

The Companion



April 2012

Augusta Chapter Officers for 2011-2012 Elected and Appointed

Commander-	COL Susy Roper
Sr Vice CDR-	LT Rich Herdegen
Jr Vice CDR-	
Adjutant-	CDR Earl Richardson
Treasurer-	COL Steven Amster
Marshall-	COL Don Stephens
Surgeon-	BG Robert Cutting
Historian-Archivist	LTC Larry Russell
Chaplain-	FR Bill Williams
Judge Advocate-	MAJ Dewitt Dent
Public Affairs-	LTC Sam Booher
Publicity-	
Editor Companion-	LCDR Ron Freeman
Finance & Budget-	CDR Earl Richardson
Legislative Liaison-	LTC Sam Booher
National Security-	
Speakers Bureau-	
Homeland Security-	
Membership-	LTC Gary Engen
Program-	COL Richard Manion
Asst Program-	COL Harry Pund
Patriotic Education-	LTC Gary Engen
Law and Order-	LT Richard Herdegen
Ceremonies-	COL Don Stephens
ROTC-	COL Don Stephens
Massing of the Colors-	
Memorial Service-	
Youth Leadership Advisor-	MAJ Dewitt Dent
BSA Liaison-	COL Steve Amster
Chapter Activities-	CDR Earl Richardson
Independence Day-	LTC Dave Titus
YLC	LTC Gary Engen

Message From Chapter Commander COL Suzy Roper

Our memorial service, conducted by LT Rich Herdegen, was most inspiring. Mrs. Katherine Lethgo, wife of departed Companion Wayne Lethgo, was in attendance and was presented with beautiful long stem roses.

This is the time of year when we prepare a slate of officers for the next year; officers for the 2012-2013 term are to be nominated for the election in May. Please let a member of the nominating committee know if you are willing to serve as an elected or appointed officer for next year.

Also COL Don Stephens has many of the JROTC medals for military excellence by students at local high schools still to be presented, each of which could use a presenter. Please let Don know if you can go to one during April or May to represent MOWW and make the presentation at their awards ceremony.



Sr. Vice Commander Richard Herdegen presents bouquet of roses to Mrs. Katherine Lethgo in honor of her late husband COL Wayne S. Lethgo.

For the next meeting, on 15 April, we are fortunate to have LTC William Cantrell, PMS for the Army ROTC Unit at Augusta State University. Be there for his interesting presentation.

May will bring Memorial Day, and local ceremonies to honor our war dead. Make plans to attend one or more.

Patriotic Education By LTC Gary Engen

The Augusta chapter will again be sending out letters of appreciation to businesses and individuals that consistently fly the USA flag in front of their business/home. I've been jotting down addresses/locations of those I've seen in past

few months. If you have observed a US flag flying in prominent location, please let me know their name/address and I'll be sure they get included in our annual recognition. Send to my email at genjen@comcast.net or give me a call at home 706 733-7682



Columbia County couple receives Certificates of Appreciation from the Vice Commander LT Richard Herdegen (left) of the Augusta Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars for their talks to the Chapter on March 18, 2012. Staff Sergeant Jay Dunham, GA Army National Guard and Fleet Manager for the Department of Transportation, Columbia County Board of Education, spoke on his experiences while deployed to Qatar in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Captain Donna Dunham in charge of the Office of Professional Standards for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, spoke of her experiences in 22 year as a Law Enforcement Officer in the county.

Annual Region 5 Conference By LTC Gary Green

Thank you to Bill Nisbett for assuming the chaplain's duties for the Region V convention on 20-21 April in Atlanta. To date, I have the following whom we should acknowledge at the Memorial Service:

Lt Col Frank Zander (AF) Columbia chapter
Col Arthur L. Falkenstrom (A) Columbus Chapter
Maj John Barner (A) Columbus Chapter
Maj. Douglas L. Thomas (AF) Columbia Chapter
Maj Fred Klein (A) Columbia Chapter

To the rest of Region V, if you are aware of any other companions who have passed and should be remembered at our convention, please advise me as soon as possible.

VCINC Gary Engen and Chapter Commander Susy Roper and a few other chapter members are expected to attend the annual Region V Conference in Atlanta on 20-21 April. Let one of them know if you have any input or concerns that you'd liked addressed at that conference. The current MOWW CINC, CAPT (USN Ret) Russell Vowinkel is planning to attend also so we should get a good update on the status and future of MOWW while

there plus share ideas with the other chapter commanders and attendees within Region V (chapters in GA, SC, NC & TN).

Guest Speaker

Lieutenant Colonel William Keith Cantrell



Lieutenant Colonel William K. Cantrell received a commission in the Field Artillery upon graduation from Berry College in 1986. He holds a Masters of Arts degree in Management from Webster University at St Louis in 1989 and is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic, the Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, and the Command and General Staff College Course.

Upon completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, in 1987, Lieutenant Colonel Cantrell served as a Training Officer at Fort Jackson South Carolina until 1989. From 1989 to 1990 he was assigned to a firing battery platoon in the Republic of Korea. Later assignments included the 7th Infantry Division Artillery as an Intelligence Officer followed by Battalion Fire Support Officer, and then as a Battery Commander until 1993. His next assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), where his duties included the Division Counterfire Officer and then as a separate 155mm Battery Commander until 1996.

After serving three years at VMI as an Assistant Professor of Military Science, he was then assigned as the Resource Manager for United States Army Central Command – Saudi Arabia until 2000 followed by a Budget Officer / Program Manager at Fort McPherson Georgia until January 2001.

After serving in the Resource Management branch he became the Exercise and Plans Officer at Tank Automotive Command in Warren Michigan until the summer of 2001 at which time he took the position of Leadership Enrollment Officer at Augusta State University's Military Science Department. Following his time teaching cadets he then deployed to Iraq where he was the Multi-National Security-Iraq Command (MNSTC-1) where he where he served as the Headquarters Commandant. Duties after his tour in Iraq included two years working in the Pentagon as an Desk Officer in the Army Operations Center and in the newly created Electronic Warfare Division. He followed this assignment with one as the 3rd Infantry Division Electronic Warfare Officer and an additional tour to Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Cantrell arrived to Augusta State University for the second time as the Professor of Military Science in the Spring of 2011. Lieutenant Colonel Cantrell's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (4 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (2 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Reserve Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Expeditionary Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Reserve Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (3), Army Staff Identification, Parachutists and Air Assault Badges.

Lieutenant Colonel Cantrell is married to Erika (Askew) Cantrell, who have four children, Blake (age 22), Brent (age 20), Alexis (age 18), Jacob (age 14), and Nicolas (age 5).

OGA and Kay Endowment Trust Fund LTC David Titus

The chapter is still seeking donations to the Endowment Trust in support of this years Youth Leadership Conference on the USS Yorktown in Charleston. Please make checks out to MOWW ETF and mail to me at 4850 Wrightsboro Rd Grovetown, GA 30813

Thank you to recent donors:

BG Robert and Frances Cutting
Col Harry Pund

**National Security
by LTC David Titus**

Just what is national security? National security as we know it is the requirement to maintain and assure the survival of state through the use of economic, diplomatic, military and political power projection. It is a principal responsibility of our government to assure our safety and security. The questions arise on how far can our government go in accomplishing this mission? Is it so paramount that our freedom and liberty be jeopardized in the name of national security?

For this reason the American Civil Liberties Union ACLU's National Security Project advocates for government policies that are consistent with the Constitution, the rule of law and fundamental human rights. They litigate cases relating to detention, torture, discrimination, racial and ethnic, surveillance, censorship and secrecy. The Project claims that we deceive by turning our backs on the policies and practices that violate our greatest strength, our Constitution and the commitment it embodies to the rule of law, liberty and security. According to the ACLU the Constitution is the very foundation of our strength and security. In that aspect I believe the ACLU has it right. All public officials and military are sworn to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution.

Most violations we hear about are in the following areas:

Detention: Horrific abuses inflicted on detainees, both physical and psychological.

Discrimination: Suspicionless searches and arbitrary detentions of Arabs and Muslim Americans for which the ACLU provides legal support.

Dissent: Since 911 the government has taken extraordinary steps to limit dissent, from censorship and surveillance to detention and denial of due process.

Surveillance and privacy issues remain as three provisions of the Patriot Act that were reauthorized for another year ending in March 2012. Congress will be debating the continued practices of surveillance and along with the Department of Justice, the Constitutionality and abuses thereof.

As patriotic citizens we must caution our leaders about unfettered toleration of abuses in the name of national security, particularly when it infringes on the basic freedoms and liberty granted us by our forefathers. I would like to think we have accomplished this with a balanced approach. Unfortunately we are not informed on all the measures taken by our clandestine services in the name of security and are often inconvenienced and disturbed by some antics of the Transportation Security Agency TSA in the name of security. Considering the threats we face, patience and understanding must be part of the solution.

**Treasurer's Report
By Col Steven Amster**

31 March 2012

Non-Profit Checking Opening balance	\$3321.65
Deposits and other credits	+ 0.00
Membership premium rebate	.00
Checks – cleared	-256.90
03/08 1030 MOWW JROTC Awards	150.15
03/18 1031 Memorial Bouquet	29.95
03/20 1032 Region V yearly Assessment	76.80
Checks – not cleared	+0.00
Service charges & other debits	-0.00
Closing checking balance 02/29	\$3064.75

Cash Balance	
Opening balance 02/01	\$93.42
Changes	-6.44
03/18 Guest Meals	-23.44
02/19 50/50 receipts	+17.00
Closing Balance 02/29	\$86.98
Opening Financial Asset Balance 02/01	\$3415.07
Net Change	+1590.56
Closing Financial Asset Balance 02/29	\$3151.73

**BSA Information
By Col Steven Amster**

The next recipient of the MOWW Certificate of Recognition for the GSA Gold Award .

Rachel Fisher is the Venturing Crew (BSA) 119 at the Holy Comforter Church on Furys Ferry Road. She is daughter of Dr. Gene Fisher, troop committee chair of Troop 119 at the AJCC. She will be presented her certificate this month.

COL Steve Amster and LTC David Titus participated in the annual offering Aviation merit badge at the Georgia-Carolina Council Merit Badge University. Ten Boy Scouts were taught the fundamentals and fun of flying and were given brief flights in the vicinity of Thomson airport. The presenters received certificates of appreciation and uniform patches for their contributions. Retired CW5 Karl Keller, a rotary wing pilot and aviation maintenance officer contributed his vast knowledge of helicopter flying.

COL Steve Amster presented the MOWW Certificate of Recognition Eagle Scout award to Robert Rutti, a member of Troop and Crew 119 at his court of honor held at West Acres Baptist Church in Evans.

**Membership
By LTC Gary Engen**

Did you know that the Augusta Chapter, with 133 living members, is the 9th largest out of the 112 chapters in MOWW. However, we still need to grow and meet our goal of 5% increase in membership this year. We can meet

that goal if everyone would invite a potential member to one of our monthly meetings.

If any companion has changed their address or email or phone number since the October 2011 roster, please let the Membership Committee know at email augustamoww@comcast.net or at phone 706 733-7682

ROTC SUPPORT
By COL Don Stephens

Our Chapter supports the ROTC program at Augusta State University and JROTC programs at 29 high schools in the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia and South Carolina. The presentation of ROTC/JROTC MOWW Medals of Merit will begin with an awards ceremony at Elbert County High School on 17 March. I plan to present two awards at that ceremony as your ROTC Chairman, but will need your assistance to cover some of the other schools. Listed below are the 16 schools that have provided information on the date/time and location of their awards ceremony. The South Carolina schools and some of the outlying schools in Georgia normally have their ceremonies later in the year. If already scheduled, the presenter's name is indicated.

ASU AROTC	26 Apr at 1330	Chap CDR or Rep
Burke Cty AFJROTC	24 Mar at 1800	COL Stephens
Butler MJROTC	18 Apr at 1300	
Cross Creek NJROTC	17 Apr at 1730	
Glenn Hills NJROTC	18 Apr at 1330	
Greenbrier NJROTC	19 Apr at 1900	
Harlem AJROTC	25 Apr at 1400	
Hephzibah AJROTC	28 Mar at 1200	COL Stephens
Josey AFJROTC	18 Apr at 2030	
Lakeside AJROTC	24 Apr at 1830	
Laney AJROTC	25 Apr at 1000	
Madison/Morgan Cty AJROTC	26 Apr at 1800	
LCDR Albert Harper		
Richmond Academy AJROTC	8 Apr at 1830	
Washington Cty AFJROTC	24 Apr at 1800	
COL Stephens		
Westside Navy JROTC	11 Apr at 1300	

If you would like to present the MOWW award(s) at any of the schools listed above, please contact me at don@softropolis.com or 706-860-7842; or see me at the March meeting.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to all companions born during the Month of April:

COL Frank J. Valentine Jr.	05 APR
2LT Marshall Wish	05 APR
LTC Albert B.Kitchen	07 APR
LT Andrew Freeman	13 APR
MRS. Carol E. Titus	18 APR



COL Steve Amster presented the MOWW Certificate of Recognition Eagle Scout award to Robert Rutti.

Legislative Affairs
By LTC Sam Boohers

Senate Hearing

Yesterday, at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, said that the American people need to understand what the proposed TRICARE changes look like “from the experiences of someone who has spent a career in the military.” “All of this boils down to what a soldier or Marine or sailor or someone in the Air Force can see about what happened to the people who went before them — how they were treated after they left the uniform,” said Senator Webb. “I grew up in the Marine Corps tradition and no Marine is ever left behind, and I feel just as strongly about the commitment that we have made to lifetime medical care for the people who have served.

“We know we have a problem with medical care. It is a national problem.... It is not simply a DoD problem,” said Senator Webb. “I do not believe that we should allow ourselves to characterize the commitment that we have made as a throw-away matter as we try to balance out other issues. How we take care of these people is one of the great litmus tests that people who are serving right now are going to be looking at.”

To defeat the DOD package, we all need to help. Contact your elected representatives and let them know you're outraged by the Pentagon plan to shift the cost of your promised health care back to your pocketbook. Ask your family, friends and neighbors to get involved too. Keep sending snail mail the E-mails.

There is a lot of fraud, waste and abuse in the DOD Budget that is currently the largest single budget Congress

recommends. In my view, Military Health Care should be the last place DOD cuts, not the first

THE COALITION STRIKES BACK!

Members of the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee heard directly from our Military Coalition on why the Defense Department's proposal to increase/enact fees for military retiree health care is just plain wrong.

Our Military Coalition challenged the Defense Department witnesses on their position that raising TRICARE fees does not "break the faith" with the force. "If keeping faith means no changes for today's troops on retirement, then it's breaking faith to raise their [health] fees by [up to] \$2000. That's no different from a \$2000 retired pay cut."

The spokes person for our Military Coalition said "For generations, the government has induced millions to serve their country in uniform with promises that for rendering that sacrifice, they'd earn the current retirement and health care package. In other words, their extended service and sacrifice constituted their prepaid premium." The Coalition spokes person also took issue with the premise that military retirees pay far less for health care than federal civilians. "Whenever somebody gives me that argument I ask: If the military deal was so great, are you willing to pay what they did to earn it? Would you sign up to spend the next 20 to 30 years being deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or any other garden spot the government wants to send you to? Military people pay far steeper premiums for health coverage than any civilian ever has or ever will."

Once again, several of the panel members seemed to agree with Coalition's position. Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., said that the DOD's proposals "simply shift the cost burden through TRICARE fee and cost share increases to not only our working age retirees, but for the first time to our most senior military retirees. Wilson called the plan "wrong-headed" and said that "the subcommittee has a number of concerns about the department's initiatives."

Rep. Allen West, R-Fla., suggested that Congress look at the \$200 billion to \$300 billion of redundant and duplicative government programs identified in a February 2011 GAO report "before we start penalizing the people that have given a lifetime of service to this country." He concluded his remarks by telling the DoD witnesses that they tell Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that the TRICARE fee plan "is FUBAR."

What we cannot stress enough is how important it is that you let your elected representatives in Congress know how you feel about the Defense Department's plan. It doesn't matter how you contact them, please just contact them. A minute or two of your time will greatly strengthen our hand on Capitol Hill.

Senior Moment

An elderly gentleman...Had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was

able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect... Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.' The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

Chaplain's Corner Fr Bill Williams

The work we do in each of our roles represents the good of the order. I find it interesting that I am preparing this message on the eve of Easter, the time when we celebrate new life. The old order has passed away; the new order is beginning. We are called in a spirit of faith and hope to improve on the life of the order, to bring new life. As we do everything for the good of the order, we are called to remind ourselves what we do is for the good of God and Country. As we celebrate this Easter season, may we be intent on renewing our commitment to give all that we are and have. By this others will come. They will know us by our good works.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-2011

Sun, 15 Apr, 1330, Staff Mtg Tues, 10 Apr
Lunch 1230-1330

Chapter Elections

Sun, 20 May, 1330, Staff Mtg Tues, 15 May
Lunch 1230-1330

Installation Of Officers ROTC Awards

Sun, 10 Jun, 1330, Staff Mtg Tues, 5 Jun
Lunch 1230-1330 Flag Day, 14 June
Army Birthday, 14 June (1775)

Link to the MOWW Augusta Chapter Website:
<http://www.augustamoww.com>

Link To the MOWW National Website:
<http://militaryorder.net/>

MOWW now has a presence on Face book at
<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=hp#!/militaryorder>

Link to the Region V Website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/mowwregionv/home>

To contact the editor of the Companion:
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