



The Patriot General J. P. Holland Chapter

Military Order of World Wars
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www.jphollandmoww.org

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National Website

www.moww.org

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Massing of the Colors

and

Service of Remembrance

The 63rd Massing of the Colors is presented by the San Diego Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW).



This Chapter was established in 1923 - 93 years ago. The Commander is Ted Parsons, USN, (Ret). The event was held at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, Saturday, October 12, 2019, 1030 - 1130, San Diego California. The Guest Speaker was LCDR Holly Schaffner, USCG (Ret). Holly is the San Diego State University Military Liaison, and Honor Flight Director and Public Relations. The Star Spangled Banner was sang by Ms. Laura Bueno. The Invocation and Benediction was given by Mrs. Barbara Peralta, the San Diego Chaplain. Thirty two Color Guards where in attendance.

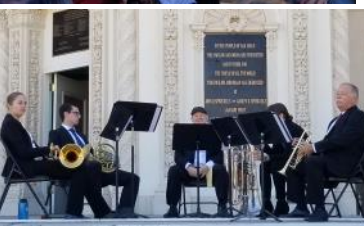


U.S. Flag Etiquette Honors are rendered for the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, at the moment the American Flag passes by and the Sounding of Taps. Stand. Place your right hand over your heart, or salute (Veterans) Men remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, hand being over the heart.



64th Massing of the Colors October 10, 2020, 1030 - 1130 AM., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, San Diego, California

Tome Rice (in red jacket) parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944 and again on June 6, 2019, in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of D -Day.





For the Good of the Order
BGEN J. P. Holland Chapter
Christmas Party

*Welcome Companions and Guests
to the Holland Chapter Christmas Party*

December 7, 2019, 11AM - 2PM

Located at The Country Club Of Rancho Bernardo

12280 East Greens Road

*Guest Speaker is General Douglas MacArthur
(Actor Robert Tidwell)*

Final Speech to the graduating Class of West Point - June 1982

Special Christmas Buffet Plated Service

Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Gravy and Cranberry Sauce - Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

Dessert

*Please make Donations in Support of the Youth Leadership Conference
2020 - San Diego - UCSD*

Check or Cash

(10 Free Raffle Tickets for donations \$100/or more - Please bring a Raffle Prizes for the table)



For the Good of the Order

Fire Fighters Presented Plaques of Merit

By Holland Chapter Commander

Capt Frank Godinez received the MOWW Plaque of Merit for his outstanding service. The presentation was made by Chapter Commander Nick Herbka.



The Military Order Of The World Wars
Merit Award
For Outstanding Service
PRESENTED TO

Captain Frank Godinez

Division Chief Dan Gonzalez





For the Good of the Order

Commander's Corner



Dear Companions and Friends of the Chapter,

I am proud to inform you that we have inducted two new Companions, Capt Terrence C. Contrell, USMC, (Fmr) and Maj David M. York, USMC (son of Companion Col David C. Yorck). BGEN Paul Lebidine is now a Perpetual member and will be inducted at the January Meeting. I welcome each of our new Companions and thank Paul for making the commitment to becoming a life time member. It is up to the Commander of this Chapter (myself) to invite our new and not so new members to take an active role in the operations of this chapter and to enhance our Community Service and Branding of the Military Order of World Wars. The real honor and pleasure of being a MOWW Companion is to work with each other in the Community and with Fellow Companions from other Chapters.
(continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events	Birthdays	
<p><u>General Meeting</u> Nov 2nd - - Astronaut Col Woody Spring</p> <p><u>Business Meeting</u> - Nov 4th, Andre's House, 0930</p> <p><u>General Meeting</u> Dec 7th, Robert Tidwell as Gen Douglas MacArthur</p> <p><u>Business Meeting</u> - Non in December</p>	<p><u>Nov</u></p> <p>6th Dave Piontek</p> <p>9th Earl Wentworth</p> <p>23rd Carl Swepston</p> <p>25th Dorene LeCault</p>	<p><u>Dec</u></p> <p>16th Tom Lettington</p>
Anniversaries		
	<p><u>Nov</u></p> <p>None</p>	<p><u>Dec</u></p> <p>1st Sam & Linda Parise</p>



For the Good of the Order

Commanders Corner

(continued from page 4)

Over the past five years, the Holland Chapter has become more active in the community through a variety of Outreach Programs, such as honoring First Responders and Law Enforcement Officials. The MOWW Brand is becoming more known in the local community. We participate in local events and celebrations, such as Hats Off to Volunteers, Spirit of the 4th Parade, the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association Events, and Veterans Celebrations at Corona and El Camino high schools. The Holland Chapter also awards ROTC Midshipmen and JROTC cadets with End of Year Awards (MOWW Medal of Merit w/ribbon). Companions also work with JROTC programs to award high school students and cadets for their Community Service with the Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion, w/ medal. The Holland Chapter works with the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference (SDYLC), to render assistance the first and last days of the conference and to present certificates and awards. Companions enjoy honoring the Eagle Scout and the Girl Scout Gold Star recipients with the MOWW Recognition Certificates. All awardees, youth or adult, are presented the *BGEN J. P. Holland Chapter Challenge Coin*.

Our First Responders are members of the local Police Department, Sheriff's Dept, Fire Fighters, and Paramedics. In the past year, the Holland Chapter has honored two Police Officers and two Fire Fighters. They have attended our meetings for lunch and received a plaque of Merit for "Outstanding Service."

The Law Enforcement Outreach includes Homeland Security (HS), ICE, FBI, Border Patrol and others. The Chapter has not yet honored any Law Enforcement individuals. We need to make contact and invite them to our meetings.

Local Community Events include Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day at Webb Park, Spirit of the 4th Parade, and Hats Off to Volunteers.

Veterans Celebrations includes presenting MOWW Plaques of Merit for Outstanding Service to Veterans, to event organizers and sitting down with students to give them a prospective of military service, sacrifices of both members and their families and comradery among military cohorts. Life lessons learned, are often a spin off of the conversations.

ROTC and JROTC Awards are end of year awards present to University and High School students.

SDYLC - assist in the setup and final day activities, leading to graduation. Raise/donate money to allow young men and women to attend this Patriotic Conference (\$400 ea.).

Eagle Scouts and Gold Star Girl Scouts - are presented Certificates of Recognition for their accomplishments, by our Companions.

Each and every activity mentioned above is a very Patriotic and Heart Felt. You will always walk away from each of these events, already thinking about doing it again next year. The sit-down with the high school students is very rewarding for you and even more so, for the students you talked too. Patriotic Education of our youth is not only "rewarding" but is vital to the development of our future leaders. Our young people are looking for guidance and role models. Become a part of the solution to eliminate the problem. Please contact me and volunteer to participate in the above Chapter Activities.

858-212-4335/nickherbka@outlook.com.



For the Good of the Order

Annual Joint Chapter Christmas Party

The Military Order of the World Wars

San Diego, Holland & Pendleton Chapters'

5th Annual Holiday Party

2019 Hosted by the San Diego Chapter

Saturday, December 14, 2019

11:30 - 2:30

Seven Seas Best Western

411 Hotel Cir S, San Diego, CA 92108

LIVE Entertainment

by the

"Celtic Echoes"

Delicious Plated Lunch & Fellowship with

Fellow Companions and More!

\$30 per person and choice of

Grilled Salmon w/rice pilaf and vegetables

Chicken Cordon Bleu topped with white wine sauce w/rice pilaf and vegetables

Pot Roast w/red potatoes, pot roast gravy and vegetables

Vegetarian Linguini w/Marinara Sauce

(Plated dinner includes desert.)

RSVP by December 1, 2019 to:

COL Tim Swann Phone: (619) 656-2757 (voicemail welcomed)

Or Email: tswann@sandi.net

** A reservation made is a reservation paid.**

Silent Auction

To Benefit

SDYLC

Please Bring a Basket

**Bring Unwrapped
New Toys**

for children of the

"Armed Services YMCA"



For the Good of the Order

Katherine Tat Presented the Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion

July 6, 2019



Katherine Tat

The General J. P. Holland Chapter is proud to present the Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion in recognition of your dedication and outstanding performance during the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference of 2019. You have exemplified Leadership, Followership, Responsibility, and Service to Others. You have been selected by your Instructors and Peers as the "Top Student," because of your ability to lead by example, know your Teammates, and to focus on the task to be accomplished. The Companions and Friends of the General J. P. Holland Chapter wish you the very best in Life and May God Bless your future Service.

"It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served"

July 6, 2019

Nicholas S. Herbka, Lcdr, USN (ret)

Chapter Commander





For the Good of the Order

Pictures from the July General Meeting

September 7, 2019





For the Good of the Order

Pictures from the August General Meeting

October 5, 2019





For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker November 2, 2019

Astronaut Woody Spring



Colonel Sherwood Clark “Woody” Spring, USA (Ret) born on September 3, 1944 is a retired Army Helicopter Pilot and NASA astronaut. He is married with two children, one of them, Justin Spring, who is a United States Olympian. Colonel Spring has logged 165 hours in space, 12 of which were spent conducting spacewalks. He also accumulated 3500 hours in 25 different military and civilian aircraft, 1500 of those hours were spent in jet aircraft.

Spring was active in the Boy Scouts of America, where he achieved its 2nd highest rank, Life Scout. He met his future wife, Debbie Cooper, an elementary school physical education teacher, while they were both students at the University of Arizona. Spring’s son Justin, was a member of the 2008 US Olympic Men’s Gymnastic team that earned a Bronze Medal in Beijing, and currently is the head coach at the University of Illinois.

Colonel Spring graduated from Ponaganset High School, in North Scituate, Rhode Island, in 1963. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering from the United States Military Academy in 1967 and a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1974. He graduated from the United States Naval Test Pilot School in 1976 and the Defense Systems Management College in 1989.

After graduation from West Point in 1967, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam. The first was from 1968 to 1969, with the 101st Airborne Division. The second was from 1970 to 1971, came immediately after flight school, where he served as a helicopter pilot with the 1st Cavalry Division. Upon return to the USA, he received fixed wing training in route to a master’s degree program with the University of Arizona in 1974. After a short tour at Edwards Air Force Base, California as a flight test engineer, he attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland. He then returned to the army’s Flight Test Facility at Edwards AFB to complete four years as an experimental test pilot.

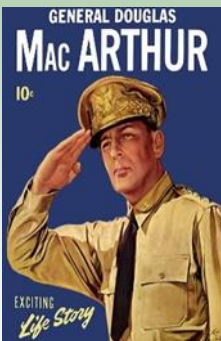
Following his retirement from NASA in 1988, he spent the next five years directing the Army Space Program Office in the Washington, D.C. Area. He retired from the Army in July 1994, and worked as contractor on Defense and Intelligence programs in the Washington, D.C. area. He is currently a professor at the Defense Acquisition University and lives in San Diego, California.



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker December 7, 2019

“General Douglas MacArthur”



General Douglas MacArthur Presented by Robert Tidwell

Mr. Robert Tidwell has been portraying General MacArthur since 2012 and has appeared as the General over fifty times in such venues as school assemblies, veteran's events, parades and historical re-enactments. He marched as General MacArthur in the 2018 National Memorial Day Parade and participated in a restaging of the Leyte landing at the National museum of the Pacific War in November of 2018.

He has delivered the General's speeches before the Air Force JROTC cadets at Hemet High School, the cadets of the Army Navy School of Carlsbad, California, the P-38 Association of March Air Force Base in Riverside, California, and the Red Hat Society of Culver City. In 2013 he appeared with members of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society in which they re-staged MacArthur's wading ashore at Leyte in a special ceremony before the Consul General of the Philippines. Every summer he appears at the Old Fort MacArthur Days military re-enactment event in San Pedro, the largest event of its type west of the Mississippi. He is a member of the Philippine Scout Heritage Society and The California Historical Group.

He marched as General MacArthur in the 2018 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC.

Mr. Tidwell was raised in San Diego, California, the son of a Pearl Harbor survivor and career Navy Officer. He grew up with stories about World War Two and the Pacific campaigns. His interest in Gen MacArthur came about over lively conversations his parents had about the Pacific war. After studied US history at San Francisco State University, he and his wife, Marina, pursued a career in live theatre, producing, acting and directing over thirty stage productions on the Monterey Peninsula. When his wife received a scholarship to the Cinema Television School at USC, the couple relocated to Culver City, where they raised three sons. He has taught US History at West Los Angeles College. Mr. Tidwell obtained his Masters of Humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills, in which he wrote his Master Thesis on General MacArthur's reforms of West Point, 1919-1922. He has conducted research at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr. Tidwell has combined history and the theatre to make events come alive, and General Douglas MacArthur is the perfect subject: brilliant, controversial, dramatic, and glamorous. In over forty five years Mr. Tidwell has compiled an extensive MacArthur library, studied hours of newsreel footage, studied the General's vocal patterns and body language, interviewed those who know the General, and has re-created the General's distinctive uniform. No detail was too small. When he could not find a correct reproduction of the General's famous "scrambled egg" cap, he and his wife created one of their own (His wife embroidered the oak leaves herself). The simple khaki uniform is tailored made, reflected the General's personal tastes, and Mr. Tidwell's hair, like the General's, is dyed brown and combed over his high forehead. Even the trademark corncomb pipe is accurate.



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker January 4, 2019

LT Phillip “Moki” Martin (Navy SEAL)



LT Phillip L. “Moki” Martin was born in September 1942 in Paia, Hawaii, where he grew up swimming, free diving and surfing. Those watery pastimes led to his interest in joining the Navy, an interest he pursued in 1960 and for the next 23 years. Martin enlisted after graduating from Maui High School and went through boot camp in San Diego. He was assigned to run steam engines on the USS Orleck (DD 886) for two years and got promoted to Petty Officer Second



Class during that time. His dream was to go to UDT (Underwater Demolition Team) Training, but the program was limited to 100 participants at that time, with almost no new entrants being added. When the U. S. got involved in Vietnam, he was in prime condition to take advantage of the expanded special operations program. He was selected for UDT Training in late 1964 and started in September 1965. Only 36 graduated from Class 35’s original 130 men; Martin was one of them. Open water swimming was a great strength from his Hawaiian childhood, but running was a discipline he had to work hard at to complete the program. He fulfilled his childhood goal with the help of his six-man boat crew.

Not long after graduating Martin deployed to Vietnam. He had the chance to observe some of the new SEALs – special warfare teams created from the UDT program – during his combat operations, and was sent to complete eight weeks of training to become one. He next served in the Mekong Delta, conducting intelligence gathering operations, harassing, ambushing and interrogating the Viet Cong. He earned two Bronze Star medals with the Combat V for Valor for his service there.

In 1972, Martin took part in Operation Thunderhead, a highly-classified mission to free American POWs jailed in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.” It was a complex operation with submarine and helicopter assets that did not go as planned. One SEAL was killed, and with numerous other issues arising, the mission was aborted. Martin was decorated with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat “V” for his role in the effort and was promoted to warrant officer. He went back to the fleet, as SEALs did not have warrant officer slots, but returned to the teams as a BUD/S instructor in 1975.

In 1982, on a morning ride down the Silver Strand, LT Martin was struck by another cyclist going north in the southbound lane. His spinal cord was damaged in the accident and he became a quadriplegic. The Navy took him off active duty, but didn’t fully retire him. The veteran SEAL has been on Active Retired status since 1983 and still gives lectures at the Naval Special Warfare Center about the lessons learned in the Vietnam War. Martin also gives lectures to local students on disabilities, and he paints, draws and puts on art shows. He earned a Bachelor’s in Arts and Letters from San Diego State University in 1991 and has had his work featured in numerous shows. Many of his pieces are inspired by his Hawaiian heritage.

Martin and his wife of 50 years, Cindy, live in Coronado. They have two adult children, Joel and Callie.



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker February 1, 2019

MSGT Reynold Cindrich



MSGT Reynold Cindrich has acquired over 200 Military Uniforms from all branches of the United States military and from other countries. It is his goal to keep the memory of these veterans, who wore these uniforms, alive and vivid in the minds of our younger generations. Reynold will tell the stories of individuals who bravery and patriotism inspires the listener's imagination. He will disclose his sources of uniforms and the story of the men who wore them.



Reynold Cindrich entered the delayed enlistment program on his 17th birthday in 1979. He entered active duty upon graduation of high school in July 1980. After completing basic training, Infantry school, and Airborne school at Ft. Benning, Ga., he was sent to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. After a time with the 82nd and later the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Ft. Polk, La., he returned home to Los Angeles when his four year enlistment ended. While at Ft. Polk he completed the Unit Armorer's Course and the Medium Anti-tank Weapons Course. (Dragon school)

He joined the Army Reserve and graduated from Intelligence Analyst School. When the M.T.O.E. was realigned, he had to change his MOS to stay in the command, so he attended Ground Surveillance Radar Crewman school. After being promoted to the grade of E-7 in an E-6 slot, he had to find a new home.

He found an Infantry platoon sergeant position in the California Army National Guard. After serving there for three years and being a part of Operation Garden Plot, he transferred to Division Artillery Headquarters and completed Artillery Fire Support Specialist School (Forward Observer). Reynold volunteered for peace-keeping duty in the former Yugoslavia and served there from November 1997 to July 1998. Upon completion of his 24th year of service, he entered the Individual Ready Reserve as a "points only" unpaid volunteer.





For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker March 7, 2019

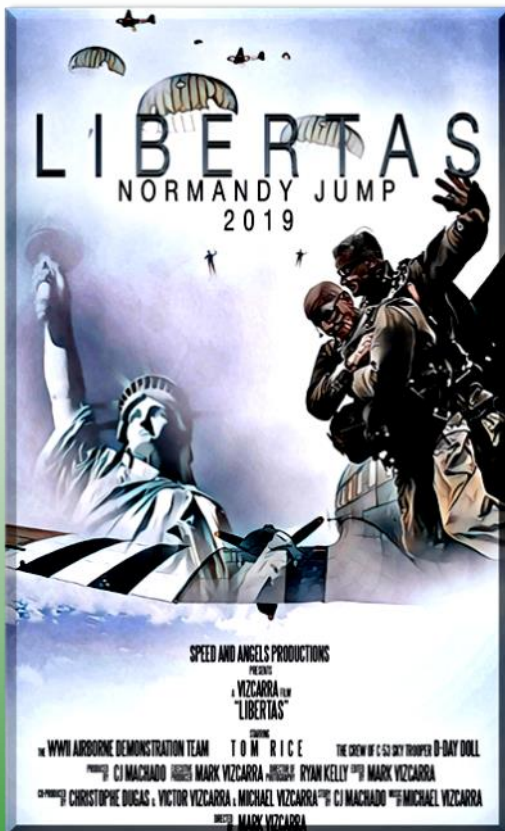
CJ Machado



75th Anniversary of D-Day documentary movie "Libertas, Normandy Jump 2019"

Award winning Producer and photojournalist, CJ Machado embarks on an unexpected journey to document the largest living historical event of our lifetime... the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Vintage Aircraft and parachutists from all over the world fill the French skies to re-create the largest allied invasion in our history.

Follow CJ as she trains with the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team to Jump and record the Commemorative Anniversary. Meet David Hamilton, the last living pathfinder pilot as he recounts the aerial extravaganza in his specialized pathfinder aircraft, which preceded the main group of transports during "Operation Overlord. You will see 97 year-old, 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagle" Tom Rice parachute in the same drop zone as he did 75 years earlier to liberate the world from Nazi Germany.



Libertas reminds us of the courage and sacrifice that the "Greatest Generation" gave to ensure our liberty and freedom. "These great men saved the world at the perilous risk of their souls."

CJ Machado is a photojournalist, writer, veteran advocate and producer of the documentary Normandy Jump 2019, "LIBERTAS"

Projects include : Award winning short film, "The Forgotten Hero of the Forgotten War," the story of CAPT E. Royce Williams, USN, Retired

Just released: HUN PILOTS
Upcoming project: Purple Foxes United
www.PurpleFoxesUnited.com

www.NormandyJump2019.com



For the Good of the Order

Letter of Appreciation September 7, 2019

Fire Captain Frank Godinez



Captain Frank Godinez

The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely thank for sharing your most enjoyable and informative story describing your duties and responsibilities as an Officer assigned to Urban Search and Rescue 53/Bravo Division and a Rescue Squad Officer for FEMA's National Search and Rescue Team-California Task Force 8. We wish you the very Best in your future endeavors. You are Always welcomed to be a Guest of the BGEN JP Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars.

"It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served"

September 5, 2019

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander

Letter of Appreciation September 7, 2019

Division Chief Dan Gonzalez



Division Chief Daniel Gonzalez

The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely Thank for sharing your most enjoyable and informative story of your exciting career as a Cleveland National Forest firefighter, to becoming, a Division Chief with the Miramar Fire Department. We wish you the very Best in your future endeavors. You are always welcomed to be a Guest of the BGEN JP Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars.

"It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served"

September 5, 2019

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander



For the Good of the Order

Commander Herbka presents Gift-September 7, 2019

Fire Captain Frank Godinez



A special gift from Chaplain Carl Swepton was presented to Captain Frank Godinez of the Chula Vista Fire Department, Urban Search and Rescue 53/Bravo Division, as a token of Appreciation and sincere Respect for the work Frank was part of during his early career. The photograph is a picture taken by Chaplain Swepton in his back yard, during a forest fire behind his home in Julian, California. The fire was extinguished due to the precision flying of the pilots onboard the aircraft, a retired Navy S-2.

Chaplain Swepton presents Gift-September 7, 2019

Division Chief Dan Gonzalez



A special gift from Chaplain Carl Swepton was presented to Division Chief Dan Gonzalez with the Miramar Fire Department, as a token of Appreciation and sincere Respect for the work Dan was part of during his early career. The photograph is a picture taken by Chaplain Swepton in his back yard, during a forest fire behind his home in Julian, California. The fire was extinguished due to the precision flying of the pilots onboard the aircraft, a retired Navy S-2.



For the Good of the Order

Out Standing Service Medal September 7, 2019



Colonel Paul Atterbury

For outstanding Leadership, Dedication, Patriotism, and Loyalty to the General J. P. Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars. You have done an amazing job as the Chairman of the Holland Chapter Veterans Memorial Program. You worked closely with the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association providing superlative Guest Speakers. Since you have taken Command of the Veterans Memorial Association, you have increased attendance at the annual memorial events and brought in new and younger members to support the association. Your companions deeply appreciate your hard work and sacrifice.

"It is nobler to Serve than to be Served"

September 5, 2019

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander

National Citation September 7, 2019

LTCOL Paul Atterbury





For the Good of the Order

Out Standing Service Medal September 7, 2019



Colonel Paul Atterbury

For outstanding Leadership, Dedication, Patriotism, and Loyalty to the General J. P. Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars. You have done an amazing job as the Chairman of the Holland Chapter Veterans Memorial Program. You worked closely with the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association providing superlative Guest Speakers. Since you have taken Command of the Veterans Memorial Association, you have increased attendance at the annual memorial events and brought in new and younger members to support the association. Your companions deeply appreciate your hard work and sacrifice.

"It is nobler to Serve than to be Served"

September 5, 2019

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander

National Citation September 7, 2019

LTCOL Paul Atterbury



LTCOL Paul Atterbury received a National Citation signed by the National Commander Of the Military Order of Worlds Wars for superior Performance and Leadership as the Holland Chapter Veterans Memorial Committee Chairman and Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association President.



For the Good of the Order



Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, LT USN (Ret), Navy SEAL

Thanksgiving

Being Thankful During This Holiday Season



As we share and experience this holiday season with our family and friends, it is a time to remember our GOD given blessings. We are blessed to be citizens of a nation in which we can choose our leaders and our religion. As I look within my own life experiences and blessings, I realize GOD has been present in my life in numerous ways. I find that starting out each day reflecting on the various ways I am blessed, sets the stage for a more positive outcome. Having been chosen to participate as the General J.P. Holland chapter chaplain, sets the stage for me to look within on a regular basis. May GOD bless all of you as we celebrate this holiday season.

Carl Swepston

Chaplain General J.P. Holland Chapter





For the Good of the Order



Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, LT USN (Ret), Navy SEAL

Christmas

*Enhancing Our Life Experiences Through Our
Dogs, Cats And Other Animals*



As I look back on my life experiences with my dogs, I realize they provided me a variety of positive life lessons to learn and apply. The first example that comes to mind is their excitement to see me regardless of the length of time I left them either in the yard or house. Unconditional love and acceptance of our mates, family members, co-workers, etc. can sometimes be quite challenging to say the least, but part of the Christmas Season. Living in the now moment is demonstrated regularly with dogs. As we experience challenging times in our lives, it proves somewhat difficult to look for the positive aspects of what is happening. Petting and being petted by your animal friend is a normal experience. Psychological and physical studies show that being touched and hugged is effective at healing sickness, disease and stress. I don't remember a time when I felt uncomfortable touching and being touched by my dogs. My recent experiences at memorial events that include a horse named Katie (photo

attached) demonstrate that animals have compassion for humans. Katie is the horse that draws the Final Honor funeral carriage for former military personnel. I watched several children and adults stand next to the horse as the horse remains still. I felt as though the horse was aware of their emotional pain of the loss of a loved one. I have photos and paintings of some of my past and present pet friends. As I look at their images, it puts a smile on my face. I hope this same experience occurs when my past and present loved ones sees my photo. May GOD bless and keep you through this Christmas Season.

Carl Swepston, Chaplain, Brigadier General J.P. Holland Chapter

