



# The Patriot

## General J. P. Holland Chapter

Military Order of World Wars  
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Volume 6 - Edition 6 May - June 2020

National Website

[www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org)

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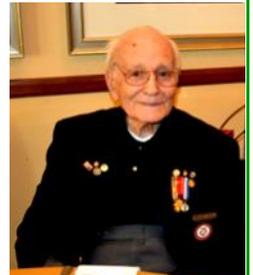
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## *John Cantor Celebrates 103rd Birthday*

CWO 4 John Cantor will remember his 103rd birthday as a "Very Special" day. Another special day was April 26, 1917, the day John Cantor was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. John's Family moved to Detroit, Michigan when he was a young boy and grew up there during the Great Depression. In 1934 John enlisted in the United States Navy. During World War II, he was based in Newfoundland supporting the U.S., British, and Canadian Fleets. John also served on the US Midway during the Korean War. After 30 years of Naval Service, Chief Warrant Officer Four John Cantor retired in 1965 and began working for the State Division of Highways, then handled exhibits for the County of San Diego Superior Court. John married the love of his life, Lois, a year after he joined the Navy, and finally moved to Rancho Bernardo, CA on July 4th, 1971 where they started their family. After more than 77 years of marriage, John and Lois have 2 daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. John has been a member of the Fleet Reserve for 57 years, the Military Order of World Wars for 36 years, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 30 years.

John's 103rd birthday started early that Sunday morning. At 1030, former California Governor Pete Wilson called John to wish him a very wonderful and Happy Birthday. At 1100, a personal parade began in front of his home in Rancho Bernardo. The parade was lead by a large fire truck, with sirens alerting John's neighbors that that something special had begun. John's neighbors and friends poured out into the street in front of his house to sing happy Birthday and wish him the Happiest of Days. The fire truck was followed by two police cars and a line of 16 motorcycles from American Legion 149. The leader of the motorcycles presented John with 43 birthday cards from Legionaries from throughout the country, and as far east as Ohio. From the USS Midway and other Naval organizations, John received 65 emails, wishing him Health and Happiness. John also received many birthday cards through the US Postal service. In all, John received 150 birthday cards and emails.

Two local Television stations, Ch - 8 and Ch - 9, sent their reporters out to interview John on this momentous occasion. At 1400, John's church congregation, from the Light Bridge Congregation showed up with 20 cars and began to circle around John's street for 30 minutes. They would slow down and sing "Happy Birthday" to John and wish him Health and Happiness. By 1430 the parade of cars disappeared as they had appeared and John had the rest of the afternoon to enjoy the beautiful birthday cake that John was presented that afternoon. John also received a Proclamation from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.





# For the Good of the Order

## Commander's Corner



*Dear Companions and Friends of the Chapter,*

*I am proud to inform you that we will have inducted four new Companions this past year by the June 6, 2020, Capt Terrence C. Contrell, USMC, (FMR) (RM), MAJ Davis M. Yorck, USMC (RM), Sheila Hershberger (HPM), David Herbka (HPM), 33% over the Chapter quota for the 2019 year.*

*The epidemic virus event has forced the Chapter and MOWW in general, to change the way we conduct our daily business. The last Holland Chapter General Meeting was held on March 7, 2020. By late March, the United States was in lock down, and the CINC of MOWW has properly given all chapters the direction to temporarily cease holding face to face Chapter meetings. We complied and the Holland Chapter developed new policy to keep in touch with our Companions.*

*Thanks to Chapter Friend, Alex Robertson, we conducted a Chapter Business Meeting by teleconference April 22, 2020. By May 1st we held our first practice zoom meeting, with six members. May 11, 2020, the Holland Chapter held their first General Meeting on zoom with eight members checking in. During the meeting, the slate of New Officers were introduced, discussed, and selected by vote of the quorum present. We also discussed holding the installation, on June 6, 2020, on the zoom meeting. Past CINC Debbie Kash will induct a new member (HPM) and install the 2021 Officer Staff. (continued on page 3)*

Calendar of Events	Birthdays	
<p><u>General Meeting - May 11, 2020. Election of 2020-2021 Officers, on Zoom.</u></p> <p><u>Business Meeting - May 4, 2020. Practice Zoom Meeting.</u></p> <p><u>General Meeting - June 6, 2020. GS - , Installation of Officers. Induction of HPM - David Herbka</u></p> <p><u>Business Meeting - June 18, 2020, on Zoom</u></p>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
	None	5th Diane Herbka
<b>Anniversaries</b>		
	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
	5th Francine & David Yorck	4th Kay & Tom Lettington
		29th Arnold & Phyliss Regardie



## For the Good of the Order

### Commanders Corner

*The CINC rescinded his previous letter suspending all MOWW activities, on May 9, 2020. Since MOWW is a national organization, the CINC has approved the resumption of MOWW events on 1 June 2020. The CINC added 2 stipulations that Chapters "must abide by all current and future Federal, State, and local guidance, directives and orders" and that "as we begin resuming regular chapter operations we must do so for the good of the Order by safeguarding Companion health and safety." The Staff agreed that the June meeting should be conducted on zoom. The July 4, 2020 General Meeting was cancelled months ago, since it fell on the day that most Companions are involved with Patriotic ceremonies in Rancho Bernardo and Webb Park. The RBVMA and the Spirit of the 4th Committees agreed to cancel all Independence Day Events with perhaps the Fireworks display*

#### **The Holland Chapter General Meeting On July 4, 2020 is cancelled**

*Memorial Day events at Webb Park are cancelled. However, Memorial Day morning, at sunrise, at Webb Park, BGEN Paul Lebidine will lower the flag to half-staff, and then later at Noon, raise the flag to full-staff (in accordance with Memorial Day Flag Etiquette). A wreath will be placed at the Memorial on Memorial Day at 1000 and retrieved later that evening. Merv Adams & Sam Sugarman (VFW Post 7766) volunteered to place the wreath at the RBVMA Memorial, with General Lebidine in support.*

#### **BGEN JP Holland Chapter General Meeting, June 6, 2020, 1100am, on Zoom.**

*Please join us in this new adventure in communications. Alex Robertson will send out the instructions and link to get you to the meeting. Don will make sure you receive the email form Alex.*

*PCINC Debbie Kash will induct David Herbka (HPM) and Install New Chapter Officers (2021). Our Guest Speaker is Assistant US Attorney Paul Starita.*

***"It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served"***



# For the Good of the Order

## Pictures from the March General Meeting

March 7, 2020





## For the Good of the Order

### Guest Speaker June 6, 2020

#### Paul Starita

Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California



From 2004 to present, *Mr Starita serves as an Assistant United States Attorney (federal prosecutor)* in the Southern District of California investigating and prosecuting felony offenses involving corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime, criminal immigration, money laundering, fraud and violent crime. Additionally, he prosecutes affirmative civil enforcement matters involving health care and procurement fraud as well as Controlled Substances Act violations.

Since departing active duty in 2002, Mr Starita has served in the Marine Corps Reserve in a myriad of legal assignments. In 2012, he was selected to serve as the Senior Military Judge for the Marine Corps Reserve. As a Colonel, he continues to preside over cases and supervises eight other Reserve Military Judges who presided over cases throughout the United States.

### Guest Speaker August 1, 2020

#### Tom Rice - USA Paratrooper



Tom Rice, member of the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division during WWII, jumped into Normandy, on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Seventy-five years later, Tom jumped over the spot in Normandy, as he did in 1944. In 2019, he jumped in tandem, making his jump over the same area as he did 75 years earlier.

Tom was born and raised in Coronado, California, and still lives in the same house today. His father died in a naval aircraft crash in 1934. Tom was an athlete and college student when he volunteered to join the USA. Parachuting came natural to Tom and fed his desire to be a risk taker and thrill seeker. Tom will talk about his training, jumping experiences and D-Day jump. Finally, Tom will share the excitement of jumping from a C-47 over Normandy at the age of 97.





## For the Good of the Order

### Guest Speaker September 5 2020



#### LCDR William H. LaBarge

Bill is a former Navy Carrier Pilot, Airline Captain, and a New York Times Bestselling Author. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America, National Bestselling Author of Aviation Book of the year, "Sweetwater Gunslinger 201," along with "Hornets Nest," "Road to Gold," and "Desert Voices." His latest book, "Lightning Strikes Twice," is being looked at for a feature film, and a TV series. He served as an advisor to the movies, *Final Countdown*, *Top Gun*, *Fire Fox*, and the TV series (*JAG*.)

"**Lightning Strikes Twice**," is an adaptation of New York Times bestselling author, William H. LaBarge's novel "Lightning Strikes Twice." Bill LaBarge was a twenty-three year Navy Carrier Pilot veteran, was involved in special operation project, and an airline pilot for twenty years. The story is based on real circumstances that if left unchecked will come to fruition. As a result, the audience will be taken on an action packed adventure and inside the Navy and across the globe, in efforts to thwart a nuclear threat, that if realized, will undo the balance of power and could lead to the total destruction of the US and Israel. Audiences will have a true sense of patriotism while restoring core values of our military and the American Dream of freedom for all.

### Guest Speaker October 3, 2020



#### Lawyer John Shu

Mr. John Shu is an attorney and expert on political issues, constitutional law, business and financial law, litigation and regulatory affairs, the U.S. Supreme Court, and confirmations. He is a regular columnist and media analyst and commentator. Mr. Shu served both President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush. He also served Judge Paul Roney, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and Presiding Judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review; and Judge Stanley Sporkin, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, who formerly served as Director of Enforcement at the Securities

& Exchange Commission and General Counsel at the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Shu also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary. Mr. Shu has lectured and published articles on a wide variety of issues such as constitutional law, securities and corporate law, regulatory affairs, administrative law, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, appellate advocacy, antitrust law, intellectual property, and international affairs.



## For the Good of the Order

Letter of Appreciation March 7, 2020

*CJ Machado*



# *CJ Machado*

*The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely thank you for sharing the inspiring story of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion to Liberate Europe. We are proud, that you keep the memory of these Veterans alive and vivid in the minds of our younger generations. We thank you for sharing this day with our Companions and Guests and wish you the very Best in your future endeavors.*

*“Fair Winds and Following Seas”*

*March 7, 2020*

*Nicholas S. Herbka*

*BGEN JP Holland Chapter Commander*





# For the Good of the Order

## *Quilt of Valor*

### *Presented to Max Gurney*

*The Quilt of Valor was presented to Max Gurney, Intel Officer on General Patton's staff during WWII.. Presenting the Quilt of Valor is Kay and Tom Lettington, and Tom's sister.*





# Memorial Day Message

## Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

Paul H. Atterbury - President, Board of Directors

### *The Board of Directors of the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association*

*Join me* in extending sincere best wishes to all. As our Nation endures and overcomes the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we also offer heartfelt condolences for those suffering loss and or economic hardship. Though it is necessary to cancel our annual Memorial Day Ceremony, conveying this Memorial Day Message helps us to remain steadfast in our commitment to honor the military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

**The twenty-five year history of Memorial Day** ceremonies at the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial demonstrates the patriotism of many people throughout our entire community who each year work together to help fulfill the purpose of this national observance. While many local veterans are involved, the success of our programs also depends upon the contributions of many people with no personal military experience. The ceremonies are inclusive community gatherings with men, women, and youth from all walks of life.

The hard work of our many volunteers is justified by the long-lasting positive impacts from each Memorial Day Ceremony. The gatherings cultivate feelings of gratitude, as well as an appropriate combination of humility and pride. The honoring of our war dead and those who died while in military service inspire many to enhance their own contributions to the greater good. Our programs intentionally include many youth in order to provide them an opportunity to participate in patriotic events that encourage both public service and a commitment to life-long responsible citizenship. The social interactions and fellowship that occurs at the Memorial Day Ceremony ultimately make us better people — individually and collectively.

Fortunately the inability to host a public observance this Memorial Day does not diminish the importance of the day. Nor does it hinder *our* ability — personally or in small groups — to mourn and honor our fallen military personnel. However, the most meaningful commemorations of Memorial Day include public events with ceremonial acts of respect and gratitude.

***In addition to the annual Memorial Day Ceremony,*** the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association, the Major Abraham J. Baum Post 7766 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the General J.P. Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars collectively host annual Independence Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Each of these events depend upon financial support from donors, grant monies from the Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation, and many volunteers.





# Memorial Day Message (continued from page 9)

## Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

Paul H. Atterbury - President, Board of Directors

*High school and college age students help local veterans distribute dozens of flyers throughout our community advertising our events. Volunteers fulfill the varied logistical requirements for the observances and programs. We benefit from many individuals as well as volunteer groups like the Northrop Grumman Rancho Bernardo VERITAS Community Services (Veterans, Employees, Reservists, Inspired to Act and Serve). Boy Scouts of America Troop 685 are deserving of special recognition for participating in every ceremony at our Memorial since its dedication nearly twenty-six years ago. Groups like the Westview High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Corps Detachment often provide a color guard. There are volunteer soloist, musical performers, keynote speakers, and many others.*

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*The Rancho Bernardo Spirit of the Fourth Committee positively impacts our annual Independence Day event as does the Bernardo Winery which loans us their historic bell for use in our Independence Day program. The local businesses in and around Webb Park help accommodate the crowds that our ceremonies generate and the Pearl Restaurant permits us to use their outdoor patio as a location for our audio equipment. The Bernardo Town Center Property Owners Association supports our functions. Moreover, there is the dependable reporting of our events by the Rancho Bernardo News Journal and occasional news coverage by other media outlets.*

*Our Memorial Day Ceremonies purposefully coincide with and immediately follow the Annual Pancake Festival honoring the military that our friends and supporters from the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society proudly host. Every Memorial Day Ceremony includes performances by the Rancho Bernardo High School Madrigals Choir (led by Director Lisa Friedrichs), making our programs more meaningful and special. In recent years, the generosity of Branches Floral Studio includes a wreath for our Memorial Day observance.*

*The Memorial Day and other annual patriotic ceremonies at the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial are relevant, viable, and fundamentally important to our community. It is inspiring how so many members of our community are working to ensure these ceremonies continue indefinitely. This one time we are unable to gather together for Memorial Day does not deter us from pursuing meaningful work, cultivating healthy relationships, taking care of each other, and remaining loyal to the values that distinguish our Nation. Living life in this way truly honors our war dead and other fallen heroes from our Armed Forces.*

*The strength of our Memorial Association enables us to resume leading our annual ceremonies when prohibitions against public gatherings cease. Plan to join us. In the meantime, please contact me or any officer of our Association if you have a need, question, or concern that we may be able to assist.*





# For the Good of the Order



## Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, LT USN (Ret), NAVY SEAL

### KNOCKING ON HEAVENS DOOR

Many of us older folks remember a song that became somewhat popular during the early 70s titled

“Knocking on Heavens Door”. This timeframe coincides with the latter years of the Vietnam War. As I drove my personal vehicle in the USA listening to popular songs awaiting another deployment to Vietnam, I recall the song “Knocking on Heaves Door”.

Being aware that I would be placed in situations that may result in my demise, I often thought of the words in this song. One of the phrases in the song is “Take this badge off of me” stands out. Granted, I didn’t wear a badge but did wear a Navy SEAL trident. Many former and current military individuals wore or wear: aviator wings, parachute wings, or combat infantry badges to name a few.



***“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him” Psalm 28:7***

Another phrase in the song: “Mama put these guns in the ground” also stands out somewhat profoundly to me. Before my tours in Vietnam, I participated in a wide range of competitive pistol shooting events. This episode involved me owning several personal weapons. Shortly after the war, I gave away all of my weapons to aspiring pistol competitors. This was my way of letting go of some of my former traumatic combat experiences.

Currently, many individuals are experiencing somewhat similar emotions wondering if they or their loved ones may soon be knocking on heaven’s door. As observed in the below photograph of Jesus knocking on a door without outside handles, we are responsible for trusting in a higher power to protect us during this somewhat challenging time.