



The Patriot

General J. P. Holland Chapter

Military Order of World Wars
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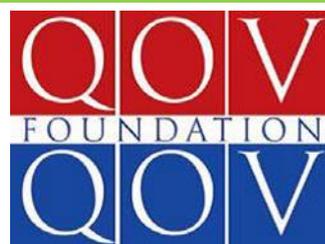
National Website

www.moww.org

LT Carl Swepston Receives Quilt of Valor

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LT Carl Swepston US Navy (Retired)

2 September 2017

Today it is my privilege to be a part of the ceremony to award a Quilt of Valor to Carl Swepston. Your military service began 1959 when you enlisted in the US Navy. You graduated from Underwater Demolition Training in 1962 and began your illustrious career in Special Warfare with deployments to Vietnam in 1962, 1964, 1966, and 1969. We are here today to honor you and thank you for your service.

Your first active duty UDT tour to perform RECON on beaches in Vietnam in 1962 where your combat-green platoon was faced with high surf, coral reefs, sea snakes, and sniper fire. This experience, long before the general public knew there was such a place as Vietnam, was the start of your long history of duty in the Vietnam conflict. A second WestPac tour found you again off the coast of Vietnam with a select 10 man beech RECON team.

A third tour included duty as a point man for Seal Team One Gulf Platoon. This assignment led to serious combat action. Your team suffered heavy losses when your boat took rifle and RPG fire from the river bank. Three members of the team lost their lives and seventeen were wounded before the Team could be extracted.

Next you were tapped to participate in a highly classified assignment in the My Cong Delta as a Provincial RECON Unit advisor. It was in this assignment that hand grenade fragments caused injuries to your left eye.

Among your many service medals and ribbons is a personal Bronze Star with Combat V for Valor, awarded for your combat action in Vietnam.

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For the Good of the Order

LT Carl Swepston Receives Quilt of Valor

Continued from page 1



Your career as a Seal led to a life long commitment to that very special branch of our Navy and you continue to serve, as a retired officer, in the Navy SEAL Training Program.

The volunteers at Quilts of Valor desire to go beyond words to thank you with this tangible, physical evidence of our appreciation. These quilts are lovingly crafted through hours of devotion, and we wish to say “Thank you for your Service” from all Americans who enjoy freedom because of your sacrifice. Please accept the comfort of this Quilt of Valor. We sincerely hope this quilt will serve as a reminder of your Country’s gratitude for your sacrifices while serving our Country. You richly deserve the recognition and expression of appreciation this quilt represents.

*“Quilting to honor and comfort service members and veterans touched by war.”
Presented by Tom Lettington*





For the Good of the Order

24th Annual Veteran's Day Program

EL CAMINO HIGH SCHOOL

400 RANCHO DEL ORO DR.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92057
(760) 901-8000
TOM.VORIS@OSIDE.US

10/05/2017

Dear United States Military Veteran,

El Camino High School invites you to participate in our 24th Annual Veterans Day Program. We are proud to have the longest tenure of celebrating this event in all of San Diego County thanks to our founders, Jim Downs and Bob Nelson. Our celebration this year falls on a Thursday, November 9th, the day before the Veterans holiday is celebrated on November 10th (the actual Veterans Day is always Nov. 11th).

In the past, your presence on our campus has been educational as well as inspiring. The historical information that you share helps our students prepare for an uncertain future. This year, our theme will be the Vietnam War. We will have a short presentation about this conflict during the Assembly.

The events you experienced and share can have a tremendous effect on how students of today, all born after the end of the Cold War, view US History.

We would like to invite you to participate in our first hour general assembly at 8:30am. 500 students and approximately seventy-five or more veterans will be in attendance. We will be entertained by the El Camino Band, Choir, and ROTC. Those who wish may participate in panel discussions in classes for two separate one-hour classes after the main program. Then, a complimentary lunch will be served to all attendees. You are welcomed to bring your spouse.

If you have any questions, or know of other people you feel we should invite, please contact Joe Gonzales at (760) 729-0351. Please respond to this letter by checking below and mail the response promptly or e-mail the address above. Feel free to attach a short BIO of your service as we will try to use it in the classroom panel discussions or fill out the enclosed worksheet.

Much Respect,

Tom Voris
Social Science Teacher
Veteran, US Army

I will attend
 My Spouse will accompany me
 Stay for lunch

I will participate in the panel discussions
 I will not participate in panel discussions



For the Good of the Order

24th Annual Veteran's Day Program

Dear Veterans --Please join in this Patriotic event at El Camino HS. Members from our Chapter have participated in this program for the past three years. You will be honored at the opening program, and entertained by the school Choir and Band. Afterwards, you will be directed to a classroom of juniors students, where you will have a opportunity to talk about your military service and engage the class for questions. Following discussions with two different classes, you will be invited for Lunch in the School library. Please use the format below to write a letter to Tom Voris or email him at TOMVORIS@OSIDE.US, to let him know that you are attending. You will have a great time talking with the other Veterans in the program. Call Tom at 760-901-8000, if you have any questions.

Veteran's Presentations

Veteran's Bio

Name:

Military Branch of Service:

Rank (Sergeant, Lieutenant, etc.):

Division in Military Branch (1st Infantry, 3rd Battalion)

Dates of Service:

Wars Fought In:

Awards/Medals Received:

Interesting Facts (Places, Battles, People, Experiences):



For the Good of the Order

Commander's Corner



Dear Companions and Friends of the Chapter—I

I would like to reemphasize what I talked about in the last Newsletter. “An organization who fails to increase its membership, is doomed to fade away. I am proud to say the Holland Chapter welcomed 4 new members this past year. This is a good start, but certainly nothing to get too excited about. I am asking each and everyone of our members to welcome at least one new member this year. Invite a family member, a friend, a work associate, anyone you meet and believe will become a great Companion to our Chapter.” I am happy to say that we will welcome a new member to our Chapter in November, Col Don Alford, USAF (Ret) and his wife (past Guest Speaker) Colette Alford. For the Good of The Order - let us renew our efforts to invite a guest to join us at a monthly General Meeting and encourage them to become a companion.

The **Joint Chapter Christmas Party** has been set for December 2, 2017, at the Bernardo Heights Country Club, 1100-1400. Please donate a *Silent Auction Basket*, a *New Toy* (for military children), and any *Item appropriate for the raffle*. *All proceeds goes to the SDYLC.*

For those who new **Bill Hardy**, “**Ace in a Day**,” he has pasted away. His Celebration of Life will be held October 29th at the McCormack Mortuary, 25002 Moulton PWY, Laguna Hills, CA. Bill will have his Memorial Service at the Miramar National Cemetery at 1400, Monday, October 30th.

The **San Diego Chapter** of the MOWW will hold their 61st **Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance**, October 21, 2017, 1030-1130, at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. This traditional ceremony honors the flag of our country and those, living and deceased, who fought to gain and preserve our Freedoms. All color Guards are invited. Register at www.SanDiego-MOWW.org

Calendar of Events

General Meeting Nov 4th

GSP - Farouk Al-Nasser
ISIS their rise and fall.

Joint Chapter Christmas Party - Dec 2nd

General Meeting Jan 6th

GSP - Cal Watson The Real Causes of the Civil War.

Business Meeting - Nov 9th

IHOP 0930

Birthdays



September

8th Nick Herbka

25th Laura Kelly

October

6th David Epstein

8th Harry Hodges

12th Wendy Morgan

18th Sharon Oster

Anniversaries

September

27th Nick and Diane Herbka

October

10th John and Lois Cantor



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker - September 2nd

Colette Alford



Colette Alford was born in Pont – L' Eveque, Normandy, France as Colette Boisierre, on May 18, 1931. She lived a peaceful and happy life, as a young girl, with her family. She attended boarding school in Caen, France and learned to play the piano at the Piano Conservatory. In 1940, things changed when the German army invaded and occupied Normandy, France. Life went on for this young girl, but things did not seem the same anymore. The Germans became very active in Normandy during the early years of the 1940's. Under the direction of General Rommel, the beaches were

fortified with iron-crossed obstacles and mines. Huge concrete gun emplacements were built on top the cliffs overlooking the beaches. It seemed her peaceful town was preparing for WAR.

The family gathered for a simple dinner of soup, bread and real butter, the night of June , 1944. Just as the family prepared to eat this wonderful meal (with real butter) the aerial bombardment began and her father moved the family to a safer place in the interior of their home. A bomb exploded near the house and blew the dining room window onto the dining table that Colette's family sat at, just moments earlier.



Their house had shattered windows throughout, and was unlivable. Fortunately, their family could move to a farm not far away. Their they lived there until the beginning of August, when the German SS moved into the area. Fearing the worst outcome, Colette's father moved them to the nearby woods and into a natural cave, for three and a half weeks.

On August 22, 1944, the family was liberated by French Canadian soldiers. A Day Colette will never forget.



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker October 7th

COMMANDER TOM LETTINGTON



“Taffy 3”, the Battle Off Samar

The Tin Can Sailors’ Finest Hour

Our Companion Tom Lettington entered active duty service in May, 1960 as Ensign after completing the “Regular Navy ROTC” program at Iowa State University. He retired as Commander on April 1st, 1982. Tom was a proud member of the “Tin Can Navy”, having served in four Destroyers. His first tour was in the Engineering Department of USS Philip (DD-498). Next he served as Operations Officer in USS HOEL (DDG-13). He served under the command of our Companion RADM R. K. Fontaine (then a Commander) who recently passed away. Also serving in HOEL at that time was our Companion Don Hershberger. This tour was in the heat of the Vietnam War and HOEL was in the thick of it, conducting many naval gunfire missions off the coast of North Vietnam. The ship’s TACAN was used as a homing beacon for fighter/bomber aircraft conducting missions over North Vietnam from carriers in the Tonkin Gulf. Tom’s next sea tour was as commissioning Executive Officer of the new construction USS BARBEY (FF-1088). His final sea tour was as Commanding Officer, USS BRADLEY (FF-1041). This was the highlight of his career, capped off by circumnavigating the Indian Ocean with many interesting port visits representing the US Navy and “showing the flag” in this important area of the world.

In October 1944, The United States and the Australian Armed Forces were poised to launch a massive amphibious landing on the Island of Leyte to retake the Philippines from the Japanese occupying force, making good on General MacArthur's promise when he pronounced “I Shall return.” Units of the Third and Seventh Fleets were assigned to support this operation. The Imperial Japanese Navy mounted a large naval operation (Operation SHO-GO 1) to prevent the success of the landing.

What ensued was “The battle of Leyte Gulf” fought in the waters near the Philippine Islands of Leyte, Samar, and Luzon, generally considered to be the largest naval battle of World War II and by some, possibly the largest naval battle in history. The IJN failed to achieve its objective, suffered very heavy losses, and never sailed to battle in comparable fashion thereafter. The majority of its surviving heavy ships, deprived of fuel, remained in their bases for the rest of the Pacific War and suffered under heavy sustained aerial attack.

With the defeat of the forces of the Japanese operation Sho-Go-1, the allied invasion of the Philippines at Leyte Island was free to proceed.

Admiral Yonia, Japan’s Navy Minister: “Our defeat at Leyte was tantamount to the loss of the Philippines. When you took the Philippines, that was the end of our resources.”

The Battle off Samar is the story of the element of Task Group 77.4 and specifically Task Unit 77.4.3 (Call Sign Taffy 3). These units were made up of Escort Carriers, their embarked Composite Squadrons, and their Destroyers and Destroyer Escorts.



For the Good of the Order

Guest Speaker November 4th

Farouk Al-Nasser



Title: *“The Rise and Fall (Not so fast?) of ISIS”*

Description: *Chronological history of the Islamic State in Iraq and al Sham (ISIS) from its inception after the 2003 invasion of Iraq to the present. It is an ideological movement with a draconian, fanatic interpretation of the faith. They are a minuet group within Sunni Islam. It is an ideological war within Islam. Muslims bear the responsibility to defeat it, ideologically, politically and Spiritually. In the near term, the so called ‘Islamic State’ will be defeated Militarily. In the long run there is no Military Solution. Political accommodation among the various sectarian and ethnic groups is the only way out. Any attempt to project the geopolitical future of the region after the Military defeat of the so called ‘Islamic State’ is complicated. Will attempt to do so by focusing on Iraq and Syria.*

Briefbio, Farouk Al-Nasser, Ph.D.:

Dr. Farouk Al-Nasser is a graduate of Baghdad University, University of Colorado and University of Denver with a B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering respectively.

During his 42 years career in the Data Storage industry, he held technical, operational, marketing and senior executive management positions. He is the founder of two companies in San Diego County.

From August 2003 to September 2004, Farouk spend seven months in Iraq and two months in Jordan and Lebanon, working for a San Diego based Fortune 500 Company toward the Reconstruction and Development of Iraq after the 2003 Invasion.

He is on the Board of Directors and past President of the San Diego World Affairs Council.

Since his retirement, Dr. Al-Nasser made more than 200 presentations to civic associations, NGO's, Social Clubs, etc. on: 'Iraq'; 'history, politics and current events in the Middle east, North Africa, and Central Asia.



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

3rd Annual Joint Chapter Christmas Party Camp Pendleton Chapter Hosting

The Third Annual Joint Chapter Christmas Party will be held on December 2, 2017, at the Bernardo Heights Country Club, from 11:00 am to 2:00pm.

The Luncheon will a Buffet

SALAD

House Salad- Seasonal Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes

ENTREES

Tri Tip with mushrooms and cabernet sauce

Chicken Marsala- creamy mushroom sauce

SIDE DISHES

Mashed potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Chocolate Mousse Parfait

- Companions.....*
- 1. Please consider to donate a basket for the "Silent Auction"*
 - 2. Bring a gift - small or large for the "Raffle"*
 - 3. New Toys brought to the Party will be given to the children of Military Families.*

All profits go to the Support of the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference



For the Good of the Order

Spirit of the 4th Parade

Rancho Bernardo

Military Order of World Wars



General John P. Holland Chapter



Patriotic Education of Our Youth - Come Join Us

The Spirit of the 4th Parade, sponsored by the “Spirit of the 4th Committee” was spectacular and exciting this year. More members of the Chapter participated in this event than in past years. Chapter Commander Nick Herbka and Junior Deputy Commander Earl Wentworth carried the Chapter Banner (pictured above), Treasurer Diane Herbka, Awards Chairman Laura Kelly and her two daughters, Ava and Sienna, rode in open-air vehicles. More of our members volunteered to coordinate the parade events. Still more members chose to enjoy the parade from the sidelines.





For the Good of the Order

4th of July Celebration

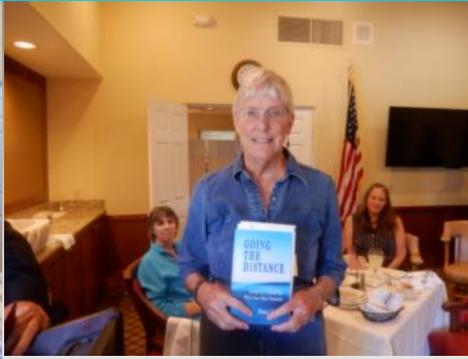
Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Located in Webb Park





For the Good of the Order

Certificate of Appreciation for August



Letter of Appreciation

Presented to

Betsy Jordan

The Companions and Guests of the General J. P. Holland Chapter sincerely thank you for sharing your most informative and exciting story, on "Going the Distance" with caregiving for your Loved One. Your Heartfelt presentation was most inspiring. We wish you the very Best in your future endeavors.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

August 5, 2017

Nicholas S. Herbka

Gen. JP Holland Chapter Commander



For the Good of the Order

Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for August Capt Earl Wentworth



Silver Patrick Henry Medallion

For Patriotic Service

Citation

Earl Wentworth

The MOWW General J. P. Holland Chapter is proud to present you the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for your Outstanding Achievements, Patriotism, Dedication and Hard Work, in support of three Veteran organizations in Rancho Bernardo, CA. You are ever present and willing to help the Gen JP Holland Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7766, and the Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association. You have coordinated with members of each association to support the Veteran's Holiday events at Webb Park. You have never refused to assist any organization when asked. You raise money to for Patriot Education, in support of the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference. 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.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"



For the Good of the Order

Chaplain's Corner



Carl Swepston, Navy SEAL, LT USN (Ret)

A tribute to our Veterans on Veterans Day

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15.13) Most in the military, I would guess, either have lost a friend in combat, or know several who have. It's the reality of war, but Veteran's Day for me, is not about remembering the death of those service members, but rather, their life and

service. On Veteran's Day, this year, I hope we remember those veterans who have given their lives for our country.

Our nation has reached a point of being very divided. Our pledge of allegiance is no longer common place in our school system. The phrase “Under God” has been taken out of the pledge of allegiance in many of our schools.

We have team members of our NFL, who choose to not honor our flag during the National Anthem. This action is a slap in the face to our veterans who have given their lives for our country.

As the acting chaplain I would hope that we remember our fellow veterans on this Veterans day who have given their lives for our country. Many of our combat veterans continue to experience the traumas of war, long after the actual battles and combat are over.

May God be with our Veterans as they continue to live their lives in this great country of ours.



For the Good of the Order

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 7, 2017

VA Unveils Claims Submission Option That Promises to Complete Claims within 30 Days

WASHINGTON — Today, as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families.

“The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans they serve.”

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families, and survivors.