



Newsletter for September 2019

Website: MOWVANDENBERG.ORG

Header courtesy Eric Wand

Chapter Luncheon

Officers & Staff 2018 - 2019

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We will have a special joint meeting of MOAA and MOWW in September.

MOWW Companion Tim Haley, USMC (fmr) made a trip to Europe last summer and has put together an interesting slide presentation of the historic sites he visited. These include Belleau Wood and Normandy in France. Included in the Normandy visit are La Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, Normandy National Cemetery, St Mere Eglise Church, and other sites. He was to speak to the MOWW group at their September meeting

Both groups have expressed the interest to hear Tim's presentation. MOWW's meeting was scheduled on Friday,, September 13th at the Madonna Inn with MOAA. MOAA has a contract with Madonna Inn for September and attempted but were unable to reschedule the meeting from Friday to the following Wednesday to accomodate the MOWW date.

After much discussion it was decided to have the MOWW September meeting on Friday the 13th at the Madonna along with MOAA. We recognize this will cause some adjustment on the part of the MOWW companions but will be in the best interest of all of us.

We look forward to seeing you there and having Tim share his experience.

For Reservations

Major Jim Murphy at 805-528-7565 or
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Commander's Message: LTC Louis Stout

I find it hard to believe that we have been dark for two months considering all the recent events our chapter has been involved with. This includes, in early June, Commander Stout's participation in the annual Cal Poly ROTC Awards Ceremony on the campus at Cal Poly (see photos herewith) and the MOWW June 19th monthly luncheon which honored Boy Scout Troop 51 of Atascadero (see photo and event description below).

Cal Poly ROTC Awards Event: Four cadets were selected to receive MOWW Recognition, as Distinguished Military Graduates. Certificates were given the cadets as follows. MOWW Gold Award, Grant S. Lemen;

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MOWW Silver Award, Andrea M. Murgula; and MOWW Bronze award, Cadet Austin D. Beck. Cadet Christian Diebenow received the "William Sommermeyer Memorial Award". Certificates were presented on campus on June 6. MOWW Distinguished ROTC awards are presented to cadets that demonstrated continued desire to remain in ROTC, pursue a commission and have achieved academic excellence in the Cal Poly Military Science Program.



This last Chapter luncheon was focused entirely on the recognition of Boy Scout Troop 51 of Atascadero. They have assumed the responsibility of maintaining the 6'x10' American and 5'x8' Betsy Ross flags that fly at our American Heritage Monument in Atascadero. This includes changing the flags when they become weather worn, cleaning the flags when needed, and lowering the flags to half-mast at the appropriate times. The Chapter does their provide the new flags but their support is more than appreciated, and very much needed!

The troop was represented by 6 boys ranging in rank from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout. Troop leaders included Dr. Sage Hider, Assistant Scoutmaster; Nicole Hider, Troop Committee Chair; and Tracey Collier, Troop Advancement Chair.

Each of the boys shared with the group some of their experiences from being a scout, and they all did an excellent job speaking to us.

Dr. Hider and Nicole presented an overview of scouting in general and Troop 51 in particular. The Troop currently has 45 boys and they do a number of community service projects, as well as having fun and developing skills in meetings, at camps, and in their community service. Boy Scouts are governed by a manual that describes how troops are run and how the boys can progress from one rank to another. Classic example of doing it "by the book".

The Boy Scouts program gives the boys the opportunity to develop life skills, including camaraderie, working with each other and the general public, sporting skills, and leadership within the troop. The result being some fine young men with thanks to their adult support staff.

The program ended with two of the scouts folding a hemmed/cleaned Betsy Ross flag. A couple of new flags were presented to Dr. Hider and Commander Lou gave a nice recognition plaque and a check for \$200 to the troop.



Adjutant: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

Attitude. Sometimes a person will ask me why am I so happy, so content? I respond by asking “What are the alternatives?” Certainly as I look back on my life, one could say that with the loss of loved ones, time and again, and the times I have spent on foreign lands away from those loved ones. Yet I am reminded of some words of wisdom on this subject by Charles Swindoll.

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than facts. It is more important than the failures than the successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home.

“The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past . . . we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude.

“I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with each of us . . . we are in charge of our attitudes.” I think that projecting a positive attitude is infectious; in times of trial, a positive attitude often is the difference between success and failure in any endeavor.

Chaplain: MAJ Jim Murphy, USMC (Ret)

I don't have a name to offer credit for these words, but I think, especially as we have lost loved ones and dear friends---it seems every week I read the name of a friend who is no longer of this earth. So when you are sad and grieving, please consider these thoughts:

To Those I Love & Those Who Love Me: When I am gone, release me, let me go; I have so many things to see and do. You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears, be happy that we had so many years. I gave you my love; you can only guess how much happiness. I thank you for the love you have shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone. So grieve a while for if grieve you must then let your grief be comforted by trust. It's only for a while that we must part so bless your memories within your heart. I won't be far away, for life goes on so if you need me, call and I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near and if you listen with your heart, you'll hear all of my love around you soft and clear. And then, when you must come this way, I'll greet you with a smile and say, “Welcome Home.”

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

A while ago I commented on a talk by a Navy SEAL, now a retired admiral. I was reminded of him again when I came across these words—and I'll comment on what he said as I proceed.

Heads Up! Just before you go to sleep tonight, check this list:

When you woke up this morning, how did you feel? Were you looking forward to the day and all that you might accomplish? Did you have a song in your heart? Did you make your bed? The Admiral made a big point of this: Make your bed every morning as best you can. Then whatever happens throughout the day, you'll know that you did something to the best of your abilities! Did you eat a good breakfast? A cup of coffee and a sweet roll don't count. Throughout the day, are you active, and caring for what you put into your body? A little exercise will help keep you both physically and mentally well. Did you read something interesting, and did you learn something new? Were you polite not only to friends and family, but to strangers as well? Did you accomplish any chores or tasks around the house? Maybe even some that you've been putting off! Did you reach out to a friend or neighbor, even just to chat and exchange pleasantries? Did you make sure that you spent less than you earned today? Doing so is sensible planning for your future! Did you read a newspaper and maybe watch a newscast, especially as unbiased as possible? Do you get a good night's rest? And did you make sure your personal hygiene is correct including brushing your teeth, (twice a day, at least!)? If you've considered these factors, and have made the honest effort to achieve them, you can go to sleep knowing you've left the world just a little bit better than the day before!

GEN Hoyt S. Vandenberg Chapter

Military Order of World Wars

Executive Committee

108 Indio Drive

Shell Beach, CA 93440

Address correction requested

Mark Your Calendar

Wed. Sept.4th - EXCOM MOAA 9:00am
Wed, Sept.4th - EXCOM MOWW 9:31am
Elks Club, SLO
Fri. Sept. 13th - MOWW & MOWW
Joint Luncheon 11:30am
Madonna Inn, SLO

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.