

Military Order of the World Wars



Chapter 151 Region XIII February 2025 Newsletter



The Military Order of the World Wars
Colorado Springs Chapter
Post Office Box 2152
Monument, Colorado 80132

COMMANDER'S REMARKS (8 Feb 2025)

Greetings Companions,

What an excellent gathering in January! In addition to the presentation from Ms. Jeffress on the National Cybersecurity Center, which was very well received and was timely and relevant, we also hosted the top two National Level Phoenician Essay Winners! Both are from the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference, and it was an honor to have Marlon Ruiz, the MOWW Senior Vice, take time in his busy schedule to visit our chapter and present the Phoenician awards to them.

As mentioned, the Region XIII Conference in Tucson was very good, and we look forward to the National Convention in August. At the conference, the CINC, Dave Worley, gave his "Top 5" priorities for the Order: 1) Embrace the concepts of the Preamble 2) Adhere to and be familiar with [Strategic Plan 23-28](#); to include the Annexes - found on the National website 3) He is conducting a top to bottom financial review, and will be transparent with his findings 4) Patriotic Education is the Flagship outreach program for the Order 5) America 250 in 2026! He is seeking members to be part of a National level America 250 committee that starts meeting on 11 Feb, seeking volunteers, and asking for us to expand our outreach and coordination with other VSOs to ensure we celebrate our Nation's birthday in a big and visible way!

I hold dear our motto and preamble and know you all do too. As we approach elections in May, be thinking about how you can serve our Chapter, either as a member of the executive board, as a member of a committee, or as a participant in the many outreach programs we participate in. As previously mentioned, Rich Peters, Ulysses Swift, and I will be relinquishing our positions and are seeking companions interested in taking our places. We will set up a training meeting for the leadership positions in either March or April (separate from monthly meeting), more to follow.

For our 22 February meeting, Ms. Kristin Hersch from the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern

Colorado will be speaking on preventing labor and sex trafficking through awareness and advocacy. Given this scourge of our society, this will be a timely and impactful presentation!

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of serving as the Chapter Commander!

V/R,

Kerm

It is nobler to serve than to be served

COMING EVENTS (January)

✓ STAFF MEETING (13 Feb 25)

- Thursday, 1700
- Location: Hill House
- Virtual Mtg [Link](#)

✓ NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 22 FEB 25 HOMELAND SECURITY TOPIC

- Saturday, 1100
- Location: Patty Jewett Golf Course
- RSVP: No later than noon on 19 February to [LTC Mike Berendt](#)
- Virtual Mtg [Link](#)

FEBRUARY COMPANION INFORMATION

The Chapter Staff encourages Companions to attend the National Convention in Tucson, AZ. Please contact anyone on Staff if you are attending and are willing to represent the Chapter as a delegate.

STAFF MEETING (9 JAN)

Staff discussed the National Convention Region XIII is hosting 5-10 August 2025 in Tucson, AZ. As the host region the Chapter in Tucson will need assistance from region Chapters to execute.

Commander, Junior Vice and Adjutant attended Region XIII quarterly meeting January 16-19 (Martin Luther King Weekend) in Tucson to coordinate chapter support for the convention.

RMVLC had the first place and first place runner up in the National Level Phoenician Awards! Congrats to Mason Meredith (1st Place) and Vaughn Slivka (1st Runner Up)! Winners and family members were

extended an invitation to attend the January membership meeting.

Mid-Year CAR Review in prep for R13 Conf in Tucson

Note: Intending to bring up 501(c)3 status and member meeting attendance at R13 Conference and the recent 501(c)19 VETT Act Staff committed the Chapter to support the 2025 National MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Some staff members will attend the Region XIII Quarterly Conference in Tucson January 16-19 to determine Chapter support requirements.

February 22, 2025 next membership meeting with Homeland Security topic.

Chapter seeking volunteer for the National Security Chair and Veterans Affair Chair.

TREASURER'S REPORT INFORMATION

The following tables depict the Chapter's financial status as of Jan 1.

Account	Balances
CDs:	\$12,916.84
Savings:	\$103.53
Checking:	\$1,879.65
Reserved:	\$3,277.34
Total:	\$18,177.36

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (25 JAN) National Security

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW was honored to welcome Ms. Aleta Jeffress, the National Cybersecurity Center (NCC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as our guest speaker during the 25 January 2025 Companion Monthly Membership Meeting. Ms. Jeffress provided an excellent presentation on the mission of the National Cybersecurity Center and its impact to our community and nation. Based in Colorado Springs, the NCC is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit corporation that provides training, evaluations, and specialized expertise to state and local governments as well as corporations and businesses to secure their information technology networks, intellectual property, and infrastructure. The NCC has established relationships with key organizations in government, education, and industry and sponsors programs to build cyber resiliency and collaboration in the security market across Colorado and the United States. Ms. Jeffress is responsible for securing funding, largely through donations, defining the organization's strategy and direction, driving business development, and delivering services to state and local governments, and the public. She previously served in both the private industry, as an executive

business leader for CGI, an international IT consulting and services firm, and in the public sector as Chief Information & Strategy Officer and Chief Privacy Officer for the City of Aurora, CO. She is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) with extensive experience in securing the mid-tier infrastructure environment for the Defense Financial Accounting System, the payment system for millions of employees within the Department of Defense. We thank Ms. Jeffress for her service to the nation and for her informative presentation on securing our information technology infrastructure.



Chapter Commander Kerm Neal presents certificate to Aleta Jeffers for her presentation on the NCC

CHAPTER ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Strategic Goal (SG) Current	Initiatives
SG1 Outreach – Consistent impactful outreach programs and activities.	Support Region XIII hosting national MOWW convention in Tucson, AZ. Please contact Rich Peters if interested in participating in convention support. Contact Rich Peters if you have any suggestions on meeting SG-1. In Progress.
SG2 Strategic Partnerships -	Engage with other veteran organizations to establish strategic partnerships. Contact Kerm Neal with any suggestions on meeting SG-2. In Progress.
SG3 Maximize Visibility	Please contact Staff if you have any suggestions for how Chapter can meet this objective.
SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable	Chapter recruiting goal is three Companions. Please contact Jim Borders if you have any prospective candidates.

MOWW membership.	
SG5 Obtain financial resources to fulfill Order's mission.	Regular solicitation of donations from Chapter Companions. Contact Mike Berendt if you have any questions concerning donations.
SG6 Increase number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.	Please contact Rich Peters if you would like to volunteer your skills in recruiting, social media, branding or suggestions on strengthening Chapter.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (22 Feb) Homeland Security

The February meeting will feature Ms. Kristin Hersch from the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado. This Task Force was formed at the Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium sponsored by the Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area and Youth With a Mission in September 2008. Over 300 interested persons attended to learn more about trafficking and to see what might be done in our community.

The mission of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado is to build a collaboration of organizations and individuals to reduce human suffering caused by human trafficking, through advocacy, awareness, rehabilitation, and services for survivors.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS

REGION XIII NEWS

Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Adjutant attended the Region's quarterly Chapter Commander's meeting 16-19 January 2025 in Tucson, AZ at the site of the 2025 MOWW Convention. The convention is scheduled for 5-9 August at the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel ([link](#) to hotel website). The region's Chapters will work together hosting the annual convention. Please contact anyone on staff if you are attending and want to volunteer to assist in executing convention support.

NATIONAL PROGRAM – ARTICLE

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Human Trafficking

Human trafficking threatens the Nation's physical and virtual borders, immigration and customs systems, prosperity, national security, personal and public safety.

The United States has declared it a national priority to end human trafficking and the importation of goods produced with forced labor. DHS is on the frontlines of this fight, protecting the country and collaborating with partners to stop these crimes.



DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking. The mission of the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT) is to advance counter human trafficking law enforcement operations, protect victims, and enhance prevention efforts by aligning DHS's capabilities and expertise. The CCHT is a DHS-wide effort comprised of 16 supporting offices and components and is led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The CCHT is the first unified, inter-component coordination center for countering human trafficking and the importation of goods produced with forced labor.

Guided by the DHS Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking, the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor, and Child Sexual Exploitation, CCHT integrates the efforts of every component within DHS involved in combating human trafficking. DHS efforts range across criminal investigations, victim assistance, identifying and reporting human trafficking, external outreach, intelligence, and training. The CCHT better equips and positions DHS to accomplish and improve every aspect of its counter human trafficking efforts.



DHS's Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. Blue Campaign works closely with DHS Components to develop general awareness trainings, as well as specific educational resources to help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations.

Located within the Office of Partnership and Engagement and aligned with the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Blue Campaign leverages partnerships with the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), law enforcement, and state/local authorities to maximize national public engagement on anti-human trafficking

efforts. Blue Campaign's educational awareness objectives consists of two foundational elements, prevention of human trafficking and protection of exploited persons.

(See this [link](#) for additional information on DHS Human Trafficking.)

NATIONAL SECURITY (NS)

Combating Trafficking in Persons. The Department of Defense's Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Program Management Office provides personnel the necessary tools to help prevent trafficking in domestic and international environments.

DOD reporting procedures for alleged TIP violations:

- Report anything suspicious that you see to your chain of command.
- Learn the signs and indicators of trafficking in persons
- Never act ALONE, you may want to help, but trafficking situations are dangerous
- Report and avoid any establishments or persons that you believe may be involved in TIP
- Report all suspected abuses through your chain of command or inspector general

Some recent highlights of the DoD's efforts include the following:

- [DOD Releases Training, Resources to Help Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)
- [DOD Trains Latin American Officials in Human Trafficking Awareness](#)

(See this [link](#) for additional information on DoD Spotlights in TIP.)

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW & ORDER (PS/L&O)

Colorado has a number of public safety and law and order measures to combat human trafficking, including a hotline, a council, and legislation.

- Hotline: Call the Colorado Human Trafficking Hotline at (866) 455-5075, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or Text "Help" to (720) 999-9724
- Council: The Colorado Human Trafficking Council coordinates statewide efforts to prevent and prosecute human trafficking. The council is made up of representatives from state and non-government agencies.
- Legislation: Colorado has laws that increase the penalties for human trafficking; protect minors from human trafficking; and laws allow qualified nonprofits to take legal action against human traffickers.

Other resources: The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking runs the Colorado Human Trafficking Hotline. [This is Human Trafficking](#) has information

about what to look for in human trafficking. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, you should contact your local police department or sheriff's office.

ROTC/JROTC

The academic year is coming to a close and the Chapter is in need of Companions to volunteer to serve as presenters for the numerous JROTC programs at High Schools and the ROTC program at University of Colorado – Colorado Springs (UCCS). Award ceremonies occur in April and May and typically last an hour. Please contact [Mike Berendt](#) or [Ulysses Swift](#) if you are interested in representing the Chapter as a presenter.

SCOUTING/CAP

Col Neal contacting Mr. Ric Trimillos with the intent to facilitate a meeting between the USAFA Cadet Eagle Scout Venturing Crew in January or February. Purpose of the meeting is to introduce himself and the Order to the Cadets in pursuit of SG-1 Outreach, and to enlist them for assistance in establishing a relationship between the Cadets and the order Scout recruiting.

Rich Peters continues to engage with USAF Civil Air Patrol unit to integrate with MOWW Awards program.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins was sworn in as the 12th secretary of Veterans Affairs on Feb. 5, 2025, following his nomination by President Donald J. Trump.

A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Collins saw public service modeled by his father, a Georgia State Trooper, and mother, who provided care to local senior citizens. He earned a degree in political science and criminal justice from the University of North Georgia.

Collins earned his master's degree in divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and his community roots deepened in the eleven years he pastored Chicopee Baptist Church. In 2006, the people of Georgia's 27th State House District elected Collins to represent them. During his first term in the state legislature, Collins graduated from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and established his own legal practice.

As a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain, Collins has ministered to our country's military since 2002. He



completed a 2008-2009 deployment to Iraq while stationed at Balad Air Base. He remains a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Collins served as a U.S. Representative for Georgia's Ninth Congressional District from 2013-2021. While Collins is a public servant, attorney, and practicing military chaplain, he remains foremost a husband to Lisa and father to daughter Jordan and sons Copelan and Cameron. Lisa was a lifelong educator in Georgia's public schools, and together she and Doug are actively involved at Lakewood Baptist Church.

(See this [link](#) for Presidential Appointees to the VA.)

COMPANION OUTREACH & INTEREST COMPANION ARTICLES AND FUNDRAISING/DONATIONS/SALES

The Chapter continues to seek donations from Companions to allow the Chapter to continue supporting all the various outreach programs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Companions consider volunteering for the following Chapter vacancies for OY25:

- Historian
- National Security Chair or Committee member
- Veterans Affairs Chair
- Public Safety/L&O Committee member
- Presenters for JROTC/ROTC Award Ceremonies



RECRUITING

Our recruiting goal for OY25 is to add three Companions to the Chapter's rolls.

FEBRUARY COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

2 Feb – Lt Col Susan E. Cooley; 4 Feb – Lt Col Robert D. Becerra; 5 Feb - MG Thomas R. Csrnko; 8 Feb – Col Phillip L. Madden; 18 Feb – Maj Timothy J. Matson; 22 Feb – MAJ Charles W. Clark; 23 Feb – Mr. Jonathan W. Cole; 24 Feb – 1LT Andrew D. Alexander; Capt Douglas S. Katein-Taylor; 26 Feb – Mr. Michael W. Wilson; 2nd Lt Isabel M. Taylor

MARCH COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

15 Mar – Mrs. Kimberly J. Neal; 19 Mar – COL James A. Mundt; 24 Mar – COL George E. Reed; 29 Mar – Mr. Kobe R. Neal

ANNIVERSARIES AND TRIVIA

February 1, 2003 - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members.

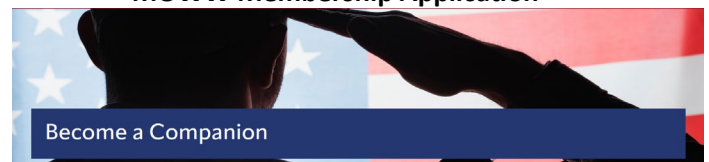
[February 3: Four Chaplains Day, which honors the four U.S. Army chaplains who died when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II](#)

Third Monday in February: President's Day and the Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMPANION AWARD(S)

SG 3 Maximize Visibility and SG Goal 4 Growing Engaged MOWW Membership are linked through the Companion Awards program. Please review the MOWW Awards program (Chapter 7) for eligibility criteria and nominate deserving Companions and non-Companions for the appropriate award. Your active participation will support the Chapter in accomplishing this strategic goal.

MOWW Membership Application



Please use this link to submit an electronic application: <https://moww.org/become-a-companion/>. Please see Staff for paper membership application or this link to print your own application: <https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MembershipApplication-MOWW-1.pdf>

Preamble

To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;
Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces;
To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America;
To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;

And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under
God and for our Country, we unite to establish
"The Military Order of the World Wars.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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Colorado Springs, CO



Commander

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Junior Vice Commander

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Adjutant

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Treasurer

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Patriotic Education Committee Chair

Stephen A. Shambach (COL, USA, Ret)
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Homeland Security Committee Chair

Jon K. Wisham, Sr.
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Public Safety and Law & Order Committee Chair

John Hanaan (CPT, USA, Fmr)
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ROTC and JROTC Committee Co-Chairs

[Mike Berendt \(LTC, USA, Ret\)](#)
[Ulysses Swift \(Lt Col, USAF, Ret\)](#)

Scouting Committee Chair

[Kerm Neal.](#)

National Security Committee Chair

(Vacant)

Acting Chair [Rich Peters](#)

Veterans Affairs Committee Chair

(Vacant)

Acting Chair [Rich Peters](#)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Surgeon General

Tisha K. Ellis (MAJ, USAR)
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402 541-2230
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Judge Advocate General

Mark A. Ellis (COL, USAR, Ret)
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Rocky Mountains Department Commander

Stephen A. Shambach (COL, USA, Ret)
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Region XIII Commander

Marlon Ruiz (Lt Col, USAF, Ret)
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[Link to MOWW Preamble](#)

Chapter Website: www.cos_moww.org



CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE

Yes, I am making a tax-deductible contribution or pledge to the Colorado Springs Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Patriotic Education Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the ROTC Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Boy and Girl Scout Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Law & Order Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____ to the Operations Fund (postage, bulletin, directory, recognition programs – plaques, medals, etc.)

Name

Please make checks payable to Colorado Springs Chapter, MOWW

Send to: LTC Mike Berendt (USA, Ret)
1230 Bowstring Road
Monument, CO 80132