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Newsletter for May 2018

Website: MOWVANDENBERG.ORG

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Chapter Luncheon

The guest speaker for our May 16, Lunch meeting will be LTC Joseph Dzvonik, Professor of Military Science (PMS) at Cal Poly State ROTC.

Cal Poly's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps' class of 2017-18 is one of the largest in the university's recent history -- is among the top student groups in the nation. The Program had the fourth-highest average cadet order of merit scores among 281 U.S. colleges and universities across the country that have ROTC programs. That also includes senior military colleges such as Texas A&M, Virginia Military Institute and Valley Forge Military Academy and College. The unit has not been fourth in the nation before. The fact that the average of this entire graduation class is that high -- one of the highest performances that we have ever had -- shows that this graduating class is exceptional.

Six of the cadets were designated as Distinguished Military Graduates, individuals who rank in the top 20 percent of some 6,000 Army ROTC graduates nationwide.

LTC Dzvonik will describe what it took to achieve this outstanding recognition and answer other questions about his ROTC Program.

*Please RSVP to Jim Murphy
805-528-7565 or jlmurphy@calpoly.edu.
or Lou Stout 805-994-7051 or louisstout35@gmail.com.*

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

Those who were unable to attend the April Luncheon missed a one of a kind presentation. John Lindsey PG&E's Meteorologist, was entertaining while being very informative. We all learned a great deal about our local weather and what we can expect in the coming years. The scary part is that fires, mudslides and drought will be a part of our life for the foreseeable future. *Please refer to our website for more information and pictures.* mowvandenburg.org/activities page

Mark your calendar, our annual BBQ and outing will take place on June 2nd at Atascadero Park starting at 11:30 am. The Central Coast MOAA and the Vandenberg Chapter of MOWW will jointly sponsor the event. Beer, wine, drinks, BBQ and all the trimmings will be served. Family members and guests are invited. This is a fun time. More information will be provided by separated email. Also on June 7th we will be participating in awarding certificates and medals to several distinguished CALPOLY ROTC Cadets.

On June 20th at our monthly membership meeting, we will honor and recognize our local law enforcement. Look for the announcement in the June News Letter.

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

Iwo Jima flag raisings: The official statement ... 23 June 2016:

The U. S. Marine Corps has concluded that the previously unknown Marine is in the iconic flag raising image taken atop Mt. Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Researchers working on a Smithsonian Channel documentary about AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's iconic image approached the Marine Corps months ago to consider their theory that the identities of the flag raisers are incorrect. The Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Robert Neller, formed a review panel to consider all available images, film, statements and previous investigations. That panel and the Commandant came to the same conclusion: That one of the six men in the Rosenthal photograph was misidentified. The Marine Corps now believes Navy Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class John Bradley was not in the Rosenthal image, but was involved in the initial flag raising hours before the famous photo was taken. Based on evidence reviewed, another Marine, Private First Class Harold Schultz, from Detroit Michigan was the sixth man caught in the frame what is considered the most famous war photograph. "Our history is important to us, and we have a responsibility to ensure it's right," said Neller. "Although the Rosenthal image is iconic and significant, to Marines it's not about the individuals and never has been," according to Neller. "Simply stated, our fighting spirit is captured in that frame, and it remains a symbol of the tremendous accomplishments of our Corps ---what they did together and what they represent remains most important. [The official statement can be viewed on our website mowwvanderberg.org](http://mowwvanderberg.org)



Sr. Vice Commander: LT Ron Janney USNR (fmr).

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY • Peace Officers Memorial Day was created in May of 1961 by Congress, and was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on October 1, 1962. May 15 was designated as the day to honor and pay tribute to local, state, and Federal peace officers who have died in the line of duty. The week during which May 15 falls is designated as Police Week. On May 15, flags should be flown at half-staff to honor the fallen officers of our Nation. During Police Week, there are Ceremonies in Washington, DC; Sacramento, and here locally. The Ceremony at the Nation's Capital attracts from 25,000 to 40,000 officers and their families. The Ceremonies include the Blue Mass, Candlelight Vigil, Wreath Laying Ceremony, National Police Survivors' Conference, Honor Guard Competitions, and the Emerald Society Pipe Band March and Ceremony. The Ceremonies in Sacramento are much smaller, and the local Ceremony is sometimes at the Mission in San Luis Obispo and other times at the Faces of Freedom in Atascadero. This year the Ceremony will be at a new location. The Ceremony will be at Morro Rock in Morro Bay, and will be at 1000 hours on Thursday, May 17. This is just one day after our monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo. To honor our local Law Enforcement Officers, we select the Officer of the Year from all the agencies in the County, and have traditionally presented a certificate at our May meeting. However, this year the presentation will be made at the June Meeting. We will honor Sheriff Ian Parkinson, who is unable to attend our May meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The date of that meeting is June 20. We expect many members of the Sheriff's Department, as well as family members, and other members of law enforcement at the meeting. So plan to attend and be in uniform if possible, to honor our Sheriff. I hope to see you at Morro Rock on May 17 to honor the fallen officers in our State in 2018, and fly your flag at half-staff on May 15. May is Law Enforcement Month, as well as Armed Forces Month, so there are numerous ceremonies and events to keep us busy, and to keep the flag flying. We will again conduct the Lost at Sea Ceremony in Cayucos at 1500 hours on Memorial Day, which is May 28, the last Monday in May. Remember to fly your flag at half-staff until 1200 hours on Memorial Day, and then raise it to full-staff.

Adjutant: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

We've been too serious for too long, so I want to toss out a few words of wisdom and maybe bring a nod or smile to your daily life: These are not original with me, but I will not cite each source. (If you challenge me, I'll share my references!) When I was young there was no respect for the young, and now that I'm old there is no respect for the old. I missed coming and going. Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative. Like a lot of fellows out here, I have a furniture problem. My chest has fallen into my drawers. Fun is like insurance; the older you get, the more it costs. A diplomat is a man who always remembers his wife's birthday but never remembers her age. Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory. The young man who has not wept is a savage, and the old man who will not laugh is a fool. Inside every seventy/eighty =year old is a thirty five year old asking, "What happened?"

Member at Large Lt. Joe Brocato USN (Ret)

Uncommon Valor in San Luis Obispo

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue." That historic statement was made by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Chief of Naval Operations-Pacific Fleet to honor the bravery and sacrifice of Marines and Sailors who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. That quote has since been inscribed on the USMC War Memorial outside of Washington, DC and in the hearts and minds of patriotic Americans.

On April 19, four of the Americans who inspired Admiral Nimitz, came together at a luncheon at the home of Joseph and Diane Brocato where they were celebrated by members of The General Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter of The Military Order of the World Wars, their families and friends. Two were wounded and received Purple Heart Medals, all four received the Combat Action Ribbon. Three Marines: Corporals Benedict E. Bellefeuille (Purple Heart), Joseph H. Hale (both of Atascadero) and Karl Appel (Purple Heart) (San Luis Obispo) landed and fought on the beaches of Iwo Jima; while Lieutenant Thomas M. Coryell (Morro Bay), Gunnery Officer on the battleship USS Washington, provided cover fire for the men on the ground.



Photo by Dennis Eamon Young

L-R seated: Cpl Benedict Bellefeuille, Cpl Joe Hale, LT thomas Coryell, Cpl Karl Appel.
Standing L-R: LTC Louis Stout, MAJ Ernest Miller, MD, LTJG Joesph Brocato,
LT Ronald Janney & Cpl Timothy Haley

Chaplains Corner

WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU

*When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all the things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!
We part with our loved ones but not forever
If we trust God's promise and doubt it never.*

Helen Steiner Rice

WEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

108 Indio Drive

San Juan Capistrano, CA 93449

Address correction requested

Mark Your Calendar

Wed. May 9th - MOWW EXCOM

Fri. May 11th - MOAA Luncheon

Wed. May 16th - MOWW Luncheon

Sat. June 2nd - MOAA/MOWW BBQ

Wed. June 7th - ROTC Awards Ceremony

Wed. June 13th - MOWW EXCOM

Sat. June 16th ROTC Commissioning

Wed. June 20th - MOWW Lunch Honoring
Police Officers

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.