club (Templeton Center) exceeded all expectations. The event was well attended by MOWW Companions, MOAA Members, family and guests. The facility was beautifully decorated and the meal was excellent. The "New Life Trio" provided entertainment consisting of foot stomping, traditional and sing-along Christmas carols.

Each member of the Trio was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding performance. In addition, LTC Angel Ortiz (the SLO Camp Commander) and COL Loren Weeks were each recognized and awarded a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation for sponsoring the arrangements for the facility and the EXCOM's have agreed to hold our next joint Christmas Gala at the same location. Again, our thanks go to LTC Ortiz and COL Weeks for their generous support. See page [for photos of the event](#).

During our Christmas Luncheon, Wayne Gretter was recognized and awarded a certificate as a "Friend of the Chapter". Wayne worked very closely with Chuck Ward during the design and construction of the American Heritage Monument. Wayne did all of the electrical work.

After construction Wayne was THE GUY to make sure the flags were lighted and in good shape. He would often remove some of the flags (the full American and the Betsy Ross flags fly together) to have them cleaned and/or replaced (Chuck would buy the flags). He also did the help-staff efforts. This continues after 4.5 years. As Chuck would say, he is "one of the good guys". Welcome aboard Wayne.

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

Last month I addressed the matter of dues, both National and our local chapter. We are starting a new year and this is a good time to put this matter to rest. When you come to our January meeting (and I really hope you will!) be ready to give Bonnie our treasurer the \$15 chapter dues for the year! Even if you are Perpetual member, you may want to consider tossing a little something her way "for the good of the order." To those who may not come to the meeting, you may find a reminder in your mailbox! I hope your holiday season has been a joyful one! Regardless of your political feelings, the country seems to be adjusting to a new administration with the markets reflecting strong growth, the unemployment numbers are down, and the illegal immigration numbers are also lower. There are a number of other indicators for us all to be proud of our country. Accordingly, this might be a good time for you to come forward and offer your time and talents for any of the many services our chapter provides for our local citizenry. I will be specifically identifying these in future comments.

## **Chaplains Corner**

The below 12 short stories are in lieu of a more somber religious message. Six presented in this newsletter and six next 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.)

1. Today I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research project I'm working on for my psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "*Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.*"
2. Today I asked my mentor – a very successful business man in his 70s – what his top 2 tips for success. He smiled and

said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

3. Today, after my 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go and with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."
4. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.
5. Today at 7 AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3 PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, and we chatted. He then offered me a job. I start tomorrow.
6. Today, as my father, three brothers and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said "*I feel ;so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often.*"

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

I know some will be bothered or upset about what I am writing, but these numbers have been verified more than once and are the latest figures available as of this writing. Certain elected representatives are continuing to demand stricter gun control laws. We need to take a closer look at the matter. ( For the record, I cannot justify anyone other than a licensed collector possessing a military style automatic or semi-automatic weapon.)

There are 30,000 gun related deaths per year by firearms in this country and this number is not disputed. As of June 22, 2016 the U.S. population was 345,059,091. (I don't think this includes illegal or otherwise undocumented).

To those of you so inclined, do the math: 0.000925 % of the population dies from gun related actions each year. Statistically speaking, this is insignificant! What we never hear however, is how these numbers break out. Let's take a closer look at how they relate:

\*65% of these deaths (19,500) are by suicide, which would never be prevented by gun laws.

\*15% (4,500) are by law enforcement in the line of duty and legally justified. (I know, I know!)

\*17% (5,100) are from criminal activity, gang and drug related, or by mentally ill persons –these are better known as "gun violence."

\*3% (900) are identified as accidental discharge deaths.

So technically, "gun violence" is not 30,000 annually, but really drops to 5,100. Is this still too many? Let's now look at how those deaths have occurred across the country.

\*480 homicides (9.4%) were in Chicago. Keep in mind what political party controls the city.

\*344 killings (6.7%) were in Baltimore. Again, who's in charge?

\*333 homicides (6.5%) were in Detroit. Ditto the above.

\*119 murders (2.3%) were in Washington D. C. Again, who's in charge of our nation's capital?

We can do the math and see that about 25% of all gun crime happens in just 4 cities. All 4 of these cities have very strict gun control laws, so it's not a lack of law that is the root cause of so-called "gun violence." This leaves 3,825 killings for the rest of the country, or about 75 deaths per state. However this is an average because some states had more than others (California had 1,169 and Alabama had 1.).

We know these 4 cities have very strict gun laws. California has the strictest gun laws of any state. You have heard the comment that guns don't kill people, people kill people. So are guns causing the problem? It seems evident that the crime rate is spawned by the number of criminals living in these cities and states. We know that not all cities and states are not created equal, so there must be something other than the tool (the gun) causing the gun deaths.

I think any rational person would agree that 5,100 deaths is horrific. But let's compare to other causes of death. Any death caused by violence is tragic and especially so when it is in the commission of a crime. But that's the nature of violent crime. Technically if a person has never been convicted of a crime, that person isn't legally a criminal. One the other hand robbery, murder (taking of another person's life), rape, assault, and some other offenses, are all done by criminals. Common sense tells us that criminals have little or no regard for the law and they have no intent to obey laws. This is

why, convictions or not, they're called criminals.

Now let's look at the other causes of death in our country.

\*40,000+ die from drug overdoses—how can we excuse this! We are now reading about this matter specifically as opiates, and hopefully our elected and non-elected officials are beginning to sit up and take notice. This is not an easy issue, so these numbers are inclusive of medically prescribed as well as other drug over-dosing.

\*36,000 die each year from influenza (flu), in spite of vaccines, a number far exceeding criminal gun murders.

\*34,000 people die each year in traffic accidents. (This number has continued to drop from a high of more than 50,000 a decade ago, mostly due to improved automobile safety features.) Again, a number exceeding gun deaths including suicides.

Now the story gets better:

\*200,000+ people die each year – and the number seems to be growing – from preventable medical errors! You are probably safer walking in the worst area of Chicago than going to a hospital! A 10% reduction in medical errors would be about 66% of the total number of gun deaths, or 4 times the number of criminal homicides. . . . Simple, easily preventable 10% reductions! So ask yourself: In the grand scheme of things, why are we so focused on guns?

\*710,000 people die from heart related disease. Maybe a closer look at double cheeseburgers? My point is this: The liberal leftists and the anti-gun folks focused their attention on heart disease matters; even a 10% decrease in related cardiac deaths would save twice as many lives annually as all the gun related deaths from all causes.

It's pretty simple:

Taking away guns gives control to our government (all levels). Our Founding Fathers knew this so regardless of the form of government, those in power tend to become corrupt and seek to run, just as the British did by trying to disarm the colonies. A disarmed population is a controlled population.

So the Second Amendment was proudly and boldly included in the Bill of Rights to the Constitution. The next time someone tries to tell you that gun control is about saving lives, you may want to cite some of the above numbers to that person. Noah Webster said: "*Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed.*"

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# MOWW Christmas 2017 Gala pictures by

**David Frayer**



Attendees



Opening Prayer



The Trio



Chow Line



Lou presenting  
certificate to Angel

Lou presenting  
certificate to Col Weeks

Lou presenting  
certificate to Wayne

## **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**

January 10th - MOWW EXCOM  
January 12th-MOAA Luncheon  
January 17th-MOWW Luncheon  
February 14th-MOWW EXCOM  
February 21st-MOWW Luncheon

The Military Order of the World Wars.

establish ...

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

memorials of the World Wars; and

To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of

To acquire and preserve records of individual services;

To promote the cultivation of military, naval, and air science and the adoption of a con-

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

Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of

To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;

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

**MOWW Preamble**