



The Patriot

General J. P. Holland Chapter

Military Order of World Wars
15561 Paseo Jenghiz, San Diego, CA 92129 * 858-254-4905
www.jphollandmoww.org



Volume 4 - Edition 3

November - December 2017

National Website

www.moww.org

Avenue of Heroes Honors LT Carl Swebston

In this edition

- LT Carl Swebston Receives Quilt of Valor
- Commander's Corner - SDYLC
- January 6th Guest Speaker - Cal Watson, why the USA had a Civil War
- February 3rd Guest Speaker-BGEN Paul Lebidine, History and Milestones in Afghanistan
- April 7th Guest speaker - VADM Robert Thomas as U.S. treaty alliances in the Indo-Pacific
- Bruce McCandless, 1st person to fly untethered in space
- Pictures from September Meeting
- Pictures from October Meeting
- Outstanding Service Medal - Diane Herbka
- Letter of Appreciation - Colette Alford
- Letter of Appreciation - Tom Lettington
- Edmee Lucille Flory
- Chaplin's Corner



The Avenue of Heroes Program is a military service recognition program sponsored by the City of Coronado. The inspiration for Coronado's Avenue of Heroes came spontaneously with the movement of two Navy SEALs to their final resting place. The news spread quickly. The local Rotary Club passed out American flags, schools were dismissed early and teachers brought students to line Fourth Street to honor the fallen service members. As the procession approached the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, just beyond the toll booth in the center divide, a lone Navy SEAL stood for hours at attention, saluting as he waited for the passage of his comrades. At that moment, it was clear that **Third and Fourth Streets were an Avenue of Heroes.**

venue of Heroes.

Carl Swebston - written by John Tato



Lieutenant Carl E. Swebston joined the Navy in 1959. His first assignment was Navy Beachmaster-BMU 1West Pac Detachment. In 1962 Carl graduated from UDTRA Class 28, and he served in UDT-11, UDT-21, UDT-22, and SEAL Team One. He is Explosive Ordinance Disposal Qualified and did four deployments to Vietnam in 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1969. Carl served as a point man for a SEAL platoon in Vietnam and made two tours as a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit Advisor-CIA Phoenix program. He worked in the Navy Marine Mammal Program and held the rates/ranks of E-1 through E-7, W-1 through W-4, and O-1 through O-3. Carl was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for Valor, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy Unit Citations, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal with 6+ stars, Vietnamese Cross of gallantry, Navy Good conduct Medal, and a Combat Action Ribbon. He retired from the Navy in 1979 with an honorable discharge. Carl earned his GED in the Navy in addition to his bachelor's degree in behavior science from Westminister College and master's degree in counseling psychology from National University. He became a California licensed marriage and family therapist and was an Assistant Principal/Counselor at Julian High School, counselor at the Borrego Springs School district, and college adjunct faculty member at Palomar College. Carl is a FAA licensed pilot and a former flight leader of the Young Eagles at Ramona Airport.

continued on page 2

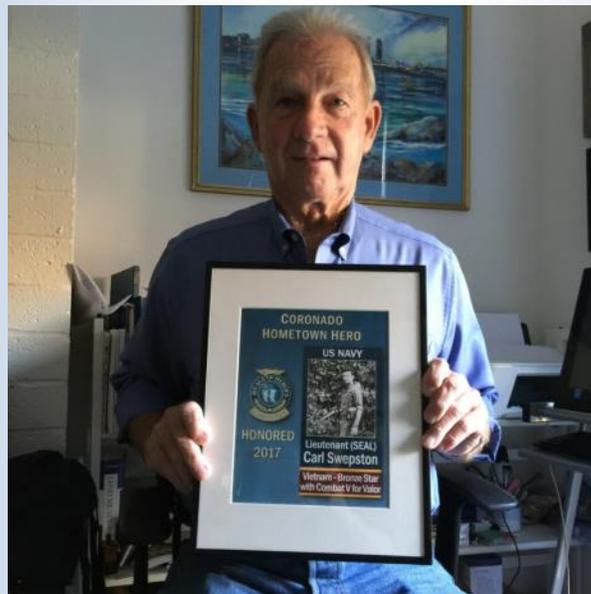


For the Good of the Order

LT Carl Swepston Honored

Continue on page 3

He is on the board of the Final Honor Funeral Carriage, Military Order of World Wars - General JP Holland - Rancho Bernardo Chapter and the Old Frogs and SEALs. He continues to contribute to the community and is blessed to live in San Diego with a wife, son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. He has four siblings in Ohio. He would like to dedicate any and all accolades to his fallen teammates.



Continued from page 1



For the Good of the Order

LT Carl Swepston Honored

November 2017 Honorees

(Listed in

alphabetical Order by Last Name)

Alfred J. Allega

George H. W. Bush

Louis de Beer

M. Spence Dry

James W. Hardy

Francis R. Kaine

Peter L. Litrenta

James C. Lonnon

Richard "Dick" Lyon

Hoyt D. Mann

Edmund J. Mansueto

Phillip "Moki" Martin

Richard R. Pratt

William H. "Buck" Rogers

Elliot Schubert

Carl E. Swepston

William B. Thomas

(Names italicized are Chapter Companions or Guest speakers)



For the Good of the Order

Commander's Corner



Dear Companions and Friends of the Chapter—I

Although we will be starting a New Year Soon (2018), our MOWW fiscal year is half over. What have we accomplished in the last six months “For The Good of the Order?” We have one new member, Don Alford, LCOL, USAF (Ret). We have had very fine Guest Speakers, thanks to our Guest Speaker Committee. We have presented one Quilt of Valor, and presented three Silver Patrick Henry Medallions, and one Outstanding Service Medal. I believe, if we work together on New Memberships, identifying Companions and deserving members of our Community, to whom we may present a MOWW award, our Chapter will grow and prosper. Contact any of our Officers or Award Committee persons to get the “Ball Rolling.”

I am asking all our Companions, Friends of the Chapter, and those new members, yet to become Companions, to give generously (tax deductible) to our SDYLC fund. We supported 10 high school students last year. Most of the funds came from an extra stipend from the MOWW National Organization, last fiscal year. Perhaps I did not get the word out well enough last year. This year I will make sure all our Companions our aware of the YLC cause. It is never to early to donate. Let’s start in January and continue through May 2018.

I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of our Companions and their Families, a very Healthy, Happy and Joyous New Year. God Bless You All.

Calendar of Events	Birthdays	
<p><u>General Meeting Jan 6th</u> GSP - Cal Watson - What really caused the Civil War</p> <p><u>General Meeting Feb 3rd</u> General Meeting Jan 6th GSP - BGEN Paul Lebidine - History and milestones in Afghanistan</p> <p><u>Business Meeting - Jan 11th, IHOP/RB 0930</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u></p> <p>6th Dave Pointek 9th Earl Wentworth 23rd Carl Swepston 25th Dorene LeCault 25th Charles Ham</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p>11th Gary Linden 16th Tom Lettington 19th Jerry Hetherington 30th Jessica O’Brien 30th Dianne Hirning</p>
Anniversaries		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">none</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>none</u></p>



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker January 6th

Cal Watson



The United States was the only country to fight a catastrophic Civil War before ending Slavery. This nation of peoples of shared ancestry and shared national prosperity engaged militarily to define the union, a union without slavery. The economic and social-political events that led to such a momentous conclusion. The discussion will include the various polarizing factors, with both internal and external factors, present in the same timeframe that

led to the dramatic sectional rift.

*"Currently enjoying retirement from an engineering career that involved residences on all three coasts. **Graduate of University Southern California (USC) with degrees in Chemical Engineering.** Working life was in oil processing and in high tech electronics and included much travel to Europe. A long time passion has been an interest in the American Civil War and has led to **visits to virtually all the battlefields.** An extension of this interest involves United States History primarily of the 19th century. Retirement has allowed time for reading and much of this has been in United States History. I am a past president of the **Continuing Education Center at Rancho Bernardo CEC/RB** and a presenter of historical subjects." the CEC/RB is housed in a retirement facility called Seacrest Village located on Monte Vista Road.*



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker February 3, 2018

BGEN Paul Lebidine



BGEN Paul Lebidine will provide a brief history and milestones of the US/NATO actions in Afghanistan since 9-11, and then provide an analysis of President Trump's strategy for Afghanistan and how best to define success into the future.

In 1984, Brigadier General Lebidine enlisted in the Marine Corps in Philadelphia, Pa, and graduated Honor man at MCRD Parris Island.

In 1986, after being meritoriously promoted to corporal, he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program. After completion of OCS, Basic School, Army Ranger School, and Airborne training, he served as a Platoon Commander and Company Executive Officer in 1st Battalion, 4th Marines (MEU-SOC). His second deployment included Operation Desert Shield/

Storm.

In 1994, after a tour at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, in which he served as a Series Officer, Headquarters Company Executive Officer, and Protocol Officer for the Commanding General, he served at 4th Light Armored Vehicle Battalion as the Delta Company Commander, and the Battalion Executive Officer.

In 2003, Brigadier General Lebidine deployed as the Executive Officer of the I Marine Headquarters Group, I MEF, for Operation Iraqi Freedom I. He eventually constructed and served as the Camp Commander of Camp Babylon,, Iraq.

In 2004, Brigadier General Lebidine served as the Battalion Commander of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines.

In 2006, Brigadier General Lebidine deployed and served as the Senior Advisor to an Iraqi Army Brigade in Al Qaim, Iraq.

In 2007, BGen Lebidine served as the Operations Officer for 3D Civil Affairs Group.



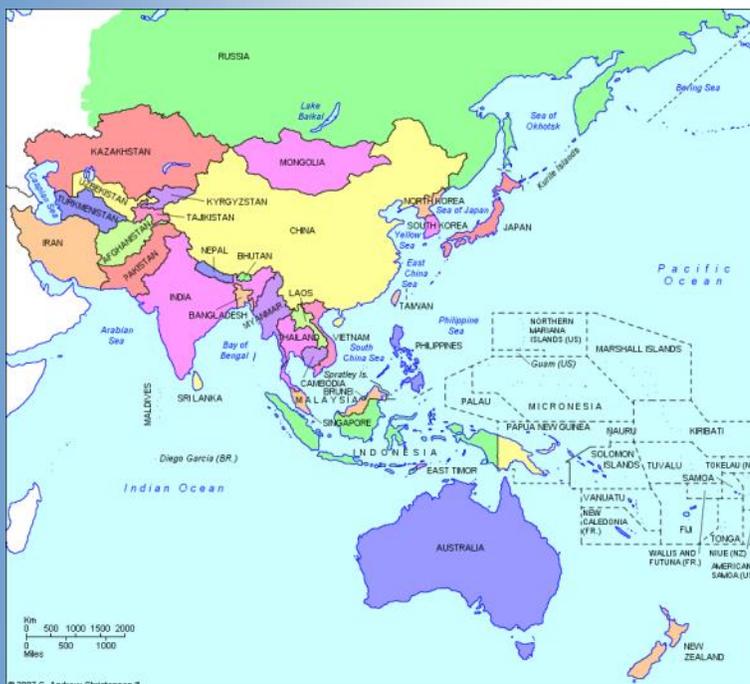
For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker April 7, 2018

Vice Admiral Robert Thomas



Vice Admiral Robert Thomas, U.S. Navy (retired) will present an examination of the current state of U.S. treaty alliances in the Indo-Pacific. He will discuss the military to military relationships that support treaties with Japan, Korea, Australia, Thailand, and the Philippines. As a former U.S. Seventh Fleet Commander, VADM Thomas will use this framework to provide an update on security issues in the region, to include the continuing military challenges presented by North Korea, China, and Russia.



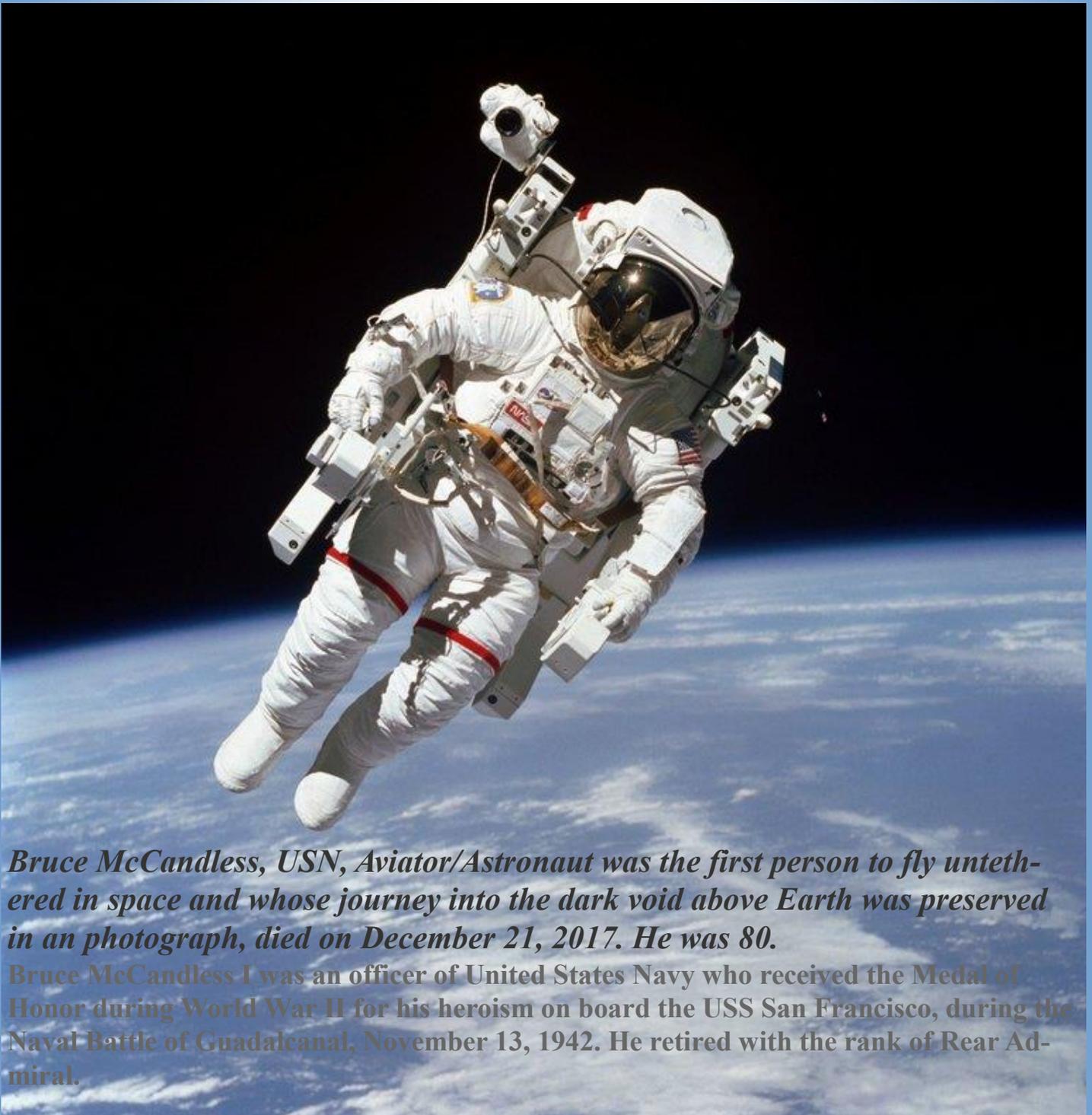
Vice Adm. Thomas retired from the U.S. Navy in early 2017. He then accepted an appointment as a Senior Research Fellow with the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). In his last operational assignment, Vice Adm. Thomas commanded the U.S. 7th Fleet. Vice Adm. Thomas graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He holds a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the National War College in Washington, DC.



For the Good of the Order

Bruce McCandless

The first person to fly untethered in space



Bruce McCandless, USN, Aviator/Astronaut was the first person to fly untethered in space and whose journey into the dark void above Earth was preserved in an photograph, died on December 21, 2017. He was 80.

Bruce McCandless I was an officer of United States Navy who received the Medal of Honor during World War II for his heroism on board the USS San Francisco, during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, November 13, 1942. He retired with the rank of Rear Admiral.



For the Good of the Order

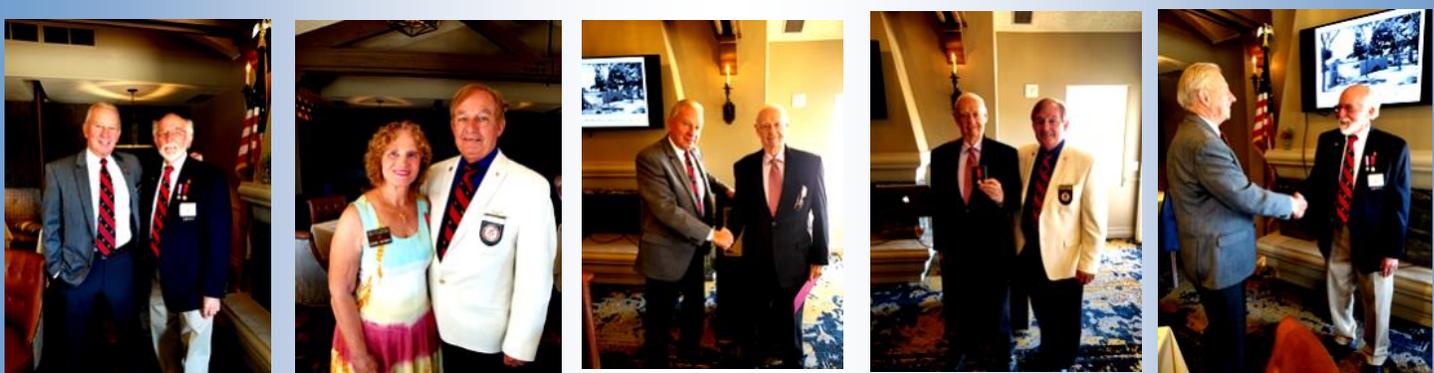
Pictures from the September Meeting





For the Good of the Order

Pictures from the October Meeting





For the Good of the Order

Outstanding Service Award for September



Outstanding Service Medal

Presented to

Diane Herbka

*For outstanding Leadership, Dedication, Patriotism, and Loyalty
To the General J. P. Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars.
You accepted the call to duty as the Chapter Treasurer in July 2015. You organized and handled the position with extreme attention to detail and record keeping. You continue your superb work for the 3rd consecutive year. Your companions deeply appreciate your hard work and dedication.*

September 2, 2017

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander



For the Good of the Order

Certificate of Appreciation for September



Letter of Appreciation

Presented to

Colette Alford

The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely thank you for sharing your most informative and exciting story, of your life as a young girl, living in Normandy before, during, and after the D-Day Allied Invasion. Your Heartfelt presentation was most inspiring. We wish you the very Best in your future endeavors.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

September 2, 2017

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander



For the Good of the Order

Certificate of Appreciation for September



Letter of Appreciation

Presented to

Commander Tom Lettington

The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely thank you for sharing the incredible Story of "The Battle Off Samar." We were most intrigued by the bravery and courage of the "Tin Can Navy" sailors and the unstoppable Leadership of their Captains. We wish you the very Best in your future endeavors.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

October 7, 2017

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander



For the Good of the Order

Edmée Lucille Flory

Born: July 8, 1921 - Died: November 1, 2017

The Passing of a Companion



Edmée Lucille Flory, much-loved mother and grandmother, passed away November 1st. She was happily looking forward to the upcoming holidays with her children and their families. However, on October 31st, she fell and sustained a bone fracture; the following day, Edmée died unexpectedly and yet peacefully, of complications resulting from her injury.

She will be given military honors in a small gathering at Eternal Hills, Oceanside. Date and time are yet to be determined by the family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, the love of her life, John Winston Flory, LTC U.S. Army. Also preceding Edmée was her infant son, Craig Francis Flory, her parents, Edmond D. Gaucher, Sr. and Ella G. (St. Laurent) Gaucher, four sisters, Jeanne Stair, Colette Watt, Mireille Montroy, Gabrielle Abbott, and a brother, Richard Gaucher.

She is survived by her son, David Flory and daughter-in-law Marcy Flory of Escondido, CA, and her daughter Ramelle Richardson and son-in-law Oscar Richardson of Spokane, WA. Edmée also leaves behind five grand-children, Lanae Herlevic, Melody Flory, Michael Flory, Ryan Richardson, Erin (Richardson) Smith, and seven great-grandchildren, as well as her brother Edmond D. Gaucher, Jr. of Prescott, AZ, and her sister Clarisse Rappé of Phoenix, AZ.

In 1972 Edmée and John moved from Sherman Oaks, CA to San Marcos where Edmée was a faithful member of St. Mark's Catholic Church for 44 years. She trusted in the Lord for a happy future with Him and with all those she loved.

Both Edmée and John were very active members of the J.P. Holland chapter of the Military Order of World Wars, from 1972 to 1995. While involved in the MOWW (which John referred to as the Maudlin Order of Wobbly Warriors) Edmée participated with enthusiasm and dedication in many social and military functions which included aiding her husband in his volunteer work with the local ROTC. She also worked alongside her husband, John, on many naturalization ceremonies. They enjoyed several memorable vacations and road trips before John passed away in 1995. Edmée enjoyed singing songs in French, listening to the music of Edith Piaf, and singing along with the soundtrack from Abba's "Mamma Mia!" Her pastimes were knitting, reading and chatting on the phone with her five sisters and two brothers (in French) and visiting with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed entertaining her friends and family; she was a gracious and creative hostess. Many people may remember Edmée from her years behind the counter of Old Mission Jewelry, in Escondido, which was owned by her son David Flory. She made friends easily with her bright smile and cheerful greeting. Later, as she moved into assisted-living at Atria North Escondido, she continued to maintain an upbeat attitude and had many friends among the residents and staff. She will be greatly missed by all, especially by her family. A World War II Veteran, Edmée served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1946 as a WAVE, attaining to the rank of Yeoman 2nd Class. She worked in the Navy Department in Washington D.C. as a French linguist. Edmée was very proud of her years in the WAVES, but the highlight of her life was when she met the handsome Army Captain John W. Flory.

Their love story began in April 1944 when the cherry blossoms along the Potomac were in full bloom like pink clouds. It was love at first sight, and for three months they enjoyed exploring D.C. together until John left to study at the War College at Princeton, NJ. They promised to write to each other during their time apart. And they did . . . more than 500 letters over the course of the next 18 months!

After parting, they saw each other only one more time that year, in December—and for one brief hour only—as John was boarding the train that would take him to California for training in Military



Continued from page

For the Good of the Order

Edmée Lucille Flory

Born: July 8, 1921 - Died: November 1, 2017

The Passing of a Companion



Government. He was sent to Okinawa with the 10th Army in April, 1945 (Operation Iceberg). After the Japanese occupation ended in Korea, John served as Military Governor in Seoul, Korea. John and Edmée's letters flew back and forth across the Pacific, gaining romantic momentum until in October of 1945, John proposed to her. They were married in Edmée's home town of Fall River, MA on July 27, 1946.

Only three of Edmée's letters to John exist today due to the difficulty he had in saving the delicate papers amid the humidity of Okinawa, and later South Korea. But over 240 of John's letters were lovingly preserved by Edmée. She treasured them for most of her life. In 2016 each one of those letters was read to her, to Edmée's great delight. The love that John had for her was reinforced over and over again in those letters.

To conclude this tribute to Edmée, and by extension to her beloved John, a portion of one letter is included here. It was the last one that John wrote to her from Korea before returning to the United States to marry his bride. In this letter, he refers to their love-story as one written in "chapters."

(Excerpt from Captain John Flory's letter to Yeoman 2nd Class Edmée Gaucher May 3, 1946)

There was never before such a meeting for me, and never will be another again to follow, for a story was begun then that will unwind its chapters as long as I live. That breathless time was the Introduction; perhaps the entire three months was only the Prologue, and our own fragmentary meeting in December was no more than a line of verse under the numeral on the first page of our Chapter 1, which we might entitle "Love Waits."

Perhaps the usual love story ends at the altar, but our Chapter 2, soon to begin, is to be a far more vivid and real experience, beginning with a wedding.

Sweetheart, I'm so much in love with you there seems to be little of any importance in existence outside the light and warmth of your love, which comes to me now so ardently even on cool, white pages of your letters.

As we go along together, I want to roam with you through all the rich valleys of experience in human life: the solemn cathedrals and rare heights of spiritual elevation; the exciting crags and peaks of mental attainment; the deserts of routine that at first repel with their deceptive appearance of dull monotony, through which the eyes reach to greater distances as the peculiar, silent lure of the far away hills makes itself felt.

If I never have much wealth to lay at your feet, I hope that I may not fail to bring stores of experiences in contentment to stock the shelves of your memory for a lifetime.

As the time approaches I realize how I have looked forward to the day of marriage as the day of real beginning after a long preparation to live. I know from that how important an event this is to be, and how much I expect it will require of heart, mind and soul. And only slowly have I come to realize that in it I shall not be alone, but I shall have *you*, fully as devoted, sincere and consecrated as ever I could hope to be myself.

My beloved Edmée, I miss you terribly tonight. You have my love entire.

John

For John and Edmée Flory, Chapter 3 began on November 1, 2017. We believe their story will go on forever; and every new chapter will be more wonderful than the one before.

by Ramelle Richardson 11/12/2017



For the Good of the Order

Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, Navy SEAL, LT USN (Ret)

What God Did At Pearl Harbor

Taken from the book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl

Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection, and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, ADM Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battle ships and navy vessels cluttered the water everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all of this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone in the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do you mean the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force could make?"

Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one:

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewman of those crewman of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.



For the Good of the Order

Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, Navy SEAL, LT USN (Ret)

What God Did At Pearl Harbor

Taken from the book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Mistake number two:

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battle ships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow everyone of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That is why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

No one can ever forget was written in that little book. It is still an inspiration to all who reflect upon it. In jest, it might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas--he was born an optimist. But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see the silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader who could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.



For the Good of the Order

Chapter Officers - Committees



Chapter Commander
Nicholas Herbka, LCDR, USN (Ret)
858-212-4335
nickherbka@outlook.com



Guest Speaker Committee
Arnold Regardie, LT, USA, (FMR)
310--801-653
aregardie@gmail.com Members: Carl Swebston, Nick Herbka



Senior Deputy Commander
Carl Swebston, LT, USN (Ret)
619-884-2593
retseal@sbcglobal.net



Awards Committee
Laura Kelly
619-609-4969
pixiefairybell@yahoo.com



Members: Noah Berkebile



Junior Deputy Commander
Earl Wentworth
858-485-8749
beacam@sbcglobal.net



Treasurer
Diane Herbka
858-254-4305
nickherbka@outlook.com



Oldest Member - John Cantor, CWO -4, USN (Ret), 100 years young
Retention Committee Chairman



Tom Lettington, CDR, USN (Ret)
Adjutant
858-485-5243
tlettington@san.rr.com



Chaplain
Carl Swebston, LT, USN (Ret)
619-884-2593
retseal@sbcglobal.net



Youngest Member - Noah Berkebile
17 years old
512-705-3557



Admin
Don Hershberger, CAPT, USN (Ret)
858-538-2513
dhersh@yaho.com



Newsletter Editor
Nicholas Herbka
858-212-4335